

Hi, this is Sally Oxenhandler with your MoDOT Minute.

MoDOT has obligated more than 50 percent of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds a month ahead of the June 30 deadline. That makes the department eligible for funds that other states might forfeit. All of the economic stimulus funds distributed to Missouri for roads and bridges must be obligated by March 2, 2010. To date, 91 economic stimulus projects have been awarded.

A new welcome Center on Interstate 44 near Conway is drawing rave reviews for its historic Route 66 theme. I-44 through Missouri replaced the one-time "Mother Road" and roughly parallels the old highway. The Route 66 theme was chosen because of continued interest in its history. The "super-highway," as it was thought of in 1926, represented unprecedented freedom to travel across the American West.

On a related note, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials is asking motorists to share their favorite road trip stories. Visit AreWeThereYet.transportation.org for more information.

That's been your MoDOT Minute. Check back every Tuesday for new information.