

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

June 18 - 22, 2012

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KC District Calendar:

June 19

Job Status Meeting
1 - 4 p.m.
District Office Boardroom

June 20

Route E SAS Bridge Ribbon Cutting
Strasburg in Cass County at 10 a.m.

June 21

East Area Team Meeting
Marshall Project Office
Noon - 2:30 p.m.

June 23

Ride for Remembrance
Elephant Rock and
Johnson's Shut-In

Have a Great Week!

Adding Light Bar Will Alert Motorists

MoDOT is adding flashing light bars atop arrow boards on MoDOT trucks to alert approaching motorists sooner that there is a slow-moving work zone ahead in their lane.

The innovation was conceived and designed by Senior Construction Inspector Tom Evans, who saw the need for the extra protection.

"It's a great idea and it's his baby," said Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline.

Evans said a fatal collision, and a pattern of several hits a year spurred him to look for something better than the traditional arrow board. He followed the striping crew working on I-70, watching the striping train and the line of traffic that would queue up behind it.

"What surprised me is how the striping train disappeared in traffic," Evans said. Sometimes individual elements of the striping train would be hidden by large trucks, or a line of traffic. He looked for ways to increase visibility of MoDOT's trucks, then worked with a company to find the most visible light bar, received MoDOT approval and crafted a multiple-light, high-mounted unit that remained low enough to clear all bridges.

"We seem to be getting a lot of good reviews," Evans said. "We are seeing trailing traffic moving over at a much greater distance and a greater rate. "They are not bunching up behind the equipment and creating a jam."

Evans' innovation was cited as a Solutions At Work – Best Practice. The multi-segment LED light bar mounted atop the arrow boards provides a high-visibility warning to any vehicle approaching from the rear. Even the flashing arrow boards, which are



Like adding a belt with suspenders, there's great value in providing more visibility to the arrow board alerting motorists to a slow-moving work zone on the highway.

effective in getting traffic to move out of a rolling work zone, haven't proven as effective in catching motorists eyes as the LED light bar.

The arrow boards alone are effective "only if the motorists see it," Redline said. "This added lighting has been proven effective in alerting motorists sooner" that trucks are ahead in their lane.

Redline cautions that regardless of the additional measures taken, there is no guarantee that approaching motorists are paying attention. Case in point: About three weeks ago, a semi-trailer truck slammed into the back of a MoDOT striping crew TMA, which had the new light bar.

"But this is definitely affecting driver behavior," Redline said. "We are adding them to other TMAs as quickly as possible."

Calling All Volunteers

Wanna Join the Snow Fight?

It's not snow season, yet. But it will be here before you know it. The district needs your help. If you are not a safety sensitive employee and would like to help the district with the snow fight this coming winter season, please let Chris Redline know by calling 607-2283 or email him at christopher.redline@modot.mo.gov. MoDOT will provide all the training and practice you need to be successful. Anyone interested should let Chris know by Friday, June 29.

Volunteers Needed for KC Day at the Missouri State Fair

August is just around the corner, and MoDOT's Kansas City District needs six volunteers to spend a day in Sedalia at the Missouri State Fair.

This year, KC's team will be representing MoDOT on Friday, August 17. If you would like to put your name in the hat to be picked as one of the six volunteers, first get your supervisor's approval, then send in your name to Kerri Lewis. Names will be selected at random. You have until 3 p.m. Friday, June 29, to volunteer.

KC Motorist Assist's team will also spend the day meeting fairgoers and showing off some of their equipment. Volunteers will find time to look around and enjoy some of the displays, while also acting as MoDOT ambassadors, handing out informational brochures and giveaways.

The Missouri State Fair this year runs August 9-19. There is a rodeo Thursday, August 16. The concert this year will be 7:30 p.m. August 11 and feature Montgomery Gentry and 38 Special.

For more information on the Missouri State Fair, go to <http://www.mostatefair.com>.

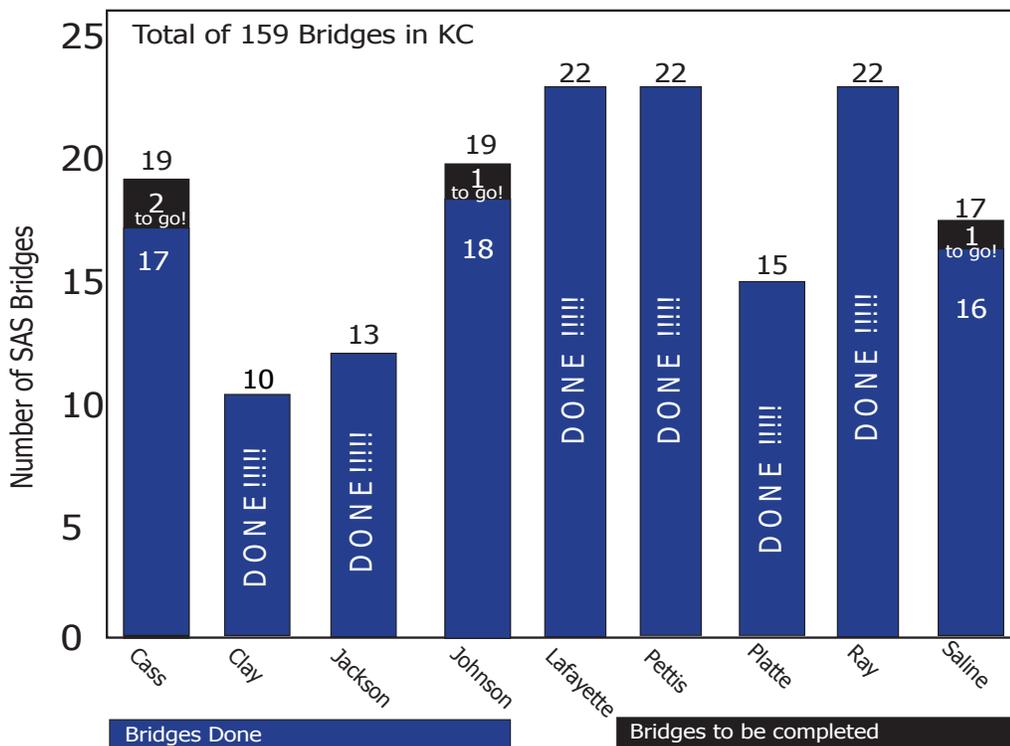
GS Service Request Forms Available

Do you have a problem that needs fixing? Anyone with a facility concern or an issue that needs to be repaired or checked for possible repairs, should use the General Service request form. This form is simple and easy to use, and allows the GS Department to prioritize and make work assignments for the crew. In addition, it will minimize the possibility of an item being overlooked. Use the handy sharepoint form located at

<http://sharepoint/Districts/D4/supportservices/generalservices/Lists/ServiceRequests/Item/newifs.aspx>

for all your maintenance concerns or needs.

KC Safe & Sound Bridges On the Rise to Completion



LMS Deadline Approaching

The Human Resources division would like to remind you to check your LMS training transcript over the next week or so to make sure it accurately reflects the training you've completed this year. Your LMS transcripts need to be checked and up-to-date by the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. Please double check your records to ensure that every opportunity is listed. To do that, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to your desktop 
2. Click on the LMS Icon 
3. Or visit <http://wwwi/intranet/hr/> and click on "Employee Development" on the left side of the page, followed by clicking on "LMS Student Center." This will take you to the LMS Student Center main page.
4. Next, click on "Sign On" found in the upper right hand side of the page
5. Enter your social security number
6. Once signed in, go to the left hand side and click on "My Training Profile"
7. Next Click on "Transcript." You will see all classes you have attended in the past year.

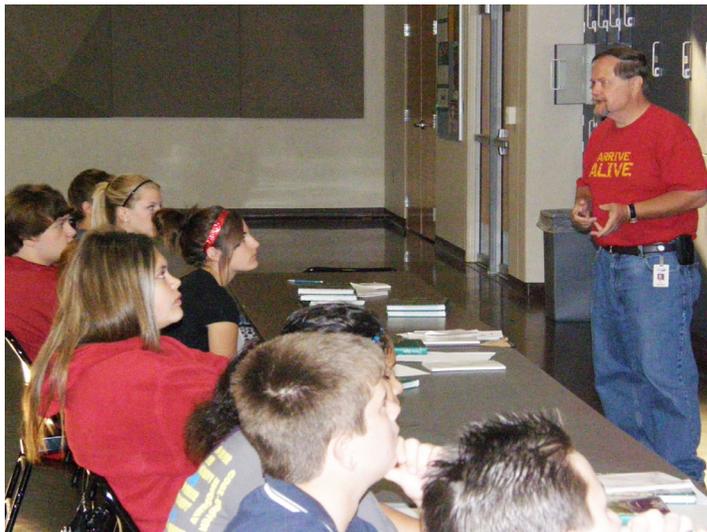
If you do not see all the classes you attended, please contact Melody Brooks in Human Resources at 816-607-2140. And please remember, the close of the current fiscal year is quickly approaching. Please notify Human Resources prior to June 30 if you have changes.

KC KUDOS

I read on the KC Star's website two weeks ago that the Diverging Diamond Interchange at Front Street was completed. I drive through that area each time I refuel my rental vehicle before returning it to KCI. I am very pleased with the outcome. I appreciate the innovation and forward thinking of your organization. In the early days of highways, Missouri and Texas were considered the leading states for design engineering and construction. I believe that your generation of engineers are returning our state to that legendary status.

D. Potts, Independence

More Students, More Driver's Ed Safety Messages



Paul Boenisch explains roundabouts to students in Truman High School's Driver's Education Class on Wednesday. Transportation Project Designer Jodie Puhr led a team from MoDOT to present to Lee's Summit High School Driver's Education Class students on Thursday. More than 165 students were reached with important safety messages this week.

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Lindsay Vogt (foreground) and Senior Highway Designer Paul Boenisch (background) talk to Warrensburg High School Driver's Education Class students about roundabouts and traffic safety during their visit Tuesday, joined by Transportation Project Designer Lisa Stupps.



Route 69 Bridges Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Final Safe & Sound Bridges for Clay County



Several state and local officials joined MoDOT and the contractors, KTU Constructors and APAC Kansas to cut the ribbon for completion of the Route 69 Bridges just north of Liberty.

Several officials celebrated the final Safe & Sound Bridges for Clay County at a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 13. The Route 69 Bridges over the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad opened to traffic on Friday, June 15 providing two safer structures for the more than 15,000 motorists driving through the area daily.

Those in attendance included Senator Luann Ridgeway, State Representatives Myron Neth, State Representative T.J. Barry, Clay County Presiding Commissioner Pam Mason, and Missouri Highway Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller. Several members of the construction crew also joined the celebration. The officials speaking at the event highlighted the importance of every crew member's role for delivering such a successful project. They were applauded for the flawless effort to complete both bridges safely, yet early, working through cold weather, hot weather,

from morning to night. No safety incidents were another indicator of such a successful project.

Just north of Liberty, these bridges serve many communities in the Clay County region. MoDOT typically closes the road during bridge replacement, but recognized the importance of minimizing impact to the communities and the thousands of motorists. MoDOT worked closely with community partners and the contractor, KTU Constructors to find a way to replace both Route 69 bridges without closing the road. A temporary bypass was constructed to allow traffic to move around each closure.

When the southbound Route 69 Bridge opens on Friday, both bridges and construction of the bypass will have been done in 63 days. This is more than one month ahead of schedule. In Kansas City, the total of bridges completed will be 155 with just two remaining in Cass, one on Johnson and one in Saline.



MHTC Commissioner Stephen Miller spoke highly of the completed Safe & Sound Improvement Program for Clay County and the importance for the Kansas City region at a ribbon cutting on June 13. He also discussed the future of funding and how important it is for MoDOT to build great partnerships to continue providing these outstanding projects.

The Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program has an aggressive schedule to replace hundreds of Missouri's worst bridges. By the end of 2012, all 802 bridges will be delivered one year early, and that is great news for motorists.



MHTC Commissioner Miller and Senator Ridgeway, pictured right, and Clay County Commissioner Mason, pictured left, thanked each crew member for their hard work and diligence, completing the project one month ahead of schedule.





Safety 24/7



June 17-23

Did you know?

Falls are by far the leading unintentional injury accounting for more than 8.7 million emergency room visits each year in the United States.
(Injury Facts)

One in every three adults age 65 and older falls each year.
(CDC)

Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls

Most falls are preventable. Many people attribute falls to being clumsy or not paying attention, but many risk factors exist. Risk factors include physical hazards in the environment, age-related issues and health conditions. Reduce your risk and find fall hazards in your workplace and home to prevent injuries and keep others safe round the clock.

Remove common fall hazards:

- Keep floors and stairs clean and clear of clutter
- Maintain good lighting both indoors and on outdoor walkways
- Secure electrical and phone cords out of traffic areas
- Use non-skid throw rugs in potentially slippery places, like bathrooms
- Install handrails on stairways, including porches
- Use a sturdy step stool when climbing or reaching for high places
- Clean up all spills immediately
- Wear sensible footwear
- Never stand on a chair, table or surface on wheels
- Arrange furniture to provide open pathways to walk through
- Periodically, check the condition of outdoor walkways and steps and repair as necessary
- Remove fallen leaves or snow from outdoor walkways
- Be aware that alcohol or other drugs, including prescription and over-the-counter medicine, can affect your balance and increase risk of falling

Older adult falls

Older adults are more prone to become the victim of falls and the resulting injuries can diminish the ability to lead active, independent lives. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following tips can greatly help older adults prevent falls, but are beneficial to those of all ages.

- **Stay active:** Chances of falling can be reduced by improving strength and balance. Examples of activities include brisk walking, tai chi and yoga.
- **Fall-proof your home:** This includes taking advantage of the tips above and removing all tripping hazards.
- **Review your medications:** Have your doctor or pharmacist review all the medications you take both prescription and over-the-counter. Some medications or combination of medicines can make you drowsy or light-headed, which can potentially lead to a fall.
- **Check your vision:** It's best to have your vision checked at least once a year to make sure you have the best prescription for your glasses. Poor vision greatly increases your risk of falling.

NATIONAL
SAFETY
MONTH 2012

National Safety Council
1121 SPRING LAKE DRIVE
ITASCA, IL 60143-3201
(800) 621-7619
NSC.ORG

Nominate your Hero Today!

No super hero costume or cape required to be a safety hero! The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is seeking nominations for highway safety heros. If there is someone you feel should be recognized for outstanding efforts to reduce fatalities on Missouri roads through education, law enforcement, health care, emergency response, or engineering, please take a few moments to recognize them with a nomination for a **2012 Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Highway Safety Award!**



Four statewide awards and two regional awards (per region) will be selected. The winners will be recognized at the 2012 Blueprint to Save More Lives Conference in Branson at the end of October.

Visit www.savemolives.com for more details about the awards, and to complete the nomination form. Nominations due by June 30, 2012. Five individuals with an interest in transportation safety have been selected throughout the Midwest to judge the awards. Regional awards will be judged by the regional coalitions or independent judges they choose. Award winners and those who nominate them will be notified by the second week of August. For more information, please call **Marisa Ellison at 573-248-2502** or email marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov.

Bolder Five-Year Direction Calendar

2012

- **December 31:** all facility, equipment and operational changes complete.

2013

- **March 31:** all employee reassignments, staff reductions complete.

Bolder 5-Year Direction Questions?

- Visit: wwwi/intranet/hr/
- Contact your KC District HR representative

Dennis Francis Thanks MoDOT

MoDOT 'family' - Thanks for the retirement reception, the gift card and the scrap book.

Thank you for the memories from my MHTD/MoDOT years I will miss the people, fun times, food days and deadlines.

OK, maybe not the deadlines.

Thank You
Dennis Francis



Ride for Remembrance

It is time for the annual Ride for Remembrance to honor MoDOT's fallen workers.

When: June 23, 2012

Rally Location: Elephant Rock and Johnson's Shut-In

T-shirt orders due: August 15, 2012

Please contact Dan Weaver, Senior Construction Technician at 573-346-3053 or daniel.weaver@modot.mo.gov

kcConnections sources

- Construction** Bev Chrisco, 607-2101
- Regional Counsel** LeAnn Francis, 607-2082
- Administration** Sherri McGregor, 607-2184
- General Services** Jody Jordan, 347-4100
- Human Resources** Amy Gagne, 607-2145
- Information Systems** JoAnn MacKay, 607-2096
- Right of Way** Dana O'Malley, 607-2056
- Traffic** Laurel McKean, 607-2107
- Editor** Kerri Lewis, 607-2151