

eConnections



The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

July 2010

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates Opening of Completed I-470/50 Interchange

The \$45 million project to tie Pryor Road and Blue Parkway together that began in 2007 is done, on budget and on schedule. Recently, MoDOT, city and state officials gathered to celebrate the completion of the latest finished project for D4, the new "split-diamond" interchange at I-470/Route 50.

The ceremony opened the road and officials christened the new pavement with a short ride in a parade of cars from local automobile dealers. All work was complete and the new interchange open to traffic on June 28.

"Thanks to the many years of collaboration with the City of Lee's Summit and RED Development, MoDOT is pleased to have been able to complete this project on time and within its budget," said Beth Wright, MoDOT District Engineer. "It is partnerships like these that help ensure we can provide a safe and efficient transportation system."

The connectors officially complete this \$45 million project which was designed to improve traffic operations for the more than 130,000 vehicles that use the junction of I-470 and Routes US 50/MO350. Spanning U.S. 50 and MO 350, these



ramps join the half-diamond interchanges at Pryor Road and Blue Parkway, creating the Split-Diamond Interchange. Motorists traveling on I-470 will now have access to each area of the completed interchange, allowing for more efficient travel and alleviating congestion through the area.

"The opening of the connector roads will increase roadway safety, allow quicker commutes, reduce traffic congestion, and improve access to restaurants, retail shops, businesses, and residential areas in this growing area of our community," said Lee's Summit Mayor Randy Rhoads.



D4 and a Ride for Remembrance

D4 continues its support, raising money for the Fallen Workers Memorial. The most recent proceeds raised included 12 bikes and one car that joined together during the Ride for Remembrance 2010.



What Comes Down Must Go Back Up

Route HH in Platte City recently received a makeover with the addition of a new bridge over I-29. Normally, what goes up must come down, but in this case what came down went right back up again. Crews demolished the old bridge with explosives on April 3 and completely replaced the structure in less than three months, reopening it for the many motorists using it daily.

MoDOT, Platte City, state, and county officials recently celebrated the new Route HH Bridge with a ribbon cutting ceremony. More than 30 people celebrated the new bridge. In addition, the Mayor of Platte City, Frank Offutt presented MoDOT with a key to the city.

"We thank MoDOT and the contractor, Phillips Grading & Construction, Inc. for the speedy work to finish this bridge well under three months," he said. "This bridge offers a major route into our historical

downtown area and we are pleased to see the road back open with this wonderful new addition.

"Our partnership with MoDOT has been instrumental in enhancing our growing community and it is with great honor I present MoDOT with a key to our city."

Sharon Taegel, Assistant to the District Engineer graciously accepted the key on behalf of D4.



Top: MoDOT, state, city and county officials cut the blue ribbon to celebrate the new bridge. Left: Frank Offutt, Platte City Mayor presents Sharon Taegel the key to the city.



Mailbag

I recently went on a trip from Kansas City through St. Louis and down to Memphis. We traveled I-70 to US 40 to I-270 to I-55. I-70 was the smoothest I have seen it in years. I-55 was great until we got into Arkansas. I just wanted to compliment you on the work you have done. Thanks again for your good work.

Greg Morgan

Dear MoDOT:

Driving north on Highway 71 from 63rd Street to downtown, I was surprised to see bunches of yellow flowers. They were not only along the sides of the highway, they popped up on the far banks, were tucked under the overpasses, and came into view--the patch growing larger--as I rounded a curve. The yellow goes with the highway signs and stripes, and also with the tiny wildflowers along the banks. Thank you for such an artistic composition, a beautiful surprise!

Catherine Shaughnessy

kcICON Project Team Member Receives 2010 Rosa Parks Award

Jontell Jones honored for championing workforce diversity

By Jennifer Benefield

KcICON Project team member Jontell Jones was bestowed the 2010 Rosa Parks Award at the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity's (MORE2) fifth annual Imagine Banquet held June 10 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

MORE2's Rosa Parks Award is given to individuals or companies who exemplify the courage to stay the course and change the inequity in the metro area.

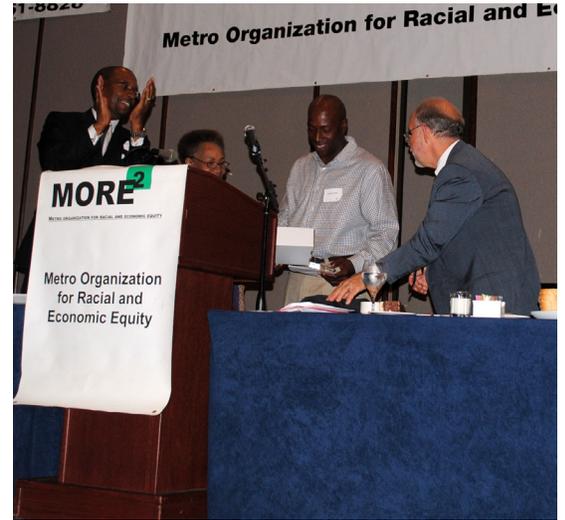
Just over two years ago, Jones, 28, with two children, was working construction jobs that paid cash and provided no benefits. Jones was then hired by Paseo Corridor Constructors to participate in the On-the-Job Trainee Program offered through MoDOT's kcICON Project.

MoDOT provides up to \$1.25 million for kcICON Project workforce training. This training is designed to create opportunities that will grow a more diverse workforce in the Kansas City region and to increase the number of minority, female

and economically disadvantaged individuals working across the state of Missouri. There are currently 35 On-the-Job Trainees employed on the kcICON Project. Jones is one of 14 individuals to date who have graduated from the program.

Jones, now a Quality Assurance Technician, has completed over 2,000 hours of training in heavy highway construction. During his acceptance speech, Jones said, "It feels good to go from having a job to having a career."

Jones thanked MORE2, MoDOT and the supervisors and co-workers at Paseo Corridor Constructors who have guided him through the training process. "I am grateful for the support I have received on the project, and grateful to be able to represent others, like myself, in the community who can excel if given the chance."



Jontell Jones (center) receives the Rosa Parks Award presented June 10, 2010 by MORE2 co-chairs Rev. Dr. Bobby Love, Sr. of Second Baptist Church of Olathe (left) and Rev. Dr. Ron Brooks (right) of the Grand Avenue Temple. Also pictured is Rev. Margaret Roberts with MORE2. Photo: Laura Wagner, Paseo Corridor Constructors

From the District Engineer



Beth Wright,
District Engineer

Dear MoDOT Friends:

Changes are taking place regarding Performance Plus. The Performance Plus incentives for Construction Cost Savings and Project Scoping and Estimating ended in June. Eligible employees will receive their final payouts for the program on Aug. 31. At this time, we will continue Safety Pays, High Achiever, Performance Based Pay and the Tool and Equipment Challenge recognition programs.

Performance Plus for Construction Cost Savings and Project Scoping and Estimating helped us change the culture in MoDOT to a more practical approach of project delivery. As a result, we have been able to do more projects which affected more travelers and helped us improve road conditions, reduce congestion and dramatically reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries on our transportation system.

There will continue to be a review of other areas for a potential cost savings. This will include a review our retirement system and medical care plans. Several of your co-workers were involved in focus groups within the last two weeks. The results of these sessions will help the Commission to understand the thoughts and concerns of employees regarding any proposed changes to these programs. In addition, other areas that could result in potential cost savings are employee incentive and compensation programs such as Safety Pays, Solutions at Work, Performance Based Pay, equity increases and overtime policy provisions that exceed what is required by federal law. Relocation benefits and tuition reimbursement are also likely to be evaluated. The fact that these programs are being reviewed does not mean they are all going to be changed or eliminated. It is a common practice for organizations to analyze the individual components of their total rewards package to ensure a sound overall balance exists as economic and organizational needs change. During this tight financial time all programs are on the table for consideration.

We will continue to do our best to keep you up to date and informed as other changes occur. In the meantime we have significant work to accomplish and a transportation system to improve. We are confident we have the resources to continue to make improvements to the entire system.

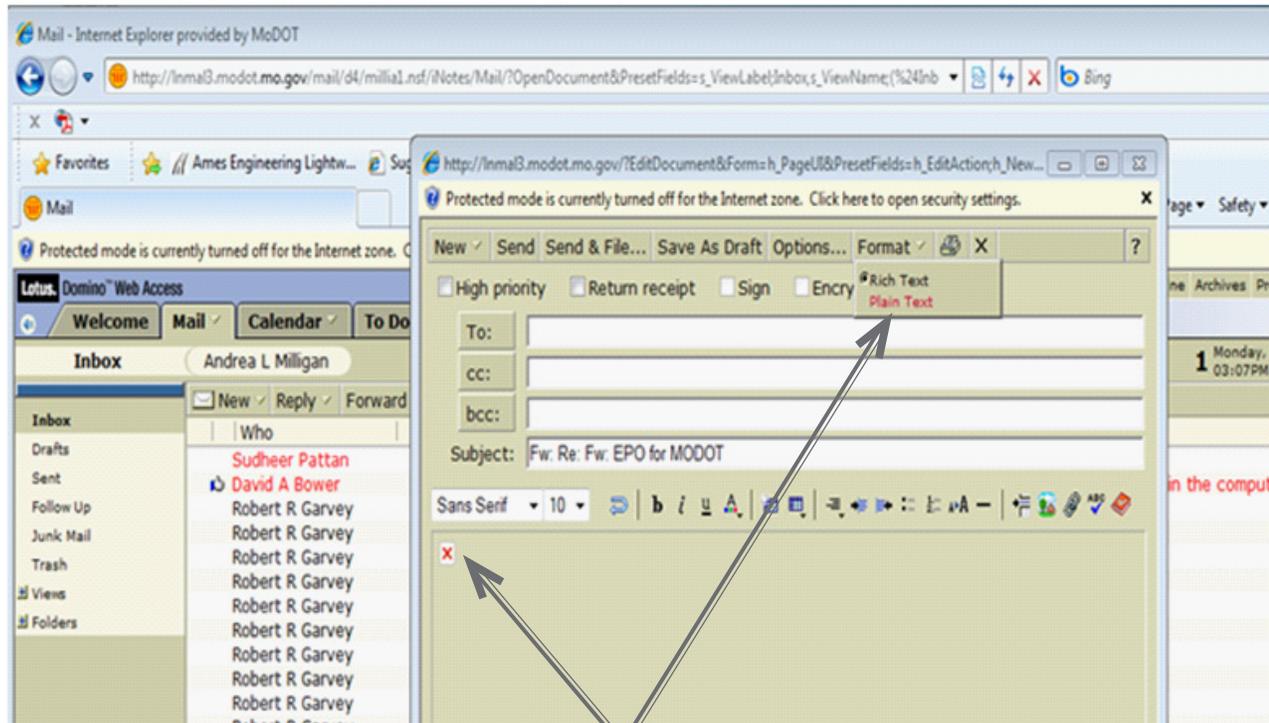
Thank you for your hard work and dedication. I know that many work areas are feeling the loss of staff. I appreciate your focus on providing the best results we can with the resources we have. Please remember to work safely, watch out for each other and never take short cuts.

Beth

IS Information Corner

When using iNotes, Lotus Notes on the internet, and a red **X** is shown in the body of the email, change the format from rich text to plain text by choosing plain text, from the format key and finish composing the email.

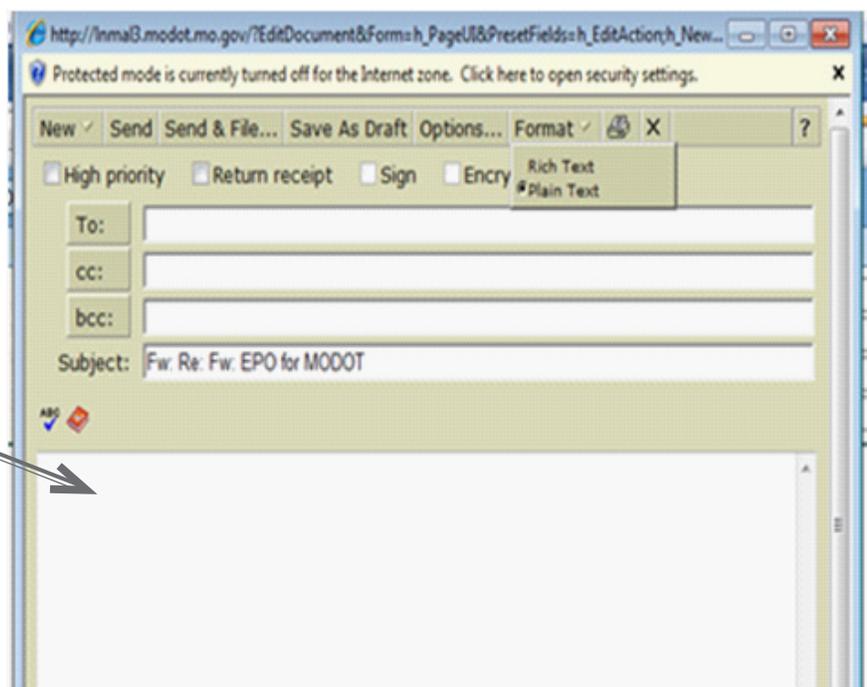
Before



Choose plain text under the format key to continue composing an email in iNotes.

After

You are now able to finish typing your email.



Corporate Ladder

Retirees

Stanley Powell

Senior Construction Technician

Welcome to D4

Gerald Divelbiss

Maintenance Worker

Promotion

Richard Allen II

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

David Brown, Senior Materials Inspector

Stephen Butler

Senior Maintenance Worker

Matthew Comer, Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Nathan Conrad

Intermediate Construction Technician

Gregory Copeland

Intermediate Materials Technician

Adam Dierkens

Intermediate Maintenance worker

Christopher Divine

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Jesse Dunkle, Senior Maintenance Worker

Randall Forde

Senior Maintenance Worker

G. Jeanette Gillespie

Senior Financial Services Specialist

Anthony Gosse

Senior Construction Inspector

William Gray

Senior Maintenance Worker

Lindsay Harris

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist

Elizabeth Hart-Hopkins

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

News from Across the District Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go to Danny Everts, Knob Noster Maintenance Supervisor, and Cliff Everts, Senior Maintenance Worker; and their family on the loss of Dale Everts, Danny's father/Cliff's grandfather in June.

Our condolences go to Lindsay Harris, Senior Traffic Specialist, and her family on the loss of her grandmother, Olaymphe Marie Levy in June.

Thoughts and prayers also go to James Stranghoener, Senior Maintenance Worker in Warrensburg, and his family on the loss of his mother, Jeannie Stranghoener early July.

Chad Hessenflow

Intermediate Construction Technician

Zackary Ingraham

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Diana Johnson

Intermediate Construction Inspector

Lashawna Judon

Senior Maintenance Worker

James Kavanaugh

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Joe Kelsay

Senior Maintenance Worker

Melanie Lanigan

Senior Administrative Technician

Kerri Lewis

Senior Community Relations Specialist

Lindsey Lutman

Senior Traffic Systems Operator

Judith Magruder

Senior Financial Services Specialist

Kevin Manning

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist

David McDaniel

Senior Traffic Systems Operator

Daniel Mensing

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Michael Milligan

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Gina Myles

Intermediate Public Affairs Specialist

Erin Ralovo

Intermediate Construction Inspector

Theresa Rohlfs

Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist

Michael Ross

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Michael Scarpitta

Intermediate Construction Technician

Tyler Smith

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Matthew Sperry

Senior Maintenance Worker

Bradley Street

Intermediate Construction Technician

Jennifer Vest

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Stephen Vogt

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Michael Warren

Intermediate Construction Inspector

Austin Weaver

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Joseph Webber

Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Juan Yin, Senior Highway Designer



Safety Alert: Hard Hat Usage Change



MoDOT is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all our employees. Many employees have assignments where there is an increased risk to head injuries due to impact, falling or flying objects, and electrical shocks or burns. In an effort to minimize these risks, MoDOT has implemented a more responsible guidance regarding required hard hat usage, which began July 1.

Check it out online on the MoDOT intranet site, accessing the Risk Management Division Web site, and clicking on the Risk Management Manual link in the Quick Links Section. Click on Safety and Health then go to 2.0 Hard Hat Protection. <http://Inapp1/RI/RIManual.NSF/SHToC?OpenView>

Hard Hat Usage

Head protection shall be worn where there is possible danger of head injury from impact, from falling or flying objects, and from electrical shock and burns. (29 CFR 1910.135)

Including but not limited to the following tasks:

- Performing all bridge work including bridge inspection, except routine deck maintenance (e.g., deck sealing, cleaning, flushing, etc.) where overhead hazards (e.g., truss structures, equipment, etc.) are not present.
- Performing duties in, around, and near the following equipment: Bucket trucks, Auger trucks, Aerial lift units, Platform trucks, Excavators, Backhoes, Skid steers, Front-end loaders, Overhead cranes, Conveyors, Forklifts

Note: hardhats may be removed when working inside enclosed cab equipment.

- Working in and around excavations, tunnels, holes, culverts, pipes, and caves;
- When operating a chainsaw and working within close proximity of brush cutting, wood splitting, tree trimming, brush chipping and/or logging operations;
- All rigid sign installations, replacements, and repairs;
- In facilities that expose employees to warehousing type hazards, including forklifts and overhead storage systems ;
- All construction/demolition type activities where overhead hazards exist including facility and building repairs ;
- Any duties requiring hand driving posts, hubs, stakes, etc., utilizing manual post drivers and/or sledge hammers;
- Concrete replacement activities (ie. excavating, lifting slabs, placing new concrete, etc.);
- During storm debris cleanup where overhead hazards exist;
- When and where hardhats are utilized by MoDOT partners, including railroads, contractors, plants, mines and quarries.

Note: Additional jobs/tasks may require head protection, as determined by the District Engineer, Safety Manager and/or Supervisor, based on the actual hazards and the work being performed. Supervisors should contact the local safety office if assistance is needed conducting a job hazard evaluation.

Another Ground Breaking Performance

The heat on the afternoon of June 17 might have been intense, but it didn't stop the more than 50 people to help celebrate the kick-off for the Route 45 improvement project in Parkville. This \$16 million project will add new lanes to Route 45 between Routes 9 and K to help increase capacity and improve safety through the thriving area.

State, city and county officials were eager to discuss the importance that this job holds for the community. The amount of cooperation and collaboration between MoDOT, the city of Parkville and Platte County was applauded during the celebration. Motorists will soon see construction begin along this busy corridor, with all work expected to be completed by June 2012.

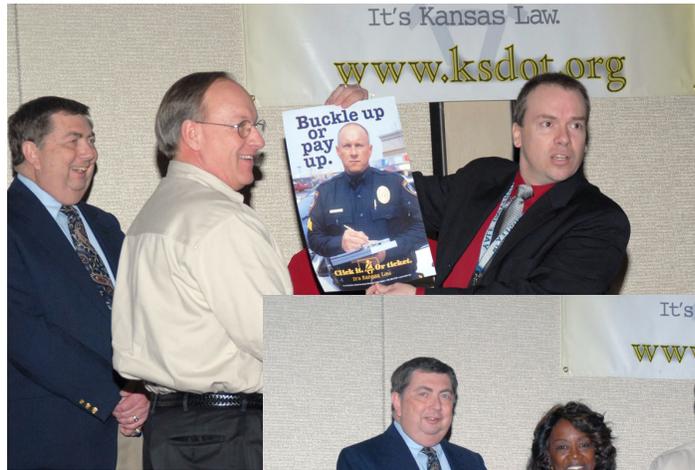


Rusty James, Scout Incident Management Coordinator Wins Award

Special Recognition with the Kansas “People Saving People Award”

William, Rusty James, Incident Management Coordinator for Kansas City Scout, received the Kansas People Saving People Award on Wednesday March 31. The award was presented at the Transportation Safety Conference, held at the Overland Park Doubletree Hotel. The award recognizes Mr. James for his vision and persistence in the face of multiple challenges as he worked with diverse entities from police and fire departments to tow truck companies, to effectively improve traffic control procedures at crash and other incident sites in the Kansas City Scout system.

The 2010 Transportation Safety Conference was sponsored by University of Kansas Continuing Education and a federal grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation. The conference was designed to share and update information from all facets of the transportation safety community it provided timely topics of interest to each of the targeted audiences. The program featured a keynote address, plenary speakers and breakout sessions on four themes: injury control, law enforcement, youth issues and roadway safety.



From the Director

Dear TEAM MoDOT,

If you were one of the lucky ones selected to represent your peers in the recent statewide employee benefits focus groups, thank you very much for making the time to join in the discussion. These focus groups were held to gain your thoughts on healthcare and retirement benefits. Your participation was valuable in helping us understand employee opinions.

These are important issues! If increases are necessary in the healthcare plan, those surveyed said they were slightly more in favor of using a combination of increased out-of-pocket premiums and

reduction of benefits than either option alone. Less than half of those surveyed were in favor of contributing to the retirement plan to keep the benefits at the same levels. Results have shown in most cases that if given a choice, employees would rather not support or pay for the healthcare or retirement benefits to stay at the current levels. We've heard you.

You're probably as interested in seeing the focus group results as I was. Click on this link to take you to the four-page report: <http://www.i/intranet/or/benefits.pdf>. You'll see that on these issues, while each question has a most popular

response, there is not overwhelming support for any particular course of action. This tells me that for the very personal issues of healthcare and retirement, we have a lot of diversity of opinion in the needs and desires of our employees. We will work hard to continue to listen to your opinions, and try always to make decisions that are good for you and good for the customers we serve.

If you would like to comment on the report, or if you have questions, feel free to send them to yourcomments@modot.mo.gov.

Have a safe day!

Kevin

First Drunk Driving Victim Memorial Sign Installed on I-270

Drunk Driving Memorial Signs Now Available under David's Law

Twenty-six years after David's Poenicke's death due to an impaired driver, a sign was installed on I-270 in Florissant in his honor. The drunk-driving victim memorial sign is the first to be installed under the new "David's Law," legislation named after Poenicke that allows families of drunk-driving victims to request memorial signs.

"Impaired driving continues to be a problem among motorists, many of whom don't realize how little of a substance it actually takes to affect driving skills and put themselves and others at risk," says Leanna Depue, director of MoDOT's Highway Safety Division. "Hopefully these new signs will help to bring extra attention to this issue and get people to think twice before driving impaired."

Poenicke's sister, Gail Rehme, was a leading force in getting legislation passed in the hopes that memorializing drunk driving victims like her brother will also help save lives. Representative Bill Deeken of Jefferson City sponsored the bill.

The blue memorial signs read "Drunk Driving Victim" and include the person's initials and the month and year they were killed. At the bottom it reads "Think About

It." The signs can be requested and paid for by the family of a drunk-driving victim.

Poenicke was 19 when he was killed on his way home from a Cardinals baseball game. He pulled his motorcycle over to the shoulder of I-270 when a passing car struck him and his motorcycle. The driver had a blood alcohol level of 0.14 and was charged with manslaughter and vehicular injury.

Applications for the memorial signs are available on MoDOT's website at modot.org/services/HighwayNaming.htm.

In 2009, 280 people were killed, 1,140 seriously injured and 3,719 received minor injuries in crashes involving an impaired driver. Besides the heartbreak to a victim's family and friends, there are some legal consequences of impaired driving to consider:

- If you cause a fatal crash while intoxicated, you can be charged with involuntary manslaughter, a felony resulting in up to seven years of jail time, a \$5,000 fine or both.
- Your license can be suspended for 90 days on your first conviction. You



could be fined up to \$500 and spend up to 6 months in jail.

- A second conviction results in a yearlong revocation of your license. You could be fined up to \$1,000 and spend up to one year in jail.
- Any person guilty of a second or subsequent intoxication-related traffic offense will be required to install an ignition interlock device on their car before reinstating driving privileges.
- Insurance coverage will be difficult to find and your rates will be significantly higher.

Your Health Headquarters

It's not too late. 13 days remain to register for the Race for the Cure. We have five people signed up and need ten to make a team! Join us if you can, it is a great experience!

The Susan G. Komen Kansas City Race for the Cure will be held Sunday, August 8, 2010 at Union Station. We had a great time last year and MoDOT is forming a team again this year. We are using our name from last year "MoDOT Movers". Please note that you do not have to work for MoDOT to be part of our team so ask family members and friends if they would like to participate in this Race with you. The last day to complete an on-line team registration is July 25.

Team Registration How-To's

1. Visit www.komenkansascity.org
2. With the Username and Password that was e-mailed to you (if you participated last year), click LOG IN in the upper right hand side of the homepage. If you don't have a username or password, you can create them during registration.
3. Roll your mouse over the RACE FOR THE CURE tab in the pink tool bar, then arrow down to REGISTER and click.
4. On the right-hand side of the screen, you'll see a series of gray boxes. Click "JOIN A TEAM".
5. Enter the team name (MoDOT Movers).
6. If you have already logged in, your name and contact information will be automatically populated based on the

info we have on file for you. If you have not registered previously for the Race, you may create your own username and password at this time.

7. At the end of the registration process, you may register for another individual or you may complete your registration by entering a credit card number and billing address. Your Team Captain (Amy Nash) will be notified once you have joined the team.

8. If you want to register multiple people with the same login credentials, you must do so at this time. After your registration has been processed, any additional individuals will need to create separate login credentials with a different email address to register.

New Phone System Arriving to a Desk Near You

D⁴ will be receiving the new Voiceover Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system in the next few weeks. The VOIP system is an internet based phone system. It converts your voice into a digital signal that travels over the internet. If you are calling a regular phone number, the signal is converted to a regular telephone signal before it reaches the destination. VOIP can allow you to make a call directly from a computer, a special VOIP phone, or a traditional phone connected to a special adapter.

The VOIP system has proven to be cheaper than regular phones. In fact, many businesses and organizations are beginning to migrate from traditional copper-wire telephone systems to VOIP systems to reduce their monthly phone costs. Therefore, by switching to the new system, MoDOT has initiated a cost saving effort, reducing its overall long distance phone costs. The VOIP also offers the advantage of running both voice and data communications over a single network which can represent a significant saving in infrastructure costs.

So what does this mean to you?

The VOIP phones will have additional enhancements that the current desk phones do not. For example

- Up to 99 names made available in the speed dial feature. This will allow for quick calling for those individuals or businesses called frequently.
- Conference calling. One phone call can have multiple parties involved in the conversation.
- Busy Lamp Field. This allows a person to monitor the line state (in-use or idle) of a phone line associated with a speed dial button, call log or directory listing on your phone.
- Multiple phone lines. Multiple phones can share the same phone number.

These are just a few of the features that come standard with the VOIP system.

When the implantation takes place, each new phone will come with a new phone number.

Tips for Making the Switch

- Put your new phone number on your office voice mail message as soon as you receive your new number. Example message: "My phone number is changing to 816-###-#### in August. Please note for future reference."
- Put your new phone number on the stationary block on the bottom of your emails with the note that your office phone number has changed.
- Notify all of your personal emergency contacts of your new work number including:
 - School
 - Daycare
 - Doctor's Office
- Order new business cards
- Notify any regular external customers you work with

Implementation Schedule:

- Administration and Division Heads July 19
- Remaining phones installed July 20
- Training: July 27-28

You may continue using your old phone until you receive training on the new system. Feel free to try the new phone to become comfortable with the system.

For more information regarding the new VOIP System, please contact David Bower, Information Technologies at 816-622-0480.

