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KDOT's traffic records upgrade receives national award for technical innovation

The Kansas Department of Transportation's automated digital Kansas Traffic Records System has received a prestigious 2011 InformationWeek 500 award. The award is attached to an annual ranking published by *InformationWeek* magazine that recognizes market-leading innovation in business technology.

InformationWeek recognized KDOT for the agency's ongoing digital upgrade of the state's traffic records system, which in the past relied on manually entered data from paper crash reports submitted by law enforcement agencies. The system was subject to delays that created lag times of up to a year between the date of a crash and its entry into the state's digital records system.

Under the new system launched last year, law enforcement personnel submit electronic crash reports directly into the system, where they are verified by special data-validation software and automatically indexed for later retrieval and analysis. A PDF of the original report is created and stored at the same time. The system is shared by KDOT, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and other state agencies.

"In addition to labor-related savings, the expedited process has implications for public safety," the editors wrote in the Sept. 19 edition of *InformationWeek*. "For

example, the Department of Transportation can use the crash repository in its evaluations of road repairs and upgrades.”

Future plans include incorporating DUI data and emergency and trauma-care data into the system with the goal of creating an immediately accessible “one-stop shop” providing crash data to law enforcement personnel and other appropriate state agencies.

InformationWeek serves more than 400,000 subscribers and hosts an average of 1.8 million monthly unique visitors at InformationWeek.com. The magazine has published the InformationWeek 500 for 23 years.

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