



# Kansas LTAP Fact Sheet

A Service of The University of Kansas Transportation Center for Road & Bridge Agencies

## Does your road & bridge department need training or technical assistance?

Kansas has a wealth of training, research and technology transfer resources.

By Lisa Harris

**L**ast winter, the KU Transportation Center partnered with KDOT to host a peer exchange of transportation-related technology transfer, research and training professionals from various states that work with local governments. Each shared their experiences and best practices. One of the desired products of the peer exchange was a fact sheet about providers of technology transfer, training and research available to Kansas local governments.

**KU Transportation Center.** The KUTC was started in 1977 and houses two public service/technology transfer programs—*Kansas LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program)* for local road and bridge departments and *Kansas RTAP* for transit agencies.

Each of these programs provides face-to-face training, a quarterly technical newsletter, one-on-one technical assistance, a lending library of training programs on video and publications, and Web-based resources. Most of these services are low-cost or free.

Kansas LTAP partners with several agencies and professional associations, including KDOT, FHWA Kansas Division, KCHA, APWA Kansas Chapter and KAC to provide training. Kansas LTAP administers two levels of the Kansas Road Scholar Program (technical skills and executive development) and provides some of the training in the third (supervisory skills). The Kansas Road Scholar Program is a partnership activity of KCHA, APWA Kansas Chapter, Kansas LTAP, KAC, KDOT and TASK. Kansas LTAP also works with the county engineers and LTAPs in neighboring states, in partnership with FHWA, to plan and host the MINK local roads meeting each October. For more information visit <http://www.kuttc.ku.edu> and <http://www.ksltap.org>.

The **Traffic Assistance Services to Kansas (TASK) program** is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and Kansas DOT, and operated jointly by KU and K-State. The program has provided traffic safety training

around the state since 1980. Courses cover topics such as the MUTCD, traffic engineering for technicians, geometric design for very low volume roads, and others. Some of the TASK courses are offered as part of the Kansas Road Scholar Program. Visit <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/dce/conf/task/index.html>.



**KU Transportation Research Institute.** TRI was established in 2005 with a \$14.5 million grant from the

U.S. Department of Transportation. It has an interdisciplinary transportation research focus and serves as an umbrella organization to three existing research centers at KU: the Transportation Center, the Flight Research Laboratory, and the Infrastructure Research Institute. These centers perform large, diverse, and continually changing research, education and community outreach including workshops, annual conferences, and newsletters. Currently, the Institute emphasizes three areas of research: 1) prolonging life and safety of transportation infrastructure, 2) developing advanced vehicle and fuel technologies, and 3) improving

safety for inattentive and aging driver population. The Institute has over 100 people including faculty, technical and administrative personnel, undergraduate and graduate students and other support staff working in its research program from a variety of disciplines. The TRI Web site address is <http://www.kutri.ku.edu>.

**K-State University Transportation Center.** K-State was awarded \$500,000 to establish a land-grant University Transportation Center (UTC) in 2007 to address three topics: 1) the cost-effective preservation of rural transportation infrastructure, 2) safe operation of that infrastructure for an aging population, and 3) safe operation for movement of agricultural products with respect to terrorist threat or disease outbreak.

The Center works closely with the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center and the regional Civil Infrastructures Systems Laboratories, both housed at K-State. The latter is used for accelerated testing of pavement and large-scale structural members used in bridges. Visit <http://www.transport.ksu.edu>.

K-State's Center for Transportation Research & Training is also part of K-State's UTC. This Center provides technical information about roundabouts. Visit <http://www.k-state.edu/roundabouts/>.

**Kansas DOT.** Some training for KDOT employees is available to local agencies, if space is available. Courses are advertised through Kansas LTAP. The last such course was on temporary erosion control. For more information on these offerings, contact Susan Barker, KDOT Tech Transfer Engineer, at (785) 291-3847 or [SusanB@ksdot.org](mailto:SusanB@ksdot.org).

KDOT also sponsors an annual equipment expo that showcases equipment, apparel and supplies for road and bridge work. Equipment safety workshops are offered during the event. Local agencies are welcome to attend.

**K-TRAN.** Kansas DOT's K-TRAN Program is an ongoing, cooperative research program addressing transportation needs of Kansas using academic and research resources from KDOT, Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. Projects included in the annual research program are jointly developed by professionals at those institutions, and local agencies are welcome to suggest topics. Electronic full text copies of completed K-TRAN research reports and summaries are located on the KDOT Research Reports Catalog web site at <http://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/burMatrRes/kdotlib2.asp>. Put K-TRAN in the search window to see the reports. A link to this catalog is available at <http://www.ksltap.org> under "Resources to Download."

**The Mid-America Transportation Center.** MATC is a USDOT-designated University Transportation Center (UTC) in former FHWA Region 7, comprising Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. MATC is a consortium of seven universities within the region: University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Lincoln University, University

**What is technology transfer?** It is the process of sharing of skills, knowledge, technologies, and research results with others with the goal of solving real-world problems.

of Iowa, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Prairie View A&M University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where MATC is headquartered. Its theme is improving safety and minimizing risk associated with increasing multi-modal freight movement on the U.S. surface transportation system. Visit their Web site at <http://matc.unl.edu/>

**Kansas Road Scholar Program.** This program's primary purpose is to promote a skilled workforce for Kansas public works agencies. Partners in the Road Scholar Program include KCHA, APWA-Kansas, KS LTAP, KAC, KDOT and TASK. The program provides training to increase knowledge of road maintenance procedures and improve technical, supervisory and managerial skills. The program enhances skills and knowledge of operators as well as those who supervise others, or aspire to management in public works operations.

The Technical Skills Program and the Executive Development program are monitored by KS LTAP, and the Supervisory Skills Program is monitored by the Kansas Association of Counties. Contact: Kristin Kelly at (785) 864-2594 or [kbkelly@ku.edu](mailto:kbkelly@ku.edu).

**Kansas Association of Counties.** As mentioned above, the KAC monitors Level 2 of the Kansas Road

Scholar Program, and they also provide most of the courses for that level. In addition, the KAC has a Local Road Engineer who provides a twice-monthly newsletter with information on regulations affecting local government road and bridge operations. The KAC education program includes a leadership academy for county commissioners and effective supervision skills, in addition to their participation in the Kansas Road Scholar Program. Learn more at <http://www.kansascounties.org>.

*continued on page 4*

With so much training out there, it's hard to keep track of who's offering what. Kansas LTAP can help. We have an online calendar of training events and meetings that serves as a one-stop shop for training available in the state.



# Transportation training, technology transfer, and research, at a glance

Here's a snapshot of who offers what to Kansans.

**When your local agency needs:**

**Turn to:**

## Training . . . . .

- Kansas LTAP.** Workshops on a variety of subjects related to infrastructure management/maintenance, traffic safety, worker safety, and professional development, statewide. Also has a lending library of training videos. More about LTAP training at <http://www.ksltap.org> or call Kristin Kelly at (785) 864-2594.
- TASK.** Workshops on roadway safety topics. <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/task/>.
- KAC.** Training for commissioners and supervisors. <http://www.kansascounties.org>.
- ATSSA.** On-site workshops or videos for purchase on work zone and roadway safety topics. <http://www.atssa.com>. Click on Education and then Courses. Or contact Tammy Loving at (877) 642-4637 to schedule a course at your site.
- KDOT.** Contact Susan Barker at (785) 291-3847 or [SusanB@ksdot.org](mailto:SusanB@ksdot.org) for information on courses open to local agencies, or check the KS LTAP Web site at <http://www.ksltap.org>. Call Peter Carttar with questions about KDOT's equipment expo. (785) 296-7184.
- K-State UTC.** Workshops on bridge design and pavement design. <http://www.transport.ksu.edu>. Also annual transportation engineering conference.
- Kansas Road Scholar Program.** Increases skills at the technical, supervisory and administrative levels, in three tracks. Visit <http://www.ksroadscholar.org> or call Kristin Kelly at (785) 864-2594.

## Tech transfer . . . . .

- K-TRAN.** Research reports available online at <http://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/burMatrRes/ResearchUnit.asp>
- Kansas LTAP.** Quarterly newsletter and free publications. <http://www.ksltap.org>
- K-State UTC.** Newsletter and research reports online. <http://www.transport.ksu.edu>.
- MATC.** Newsletter and research reports online. <http://matc.unl.edu/>
- KAC.** Bi-monthly e-news message for Kansas county public works and road and bridge departments. Sign up with Norm Bowers at [bowers@kansascounties.org](mailto:bowers@kansascounties.org).
- KCHA.** Annual meetings in Spring and Fall. <http://www.kansascountyhighway.org>.
- APWA chapters.** Meetings, newsletters, snow roadeos. <http://www.kansas.apwa.net> and <http://www.kcmetro.apwa.net>.

## Research . . . . .

- K-TRAN.** To suggest a research topic, contact Dick McReynolds at KDOT at (785) 291-3841 or [dick@ksdot.org](mailto:dick@ksdot.org).
- K-State UTC.** To suggest a research topic, contact Bobb Stokes at KSU at (785) 532-1595 or [drbobb@ksu.edu](mailto:drbobb@ksu.edu).
- KUTRI.** To suggest a research topic, contact Bob Honea at KU at (785) 864-1828 or [bobh253@ku.edu](mailto:bobh253@ku.edu).
- MATC.** To suggest a research topic, contact Larry Rilett at (402) 472-1992 or [lrilett@unl.edu](mailto:lrilett@unl.edu)
- KAC.** KAC's Local Road Engineer does research on topics related to roads and bridges, especially regarding legislation and regulations. Contact Norm Bowers at (785) 272-2585 or [bowers@kansascounties.org](mailto:bowers@kansascounties.org).

There are many other road and bridge related meetings, workshops and conferences in the state each year, too many to list here. We have provided some primary sources of training in this fact sheet, but for a more complete list, visit the Kansas LTAP Web site at [www.ksltap.org](http://www.ksltap.org) and click on "View the LTAP Calendar."

**American Public Works Association.** Both the Kansas and KC-Metro Chapters of APWA provide technology transfer through chapter meetings and their equipment rodeos. The Kansas Chapter also is a partner, representing cities, in the Kansas Road Scholar Program. Learn more at <http://www.kansas.apwa.net> and <http://www.kcmetro.apwa.net>.

**Kansas County Highway Association.** The KCHA provides technology transfer through its Fall and Spring meetings. The association is also a partner, representing counties, in the Kansas Road Scholar Program. Learn more at <http://www.kansascountyhighway.org>.

**American Traffic Safety Services Association.** ATSSA provides work zone safety training around the

country. Sometimes they schedule classes in advance, but most of their training in Kansas is done by invitation from a local government or contractor. The local host must guarantee a certain number of attendees for ATSSA to come and teach the course. <http://www.atssa.com>. Click on Education and then Courses. Or contact Tammy Loving at (877) 642-4637 to schedule a course at your site.

Kansas public works and road & bridge agencies are fortunate to have so many options for training, research, and technical assistance available to them. Be sure to take advantage of them! ■

*Lisa Harris is communications and outreach manager for the KU Transportation Center. You can reach her at [LHarris@ku.edu](mailto:LHarris@ku.edu) or (785) 864-2590.*