



econnections

Missouri Department
of Transportation

February/March
2010

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

Meetings/Training

Wednesday, April 7

Spring Maintenance Supervisor Meeting
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Room 136

Tuesday, April 13

Management Team
8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Room 136

Wednesday, April 14

Jackson/Cass Area Team Mtg.
8 to 10 a.m., Room 255

Thursday, April 15, Room 236

Job Status

Cass/Jackson, 8:30 – 10 a.m.
Interstates, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Clay/Platte, Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Ray/Johnson/Lafayette/Henry,
1:30 – 3 p.m.

Events

Monday, April 5

**Public Meeting Route 50 at Bynum Road, Lone Jack Baptist Church
4 to 6 p.m.**

Monday, April 12

**First Tier EIS Public Hearing
I-70, 4 to 7 p.m., Noland Road Baptist Church**

Tuesday, April 13

**First Tier EIS Public Hearing
I-70, 4 to 7 p.m., Gregg/Klice
Community Center**

Tuesday, April 20

**Big Truck Night
4:30 to 7 p.m.**

**Work Zone Awareness Week
April 19-23**

MoDOT Implements Further Cost Saving Measures Workforce to be Reduced by Approximately 400; No Lay-offs Planned

Director Pete Rahn on March 10 announced dramatic cost savings measures and a plan to keep major highways in good condition and to improve smaller highways as less funding is available for new construction. The department will save \$203 million over the next five years by cutting costs and eliminating 400 salaried positions without lay-offs by June 30, 2013.

MoDOT's construction program is on a steep decline due to stagnant state revenues, uncertain federal funding, rising employee benefit costs and no more money coming from Amendment 3 mandated bonds. The situation has caused MoDOT to set a new direction for the next five years, which was outlined by Rahn at a Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting.

The plan calls for a focus on keeping the existing transportation system in good condition and for meeting all commitments made in the five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

"MoDOT has made great strides in improving Missouri's transportation system and rebuilding trust with the people we serve, but financial uncertainties are threatening the progress we've made over the past five years," said Rahn. "Despite this challenge, we are committed to providing a smooth and safe ride on our highways and delivering improvements on time and under budget."

Currently, highway fatalities are at their lowest level since 1950. Eighty-six percent of major roads are in good condition. Eighty-nine percent of Missourians say they trust MoDOT to meet its com-

mitments and overall customer satisfaction is at 85 percent. To maintain the quality and safety of the transportation system and continue to build trust and confidence with the public, MoDOT will implement several strategies.

"I have been saying for quite some time that transportation funding is headed over a cliff," Rahn said. "Now we are forced to make tough decisions that will make MoDOT smaller and change the way we do business."

MoDOT will save \$81 million over the next five years by reducing the size of its workforce and work space. By June 30, 2013, there will be 400 fewer positions. This reduction will not be achieved through lay-offs, but rather by immediately instituting a hiring freeze on 75 percent of positions that become vacant and by making sure the right people are in the right jobs. The department will also reduce the number of offices and buildings it owns.

MoDOT will save another \$122 million over the next five years by cutting costs. The department will reduce spending on vehicles, buildings and other capital improvements, information technologies and materials inventory. Other reductions will be more visible to the public, such as less mowing, litter pickup and sign replacement. MoDOT will also find a less expensive way to do striping, reduce the use of consultants and use shorter-term pavement treatments.

"These actions are not taken lightly, but they are necessary," Rahn said. "MoDOT will rise to the challenge."

From the Director



Pete Rahn
MoDOT Director

Team MoDOT,

It has been my honor to work with you for over five and a half years. We have made tremendous progress that nearly everyone can see. I would put the talent and dedication of our team up against any DOT in the country. And, I can honestly say that I have never enjoyed a job more than my time at MoDOT.

Because of this, it is difficult for me to share with you that I will be leaving MoDOT effective the close of business April 23, 2010. I will be accepting a position with HNTB that will allow my wife and me to live in New Mexico near our children and our one year old grandson (if you want to know how cute he is, just ask!). My new role will be a professionally challenging one continuing my involvement in transportation at the national level.

If you are asking yourself "Why is Pete leaving now?", I've had to ask myself the same question. It has become obvious to me that there is never a time when MoDOT does have significant pending issues. Frankly, there would never be a "perfect" time for me to leave.

The Commission will conduct a national search for my replacement. An interim director will be named by the Commission. I am confident that MoDOT will continue to lead the way among the country's DOTs. MoDOT's brightest days are still ahead! I want to personally thank you for your efforts and support during my time with this great organization.

Sincerely,

Pete



MoDOT Keeps I-70 Running Smooth

by Michele Compton

Interstate 70 has a winding history that begins in the 1950's. In 1992, the final piece of the Interstate was opened to traffic in Glenwood Canyon, Colo. It was also the first interstate project to be signed into law, and essentially traces U.S. Route 40.

Today it remains a major artery through the U.S., running straight through Missouri. In our area, more than 100,000 motorists rely on this stretch of interstate to travel through the city.

With that much traffic, it's understandable that wear and tear will eventually take its toll. This construction season finds MoDOT balancing the needs of the drivers with the growing need to keep this section of Interstate in good condition.

One of the first challenges: Repairing 14 bridges from downtown from Troost Avenue to Van Brunt Boulevard.

Trip, Trap, Trip: Over the Bridge They Went

Built in 1960, these bridge decks are in poor condition. Cracking and potholes have reached a point where they can no longer be patched. In fact, in order to keep

these bridges usable for another 50 years, crews must work systematically along each bridge to make more extensive, longer-lasting repairs.

Bridges are engineering marvels and one of the key rules of engineering is that only so much of a bridge surface can be compromised at one time and allow it to safely function. To keep these bridges in working order -- while repairing -- means a tight schedule for which portions are repaired, and how.

Where Two Interstates Meet

Another critical I-70 project this year takes a look at the meeting place for Interstate 435. This highly congested area services more than 200,000 motorists per day.

One goal of this project is to add a third lane of I-70 beneath I-435 and replaced the Blue Ridge Cutoff (George Brett) Bridge.

The Continuing Story of I-70

Keeping I-70 running smooth is an ongoing project. MoDOT completed a plan-



ning study on the I-70 corridor that offers several additional improvements for this sweeping piece of Interstate. As with any project, funding drives the final decisions. For more information on the I-70 projects and the I-70 study, visit www.modot.org/kansascity.

kcICON Update



Kansas City's skyline is undergoing a transformation as the new, Christopher S. Bond Missouri River bridge continues to take shape. The final concrete pour for the last section of the bridge's delta-shaped pylon took place March 5. As the temporary forms, struts, and the black tarps used to project the concrete during cold weather are stripped away, the pylon will become even more visible. The first of 40 stay cables that radiate from the pylon and anchor to the steel girders supporting the roadway will be in place by March 12.

"This new, 316-foot-tall, cable-stay bridge will be visible from a variety of vantage points around our city for the next century," said kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "Completing the pylon marks an exciting construction milestone." Some interstate traffic could be crossing the new Bond Bridge as early as December 2010. The river bridge and 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 reconstruction is scheduled to be completed by July 2011. To learn more, visit www.kcicon.com or search "kcICON Project" on Facebook.



Another Job Well Done

The Route F widening job in Oak Grove was selected as the winner in the Municipal Streets & Intersections category by the Missouri and Kansas Chapter of American Concrete Paving Association (ACPA). The project was recognized at the 30th Annual Portland Cement Concrete Paving Conference in March as the best PCC pavement constructed in this category for 2009 in the state of Missouri.



From left to right: Allen Ludiker – MoDOT Project Manager, John Winke – William White & Sons, Chad Hessenflow – MoDOT Construction Technician Richmond Project Office, Robert Radmacher – Radmacher Brothers Excavating, William (Billy) White – William White & Sons, Dorsey Embrey – Radmacher Brothers Excavating, Rodney Layman – MoDOT Senior Construction Technician Richmond Project Office, Brian Iles – MoDOT Resident Engineer Richmond Project Office, Gary White – William White & Sons, Jim Lohsandt – MoDOT Senior Construction Inspector Richmond Project Office, Chad Meyers – Penny's Concrete

Recent Visitors



D4 played host to some out of town visitors. Four residents from Turkmenistan stopped by the district in February. Turkmenistan is a country, formerly a constituent republic of the Soviet Union, found in central Asia. The country has been looking for ways to improve its infrastructure and has several projects underway. While visiting the Kansas City area, the Turkmens focused on learning about smaller urban centers, traffic conditions, state and city government cooperation, role of the municipal police in urban traffic regulation, private sector transportation analysis, and regional transportation planning.



MoDOT Hopes You See Orange - Not Red - This Construction Season

MoDOT is taking every precaution to make sure you don't see red when you encounter a highway work zone this construction season. Instead the agency is hoping you'll see orange and lots of it.

Through its Operation Orange initiative, MoDOT uses the warning color to raise awareness for work zone safety and reduce crashes and fatalities in highway work zones.

Last year, more than 90 significant landmarks throughout the state went orange during Work Zone Awareness Week, including the St. Louis Zoo, Unity Village in Lee's Summit, the Boone County Courthouse, the Shelter Insurance Gardens in Columbia, Hammonds Field in Springfield, the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge in Cape Girardeau, the Farm Bureau headquarters in Jefferson City and the Branson Landing. Photos of last year's participants can be found at www.modot.org/operationorange.

This year, National Work Zone Awareness Week will be celebrated April 19-23, and MoDOT is inviting facilities, businesses and organizations throughout the state to take part in Operation Orange. Interested participants can either sport orange or post signs or messages urging motorists to drive safely in work zones.

For more information or to join Operation Orange 2010, visit www.modot.org/operationorange.



IS Information Corner

New Version of Lotus Notes Hints:

If you receive an answer to an email, and do not see the original email; you should be able to expand the email if > is at the bottom of the email. If the > is visible, click on > to read the previous email.

In this instance the previous email was from Someone, and Andrea is replying to Someone. (See the box below outlining both the character > and the word Someone).

▼ Andrea L Milligan/D4/MODOT

Andrea L Milligan/D4/MODOT
01/14/2010 08:05 AM

To: Someone
cc:
Subject: Re: computer requests

Someone,

I take it you are already using a pool laptop for this meeting. are using it as wireless and have filed your meeting minutes back to the network from the laptop correct?
Thank you,
Andrea Milligan
District Information Systems Manager
District 4 - MoDOT
Phone 816.622.0482
andrea.milligan@modot.mo.gov

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

> Someone | Andrea- I take minutes for the EAC meetings which is the second Thurs of the Month at 9:00a... | 01/14

econnections sources

Construction Bev Chrisco, 6341

Design Flo Noear, 0455

Regional Counsel LeAnn Francis, 6382

Administration Judy Magruder, 6309

General Services Toni Terry, 0056

Human Resources Belinda Fite, 6321

Right of Way Melbra Taylor, 6351

Traffic Melanie Lanigan, 0419

Editor Kerri Lewis, 6328

Windows 7 Hints:

An "x", on a drive letter of your shared drives, is not a true indication of whether your drives are currently available. Try clicking on the drive letter (such as the letter P: in the example below). You may need to double click, then wait a few minutes, the folders will most likely appear in a separate window.

News from Across the District

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go to Matt Kavanaugh, Maintenance Crew Worker in Kearney, and his family on the loss of his father, James Kavanaugh on Feb. 16.

Our condolences also got to Brian Dewey, Senior Construction Inspector at Clinton and his family on the loss of his cousin, Susan in February.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Dennis Cline, Supervisor for Lee's Summit Maintenance, and his family on the loss of his father, Gerald Cline on March 1.

Our condolences go to Jody Jordan, Senior General Services Technician, and her family on the loss of her Grandfather, Buster Jones on March 9.

Congratulations:

We are pleased to announce that D4 has been presented with the President's Circle Award from Gov. Deals for Top 10 Sellers. This has been a real team effort to clean up areas and get the best value for items we no longer need. This

money goes back to the roads so it helps us accomplish more of the important things we need to get done. We want to recognize some of the people that have helped us achieve this accomplishment.

- Jeanette Gillispie has been very involved in defining the process and helping train everyone on getting things listed.
- Information Systems has worked hard to get a lot of our old computer equipment ready and available for sale.
- Henry & Johnson County maintenance facilities have been cleaning some areas and made a push to get items listed.
- Design - Surveys and Construction have worked to place some unnecessary equipment on Gov Deals.

Everyone should be proud of the accomplishment and we hope others can take advantage of this opportunity to increase our proceeds over the next year.

Corporate Ladder

January Promotions

Steven Alley
Maintenance Crew Leader

John Ferrell
Regional Maintenance Supervisor

Martin Rinne
Maintenance Crew Leader

Ronnie Smith
Regional Maintenance Supervisor

February Retirees

Glenn Crossland
Motorist Assist Operator

Dale Jackson
Maintenance Supervisor



D4 ANNUAL CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 8, 2010

6:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Stockton Lake

Old Stockton State Park Ramp



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Ron Eads
30725 S Little RD
Garden City, MO 64747
816-773-6482

OR

Randy Ashley
203 S. Jackson
Freeman, MO 64746
816-522-4942



Mailbag

This winter you have truly delighted our customers with your dedication and professionalism during significant winter events. Thank you for keeping safety as a number one priority and keeping the roads open for our friends, neighbors and families!!

To All,

I truly wish to reciprocate a heart felt and sincere "Thank You" to everyone who has helped me through this past week, whether through your personal condolences or simply being here when I couldn't.

Clear up to and until her passing, Susan always had the greatest appreciation for my workplace being so understanding of my needs when it came to family emergencies and care.

The cards, flowers and phone calls I received over the past week lifted me and supported me more than you could ever know. They also served to remind me that even though my home is feeling a void, I have another home here with caring people around me.

I have been through a number of things in the past 26 years. My MoDOT family has been with me through most all of it, and I love you for it.

Best wishes to you and yours,
Brian G. Dewey
Sr. Construction Inspector
Clinton Project Office

I would just like to thank you for the wonderful job you and the road crews did removing the snow and keeping the roads safe this winter. I drive a truck and can appreciate being able to travel around. Thanks for a job well done!

I am a person who is very scared to drive in the winter and get physically sick to my stomach when the news mentions snow. I have to drive 45 minutes to and from my job. But I want to thank all of you for the time and effort you have put into our safety. I wanted to let you know that you have done a great job in keeping the roads and highways clean that I wasn't so scared to drive.

I travel extensively and would like to take this opportunity to say Missouri has the best cleared roads during ice and snow storms. It is like a line is drawn on the roadway and you can instantly tell where the state border begins and ends. I am very impressed with the signs that tell you to call for information and the fact that no matter when you call you get a live person.

Thank you MoDOT for the wonderful job done on snow removal, mowing grass, trash pickup and general upkeep. I drive a semi around town all day and see the hard work MoDOT does under trying conditions and would like to let everyone know that my family and I appreciate everything done. Also, thanks to Motorist Assist personnel as well because I see them everywhere helping out the stranded public. I really like the lights on the truck because they can be seen from way back to move over for their safety. I also want to thank Customer Service because I know they take the "brunt" of the angry callers and wanted to make sure to let you know.

Sincerely,
Mr. Larry Scanlin

Seat Belts Just Don't Click With Teens

Under Missouri's Graduated Drivers License Law, seat belt use is required for young drivers. It is a primary offense. Unfortunately 40 percent of Missouri teens don't buckle up. Law enforcement were out in full force March 15-31 to crack down on unbelted drivers and save lives.

One in four Missouri traffic crashes involves a young driver. Between 2007 and 2009, 304 teens (15-19) were killed in traffic crashes. Of those killed, 72 percent were unbuckled.

"Many drivers take the attitude that 'it will never happen to me,' especially teens, but fatal crashes happen every day to all types of people," said Leanna Depue,

chair of the executive committee of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "Law enforcement will ticket teens who aren't buckled up."

Missouri will also continue to educate teens on the importance of buckling up through statewide seat belt programs, such as the Get Your Buckle On campaign, Battle of the Belt program and Team Spirit.

Sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, the Get Your Buckle On educational campaign encourage teens to visit getyourbuckleon.com and submit a seatbelt dance reminding teens to click it.

"The best way to reach teens is through

their peers," said Depue. "We're asking teens to help save the lives of their friends by reminding them to buckle up every time they get in a car."

The Get Your Buckle On campaign begins March 8 and runs through March 28. It will include TV, radio and Internet advertising.

Visit getyourbuckleon.com to hear and download the original song, upload videos of your dance, download additional videos or find out more. Get your buckle on and ARRIVE ALIVE.

2010 Ride for Remembrance

The Ride for Remembrance, a fund-raising event sponsored by the Transportation Employees Association of Missouri to raise money for the Fallen Worker Memorial, is scheduled for June 12 at the Jefferson City Cole County Fairgrounds. All employees are encouraged to participate in this state-wide event.

In addition, as part of the fund raising efforts, t-shirts with the event logo are being sold for \$10-\$12. You can view the t-shirt on the home page of the intranet under News and Events. If you would like to purchase a t-shirt you can simply fill out the order form on the intranet. Checks can be made out to the Ride for Remembrance and forwarded to

Kelly Mertens (573-526-1228) at 601 W. Main Jefferson City, MO 65102. All the proceeds raised from the event will be donated to the Fallen Worker Memorial.

Respect Honor and Remember



MoDOT Fallen Workers Memorial

Right Way for Right of Way

MoDOT's funding crisis has arrived. Since 2008, the Realty to Roads initiative, which was created in anticipation of this funding crisis, has generated over \$10,500,000 by selling excess right of way, which profits from the sale was returned to the respective districts for their use. ROW staff is reviewing all right of way previously acquired for future projects and roadside parks, and identifying what areas are no longer needed for roadway purposes. This will give the district the opportunity to sell it.

In addition, the help acquire more funds, ROW staff has been transferring ownership of active roadways to cities and counties, reducing MoDOT's maintenance costs and liability. Today, the department is asking for everyone's help, specifically those that maintain the system.

Here are some questions to keep in mind:

Do you know of any MoDOT property that you have been taking care of and wondered why MoDOT even owns it?

Is there any right of way that is costly to take care of that MoDOT might be able to do without?

Please contact Walt Wiercinski, Assistant Right of Way Manager, at 816-622-6360 or walter.wiercinski@modot.mo.gov if you know of any land that you could do without and we could sell. Remember, all profits of land sold in District 4, comes back to District 4.



**Set Your Sight on
MoDOT's Annual**



BIG TRUCK Night

Tuesday, April 20

4:30 to 7 p.m.

600 NE Colbern Rd, Lee's Summit MO

In the event of rain this event will be canceled

Lots of FREE activities for kids of all ages:

-  **Tour construction trucks**
-  **Play games**
-  **Meet *Mav*, Missouri Maverick's Mascot**
-  **Learn about traffic and work zone safety**
-  **Try the seat belt convincer**
-  **Visit booths**
-  **Enjoy concessions**

(Proceeds raise funds for a Fallen Workers Memorial)

www.modot.org/kansascity

for all the details

MoDOT is also gearing up for Operation Orange

**Wear something orange to show your support for
Work Zone Awareness Week.**