

MoDOT
in

MOTION

Bollinger | Butler | Cape Girardeau | Carter | Douglas | Dunklin | Howell | Iron | Madison | Mississippi | New Madrid | Oregon
Ozark | Pemiscot | Perry | Reynolds | Ripley | Scott | Shannon | Ste. Genevieve | St. Francois | Stoddard | Texas | Wayne | Wright

Dear friends:

Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of MoDOT in Motion. With a colorful winter season behind us, MoDOT crews are gearing up for the spring season.

As we begin a new construction season, we will celebrate Work Zone Awareness Week April 7-11. This year, we are hosting a fun run/walk to kick-off the season. To learn more about that, take a look at page 3.

For a snapshot of our upcoming construction projects, take a look at pages 2 & 3. Additionally, our striping season is underway, as you can read about on page 4. Please make sure to watch for work zones signs as you near each project, and thank you for your role in making our roadways safer.

As you are out and about in the coming months, I'd like know how you think we are doing. Following your travels through our work zones, please take time to fill out our Work Zone Survey Form found at www.modot.org/southeast.

Finally, please buckle up and slow down when you near a work zone. Travel safe.



Mark Shelton, P.E.
District Engineer



Bleak Financial Forecast for MoDOT

Uncertainty about future federal funding, declining fuel tax proceeds and increasing costs of doing business have spurred the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) to stop adding new projects to its five-year construction budget and to suspend its popular Cost-Share Program. The MHTC voted to do so at its January 8 meeting.

MHTC Vice-Chair Joe Carmichael, Missouri Department of Transportation (Mo-

DOT) Director Dave Nichols and MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger discussed the foreboding financial future during the annual Missouri Transportation Conference in Jefferson City, cosponsored by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Farm Bureau, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and MoDOT.

“Believe me when I say this is not what we wanted to do,” Carmichael said. “But when considering the financial

forecast for the rest of this decade, we had no choice. We aren't even going to have enough money to maintain the system we have today.”

The reasons for the funding downturn are many. Fuel tax revenues have become a diminishing revenue stream as cars become more fuel efficient and as people drive less, while the costs of doing business are increasing. Inflation has decreased MoDOT's purchasing power by more than 50 percent. What was 17

cents (state fuel tax per gallon) of purchasing power in 1992, the last time fuel taxes were increased, is now about eight cents and decreasing each year.

The cost of asphalt, concrete and steel - the staples of the industry - are as much as 200 percent more than they were in 1992. And employee healthcare and retirement costs have also steadily risen.

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SE Missouri Work Zones This Const

With MoDOT gearing up for construction season, please see the list of potential work zones to watch out for this spring and summer.

Route 34 in Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties: The project will include grading, paving and adding shoulders from Route 51 at Marble Hill to Route 72/34 in Cape Girardeau County. Work could begin as early as late April. Completion is anticipated in fall 2015.

Route 67 in Butler County: Although the new four-lane highway will be open to traffic by early April, work zones will be present throughout mid-summer. During this construction season, improvements will be completed on the existing lanes of Route 67.

Interstate 55/Route Y in Cape Girardeau County: Work is currently underway to replace the Route Y overpass over I-55. As work is underway, Route Y will remain closed. In addition, I-55 will be reduced to one lane intermittently. Completion is anticipated in early July.

Route 21 in Carter & Ripley Counties: Work to improve the shoulders, as well as the seed and mulch work, from Route 60 to Route 160 has been completed. As early as May, crews will begin to overlay the route. During this time, a pilot car will be utilized.

Route 412 in Dunklin County: Diamond grinding from Route O/Y to near Route AC is expected to begin in April. As work is underway, there will be daily lane closures.

Route H in New Madrid County: Daily work zones will be in place throughout summer as work to overlay the route is underway. Improvements will take place from the beginning of state maintenance to Route 61 near Matthews.

Route 21 in Reynolds County: Improvements will be completed from Route 106 to Route 34. Currently, shoulder grading is underway. Next, work to apply temporary seed and mulch will take place. The seed and mulch work will be completed as a moving operation, and traffic will be slowed. As early as May, crews will begin to overlay the route. During this time, a pilot car will be utilized.

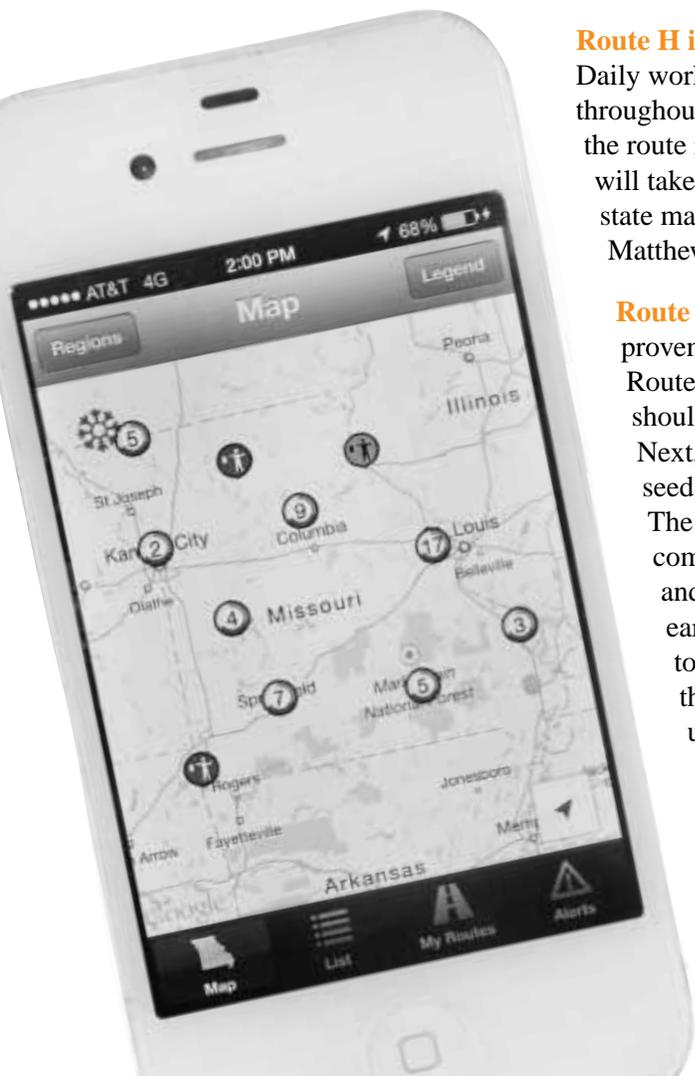
Route 160 in Ripley and Butler Counties: Improvements will extend from Route JJ to Route 67 and include adding alternate passing zones, overlaying the route and adding shoulders. In addition, the bridge located west of Route F will be replaced. As work to replace the bridge is underway, a temporary bypass will be in place. The bridge replacement will take approximately two months to complete, weather permitting. Work could begin as early as this August.

Interstate 55 in Ste. Genevieve & Perry Counties: Work to resurface the north and southbound lanes from Route J to Route 51 near Perryville could begin as early as this April. As improvements are underway, northbound and southbound lanes will have intermittent single-lane closures. Completion is anticipated in August.

Route P in Ste. Genevieve County: The Route P bridge over Mill Creek will be replaced. Work is expected to begin in early spring, with completion in June 2014, weather permitting. During construction, Route P will be closed at its intersection with Route B.

Route 106 in Shannon & Reynolds Counties: Work to resurface the road and improve shoulders from Route H to Route 21 is expected to begin in early spring. As the project is underway, a pilot car will be utilized.

Routes Z, E and AF in Stoddard County: Work to overlay various state routes in Stoddard County will begin in early summer 2014. As work is underway, lane closures will be in place. Improvements will be made from Route 25 to Route 153 on Route Z; from Route 25 to Route N on Route E; and from the



To stay up-to-date on the latest road conditions, download the free smartphone app. The map app is available for iPhones and Androids, by searching for "MoDOT" in the app store. The map displays road conditions during winter storms and spring floods, as well as present and future work zones.

Construction Season

beginning of state maintenance to Route 25 on Route AF.

Route 114 in Stoddard County: The route will receive diamond grinding and an overlay, as well as new shoulders from Route 25 to Route 60. In addition, work will be completed on several city streets in Dexter. The City of Dexter provided \$21,400 in funding for the project.*

Route 60 in Wright County: The project will consist of pavement replacement, new signals and rehabilitating the Route 95 overpass over Route 60 at Mountain Grove. The ramps off of Route 60 to Route 95 will be widened. Work will be completed this summer.

As work is underway, traffic accessing the ramps and Route 95 will be impacted. In addition, during work to rehabilitate the bridge, there may also be periodic impacts to traffic on Route 60.

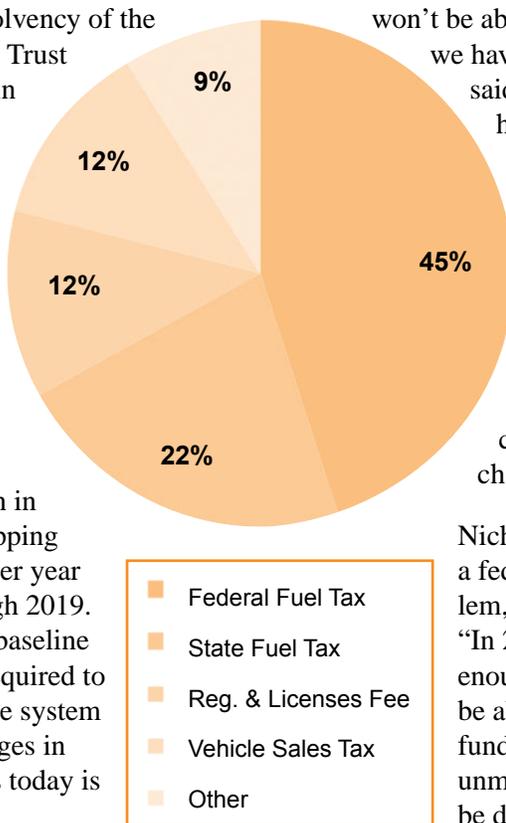
Additional details will be released prior to the start of work for each project. Travelers are encouraged to check the Traveler Information Map at traveler.modot.org or download the free smartphone app to stay up-to-date on the latest work zones and road conditions. The map app is available for iPhones and Androids, by searching for “MoDOT” in the app store.

** Project was awarded prior to suspension of Cost-Share Program.*

Bleak Financial Forecast for MoDOT [continued page 1]

The looming insolvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund - expected in the fall - is a big reason, too.

MoDOT projects its annual construction program - which just a few years ago was \$1.3 billion - will be just over \$700 million in 2015, before dropping to \$325 million per year from 2017 through 2019. Nichols said the baseline annual amount required to keep the statewide system of roads and bridges in the condition it is today is \$485 million.



won't be able to maintain what we have today,” Carmichael said. He emphasized, however, that projects already in the STIP are the Commission's commitment to Missouri taxpayers, and they will be delivered. “We may have to delay some a year, but they will be constructed,” Carmichael said.

Nichols noted this is not a federal or a state problem, “It's both,” he said. “In 2020, we won't have enough state revenue to be able to match federal funds. That means those unmatched dollars will be directed to other states and lost to Missouri

“It makes no sense to be adding projects that eventually increase our maintenance responsibility when we

forever. If our federal funds would increase, we'll be unable to match them even sooner.”

MoDOT's SE District to Host Work Zone Awareness Run/Walk

MoDOT is inviting Missourians to help kick-off National Work Zone Awareness Week in Southeast Missouri with a fun run/walk this April.

The event will be held Saturday, April 5, with the race starting at the Willow Springs High School Football Field. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the race will begin at 9:30 a.m. Participants may choose to show their support for work zone safety by taking part in a 1-mile fun run/walk or 5K.

“National Work Zone Awareness Week will officially begin Monday, April 7,” said Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge. “Hosting the event on Saturday is a good way for us to promote the upcoming work zone awareness festivities across the state and get Missourians involved.”

Registration is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 10). Proceeds will go to MoDOT's Benevolent Fund.

“This event is a great opportunity for Southeast Missouri families to join the MoDOT team in raising awareness about the importance of work zone safety,” said Rutledge.

For more information or to access the online registration form, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/workzoneawarenessrunwalk2014.htm. More information is also available by contacting Senior Highway Designer Melanie Elmore at 417-469-6238 or Melanie.Rickard-Elmore@modot.mo.gov, or Senior Design Technician Nathan Moss at 417-469-6242 or Nathan.Moss@modot.mo.gov.

Highway Striping Season Kicks-Off in SE Missouri

Watch for Slow-Moving Vehicles

For MoDOT crews, spring marks the beginning of striping season. Work to re-stripe various state routes throughout Southeast Missouri is currently underway. Drivers should be prepared to slow down significantly when coming up behind a slow-moving striping caravan.

Striping in Southeast Missouri started on Interstate 57 in Mississippi and Pemiscot Counties. Crews then moved to Interstate 55 at Sikeston, Mo., and work south to the Arkansas stateline. While working toward the state-line, strippers will also work on Route 412 and Interstate 155 in Dunklin and Pemiscot Counties. After reaching the Arkansas stateline, strippers

will work on I-55 north.

MoDOT's Southeast District striping crews will focus on major four-lane routes within the 25-county region throughout spring 2014. In June and July, crews will work to re-stripe state routes within cities and towns. Additional information will be released prior to night work on major routes.

The striping trucks move between 8 mph and 12 mph when work is underway. A driver traveling at highway speed can approach a slow-moving striping caravan much quicker than he or she expects because of significant differences in speed.

For example, where the

speed limit is 70 mph on interstate highways, cars are covering at least 103 feet per second. If not paying close enough attention while approaching the striping caravan, a driver suddenly may have to brake and swerve to avoid a high speed, rear-end crash.

Drivers are asked to watch for yellow MoDOT trucks with flashing strobe lights and boards with flashing arrows and messages.

Many MoDOT striping crews work 12-hour days, Monday through Saturday and even early Sunday morning in some cases. Although most of the striping is done during daylight hours, nighttime

work will be scheduled to avoid peak travel times in high traffic areas.

MoDOT encourages drivers to use caution in and around the striping equipment and crew workers.

Here are driving tips to remember when coming upon a striping project:

- On multi-lane highways, be prepared to slow down and pull around the striping train by merging carefully into the open lane. Avoid pulling in among the trucks in the work train to keep paint from getting onto your vehicle and to avoid damaging the newly painted stripe.
- On two-lane highways, stay behind the last truck in the striping train, placed well behind the striping truck. This will give the new paint the few minutes it needs to dry. If traffic backs up behind the striping train, MoDOT crews will pull out of the way where it is safe to do so and let congestion clear.
- If you drive through wet paint, which is water-based, clean your car as quickly as possible with a high-powered water hose, such as those used in car washes.



With striping season underway, please watch for slow-moving vehicles and be prepared to stop. Many MoDOT striping crews work 12-hour days, Monday through Saturday and even early Sunday morning in some cases. Striping may also occur overnight to lessen its impact in heavily traveled areas.

SE Missouri Schools Cash-In On Buckling Up

Missouri schools took the challenge to buckle up and made it click with students. Across the state, 195 schools participated in this year's Battle of the Belt Challenge—a competition to raise seat belt use among teens. Forty-three Southeast Missouri high schools participated in the challenge.

Participating schools launched two surprise seat belt checks at each school to measure student seat belt use before and after an educational campaign. In addition, schools had the opportunity to submit a 30-second video spot to encourage their peers to buckle up.

Saxony Lutheran High School of Jackson, Mo., won the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use achieving 98.9 percent seat belt use. Clearwater High School of Piedmont, Mo., won the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's award for the Most Improved Seat Belt Use improving their seat belt use by 32.8 percent. Both schools received \$500 donated by American Family Insurance to be used for future seat belt educational programs at the schools.

Thirty-seven schools received state-wide recognition for seat belt use that reached gold (99-100%), silver (95-98%) or bronze (91-94%) levels of seat belt use and received banners to display at the schools donated by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians. In Southeast Missouri, those schools include:



Saxony Lutheran High School of Jackson, Mo., won the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use achieving 98.9 percent seat belt use.

- Saxony Lutheran High School of Jackson, Mo.-98.9% (Silver)
- Notre Dame High School of Cape Girardeau, Mo.-98.37% (Silver)
- Thomas W. Kelly High School of Benton, Mo.-96.55% (Silver)

For the 30-second video competition, 42 videos were submitted by Missouri high schools. The top three winning videos also received funding to further seat belt educational programs at their schools. The winning videos can be viewed by visiting www.savemolives.com.

"We're proud of our local schools for showing a commitment to buckling up and wanting to help other teens understand the importance of wearing a seat belt every time they ride in or drive a vehicle," said Sandy Taurone, regional contact for Battle of

the Belt. "Seat belts save lives."

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death for people 15-20 years old. Results of a 2013 survey among Missouri teens indicate 33 percent of teens are not wearing their seat belt putting them at greater risk to get killed or injured in traffic crashes. Seven out of 10 teens killed in Missouri traffic crashes are unbuckled.

Battle of the Belt was originally brought to southwest Missouri by the Missouri Emergency Nurses Association and St. John's Hospital. In 2006, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, in conjunction with American Family Insurance, took the competition statewide and continue to sponsor this year's program with the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians.

Is your school ready to take the challenge to buckle up? Learn more at www.savemolives.com.



Clearwater High School of Piedmont, Mo., won the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's award for the Most Improved Seat Belt Use improving their seat belt use by 32.8 percent.

MHTC Approves Transportation Plan

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) approved a new long-range transportation plan in February but cautioned that without additional MoDOT revenues - largely tied to state and federal fuel taxes - are falling.

The federally required plan is designed to guide transportation decision making for the next 20 years. The plan, called "A Vision for Missouri's Transportation Future," was developed after an intense seven-month public engagement period that resulted in 12,000 project suggestions and operational priorities.

Based on the input received, four goal areas were established:

- Take care of the transportation system and services we enjoy today;
- Keep all travelers safe, no matter the mode of transportation;
- Invest in projects that spur economic growth and create jobs; and
- Give Missourians better transportation choices (more viable urban and rural transit, friendlier bike and pedestrian accommodations, improvements in rail, ports and airport operations).

Rate Our Work Zones

National Work Zone Awareness Week isn't just about what motorists can do to help keep our crews safe. In addition to reminding motorists to drive safely, MoDOT wants to know what we can do to improve work zones for travelers.

Following your travels through a work zone, please visit www.modot.org/southeast and rate our work zones. A link to the customer survey is located in the drop-down menu of the Road Work tab at the top of the website.

The safety of the traveling public is as important as the safety of MoDOT's crews and contractors. Please let us know what you think!

Thank you for driving smart.

MoDOT in MOTION

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