



Kansas LTAP Local Field Liaison- an update

By Hemin Mohammed, LTAP Road Safety Resource Coordinator

Clark Rusco, our first Kansas Local Field Liaison, works with county and city public works agencies in Kansas on issues that include practical road safety assessments, identifying low cost safety improvements, providing guidance in applying for funding for safety improvements, assistance in the implementation of local road safety plans, and more.

So far, Rusco has met with Franklin County, Ottawa County, and Jefferson County. Below are the main discussion points from those visits.

Franklin County

Rusco met with David Lee, Franklin County Public Works Director, in Ottawa. They discussed the facilities that the county has, and the responsibilities of a public works director.

Weather conditions have been challenging for road maintenance in Franklin County. Rusco and David discussed the website of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of Kansas, how to monitor flooding levels of the Marais des Cygnes River, and how best to predict flood areas using the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) website.

Rusco shared information on KDOT Grants and Programs available for counties, and they talked about strengthening their local safety coalition and increasing public awareness of wellness information for infant car seats, bike safety, and more.

Ottawa County

Greg Dockins, Ottawa County Road and Bridge Director and Solid Waste Administrator, and Jo Mesecher, Office Administrator, met with Rusco in Minneapolis.

Flooding has been an issue for Ottawa County, too, where the Solomon River runs. Barricades were required many times this spring and summer for high-water events that caused flooding and erosion on roadways adjacent to the Solomon. Greg, Jo and Rusco talked about the NOAA satellite stream gauge stations and the river forecast system site. They also discussed the information available from the Division of Water Resources (DWR) office in Stockton on permitting requirements, utility permit forms, and repairs.

Rusco provided a KDOT flash drive of materials to download to their computers. He also reviewed safety and grant programs for counties and KDOT's federal fund exchange program. This is a voluntary program that allows a local public agency (LPA) to trade all or a portion of its federal fund allocations in a specific federal fiscal year with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) in exchange for state transportation dollars or with another LPA in exchange for their local funds.

Another topic discussed was when an engineer is required for a project, and when a surveyor is required.

Jefferson County

Dana Boyer, Mayor of Meriden, and Jason Boyer, Meriden Police Chief, met with Rusco to discuss several hot spot accident locations in the city. Rusco contacted the Jefferson County Road Supervisor, Jim Knoll, concerning the county's Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP), which is due to be completed this year.

Local Field Liaison visits are scheduled with priority based on three parameters: larger population, lack of LRSP, and lack of HRRR projects. Accordingly, the list of precedence was prepared starting with District 1, followed by Districts 2, 3, 6, 5, and 4. However, if the county is listed under an active FEMA Disaster Declaration, the Local Field Liaison will not seek a meeting with that county.

If you have questions or would like to schedule a meeting with Kansas LTAP's Local Field Liaison, please contact Clark Rusco, ksltapclark@gmail.com or (620) 282-1717.

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