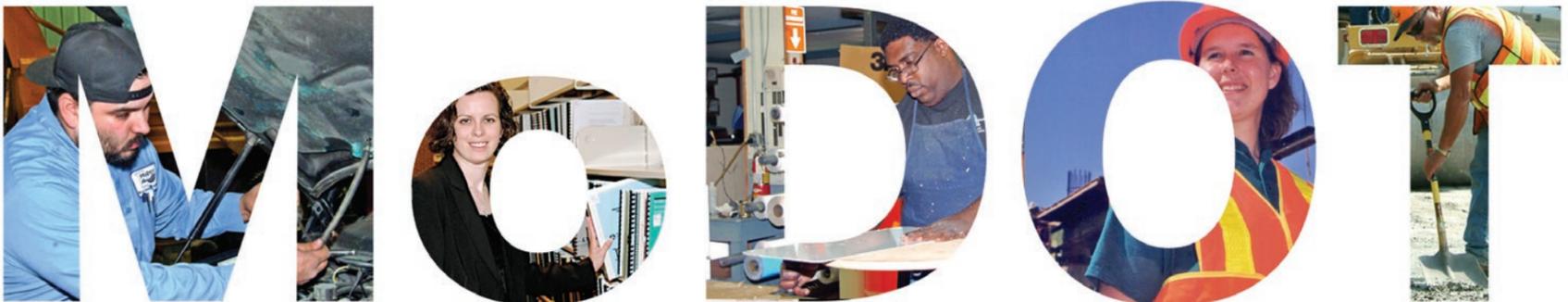


# Connections

May 2007

## Missouri State Employee Recognition Week / May 7-11

“Inspired by today, leading for tomorrow - Missouri State Employees.”



Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Your efforts are delivering a better quality of life for all Missourians.

Pete K. Rahn

### Commission Changes Leadership, Gains New Member

by Patti Knopke

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is under new leadership. Jim Anderson of Springfield began a one-year term as chairman, while Duane Michie, Hayti, is serving as vice-chair. Anderson and Michie have both served on the commission since 2001.

“I’m excited about taking my turn at leading the commission,” Anderson said. “The commission has a big responsibility - making sure Missourians have a quality transportation system - and I intend to keep things moving in the right direction.”

Anderson has served as president of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce



Jim Anderson

since 1988. Michie is chairman of the Board of First State Bank & Trust Co., Inc., and president and chairman of the

board of First State Bancorp Inc. of Caruthersville.

As well as new leadership, the commission has a new commissioner. Rudolph E. Farber, a Republican from Neosho, was nominated to the commission in late March and was confirmed by the Senate on April 19 for a term ending on March 1, 2013. He replaces Marjorie Schramm, whose term expired.

His appointment marks the first time in 35 years that a commissioner has hailed from any of the five southwestern-most Missouri counties.



Duane Michie

Farber, 65, is chairman of the board of Community Bank & Trust in Neosho. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business

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#### Watch Out For Us

Kelly Hoierman delivers an emotional work zone awareness message at CO memorial ceremony.

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#### Rodeo Roundup

District 2 winter equipment operators show off their skills.

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#### Helping Hands

District 5 maintenance workers brave storm to assist elderly Osage County farmer.

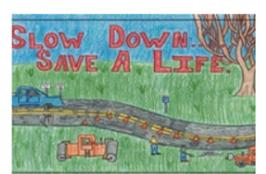
11



#### Paint the Town Orange

St. Louis displays support for work zone safety.

15



#### Super Size It

Student’s artwork becomes a giant safety message for drivers along Interstate 55.

# Paving the Way to Cultural Competency

by Kristi Jamison

Using a combination of motivational speakers and creative, thought-provoking workshops, the Equal Opportunity Division hosted its fifth annual Diversity Conference. The annual program educates MoDOT management on how to embrace diversity and ensure that MoDOT is a work place that is inclusive of people of different races or cultures.

"I enjoyed the conference," said Reyna Spencer-Gurly, community liaison in District 6. "I appreciate that MoDOT is making an effort to celebrate diversity and to really make that an integral part of the department's culture."

Nearly 100 managers attended the conference, which was given the theme "Paving the Way to SRI: Simply Respecting Individuals." Both general and breakout sessions provided valuable information to help management become more culturally competent, understand diverse work styles and bridge the generational gaps in today's work force.

"The value of this conference was not that it minimized the differences in people. Rather, discussions, presentations, and work sessions were set up such that employees



Keynote Speaker Gail Hinshaw talked about generational gaps in the work place and gave attendees tips on how to manage workers from different generations.

can recognize the differences and value them for the understanding and strength that they can bring," said Chris Rutledge, Transportation Planning Manager in District 9. "These principles and concepts are not only helpful for us in the work place, but are applicable in the families, churches, communities, and world that we live in."

Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker presented seven diversity awards during the noon luncheon. The System Delivery Team received the highest honor, the Director's Diversity Award, for achieving the highest

percentage increase in minority and women employed in their respective work unit.

"It is an honor for the System Delivery Team to receive the Director's Diversity Award," said Chief Engineer Kevin Keith. "We are working hard to create a culture of inclusiveness at MoDOT, and one of the first steps is to increase the diversity of our staff."

Other awards recognized districts or Central Office teams for their efforts to increase diversity in the work place, either through hiring practices, opportunities for promotion or educational efforts. They also rewarded outstanding participation in the TRAC and Co-op programs, as well as honoring the EAC member whose

## Equal Opportunity's Intranet Site Gets a Facelift

Equal Opportunity's Intranet site has a bold new look and is full of valuable, easy to find information about MoDOT's diversity initiatives; tips on proper work place etiquette; and EO-sponsored events, training and outreach efforts.

The site also includes comprehensive information about the Mentorship, TRAC, Co-op and Partnership in Education programs.

Check it out at [wwwi/intranet/eo/](http://wwwi/intranet/eo/).

actions best promoted diversity in the work place. The awards given this year will become an annual presentation.

### 2007 Diversity Conference Awards

**Director's Diversity Award** – System Delivery Team

**Diversity in Hiring Award** - System Delivery Team

**Career Builder Award** - System Facilitation Team

**Excellence in TRAC** - District 6

**Co-op Educator of the Year Award** - Lisa Elliott

**EAC Diversity Advocate of the Year Award** - Jana Hughes

**District Diversity Pioneer Award** - District 2 and District 8

## Best Practical Design Concepts Recognized at TEAM Conference

by Bob Brendel

Practical Design continues to return dividends to Missouri taxpayers, enabling MoDOT to provide more improvements to its sprawling system. At this year's annual conference of the Transportation Engineers Association of Missouri, some of the best examples of Practical Design were recognized with "Awards for Excellence."

The competition, which received 30 entries, was co-sponsored by MoDOT and the American Council of Engineering Companies-Missouri.

In making the presentations, Chief Engineer Kevin Keith noted that the eight winning projects represented \$83 million in savings. All 30 submitted projects represented \$361 million in savings.

Each MoDOT district was allowed to enter two projects; consultants were allowed one entry per firm. The entries were then evaluated by the team of Paul Corr (Fred Weber, Inc.), Larry Benz, (Cole County and TEAM president), Tom Gredell (Gredell Engineering Resources representing ACEC-MO), Kevin Kelly (FHWA), Mike Curtit (MoDOT Traffic), Paul Kelly (MoDOT Bridge) and Kathy Harvey (MoDOT Design).

For more details about team members, a project description, costs and cost savings, go to [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org).

### 2007 Awards for Excellence

#### Small Bridge

George Butler Associates, in cooperation with District 5 – Route V, Boone County

#### Large Bridge

MoDOT's Bridge Division, in cooperation with District 3 – Route 61, Pike and Ralls Counties

#### Small Rehabilitation Project

District 7 – Route 37, Barry County

#### Large Rehabilitation Project

HNTB, in cooperation with District 4 – Route I-35/I-670 in Jackson County and Truman Road Bridge in Kansas City

#### New Construction Small Project

Crawford, Murphy & TILLY, in cooperation with District 3 – Route 61, Lewis and Clark County (Avenue of the Saints)

#### New Construction Large Project

Gateway Constructors, in cooperation with District 6 – The New I-64 ... The I-170 Interchange

#### Most Innovative Small Project

District 10 – Routes 77, 80 and 102, Mississippi County

#### Most Innovative Large Project

District 4, in cooperation with FHWA – Route I-435, Jackson County ... The Diverging Diamond

"U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters said she was impressed with the Missouri Department of Transportation's innovative transportation programs and how the agency was making wise use of taxpayer dollars. 'The Show Me State is showing America how to deliver highway projects on budget and on schedule, and even ahead of schedule,' Peters said. Peters [also said] Missouri is a national leader when it comes to embracing innovative approaches and solutions."

Excerpt from *Willow Springs Community & Business News*, Feb. 23, 2007 based on comments Peters made at Missouri's Transportation Conference

## Leadership Changes

Continued from p. 1

administration from Northwestern University and a master's in business administration from Columbia University.



Rudolph E. Farber

## New EAC Members Take Office in July

Employees answered the call when the Employee Advisory Council put out a request for new members in February to replace 10 members whose terms expire later this year.

New members, who will take office on July 1 for a two-year term, are: Ed Angle and Julie Hill, District 1; Denise Hutchinson, District 2; David Powell, District 3; David Bower, District 4; Travis Riggs, District 5; Edith Richardson, District 6; Lewis Gerbitz, District 7; Johnna Teel, District 8; Johnathan Estes, District 9; Tammy Hefner and Richard Russell, District 10; and Cheryl Bonner and Kevin Raithe, Central Office.

# It's Rodeo Time!

Story by Jeff Briggs, photos by Wes Farris

After a few years off, MoDOT's Winter Skills Rodeo is once again under way throughout the state. Most employees who operate equipment during winter storms participate in this training competition that rates operators on a variety of skills, with the highest scores advancing to the statewide Rodeo finals.

"We've got about 3,000 of our folks out taking care of our roads during winter storms," said Mike Shea, MoDOT's statewide Rodeo coordinator. "It's difficult work in tough conditions, and you've got to know exactly how to handle the plows and other equipment to get the job done. That's why this training is so critical."

Each district has its own Rodeo competition, with some already completed and some coming later this summer. Operators are tested on a variety of skills needed to operate a snowplow truck and a loader, including backing into narrow spaces for loading, plowing in a straight line and through obstacles, clearing curbs and interchanges and other challenges.

Operators earn points for each skill, with the two highest performers in each district advancing to the statewide Rodeo in October.

"MoDOT invests more than \$27 million a year, on average, to keep the highways clear of snow and ice," Shea said. "This training helps us make the most of that investment."

"The Rodeo competition is a very effective training method, because we've got a lot of experienced operators who respond well to the competition, and are great examples for the less-experienced drivers. The Rodeo format naturally encourages workers to give their best effort and develop their skills."



## Maintenance Sheds Go Live

by Bob Edwards and Kristi Jamison

Nearly 2,000 maintenance workers will have easier, quicker access to employee benefit information, department policy updates and other useful personnel-related information thanks to a department-wide project to install computers in each MoDOT maintenance facility.

The computer systems were requested by the Employee Advisory Committee after the group received a concern from an employee that a significant number of MoDOT workers had little or no access to such a valuable communication tool in an age of instant communication.

The EAC teamed up with Information Systems staff to tackle the project. Work is still under way in most districts. However, District 8 was the first district to complete the installations district-wide, setting up systems in 27 maintenance facilities, all with high-speed computer

access. Each system includes a recycled computer and new printer.

Seymour Senior Maintenance Worker Ken Evans said his first session on the computer "went real quick." He easily got to his deferred compensation account. "I didn't have any problem with it."

"It does work pretty slick," said Seymour Maintenance Supervisor Roger Markle, after he tried out the EAC computer.

District 8 IS Manager Lisa Mattocks said each location had to be wired before the computer system was installed. That was completed in December. Installations in January through March were completed by IS staffers Blaine Doss, Mark Chastain and Tommy Nunn.

The project is expected to be complete in all districts this month.

Central Office IS Project Manager Leonard Hodges said, "This has been a very challenging project due to the complexity and dynamics of each location in which an installation is being done. The teamwork to accomplish a project of this size in the time frame given has been fantastic! I believe MoDOT will benefit greatly from this project as it helps reduce employee time away from the job and improve morale."



Seymour Maintenance Supervisor Roger Markle signs on to an EAC computer in the shop office.

## Missouri Model for Mature Driver Project

by Megan Mills

The senior population in Missouri is on the rise. While older adults bring lots of experience to the roadway, many of them face physical changes that may cause delayed reaction time, drowsiness and trouble judging distance or speed while driving. In response, MoDOT has launched a new pilot program to educate Missourians about mature driving and mobility options.

The older driver intervention program is a joint effort between MoDOT, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the American Society on Aging.

The program aims to help improve older driver safety and encourage seniors to use transportation alternatives when they must limit or stop driving.

"It's important for mature drivers, as well as their families and physicians, to understand that growing older doesn't always mean giving up driving,"

said Jackie Rogers, state project coordinator. "However, it may mean making some changes in how and when you drive."

The program includes five core programs: a DriveWell Toolkit, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Law Enforcement Module, Assessing and Counseling the Older Driver, CarFit, and Roadwise Review.

MoDOT is introducing these programs in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis over the next year. If our pilot program proves successful, it will be used as a model for other states.

"Spreading awareness and hosting informational programs about mature driving and mobility will help reduce crashes and save lives," Rogers said.

For more information on mature driving, visit [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org).

**"Not too long ago, the Missouri Department of Transportation and its governing body – the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission – were taking much criticism for failing to complete its plan for highway improvements. In fairness, we now must credit the commission and agency for pulling out of that tailspin. The best way to restore credibility is with action, not talk, and the department has done precisely that."**

Excerpt from the *Jefferson City News Tribune*, Jan. 13, 2007

# St. Louis Launches 511 Number for Travel Information

by Andrew Gates

Motorists within District 6 will have another option to get real-time travel information on regional interstate highways and major state routes this month when MoDOT launches its 511 service in St. Louis.

The service will allow travelers to get the latest information on roadway conditions simply by dialing 511. Travelers in Illinois or the rest of Missouri can access the same travel information for St. Louis by dialing 877-478-5511, which is 877-4STL-511.



Although this isn't the first voice operated travel information service for St. Louis, it is the first to incorporate the nationally recognized 511-telephone number for the service. "As MoDOT prepared for the upcoming I-64 reconstruction, Pete Rahn committed us to providing 511 service to the St. Louis region as one of many tools to reduce congestion along St. Louis interstate highways and major routes," said Tom Blair, District 6 assistant district engineer. "As we roll out 511 services here, we have shown that we are committed to keeping our promises."

This traveler information service will not replace the personal touch of live voices in the Customer Service department. "Customer service helps manage traffic by getting information on obstructed lanes, potholes and other driving hazards as well as getting that info to the people who can fix those travel issues," said Teresa Krenning, St. Louis Transportation Management Center manager. "However, we don't encourage motorists to call Customer Service to get real-time information for traveling.

"Customer Service doesn't have the manpower or time to give information on highway congestion in addition to their regular duties, so that's why this real-time travel information tool is so valuable," Krenning said. "Additionally, having an automated system lets motorists get the information they need quickly with the average call time being just under a minute."

The 511-travel information service expands the current Gateway Guide services. Motorists can obtain the latest travel information within District 6, including average traffic speeds, current incidents and construction zones before they leave from home or work by using the Gateway Guide Web site. As these travelers head toward their destination, they can get additional information about congestion on the roads ahead from overhead message

"The folks at the Missouri Department of Transportation are almost disjuncting their shoulders by patting themselves on their collective back for accomplishments in 2006. And – brace yourselves for this – they are justified in doing so. Anyone who traveled in the state over the past year had no trouble seeing a lot of road constructions/repair work ... Bottom line: More is being done by MoDOT and more is being done to make sure that people know what is being done. Both will help the cause when going to the legislature for assistance and going before voters for more money when that time comes again."

Excerpt from the *Harrison Daily Times*, Feb. 7, 2007

boards on interstates. Travel information from 511 will allow motorists to determine what traffic will be like, in real time, on other highways along their route. This lets them make smart choices to modify their route if needed.



MoDOT is partnering with Traffic.com to provide the service to the region at no cost to the department or Missouri taxpayers. "Our 511 service is the first service that is truly free, while many states are paying lots of money to get expanded travel information services," said Blair. "This public/private partnership between MoDOT in St. Louis and Traffic.com will be a model for other states in the future."

Not only will this project be the benchmark for free 511 services to other states, but it also opens the door for 511 service across Missouri. However, there is no formal timeline to bring 511 statewide.

"We do desire to have a 511 service in Kansas City very soon and are also considering including the Interstate 70 and Interstate 44 corridors, as well as the Springfield/Branson region," said Troy Pinkerton, Central Office traffic liaison engineer. "This is a nationwide service and our goal is to offer it to as many customers as quickly as we can."

## May Service Anniversaries

<b>35 Years</b>		Jerry P. Davis	D7	Mollie D. Leblanc	CO	David G. Twyman	D8
William A. Revelle	D6	Joe D. Crum	D9	Steven W. Rightnowar	CO	Leslie A. Bunton	D9
<b>30 Years</b>		L. Linn Davault	D10			Dustin H. Cooper	D9
David R. Berry	D2	Forrest D. House	D10	<b>5 Years</b>		Mary E. Shrubbs	D9
Bobby W. Fallaw	D2	Richard J. Russell	D10	Ronald D. Bright	D1	Angela L. Temple	D9
Wallace L. Shelton	D4	Dean D. Franke	CO	Danny S. Conway	D1	Allen L. Hull	D10
Daniel R. Caruthers	D7	Kelly D. Hammack	CO	Jeffrey J. Dennis	D1	Kimberly A. Hickey	CO
Gary W. Mawhiney	D8	Jeffery S. Joens	CO	Tina K. Kavanaugh	D1	Angela D. Sutton	CO
Pauline F. Forck	CO	Elizabeth J. Skouby	CO	Tonya R. Lohman	D1	Lori A. Tackett	CO
<b>25 Years</b>		Garry W. Viebrock	CO	James H. Owings	D1	Adam R. Wyrick	CO
Darrell Klocke	D3	<b>10 Years</b>		Bryan K. Pash	D1		
Randal W. Shubert	D3	Thomas K. Brenner	D2	Charles D. Burton	D2	<b>Correction:</b> Michele L. House celebrated 15	
Robert J. Johnson	D5	Russell L. Gander	D2	Jeffrey W. Miller	D2	years with MoDOT in April. It was reported	
Tony E. Nichols	D5	Timothy E. Sims	D2	Robert Carter	D4	that she works in D2, but she actually works	
Russell W. Graham	D6	Donald D. Troester	D2	William T. Gray	D4	in D3/Hannibal.	
Daryl D. Simmons	D6	Donald D. Williams	D2	Darling O. Payton	D4		
Dennis D. Blankenship	D7	Tonya S. Austin	D3	T. J. Williams	D4	<b>In Memoriam</b>	
Barbara K. Dudenhoefter	CO	Ronald D. Calvin	D3	Daniel L. Goff	D5	<b>Retirees</b>	
<b>20 Years</b>		Laurie A. Travis	D3	Christopher A. Graham	D5	Austin Crotts	D4 March 2
Marcia A. Oliver	D2	Robert D. Johnson	D4	Anthony G. Middendorf	D5	Leo Tissieres	D4 March 2
Norman A. Henson	D4	Lisa R. Bockhoff	D6	Jason P. Morf	D5	Christ P. Gerber	CO March 5
Chris A. Teel	D4	James D. Colonna	D6	Justin E. Nelson	D5	Leroy Hickman	D1 March 13
Warren R. Zeller	D4	David A. Perkins	D6	Bradley W. Temme	D5	Roger G. Mullenix	D2 March 19
Timothy J. Kluner	D6	Clinton D. Erwin	D7	Mark A. Baumann	D6	John "Larry" Duff	D3 March 20
John P. Ohlms	D6	Larry R. Palmer	D7	Toraino A. Hellems	D6	Carl E. Robertson	D7 March 21
Gaila M. Campbell	D8	Tony C. Phillips	D7	Scott A. Hensler	D6	Richard W. Lewis	D3 March 27
Raymond A. Kinard	CO	David L. Toler	D7	David L. Herzog	D6	Keith Jones	D3 March 27
<b>15 Years</b>		Douglas E. Durham	D8	Arisa Prapaisilp	D6	Marvin E. Soltes	D10 March 29
Ronald L. Perkins	D2	Mary E. Slaughter	D8	Warren D. Bailey	D7	Charles R. Modrell	D1 March 31
Tana L. Akright	D3	Wilber L. Barton	D9	Max T. Major	D7	Aubrey E. Bird	CO March 31
Joyce A. McPike	D3	Joseph D. Mullen	D9	Kary J. Youngblood	D7		
Charles L. Harris	D4	Bruce Smith	D9	Stephen E. Atkisson	D8	<b>April Retirements</b>	
Willie M. Stennis	D4	James M. Demann	D10	Marcus G. Dalton	D8	There were no April retirements.	
James D. Honse	D5	Roger G. Thompson	D10	David W. Henry	D8		
Tim R. Black	D6	Arnold L. Edgar	CO	Susan J. Marshall	D8		
		Roland A. Hoover	CO	Rusty L. Quick	D8		
				Ray Strain	D8		



Central Office

## Emotional Speech Kicks Off 2007 Work Zone Awareness Week

by Patti Knopke

MoDOT commemorated Work Zone Awareness Week and the start of another construction season with a kickoff event and memorial ceremony held April 2 at the Central Office building in Jefferson City.

The event included opening remarks from System Management Director Don Hillis, Rep. Neal St. Onge, Sen. Bill Stouffer and Missouri State Highway Patrol Superintendent Colonel James Keathley. Kelly Hoierman, widow of Ken Hoierman who was tragically killed in a work zone in August 2006, was the final speaker. Her touching speech, which follows, truly moved the crowd.

*"I am touched by everything that MoDOT has done. Ken would be very*

*proud of everything they have done for safety awareness, he was very adamant about it.*

*But people don't understand, even though it is not a construction work zone, when a motorist assist or a maintenance man sets up and stops on the side of the highway, a highway patrol, a fire truck – that is a work zone.*

*You need to move over and give them room to work safely, and slow down. Doing 45 miles an hour for 10 miles is not going to make you any later. Leave*

*five minutes earlier. Put your cell phone down. These men and women who are out there are giving their lives because people are being reckless and it's wrong.*

*Take the time to concentrate on what you are doing. Teach your children to drive and to watch out*



**Kelly Hoierman made an impassioned plea for motorists to pay attention and watch out for MoDOT, construction and emergency workers on roadways during a memorial ceremony in Jefferson City.**

*for these men and women that are on the highway trying to make it safer for you to get to your destination. That's all they're trying to do, is ask you to watch out for them because no parent should have to come home and tell their child that their parent is not coming home because someone wasn't paying attention.*

*Take a few minutes. Slow down. Leave a little bit earlier. Pull over to the next lane if there is someone out working. Give them room to breathe. Give them the space they need."*

After Kelly spoke, the public service announcement featuring Ken was shown. The four columns on the face of the Central Office building were lit in orange in remembrance of the four MoDOT workers who were killed in the line of duty in 2006. One hundred and twenty four luminaries were lit in remembrance of the MoDOT employees who lost their lives in the line of duty. MoDOT offices, as well as other buildings and landmarks throughout the state, were also illuminated orange in honor of Work Zone Awareness Week.



**A somber orange glow lit the night sky during a memorial ceremony at the Central Office kickoff event for Work Zone Awareness Week.**

## Physical Inventory Blitz A New Way to Count Inventory at Central Office

By Karen Miller

If you were working on March 1, you probably received a visit from someone in the Controller's Division to count the fixed assets in your work area, like computers, laptops, printers, vehicles and other higher-value items. The Controller's Division used a different approach than previous years to conduct inventory: sending out 21 teams to count Central Office locations in one day.

According to Diana Luebbering, financial services administrator and co-

ordinator of fixed asset inventory, "We brainstormed ideas on how to complete inventory faster as well as achieve efficiency and accuracy - lots of ideas were discussed."

Completing the count in one day meant some of the Controller's Division staff no longer had to spend a month going from one location to another counting items, as in previous years.

"We were able to get a snap-shot of all fixed assets at one point in time, which made the reconciliation process go

smoother and much quicker," Diana said. Some teams were able to finish quickly because the divisions had prepared the actual count beforehand.

"Support from Central Office staff was instrumental in finding the fixed assets and identifying obsolete or under-threshold items, as well as ensuring the "Property of MoDOT" tags are affixed to MoDOT property that is not a fixed asset," Diana said. Many Central Office locations took advantage of the opportunity to identify obsolete items in order to dispose of them.

MoDOT is accountable for fixed assets purchased, transferred and disposed of because it is our responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. The fixed asset records are updated daily in the Financial SAM II system. The physical count is done only once a year to verify the SAM II records are correct and to make sure assets have not been lost.

This is another great example of how teamwork, not just within the Controller's Division, but throughout Central Office, is helping us do our jobs better,

faster and cheaper and allowing us to get the best value for every dollar spent!

**Senior Facility Operations Crew Worker Marvin Smith joins John Harding and Charlotte Edwards from the Controller's Division to take inventory of computer equipment.**



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# D1

## Northwest

### Interstate 35

Story by M. Elaine Justus, photos by Holly Lea Murphy



Interstate 35 from Bethany to the Iowa State Line will be the focus of a lot of activity from May to November this construction season.

The Northwest District has two major interstates that traverse our 12-county area: Interstate 29 and Interstate 35. Both of them are congressionally designated as “high priority corridors.” During the 2007 construction season, the northernmost section of Interstate 35 in Missouri is going to be the major focus for a lot of work and events.

On June 29, 1956, President Dwight David Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid-Highway Act into law. It called upon the states to build “a 41,000-mile system of interstate highways linking America’s major cities.” The act also mandated the system be completed by 1972.

Formerly known as “Route 2,” it wasn’t until 1957 that AASHTO designated I-35 as an “original interstate highway” from Laredo, Texas, to Duluth, Minn. Contrary to popular belief, I-35 does not directly connect to either Canada or Mexico, but stops just short of both international borders. Although it measures 1,565 miles in total length, only 114 miles of it pass through Missouri (the shortest length of any state). The earthwork for the northernmost Missouri portion (from Cameron north to the Iowa line) was completed in 1974 and the paving done in 1976.

The full length of I-35 was designated as the “35th Infantry Division Memorial Highway” on June 10, 1969 (before the earthwork in northwest Missouri

was even begun) through House Concurrent Resolution No. 28.

Why the 35th Infantry Division?



The sleeve insignia of the 35th Infantry Division illustrates the “mechanized” aspect of their training.

Formed in 1917, the 35th Infantry Division was composed principally of men from the Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska National Guards and served with distinction in both world

wars. “Distinction” seems almost an understatement when you check their history and see battles such as the Meuse-Argonne, Verdun, and Normandy. Although officially “inactivated” in 1963, the surviving veterans continue to hold a yearly reunion.

This spring, work began on the new welcome center to be constructed on I-35 just south of the Iowa border. Completion is anticipated later this year, and the formal dedication ceremony being planned will include representatives from the 35th Infantry Division. A bronze plaque memorializing them, originally displayed at the Coffey rest area, has been salvaged. We plan to install it in a place of honor in the new welcome center.

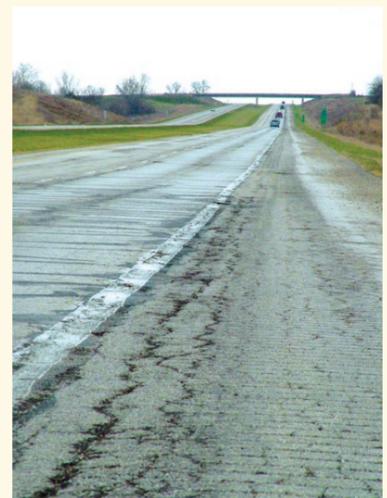


The dedication ceremony for one of Missouri’s newest welcome centers is being planned for late 2007. The invitation list will include not only federal and state transportation officials, area residents and elected representatives, but also surviving members of the now disbanded 35th Infantry Division. They will be on hand to see their 40-year-old bronze memorial plaque relocated from the old Coffey rest area to a new position of honor in the welcome center.



There is a lot of construction that needs to happen at the welcome center before we can even begin to think about a date for the dedication ceremony. Hopefully, recent rain and spring snow will not delay the project too much longer.

Ironically, the contract for the construction of the new welcome center was awarded to Chester Bross Construction of Palmyra, who also received the contract to do “hot-in-place” recycling on 21.517 miles of the same section of I-35 this season, along with rehabilitation of six bridges. Beginning in early May, lanes will be closed on the interstate. We anticipate lane drops and minor traffic inconvenience will continue through late November, except for holidays, of course. Because of the high volume of traffic during the summer months, extra funding has been allocated to increase law enforcement during this period. You might keep that in mind if you’re planning on travelling north this summer.



Between the high traffic volumes, the extreme weather conditions and the age of the pavement, there’s no question this section of Interstate 35 is desperately in need of attention. Drivers should find a much improved surface by the end of this construction season.

#### for more info

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# D2

## North Central

### The Winter Skills Rodeos are Back in Town



The Winter Skills Rodeos are back in town for MoDOT, and District 2 volunteered to be the first to saddle up to conduct this training for its employees. Maintenance Superintendent Keith Hartwig represented District 2 on the statewide team headed by Technical Support Engineer Mike Shea and Employee Development Specialist Aaron Cox. This team planned every detail

cal Support Engineer Bob Lannert and everyone involved with the statewide team, was so well prepared that it really helped to get things rolling for the district.

The team chose to combine the skills training with the district's annual spring meetings and safety awards. The days were structured to have groups of employees participating in morning



Neither wind nor hail nor sleet nor snow...

of the training, which is structured to test employees' knowledge through a written test, and to evaluate their skill in pre-trip inspections and operating a snowplow and loader.

Keith returned from the statewide meetings to put together a district team to plan our event. Mike Herleth, Travis Wombwell, Dale Niece, Shari Dye, Brad Gates and Tammy Wallace joined Keith, Mike and Aaron to form the team. The plan and materials compiled by Mike and Aaron, along with Techni-

and afternoon sessions for the training, with the spring meeting and safety awards taking place mid-day. In order to accomplish all of this, the team also agreed to have employees take the written exam the week prior to the rodeos.

The day before the rodeos were scheduled to begin, the team came together to set up and run the courses to make sure everything would work smoothly that first day. Areas were designated for the pre-trip inspections, loader course and snowplow course so all three stations could run simultaneously. This required commitments for long days for those judging, but it made the training very efficient.

Unfortunately, thunderstorms with heavy wind and rain made the first morning more than challenging for both the participants and judges, but that didn't stop the action. Everyone involved just grabbed rain gear and the training began. Mike, Aaron and Bob were all on hand from the Central Office to assist that day.



Watch out for that mailbox!

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Clearing the high bar on the loader course.

Risk Management Technician Nancy Davis, with laptop in hand, also worked with the district team. The judges turned their score sheets into Nancy, who was responsible for entering over 250 participant's scores into the computer program to calculate the overall score and time.

Along with testing their skills during the training, employees came together for the annual spring meeting. Dan

Traffic departments in this planning process so we can work as smart and efficient as possible."

All of the superintendents praised the employees in their areas for doing such a great job during the winter season.

During one presentation, Maintenance Superintendent Brad Gates summed up teamwork efforts in his area by saying, "We're not Brad's area any longer, we're not even District 2, we're MoDOT and



Mike Herleth gives an overview of the Safe & Sound Program.

Niec and Mike Herleth gave employees a high level overview of the department and district direction. They discussed many topics, including the Better Roads, Brighter Future and Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement programs. Construction projects, STIP, district business plan and tracker measures were also discussed to give employees a sense of where each one of them fit into the direction of the department and the district.

Area engineers and maintenance superintendents also laid out detailed plans and directions from patching and chip sealing to signing/stripping, bridge and concrete work for the upcoming summer season. To wrap things up, Ellen Gehringer presented information on the Fitness for Duty policy.

"I was very impressed with all the presentations," said Dan. "Our district is planning our work like we've never planned before, and a lot of the effort has been given by our Maintenance and

we'll go where we're needed and do what has to be done."

When the rodeos were finished, Keith said, "I've heard some very positive comments about the training, and most of the employees liked having the rodeo, spring meeting and safety awards combined into one big meeting. The truck and loader courses gave employees a chance to show off their skills and gave management a chance to see how skilled these employees are."

So who had the best overall score in this competition? Intermediate Crew Worker Richard McClain and Senior Crew Worker Eugene Oser each earned 4,784 out of 5,000 possible points. To determine the overall winner, the truck and loader course times were combined and the employee with the fastest time, Richard, took the number one spot with Eugene placing second. Additionally 10 employees ranked in the 95th percentile. Congratulations to everyone!



Dan Niece presents the District 2 trophy to Richard McClain. Richard will join other district winners for the statewide competition in October.

# D3

## Northeast

### Employees Get a 'Crash' Course in Safety

The Northeast District held safety days for all of its employees last month to bring awareness not only to highway safety, but also other issues like conservation, health and wellness. One featured speaker was Dietician Nancy Hays from Hannibal Regional Hospital, who educated crews with her Health Jeopardy game. Agents from the Missouri Department of Conservation spoke on various issues including mountain lions in Missouri, tracking

and other outdoor safety issues. Missouri State Highway Patrol officers brought the convincer to each of the events and presented real stories about accidents involving victims not wearing seat belts. MoDOT representatives from the Employee Benefit division, the regional Blueprint committee, and the I-64 project also shared information. Safety awards were distributed to employees who have gone an entire year without incident.



Maintenance Superintendent Kenny Hollocher prepares for the "crash" on the seat belt convincer at the south area's safety day. Lt. Al Nothum with the Missouri State Highway Patrol shared stories about real incidents that had occurred to people who were not wearing seat belts, then took the crews outside to try out the convincer.

### Retirements

Harry Elder of the Frankford maintenance facility retired after 21 years of service with MoDOT. Harry and his wife, who is retiring later this summer, will travel a lot visiting family, and he plans to golf more. As a side note, the

Elders have traveled to every state in the U.S. and also have traveled abroad, but there is so much more to see they will continue to travel more.



Harry is pictured with his family at the retirement celebration at the Frankford maintenance building in March.

Mike Parrish of the Memphis maintenance facility retired after 31 years of service with MoDOT. Mike plans to do whatever he wants to this summer, but also doing odd jobs he has put off.



Mike Parrish, Memphis maintenance supervisor, retired May 1, 2007.

Glen Minks of the Shelbyville maintenance facility retired after 25 years of service with MoDOT. Glen plans to enjoy farming, fishing and visiting grandkids. He and his wife will travel to Florida this summer.



Glen Minks, Shelbyville maintenance, retired May 1, 2007.

### Students Rewarded for Work Zone Posters

Students from three local schools were recognized for their efforts to bring awareness to highway construction zones during Work Zone Awareness Week last month. Samantha Pettibone, a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Holy Family Catholic School in Hannibal, won an honorable mention in the state contest, and she and several of her schoolmates

were presented orange items and a copy of the local newspaper that featured all the posters from the Northeast District. Other schools participating included A.D. Stowell in Hannibal and the elementary school in Louisiana.



Samantha Pettibone and Jordan Gamble of Holy Family Catholic School in Hannibal are presented their prizes by Hannibal Maintenance Supervisor Birney Herrick.



This freshmen "tribe" at Palmyra High School were winners of the Highway Survivor game held in the gym of their school. They are pictured with Randy Shephard, a volunteer from Hannibal LaGrange College, and Sgt. Greg Leftwich with the MSHP. The Highway Survivor game is a popular and fun way for high school students to learn about safe driving habits.

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# D4

## Kansas City Area

### Interchange Project Begins KC Portion of Better Roads, Brighter Future

by Kerri Lewis

As another busy construction season begins, so does the first of Kansas City's Better Roads, Brighter Future projects.

Bridge rehabilitation closed the westbound Interstate 70 exit ramp to southbound Interstate 470 and reduced traffic to one lane over the I-70 bridge on March 19. Motorists who normally use the ramp had to seek another route until it reopened April 12. Approximately 6,500 vehicles use the ramp on a daily basis.

The project's second phase closed the eastbound I-70 exit ramp to northbound Route 291 and reduced traffic traveling north on Route 291 to one lane on March 26. That ramp reopened April 19.

Additional ramp and lane closures are expected in the next several months at the interchange. The project schedule includes the following phases:

- Reducing southbound Route 291/I-470 to one lane from 39th Street to the Little Blue River to rehabilitate the 39th Street, Route 40 and Little Blue River bridges. Shifting southbound lanes of Route 291 onto the existing northbound bridge at 39th Street, restricting I-470/Route 291 to one lane.
- Closing ramps from 39th Street to southbound Route 291 and from

southbound Route 291 to westbound I-70 for approximately 45 days.

- Once the southbound bridgework is complete, northbound I-470/Route 291 will be reduced to one lane from the Little Blue River to 39th Street to rehabilitate the Little Blue River, Route 40 and 39th Street bridges. The northbound lanes of Route 291/I-470 will be shifted onto the newly constructed southbound bridge deck of 39th Street, restricting Route 291/I-470 to one lane.
- Closing ramps from northbound Route 291 to 39th Street and from westbound I-70 to northbound Route 291 for approximately 45 days.
- Repaving on northbound and southbound lanes of Route 291/I-470 will commence once bridge rehabilitation is complete. This will occur during non-peak hours.

Each stage of work includes a reward/penalty incentive program with the contractor. The contractor will be rewarded for completing stages ahead of schedule and penalized for any work extending beyond the contracted timeframe. The entire project is scheduled for completion in late September.

### Downtown Loop Improvements Gain Momentum

by Steve Porter



The old Truman Road bridge over Interstate 670 on the south side of the Downtown Loop is gone, but will be replaced late this summer by one of three new bridges.

Have you ever started a little fixer-upper project that just kept growing?

MoDOT projects to replace four bridges and rehabilitate another 13 in Kansas City's Downtown Loop were already under way when an event on the other side of the state added some items to the work list.

A portion of sidewalk fell from a bridge in St. Louis in March, which launched a program of urgent repairs on bridges over MoDOT's highways in the Downtown Loop. MoDOT and the city of Kansas City were already working on a design to treat and resurface bridges, improve pedestrian accommodations on the south side of the loop and add aesthetic side rails to complement ongoing redevelopment in the area.

The urgent bridge work, combined with the aesthetic improvements, means that five of the bridges will receive new, wider sidewalks as part of their rehabilitation. Put everything together and it means that more than \$26 million in road and bridge improvements in the Downtown Loop will be completed by this October.

Traffic will be restricted on five bridges over Interstate 670 into the fall. Crews began around-the-clock construction in mid-April to accelerate repairs on some of those structures.

MoDOT maintenance crews began bridge rehabilitation, deck repair and preparation for decorative railing on the Main Street bridge in early April. The work required periodic lane closures, but the improvements were completed in about a week.

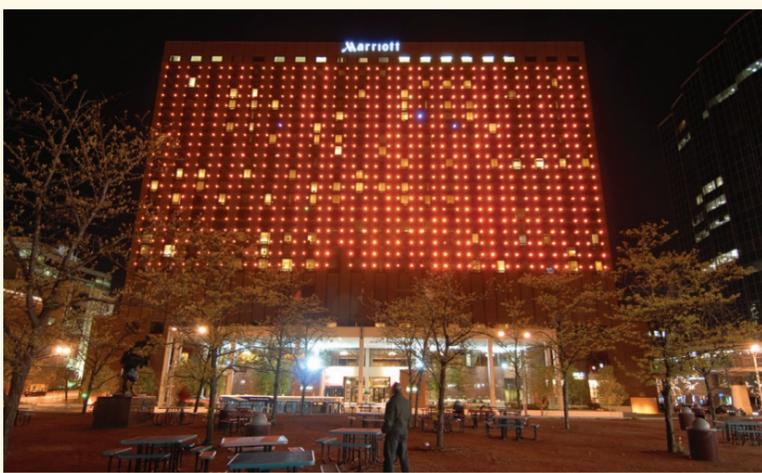
Work on the six-lane Grand Avenue bridge will restrict lanes later this spring, but crews can keep some traffic flowing on the bridge throughout most of the work. The other three bridges – at Baltimore, Walnut and McGee – will be closed for about two weeks, each at different times. The last closure is expected to occur from mid-June until early July.

Work on bridge railings, removing old sidewalks; pouring new; wider sidewalks; and repairing and resurfacing all five bridges, will come via a contract to be let this month. The work will require various lane closures for several days at a time on each bridge and will continue into fall until work is completed.

Two other downtown projects that began in 2006 are still in progress. The first project is replacing bridges at Truman Road and at Oak and Locust streets, with structures featuring eight-foot-wide sidewalks and retaining walls along I-670 to provide for more lanes. The \$13.8 million contract should be completed by Sept. 1.

The second project – a \$7.5 million effort to rehabilitate 13 bridges and resurface highway lanes on the west side of the Loop – is more than half done. Southbound lanes that have been closed since mid-winter are expected to reopen in May.

Another \$3.1 million contract will resurface I-670 on the south side of the Loop. That work will take place this summer.



The Kansas City Marriott Downtown was lit in orange in recognition of Work Zone Safety Week in April.

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# D5 Central

## Chamois Crew Helps Elderly Man During Storm

by Holly Dentner

A severe thunderstorm blew through mid-Missouri on April 3, bringing strong winds, heavy rain and hail to the area. Chamois Maintenance Supervisor Dave Thuli was in Osage County with his crew, making some road repairs and patching potholes on Route J. They stopped for lunch when the heavy rain started and as it continued they noticed a man trying to make his way across a nearby pasture.

“We could tell something was wrong with him,” said Thuli. “He was moving really slow and having trouble walking.”

Senior Maintenance Workers Dave Laughlin and Rick Starke got out of their truck and made their way about 300 yards to the man’s location. The man was struggling to talk and they thought he was near collapse.

“He was working in his fields and got his tractor stuck,” said Thuli. “He was an older guy and the distance he



MoDOT to the rescue: Senior Maintenance Workers Dave Laughlin and Rick Starke.

walked and the bad weather got the better of him.”

The man was too weak to walk back to the MoDOT truck, so Laughlin and Starke brought it out to the field and took him home. Thuli says his crew was soaking wet from the downpour, but he’s glad they spotted the man.

“He could have fallen and seriously hurt himself,” said Thuli. “I’m glad our crew was there to help.”

## Spreading the Word About Work Zones



Holly Dentner

**10** Area Engineer Mike Schupp talks to Shelley Tucker, news director for The Eagle 93.9 FM radio station. Schupp talked about the steps MoDOT is taking this year to make work zones safer for highway workers and motorists. He also encouraged drivers to slow down, pay attention and buckle up in work zones this summer. Area engineers appeared on radio stations throughout mid-Missouri during National Workzone Awareness Week.



The Central District office building in Jefferson City had orange lighting and signs to draw attention to Work Zone Awareness Week.

Holly Dentner

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## MoDOT Invites Public Input

by Holly Dentner

While we rely on engineering evaluations and environmental studies to determine the best course of action when planning a highway improvement, we also seek public comment on our plans to make sure the communities affected by the improvement are involved in the process. Four recent meetings helped us meet that goal.

After citizens expressed concerns about the safety of a section of Route 7 in Benton County, the district held a public meeting on March 6 to address their questions and explore possible safety improvements for the area. About 60 people attended the meeting.



Dawn Haslag

Left to right: District Engineer Roger Schwartz, Project Manager Jason Vanderfeltz and consultant Eric Neprud examine a photo of the Osage River Bridge from the early 1900s, brought to the Miller County Route 17 meeting by a local resident.

MoDOT has also been working through the environmental assessment process to widen Route 65 from south of Cole Camp Junction to Route 7 in Warsaw, and Benton County residents have been actively involved from the beginning. Over 140 people attended the public hearing March 14 so they could review the draft assessment that identified a preferred alternative for the new road.

A public hearing was held on March 15 in Columbia regarding a new interchange at Gans Road and U.S. Route 63. The interchange would improve safety and traffic flow and accommodate increased traffic generated by a new development area in south Columbia. About 35 people attending the hearing.

The most recent public hearing was held April 3 in Miller County. MoDOT proposes replacing the Osage River Bridge on Route 17, east of Tuscomb. The project would cost approximately \$8.5 million and construction is planned to begin in winter 2009. Over 100 people attended the hearing.

## Fatima and Lincoln Win Regional Battle of the Belt

Our students buckle up and win! Fatima High School in Osage County and Lincoln High School in Benton County won regional honors in the statewide Battle of the Belt, an educational program where schools competed against each other to increase safety belt use and potentially save lives. The challenge involved a peer-designed educational campaign and surprise safety belt checks to measure any resulting behavioral change.

Fatima won central Missouri’s regional award for the highest safety belt use. Lincoln won the central region award for the greatest increase in safety belt use. Other schools participating in the central region program were Versailles High School, Hallsville High School and Hickman High School in Columbia.

District Engineer Roger Schwartz, District Traffic Engineer Matt Myers and Lt. Larry Plunkett from the Missouri State Highway Patrol made presentations to Fatima and Lincoln in March to recognize their efforts and

award their \$250 prize money, sponsored by American Family Insurance. “We are very proud of the high school students in the mid-Missouri area who



Matt Myers

Missouri State Highway Patrolman Larry Plunkett throws Arrive Alive t-shirts into the bleachers during a school assembly to recognize Lincoln High School’s Battle of the Belt success.

have taken part in this program and encouraged their peers to buckle up,” said Myers, who also serves as central region coordinator for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. “Buckling up is one of your best defenses when riding in a motor vehicle. It provides protection from being ejected and keeps the driver and passengers from smashing into steering columns, dashboards, windshields or other passengers if the vehicle is involved in a crash.”

# D6

## St. Louis Area

### Success of Work Zone Awareness Week

by Kara Price and Andrew Gates

To kick off the 2007 construction season, MoDOT has turned the state orange! Some MoDOT buildings and landmarks throughout the state were lit orange from April 2-7, and others throughout the entire month, in recognition of National Work Zone Awareness Week.

Corporations, organizations and landmarks within the St. Louis area are supporting MoDOT's Work Zone Safety message of "Drive Smart in Work Zones to Arrive Alive." Some lit their buildings or landmarks orange while others placed messages on their building and Web site to show the pub-

why MoDOT lit this building orange.

MoDOT and the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis held a kickoff event April 2 in observance of Work Zone Awareness Week at the Olive Boulevard and Interstate 170 work zone.

Also during Work Zone Awareness Week, District 6 Work Zone Coordinator Maurice Neil challenged all the work zones in the district to strive for excellence from April 2-7.

"I challenged the district to have A-plus rated work zones," said Neil. "Those were work zones that met all the requirements and made



Cathy Morrison

Orange fountain at Kiener Plaza

lic the importance of Work Zone Safety.

Local supporters include: St. Louis Cardinals, Kiener Plaza, Six Flags St. Louis, Saint Louis Science Center, Maritz Inc., and Larry West Contracting.

MoDOT's Traffic Management Center was lit orange on the front and the back of the building, as well as its sign at the entrance. A banner that said, "Work Zone Safety Awareness... Drive Smart to Arrive Alive," was displayed on the front of the TMC to show motorists



Cathy Morrison

Planetarium at the St. Louis Science Center

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### St. Louis Posts Travel Times on Interstate 70

by Andrew Gates

Travelers in St. Louis have new avenues to determine traffic conditions now that District 6 has started posting travel times at strategic locations. Traffic speeds are now posted on nine overhead dynamic message boards along a 16-mile stretch of Interstate 70 and on the Gateway Guide Web site at [www.gatewayguide.com](http://www.gatewayguide.com).

The messages give drivers accurate, up-to-the minute travel time information along I-70 from the Missouri border to east of Interstate 270. Operators in the St. Louis Transportation Management Center post the messages during weekday peak traffic hours and periods of abnormal traffic delays. This capability will be added to other routes as well. Currently, MoDOT plans to have travel times on I-270 and

Interstate 44 message boards by the end of June. Travel times on the boards for interstates 55, 64, 170 and Route 364 will be operational by October.

Traffic sensors gather the average travel speeds of vehicles along these routes. These speeds are used in calculations to determine how much time it should take to travel to key interchanges along the highway. The district's goal is to be as accurate as possible and offer times within a few-minutes' range of actual travel times. Since individual travel times are based on varied driving styles and minor traffic incidents, travel times will not be 100 percent accurate for all drivers.

### MoDOT Officials and Local Political Leaders Pick Up Trash

by Kara Price

MoDOT officials, local elected officials, law enforcement and directors from local public agencies recently addressed the media and the public at a news conference in front of a giant trash mound to reinforce the importance of not littering and to keep Missouri clean as a litter-free state. Most of these officials, including St. Louis City Mayor Francis Slay and St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley, picked up trash at a stretch of Interstate 70 near Shreve Avenue to kick off April's annual No More Trash! Bash following the news conference.

These officials stressed for St. Louis area residents to take a few hours to



County Executive Charlie Dooley

make Missouri beautiful during the No More Trash! Bash by joining in clean up activities in their communities. It's easy to help during the annual Bash by either scheduling your own pickup or attending local or state cleanup events.

Those who spoke at the news conference, included: MoDOT District 6 Engineer Ed Hassinger; Katy Forand, a



Mayor Francis Slay

representative from Governor Matt Blunt's office; Missouri Highway Patrol Captain Ronald Johnson; St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley; St. Louis County Police Chief Jerry Lee; St. Louis City Mayor Francis Slay; St. Louis City Police Chief Joe Mokwa; Garry Earls, director of St. Louis County Departments of Highways and Traffic and Public Works; Jim Cloar, president and CEO of Downtown St. Louis Partnership, Inc.; Mary Lou Green, executive director of Operation Brightside; and Leonard Toenjes, president of Associated General Contractors of St. Louis.

Each year, MoDOT alone spends approximately \$5.8 million to clear litter along highways throughout our state. For more information about these efforts, visit [www.nomoretrash.org](http://www.nomoretrash.org) and Clean Up Missouri, so there will be No More Trash!

# D7

## Southwest

### OWL Award Making the Rounds

by Lori Marble

Articles on providing assistance to others are filled with practical advice. One of the best pointers is to be specific. When you're assisting a colleague or friend it's best to state how you can help rather than offering the open-ended, and often half-hearted "Call me if there's anything I can do."

The Outstanding Work Leadership (OWL) award at District 7 was born out of the observance of District Engineer Becky Baltz as she encountered specific examples of servant leadership on site.

"I wanted a way in which we could recognize as a district those individuals who went above and beyond in providing assistance," said Baltz.



"More often than not, these specific examples of leadership happen in small groups and are not immediately apparent."



Barry Weaver, left, listens as Patti Radley introduces him as the second recipient of the OWL award. As part of the introduction, Radley mentioned Weaver's strong work ethics and his attention to detail. Weaver is now charged with looking for examples of work leadership throughout the district and for selecting the May honoree.

Patti Radley, Business and Benefits manager, was the first recipient. She was honored by Baltz for her "willingness to provide assistance to other departments."

"She's very observant. Patti sees the big picture in terms of district needs and always jumps in and says 'I can help and here's how,'" continued Baltz.

"She strives to make her areas of responsibility better and to influence the district in a positive manner."

One of the key points of the OWL award is that the current holder of the award has to carefully choose the next award recipient. The new recipient is then asked to attend a Management

Team meeting with the individual who honored him or her.

Radley recently selected Barry Weaver, senior maintenance worker from Liberal, as the second OWL holder.

"Barry was easily my selection based on what an outstanding job he does. His work is always of a high quality," said Radley. "Everything that he does that affects B & B is done right. His inventories are perfect."

"He's very humble and is a person of such high morals," she continued, "that I thought it only natural to pass this OWL honor on to him."

Time will tell if the "pass it on" quality of the OWL award takes hold in District 7. In just its first two months it has generated discussion on leadership and quality work environments. The recipients of the award will be the true promoters and guardians of its original intent and promising purpose.

### Construction Earns Excellence Award



Larry Whiteside, right, receives the Quality in Construction award from District Engineer Becky Baltz.

One of the recent projects highlighted in District 7 was the Quality in Construction award—recognizing excellence in hot-mix asphalt pavements. District Engineer Becky Baltz presented the award

to Construction Engineer Larry Whiteside during a recent Management Team meeting.

The award was presented for work on Barry County Route 37.

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### Turning the Lights Orange



Taking advantage of the warm weather, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Eagles installed orange filters on the outside lighting in an effort to turn the district headquarters orange for Work Zone Awareness Week.

# D8

## Springfield Area

### Ice-Storm Cleanup Requires All-Out Push

by Angela Eden

District 8 is expending the same all-out effort to remove ice-storm tree and brush debris this spring that it took to clear roads when the ice hit Jan. 12-15.

MoDOT Maintenance crews and contractors continue to trim, chip and haul away debris from state roadsides. MoDOT employees from Construction and Materials and other areas are pitching in as well. The task is expected to last through May and possibly into June.

District-wide, employees have been “very positive” in doing whatever is needed to handle the ice-storm emergency, said District Maintenance Engineer Dave O’Connor. He supervised the initial ice-storm battle in the midst of widespread power outages. Then he helped organize the massive cleanup.

“It’s great to know that you have that kind of support. These guys have shown they can be counted on,” O’Connor said. “They’ve exceeded every expectation.”

Work focused first on clearing debris hazards across nine hard-hit counties as the storm ended. MoDOT Maintenance forces quickly began moving fallen trees and limbs off the roads, taking down hanging limbs and picking up piles from roadsides where visibility for drivers was blocked. Systematic cleanup began in short order.

MoDOT’s maintenance crews have concentrated on roadside cleanup in

Stone, Christian, Webster, Wright, Hickory and Polk counties. Contractors were hired to handle the bulk of the cleanup in Greene, Dallas and Laclede counties. MoDOT Maintenance, Construction and Materials employees are serving as monitors. They include maintenance personnel shifted north from central and southern counties with much less storm damage.

The 60 monitors are working six days a week to keep up with the contractor crew operations. Monitors record the tonnage for federal emergency reimbursement (75 percent).

“The monitoring aspect is a significant drain on resources,” O’Connor said. “It could affect our surface maintenance activities this spring.”

Debris removal in some areas delayed routine maintenance work usually scheduled when the weather warms up in April and May. However, some crews started getting back to their normal work in April while others, with greater amounts of debris to clear, are doing so more gradually.

Mowing is at the top of everyone’s list to continue or resume as Memorial Day approaches. So is road surface work such as patching and chip-sealing.

“We’ll catch up,” said Buffalo/Bolivar Maintenance Superintendent Dan Ream.



Bob Edwards

#### D8 at Work

Wasola Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Hogan (top) works as part of a patching operation on an approach along Route 5 south of Wasola.

Sunshine Maintenance Crew Leader Ron Plaster (bottom) is interviewed by a TV reporter on Kansas Expressway in Springfield near a curb repair operation. Plaster did several interviews during Work Zone Awareness Week in early April. Others interviewed were Branson Senior Maintenance Worker Shawn Nilges and Lebanon Senior Maintenance Worker Wes Hawkins.



Bob Edwards

Buffalo Construction Technicians Robin Jackson, center, and Guy Pagel, working in a quarry office near Buffalo with contractor employee Earlene Elliott, record tree debris weight as part of the ice-storm cleanup project.

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#### 40-Year Employee Lynn Day Retires

by Angela Eden

Hartville Maintenance Supervisor Lynn Day spent all 40 years of his MoDOT career working at the Hartville shop, the last 30 years as supervisor. He retired May 1.

His tenure as supervisor in one location is thought to be one of the longest in District 8 history. Employment records cannot easily determine such facts.

“It says dedication,” said Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler. “He came through the good times and the bad times.”

Day has seen significant improvements in equipment, including trucks with heaters and hydraulics. He has seen a greater focus on safety. He knows the people and the issues of the area he has served and that helped him do his job.

Service: 40 years (Hired May 28, 1968)

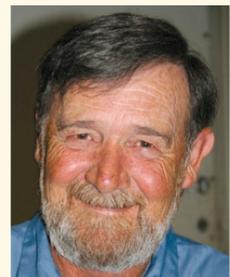
Career: Maintenance worker, Hartville,

1968; maintenance supervisor, Hartville, 1977

Memorable Work: The variety. “It’s different day-to-day.”

Biggest Change: “We’ve gone from manual to mechanical – not as much hand work.”

Post-MoDOT Plans: Working on his farm; more hunting and fishing



Day

“Talkin’ Transportation”  
 Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

# D9

## South Central

### Solutions Showcased At District Safety Awards

Intranet page to be developed as archive

The employees of the South Central District have a long history of developing tools and methods for improving work processes. The roll out of the Solutions At Work program simply gave them an outlet for their talent.

Prior to the safety awards presentations in April and May, District Engineer Tom Stehn put out the call for every maintenance building to bring solutions to share with the group. The result was a parade of best practices developed by maintenance personnel for the purpose of reducing costs, making jobs easier and improving performance. As representatives from each crew presented, the innovations were photographed for documentation purposes. Present-

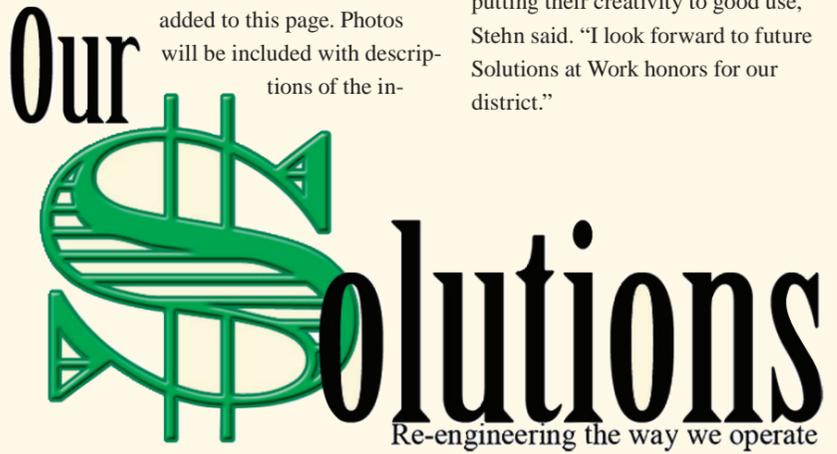
ers shared how the best practices were developed and the uses for each.

“The ingenuity of our employees is very impressive,” Stehn said. “They consistently deliver when it comes to improving existing equipment and developing tools to get the job done. The presentations at our safety awards ceremonies were a true testament to their abilities.”

The best practices shared will be documented on the Intranet site for the district so personnel can reference them when considering whether to implement them in their own areas. As new submissions come about, they will be added to this page. Photos will be included with descriptions of the in-

novation and how it is used, and contact information for the innovator will be listed should additional information be required.

“I encourage our personnel to continue putting their creativity to good use,” Stehn said. “I look forward to future Solutions at Work honors for our district.”



### Chip Seal Award Presented to Districts 9 and 10...

by Tonya Wells

MoDOT places great value on teamwork. After all, there are very few things our organization does that can be done alone. Project design, concrete repair, signal installation ... all more than a one person operation. We pride ourselves on working together to get a job done. Maintenance crews in Districts 9 and 10 have shown us that we can work together, we can work across district boundaries and we can do it so well that we're recognized for our efforts.

14 That is what happened on March 26, when Director Pete Rahn came to congratulate the crews from districts 9 and 10 who won an honorable mention for their work in the statewide Chip Seal Performance Challenge.

Crews from seven maintenance facilities worked on the chip seal job on Routes C, N and FF in Madison County. The collaboration proved to be successful. In fact, the work was so good, it encouraged MoDOT management to not just declare a winner in the challenge, but to offer the District 9 and District 10 crews an honorable mention.

Continued on page 15

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# D10

## Southeast

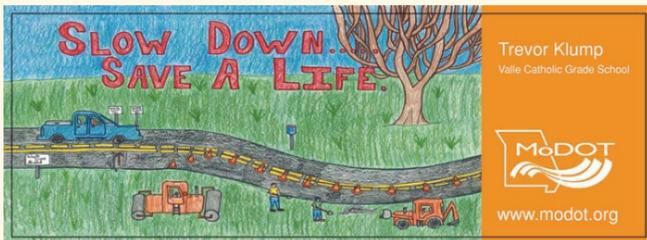
### Save a Life: Work Zone Safety Week

Work Zone Safety Week comes once a year and every year we try to find new ways to inform the public of the importance of staying safe in work zones.

District 10 has been asking students in grades 3-6 to create posters explaining the importance of work zone safety for six years now, and every year the messages are simple, but very powerful. Messages to slow down, stay alert, be careful ... messages to save a life; students from the Southeast District did their best to urge the public to help make our work zones safe.

"It seems so simple," said District Engineer Mark Shelton. "With several work

zone fatalities across Missouri last year, it's clear not everyone is getting the message though. I'm very grateful to the students who participated in this



Sixth-grader Trevor Klump's artwork is displayed on a billboard in Ste. Genevieve County to urge motorists to "Slow Down, Save a Life."

contest for helping us show their parents and the public how very important it is to slow down."

A panel of judges reviewed the students' posters and the winners had their posters displayed at West Park Mall in Cape Girardeau. They also received an

interactive work zone safety assembly at their school, as well as prize packets with various awards inside.

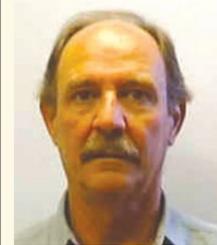
New this year, District 10 chose one of the first place posters to use as a billboard, in efforts of reaching an even wider audience with work zone safety messages. Trevor Klump, a sixth-grader from Valle Catholic Grade School, will see his artwork and work zone safety message to "Slow Down, Save a Life" on a billboard along northbound Interstate 55 in Ste. Genevieve County.

"The best part of the contest is they're helping us save lives," said Shelton. "And, if they can encourage just one driver to slow down while driving through our work zones, then they're all heroes in my book."

### Recent Retirements



Roney Parson retired April 1 after 37 years with MoDOT. He was a senior crew worker in Fredericktown.



Bob Wilson retired April 1 after 28 years with MoDOT. He was a resident engineer in Sikeston.

### Team Work Stretches Across District Borders



Lonny Halbert, Louis Ochs, Mark Reynolds, Matthew Stacy, Michael Govro, Mike Harper, Nathan Hunt, Nicholas Elliott, Nick Lambert, Nick Richmond, Norman Clark, Patrick Ellis, Patty Pogue, Randy Ballew, Randy Gholson, Richie Campbell, Rick Davis, Roger Achurch, Roger Moyers, Ron Cook, Ron Moses, Ron Rehkop, Ronald Ballew, Ronald Varvera, Roney Parson, Ronnie Pyatt, Ryan Williams, Scott Burlbaw, Steve Boatwright, Steven Yamnitz, Terry Sanders, Terry Walker, Todd Adams, Todd Thieret, Tony Hutchings, Winston Boyer and John Tutt

While bragging rights for a job well done is always a nice benefit, Pete presented the crews with a \$2,500 check to split amongst the group in recognition of their outstanding performance.

The job was the first such chip seal project in the Southeast District. The South Central crews were on hand to give direction and assistance. The results prove just how important that whole idea of team work truly is in our organization.

"We have such hard-working crews," said District 10 Regional Maintenance Superintendent John Tutt. "Everybody is very busy, and we appreciate the

help and the guidance from the District 9 folks. It's a great example of just how much we can all learn from each other and how successful helping each other out can be."

Tutt said the crews were pleased to receive not just recognition for their work, but also the time to get together, celebrate and visit with Pete.

That excitement wasn't just felt on the District 10 side of the border. District 9 Maintenance Superintendent Bryan Fortner said the South Central employees enjoyed the celebration as well.

"Our folks do good work every day, and they're always willing to help out wherever needed," said Fortner. "But it's nice to be able to have the opportunity to thank them for it."

"We have talented people at MoDOT," said Director Pete Rahn. "I value every opportunity I get to tell them how good they are. I'm proud of the work all our folks do, and it was rewarding for me to be able to show these crews that their hard work and talent are noticed."

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## Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

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Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



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### Mission

*Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.*



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## Arrive Alive During Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

As the weather warms up, more motorcyclists will be out in traffic. With the safety of motorcyclists and all drivers in mind, May is designated each year as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Remember these important safety tips to Arrive Alive at your destination.

### Vehicle Drivers:

- **Share the Road.** Research shows that in one-half of all motorcycle crashes, another type of motor vehicle is also involved.

- **Look out.** Motorcycles are small and may be difficult to see.
- **Respect the motorcyclist.** Motorcycles are vehicles with the same rights and privileges as any vehicle on the road. Allow the motorcyclist a full lane width.
- **Allow more following distance.** Allow three or four seconds when following a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.

- **Anticipate obstacles.** Road conditions that are minor annoyances to a regular vehicle pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Motorcyclists may change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings and grooved pavement.

### Motorcyclists:

- **Wear a helmet.** The single most important safety device a motorcyclist can have is a helmet. In a crash without one, you are five times more likely to suffer a serious injury than a helmeted rider. In Missouri, it is illegal to ride without a helmet.
- **Wear proper gear.** High quality riding clothes will help prevent or reduce injury. Choose brightly colored gear when possible to make yourself visible in traffic.

**Are you interested in learning to ride a motorcycle or improving your mental and physical skills if you already ride?**

Missouri offers the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic Rider Course, the MSF Experienced Rider Course, and seminars for group riding, motorcycle inspection and care, seasoned riders and more.

Missouri residents can find out more about courses offered by visiting [www.mmsp.org](http://www.mmsp.org) or calling 800-801-3588.

Wear gloves to improve your grip and boots to protect your feet and ankles.

- **Do not share a lane.** Cars and motorcycles require a full lane to operate and maneuver safely. Do not share a lane with an automobile or another motorcycle.
- **Stay sober.** Studies have shown that 40 to 45 percent of all fatal motorcycle crashes involve the use of alcohol.
- **Receive proper training.** Research has shown that more than 90 percent of all riders involved in crashes were either self-taught or taught by friends.



Cathy Morrison

## Seat Belt Campaign Focuses on Pickup Truck Drivers

by Laura Holloway

Buckle Up in Your Truck is the message to pickup truck drivers in Missouri and throughout the central region this May. The aggressive public awareness initiative aims to increase safety belt use among occupants of pickup trucks.

Pickup truck drivers and their passengers are among those motorists least likely to regularly wear their seat belts. In fact, national statistics show that they have much lower seat belt usage rates than the occupants of all other vehicles.

In addition, pickup trucks are twice as likely to rollover as cars due to a higher center of gravity. With increased

rollovers, and fewer seat belts buckled, the ejection rate for occupants of light trucks in a crash is nearly double the rate for occupants of passenger cars.

In 2005, 223 people were killed in Missouri crashes involving pickup trucks. Of those killed, 81 percent were not wearing a seat belt. The Buckle Up in Your Truck campaign is designed to reduce injuries and deaths from pickup truck crashes and rollovers.

"Too many pickup truck drivers and their passengers are killed in crashes. We want to make sure they are buckled up – every trip, every time," says Don Hillis, director of System Management.

Missouri is joining forces with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and state and local highway safety and law enforcement leaders across Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska to launch this initiative. Media messages started running April 30 and will continue through May 13.

Law enforcement efforts will run May 6-12.

The special Buckle Up in Your Truck enforcement blitz immediately precedes the intensive Click It or

Ticket national seat belt enforcement mobilization planned for late May through Memorial Day.

For more information about how your seat belt can help you Arrive Alive, please visit [www.buckleupamerica.org](http://www.buckleupamerica.org) or [www.saveMOLives.com](http://www.saveMOLives.com).

