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## **ASCE December Meeting Minutes**

Speaker(s): Keith Browning, P.E. (Local Road Engineer, Kansas Association of Counties)  
Topic: Kansas County Roads  
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
Location: Wichita Advanced Learning Library  
711 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St N., Wichita, KS 67202

President Layla McDaniel called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and opened the meeting with announcements.

### Announcements

- a. 1/3/24 – January Meeting TBD
- b. Scholarship has closed and will be announced at our next meeting.
- c. STEM Grant will be closing December 18<sup>th</sup>, winners announced soon after.
- d. Hands On Engineering continues in January, but need a group to volunteer for February.
- e. Wichita Branch was chosen for the 2023 Outstanding Section & Branch Website Award!

### Guest Speaker

Vice President Caleb Coltrane introduced the guest speaker, Keith Browning, a Local Road Engineer serving the Kansas Association of Counties. Keith has over 20 years of engineering experience in Kansas and currently works as a contracted KAC Local Engineer.

### Discussion

There are 105 counties in Kansas, but there are only 11 licensed professional engineers employed by the counties. Most counties don't feel that they can support a licensed engineer for their projected workload and construction needs – so instead they can subscribe annually to the Local Road Engineer program that will contract engineering services to them. These services look like traffic studies, designing culvert replacements, preparing permit applications, asset management, project scoping and planning, long term planning, and federal funding grant applications.



Kansas is 36<sup>th</sup> most populous state in the USA, but is 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in bridge number and road milage, respectively. So people to bridge or road milage ratios are way off and cost more per person in rural areas. Saving money for tax payers sounds great but is doing a disservice to residents who will need even more infrastructure replacements in the future.

Kansas Association of Counties has a Kansas Local Infrastructure Planning (KLIP) Tool that can be used to gauge how much counties are spending per mile of road, per capita, per bridge, etc, and is an excellent way to measure how counties are doing against the rest of the state. KLIP can also be used to view the current conditions of the state infrastructure separated out by each county. Most counties have inventories and known conditions of bridges and signs, but most do not manage pavement, culverts, and gravel roads. AASHTO has a very useful Culvert & Storm Drain System Inspection Guide to help with this process.

There is a pilot program called Pavement Management Systems (PMS) to help assess pavement conditions and track maintenance completed over time. Currently done through excel and reviewing roads personally, but work is being done to transition this effort to be done primarily by AI.

#### Meeting Attendees

1	Michael	Armour	14	Derek	Kratzer
2	Jim	Aamodt	15	Scott	Lindebak
3	Tim	Aziere	16	Dmitry	Lomachenko
4	Greg	Baalman	17	Ky	Louanghaksaphone
5	Michael	Bailey	18	Layla	McDaniel
6	Scott	Bernhardt	19	Daniel	Mealiff
7	Keith	Browning	20	Logan	Mills
8	Scott	Canfield	21	John	Oswald
9	Paul	Cater	22	Behrooz	Rahbar
10	Caleb	Coltrane	23	Jessica	Slavik
11	Harlan	Foracker	24	Tyler	Ummel
12	Abdul	Hamada	25	Lukas	Vohs
13	John	Heinz			

Meeting adjourned by President Layla McDaniel at 12:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by President Layla McDaniel.

