

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation news release

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KDOT Secretary Miller to chair national transportation committee

Kansas Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller has been named the 2008 chairman of the national Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee. Miller served as the committee's vice-chair in 2007.

Organized in 1920, TRB is one of six major divisions of the National Research Council (NRC) – a private, nonprofit institution that is the principal operating agency of the National Academies in providing services to the government, the public and the scientific and engineering communities. TRB members include senior transportation industry executives, top officials of public-sector transportation agencies and distinguished researchers from academia.

“Deb is keenly aware of the value of transportation research and the crucial role it plays in improving the day-to-day lives of the traveling public and in supporting the nation's economy,” said Robert E. Skinner Jr., TRB executive director.

“I'm sure that the leadership, experience and knowledge she brings to the Transportation Research Board as the chair of its executive committee will help speed the pace of innovation in transportation,” he said.

Miller, who was appointed transportation secretary by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2003, was a member of the TRB committee that produced the 1996 policy study report “Paying Our Way: Estimating Marginal Social Costs of Freight Transportation,” and served as chair of

TRB's joint National Cooperative Highway Research Program and Transit Cooperative Research Program Project Panel on Commuting in America III.

Miller has more than 20 years experience in transportation and was closely involved in development of the state's two largest public works programs – the 1989 Comprehensive Highway Program and the 1999 Comprehensive Transportation Program. She was KDOT's director of the Division of Planning and Development from 1986 to 1997, and spent four years working for HNTB, a nationwide firm of architects, engineers and planners.

Named vice chairman of the TRB Executive Committee was Adib Kanafani, professor of civil engineering at the University of California, Berkeley.

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