

D4 WESTport

April 2006

Welcome to the April edition of **WESTport**, MoDOT District 4's newsletter to our Missouri General Assembly members, city and county officials, and other transportation partners from the west central region.

You will receive monthly updates of District 4 projects and activities throughout the regular General Assembly session, and periodic updates during the rest of the year. We hope you will find the information useful and enlightening.

Our District 4 staff is always available to answer your questions and address constituent concerns. See our list of contacts at the bottom of this newsletter for telephone numbers and other information, or visit our district website at www.modot.org/kansascity/

All Hail Breaks Loose at District 4

Chicken Little's alarmist warnings finally came true at District 4 offices on Sunday, March 12. The sky actually did fall – in the form of golfball-size or larger hail that smashed MoDOT windshields and deeply dented dozens of department vehicles.

The hail was the product of a long day of severe storms that produced 113 tornadoes and 10 deaths throughout the Midwest, including a fatality in District 4. A 54-year-old man was killed by a tornado near Urich in Henry County.

Crews were out in several counties removing storm debris from MoDOT highways and right of way. Tornado, wind and hail damage were the worst in District 4 since tornadoes ripped through Platte, Clay and Ray counties two years ago.

Hail damaged more than 50 vehicles parked at District 4 offices in Lee's Summit, costing MoDOT about \$6,000. General Services Manager Cindy Beebe said that 11 vehicles were removed from service immediately, 12 were damaged but usable pending repairs, and five others were damaged while awaiting other repairs at the garage. Windshields of 35 vehicles were smashed, taillights and trim were broken on six vehicles, and in a few cases side and rear windows also were broken. As many as 20 vehicles received only dents, Beebe said.

District 4 garage personnel had most vehicles back in action by mid-week. Windshields and taillights were replaced, but dents will remain as reminders of a nasty spring-like storm that came with a few days left in the winter season.

Citizens Continue Planning State's Transportation Future

The Missouri Department of Transportation is hosting another series of regional working groups to discuss statewide needs, transportation trends and conditions, and improvements to Missouri's transportation policies and strategies. Missouri citizens are leading the state's planning process for Missouri's future transportation system at these meetings, which are open to the public.

The West Central/Kansas City Regional Working Group Meeting is Wednesday, April 5, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at MoDOT's Kansas City Area District Office, 600 NE Colbern Road in Lee's Summit.

An open-house informational public meeting will follow the regional working group meeting from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. April 5 at the District Office.

The Missouri Advance Planning initiative, or MAP, is a statewide dialogue on what the state's transportation system could and should do for its citizens and how best to fulfill those expectations and potential. This initiative will produce Missouri's transportation vision and will provide the building blocks for developing a shared action plan identifying the role we all play in creating the transportation system we want and deserve.

"When Missouri voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment 3 in November 2004, they sent a clear message to state leaders: improve our transportation system sooner rather than later. We're doing just that," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "But what happens next – we need a sound, broadly supported and widely understood long-term plan for meeting Missouri's transportation needs."

Others can also offer opinions about Missouri's future transportation priorities and spending state transportation dollars through the MoDOT Web site at www.modot.org or the MAP Web site at www.mapourfuture.com.

Interested persons with questions about the meetings or comments about the MAP initiative should contact MoDOT's district offices at 1-888-ASK MODOT or the project manager, Eric Curtit, at (573) 751-6775, or eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov. Meeting agendas, regional working groups' membership lists and maps of the regions, public comment opportunities and additional information are available on the MAP Web site at www.mapourfuture.org.

I-435 Missouri River Bridge Lanes Restricted

Rehabilitation work has closed the Interstate 435 Missouri River bridge's right southbound lane through approximately May 15; the right northbound lane is closed through approximately May 21. In addition, the ramp from eastbound Route 210 to southbound I-435 is closed until October 16. Various lane restrictions will continue through the summer while the bridge rehabilitation project is completed.

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