

Connections

December 2007

MoDOT Receives 2007 Missouri Quality Award

The Excellence In Missouri Foundation named MoDOT the recipient of a 2007 Missouri Quality Award in November, citing its visionary leadership and its use of innovative tools and programs to meet its customers' transportation needs. The award also recognized the agency's efforts to improve roads statewide, reduce traffic fatalities and bring projects in on time and within budget.

"Every single MoDOT employee is responsible for achieving this recognition," said Director Pete Rahn. "We've worked hard as a team to restore credibility and regain public trust, and this award attests to that. We thank the Excellence in Missouri Foundation for recognizing the strides we've made to become a quality organization.

"This was not an easy achievement and I have to tell you from the bottom of my heart I appreciate what you have done and I thank you for that. MoDOT is a great organization, made up of great people doing great things and we have more to do in our future."

MoDOT's efforts to provide quality results have helped the agency go from a target of criticism to a national transportation leader, the foundation said.

Only one other state agency has received this distinguished honor, which was the Department of Revenue in 2000.



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman James Anderson applauds as Director Pete Rahn proudly accepts MoDOT's 2007 Missouri Quality Award from the Excellence in Missouri Foundation.

Cathy Morrison

Continued on page 3

Paseo Corridor Constructors Selected for kclCON Project

by Jennifer Benefield

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has selected Paseo Corridor Constructors as the design-build contractor for the Interstate 29/35 corridor improvement project. The \$245 million kclCON project features a landmark cable-stay Christopher S. Bond Missouri River Bridge, and will upgrade Interstate 29/35 to six lanes from north of the Route 210/Armour Road interchange to Independence Ave. It also adds a southbound lane from the northeast corner of the Central Business District loop to Oak Street.

"Both design-build teams competing for this project submitted excellent proposals, including two incredible landmark river bridge designs," said kclCON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "Paseo Corridor Constructors committed to keep the Paseo Bridge open to traffic during construction and provide more roadway improvements."

Paseo Corridor Constructors is comprised of several companies. Joint Venture Part-



The kclCON project will feature a new cable-stay bridge structure with eight-lane capacity to replace the existing I-29/35 Paseo Bridge in Kansas City.

ners are Clarkson Construction Company, Kansas City; Massman Construction Company, Kansas City; and Kiewit Construction Co., Omaha, Neb. Major Participants are Parsons, USA and TranSystems Corporation, Kansas City.

Construction will begin in spring 2008. The Paseo Bridge will remain open to traffic for the duration of the project. Paseo Corridor Constructors will provide access to I-29/35 at all times by maintaining two northbound and two southbound lanes of

traffic during peak morning and evening travel times, and at least one northbound and one southbound lane of traffic outside of peak travel times.

MoDOT will collaborate with its community partners in an effort to ease construction-related traffic during construction. "While the interstate will remain open to traffic at all times, these lanes will be narrow. Intermittent interchange and ramp closures will require numerous detours," said Kidwell.

Full service to all lanes will be restored by June 1, 2011 and final construction will be completed by July 31, 2011, beating the project goal by three months.

The design-build delivery method was selected as a way to save time and money. It also will facilitate faster completion of the project and help minimize inconveniences to the public.

Continued on page 2

Inside

5



Out with the Old

Workers replace the Central Office Distribution Center's roof

8



Habitat for Amphibians

District 3 manager has a passion for the environment

10



Buckle Up D!

Mizzou fans learn that buckling up is the best defense

11



Safety Check

St. Louis area schools perform surprise seat belt checks

15



Game Day for Safety

Southeast high school gets creative in Battle of the Belt efforts

Paseo Corridor

Continued from page 1

“The competition driven by Missouri’s innovative design-build method of project delivery has provided our customers with the best value for every dollar available for this project,” said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. “In addition to improving safety and reducing congestion throughout this corridor, we’re able

to quickly deliver a stunning landmark river bridge that will benefit future generations.”

Bridge photos, corridor animation and additional information are available on the project’s Web site: www.kcicon.org.



Kcicon Featured Improvements

- Three northbound and three southbound lanes of interstate expandable to eight total lanes.
- A landmark, cable-stay Missouri River bridge expandable to eight lanes and capable of accommodating a future bicycle/pedestrian facility once connectivity is established.
- A reconstructed interchange at Route 210/Armour Road with improved ramps and auxiliary lanes.
- A half-diamond interchange at 16th Street that will eliminate the low-speed loop ramp for exiting north bound traffic.
- A split-diamond interchange at Bedford Avenue/Levee Road that provides local street access and connectivity between Levee Road and Bedford Avenue.
- A single-point urban interchange at Front Street.

Spotlight on Diversity

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The document created a standard for all mankind to strive, by teaching and education, to promote respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms for all human beings.

Historically our world has experienced an unfortunate number of human atrocities, some of which are still ongoing today. So now, nearly 50 years after this declaration was adopted, there is still a very real need for acceptance, tolerance and understanding, ensuring each human being is given the dignity and respect they deserve.

If you think otherwise, consider looking at it from a clearer global perspective, as published on FastCompany.com (www.fastcompany.com/articles/2001/05/email2.html). It is, as the childhood song suggests, a small world after all when you consider the

following. If we shrunk the earth’s population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like this:

- 60 percent Asian
- 12 percent European
- 15 percent from the Western Hemisphere (9 percent Latin American, 5 percent Oceanian)
- 13 percent African
- 50 percent female
- 50 percent male
- 80 percent non-white
- 20 percent white
- 67 percent non-Christian
- 33 percent Christian

MoDOT Issues Annual Report to Legislature

by Sally Oxenhandler

State law requires MoDOT to submit an annual report to the legislature each November. This year’s highlights? An independent audit showing sound financial practices and continuing progress in improving road conditions throughout the state.

“We seem to really be hitting our stride as an agency,” said Director Pete Rahn. “We have continued to build on the success of our Smooth Roads Initiative and make roads smoother and safer statewide. We’ve also worked to prove we’re serious about bringing projects in on time and within budget.”

As a result, Rahn said:

- Missouri has gone from having the third worst pavement on major roads to an estimated ninth best.
- Seventy-four percent of the state’s major roads are now in good condition.
- Missouri jumped from 28th to 17th in overall performance of the state highway system from 2004 to 2005 and from 39th to 17th in overall performance over the five-year period from 2000 to 2005. These figures are from a Reason Foundation report that also showed the state had the third lowest administrative costs per mile.
- The Show Me State recorded the largest drop in traffic-related fatalities of any state in the nation in 2006.
- Customer satisfaction with MoDOT rose from 75 percent in 2005 to 79 percent in 2006.

Rahn warned the state will not be able to maintain these improvements over the long term because of a looming drop in highway revenue. Stagnant state funding; lagging federal revenue; and increasing construction, maintenance and fuel costs will cause the amount of money spent on highway improvements to fall off a cliff in 2010.

“We will drop from a construction program totaling \$1.23 billion in 2008 to an annual program of \$569 million in 2010,” Rahn said. “That means we’ll barely be able to maintain our highways, much less address congestion, safety and economic development concerns.”

Also in the report:

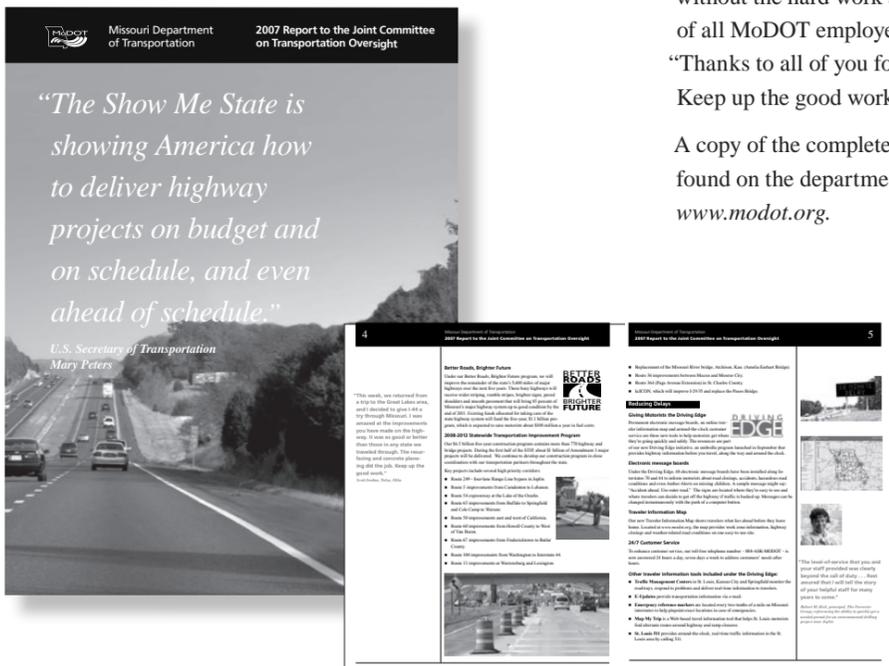
- The Better Roads, Brighter Future program will bring 85 percent of Missouri’s major highway system up to good condition by the end of 2011.
- Within two months of the tragic bridge collapse in Minnesota, MoDOT had inspected all bridges similar in design and declared them safe for travel.
- Construction contracts awarded in fiscal year 2007 came in 7.4 percent under budget – a \$90 million savings.
- The agency launched a new traveler information program, Driving Edge, that includes electronic message boards

along Interstates 70 and 44, an online traveler information map and 24/7 customer service.

- The U.S. Department of Transportation gave Missouri \$2 million to study the feasibility of dedicated truck lanes on Interstate 70.
- The department launched its Trees for Tomorrow initiative, which will provide half a million trees a year for the next five years to youth groups throughout the state.
- MoDOT is one of the first state agencies in the nation to recycle tear-off shingles to resurface or rebuild highways.

“We could not have submitted such a glowing report to the legislature without the hard work and dedication of all MoDOT employees,” Rahn said. “Thanks to all of you for a job well done. Keep up the good work!”

A copy of the complete report can be found on the department’s Web site at www.modot.org.



Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Cracks Down on Impaired Drivers

by Laura Holloway

You Drink & Drive. You Lose. is the message Missourians heard this summer during the annual campaign to stop those driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. And that is the same advise that will be given as the impaired driving campaign continues over the coming holiday season.

The statewide summer campaign began mid-August with radio advertising about the dangers of impaired driving. Increased enforcement by state and local law enforcement agencies began Aug. 17 and continued through Labor Day.

During the enforcement period, more than 700 agencies participated and 318 DWI arrests were made. Officers issued 250 citations for safety belt violations, 11 child safety seat violations and 1,448 speeding violations. Fifty-six felony arrests were made and 120 fugitives were apprehended. Officers also recovered seven stolen vehicles.

You Drink & Drive. You Lose. will also be the message for the holiday campaign running Nov. 19 - Dec. 16. Radio advertisements are planned in the metropolitan areas of Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, Columbia, Joplin, St. Joseph and Cape Girardeau.



We are all part of the solution. Please consider the following tips:

- Don't risk it – if you plan to drive, don't drink.
- Encourage safe driving behaviors among family, friends and co-workers.
- Choose a designated driver before partying. A designated driver is someone who drinks NO alcohol at all.
- Take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a friend to drive you home.
- Party hosts should include alcohol-free beverages.
- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Always wear your safety belt – it's your best defense against an impaired driver.

For more information regarding impaired driving and to listen to the scheduled ads, visit www.saveMOLives.com.

MoDOT Receives Quality Award

Continued from page 1

JAMES B. ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN
Springfield

DUANE S. MICHE, VICE CHAIRMAN
Hayti

DAVID A. GACH
St. Joseph

MIKE KEHOE
Jefferson City

BILL MCKENNA
Crystal City

RUDOLPH E. FARBER
Necato

PETE K. RAHN
Director

RICH TIEMEYER
Chief Counsel

PAMELA J. HARLAN
Secretary to Commission

MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
105 West Capitol, P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102 Telephone 573-751-2824 Fax 573-526-5419

December 1, 2007

Dear Team MoDOT Employees:

If there is one constant in life, it is change. And while time changes things, change can't happen without a vision from leadership or hardworking, dedicated people to make the vision a reality. Over the past three years, you have been on an important journey of change that has caused the Missouri Department of Transportation to improve its performance, increase its efficiencies and, in turn, positively change the public's perception of the department.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is very pleased with your outstanding accomplishments, and we proudly congratulate you on receiving the prestigious Missouri Quality Award. This is only the second time in the foundation's history that a state agency has won a Missouri Quality Award. It is truly a high honor, as this program is recognized as one of the strongest-state level quality award programs in the nation.

From the beginning of this transition, the Commission shared Director Pete Rahn's belief that MoDOT would gain credibility as an organization through its performance. We also agreed that while management should set direction for the department, every employee was, and still is, essential in determining how the agency would accomplish its goals – One MoDOT.

Winning this award demonstrates that MoDOT has indeed undertaken the efforts necessary to improve the quality of our processes to enhance customer satisfaction, as well as the department's overall operational performance. As a result, customer satisfaction with MoDOT rose from 75 percent in 2005 to 79 percent in 2006. And the implementation of performance-based management strategies coupled with radical cost controls have helped MoDOT deliver record amounts of road improvements under budget and on schedule.

The result is that we are all winners. The department wins by being officially recognized for the quality leadership it is exhibiting toward bringing its vision to fruition: delivering a world-class transportation experience and regaining the trust and confidence of Missourians.

Missourians win because, through your dedication and commitment, you are producing a much safer and better quality transportation system, and therefore promoting a more prosperous Missouri.

There is power in change. There is power in One MoDOT. Congratulations on a job well done, and thank you on behalf of all Missourians.

Sincerely,

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

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission congratulates MoDOT for its efforts in winning the 2007 Missouri Quality Award.

MoDOT Testing Soy Stripes

by Sally Oxenhandler

Are highways and soybeans a good fit? That's what we're trying to find out.

Our chemical laboratory is testing four types of yellow and white soy-based paint that contain varying amounts of soybean oil to see how they work for highway striping. The soy-based paint

is made by using the same raw materials and processing techniques as traditional, water-based paint except the soybean oil replaces some of the petroleum ingredients. Soy paint is considered to be more environmentally friendly than other paints because it's made from soybeans, a renewable agricultural crop that is plentiful in Missouri.

The 12-foot test stripes, which are located on Route 63 just north of Jefferson City, run across the roadway – from the shoulder to the center stripe. That way, the paint can be tested for how well it sticks to the ground and holds up against tire wear. We'll also be looking to see how the paint

withstands the ultimate test: snowplow blades.

“Snowplows are the Achilles heel of any highway paint,” said Todd Bennett, MoDOT's chemical laboratory director. “As we monitor the wear and tear of the paint over the next year, we'll especially be looking to see how durable it is in winter weather.”

MoDOT has been working with the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council to test the paint, which was developed by Cargill.

We typically buy about 1.5 million gallons of water-based paint a year. Missouri, which ranks seventh in the nation in soybean production, last year produced more than 194 million bushels of soybeans valued at \$1.2 billion.

A contract worker numbers one of four different formulations of soy-based test paint during installation. The environmentally friendly paint stripes were installed on Route 63 just outside of Jefferson City to test their durability.



Shaun Schmitz

Five Things You Can Tell Your Neighbors About Safe Winter Travel

by Melissa Black

With the upcoming winter weather, motorists are counting on MoDOT to keep roads clear and safe for travel. But motorists have a responsibility also and need to drive cautiously, pay extra attention to signs and drive defensively. When talking to your friends and neighbors about what we do, here are five things to share:

1. Remember to always buckle up. MoDOT works hard to clear roads fast and make them safe for motorists, after a winter storm. However, winter weather makes for abnormal driving conditions, which means greater possibility for crashes and injuries.

■ In 2006, 14 people were killed, 109 seriously injured and 837 received minor injuries when there was snow, ice or slush on the roadway.

■ In 2006, inattention was the largest contributing factor to traffic crashes during the winter months.

2. Prepare before you go. This is one good way not to become a statistic. Before leaving home, find out about the driving conditions at www.modot.org, call 888-ASK MODOT or call 800-222-6400 for recorded road-condition information. If the weather is bad, remember, ice and snow, take it slow, or just don't go. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely. Check

your vehicle's tires, brakes, fluids, wiper blades, lights, belts and hoses to make sure they're in good condition before the start of the winter season.

3. Drive correctly for the conditions. Slow down for wet, snowy or icy conditions; when visibility is poor; or when conditions are changing or unpredictable. Avoid excessive actions while steering, braking or accelerating to reduce the chances of losing control of the vehicle. Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. Allow additional room between your vehicle and others.

4. Don't crowd the plow. Motorists should give snowplows plenty of room

to work, remember not to tailgate and try not to pass. Don't travel beside a plow for long periods. When plowing through a snowdrift or packed snow, the impact can move the truck sideways. Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speeds while removing snow and ice from the roads. When you spot a plow, allow plenty of time to slow down.

5. Practice safe driving maneuvers. Winter conditions call for different driving tactics. Ice and snow, take it slow—slower speed; slower acceleration; slower steering; and slower, earlier braking.

Winter Snow Fight Then and Now

MoDOT Still Provides the First Line of Defense Against Snow and Ice



December Service Anniversaries

4

35 Years		15 Years	
Danny J. Brennan	D3	Ricklyn L. Adams	D1
30 Years		Terry W. Cook	D2
Douglas W. Brown	D1	Curtis R. Grossman	D2
Gina D. Dille	D2	Keith D. Head	D2
Curtis L. Henry	D2	William D. Limback	D2
Bruce J. Bryson	D3	Robert L. McElhane	D2
John F. Cowden	D3	Tammy S. Rhoades	D2
Roy G. McQuay	D3	Lee Ann Kelly	D3
Shelby L. Martin	D5	Eric W. Slaughter	D4
Donald E. Pearson	D5	Karyn M. Veltrop	D5
James Lott	D6	Leroy H. Wieberg	D5
Allen W. Bley	D7	Garland L. Dewitt	D8
Thomas E. Bentley	D8	Russell M. Divine	D8
Kenny A. Lietch	D8	Michael L. Hensley	D8
Sharon K. Distler	CO	Jeffrey T. Amelunke	D10
Debra L. Ponder	CO	Donald J. Boyer	D10
25 Years		Byron W. Davenport	D10
Harold E. Simpson	D1	Paul D. Gillelan	D10
Kevin L. Walter	D2	Leonard D. Foster	CO
20 Years		Dennis W. Heckman	CO
Ronnie D. Clevenger	D1	Shaun W. Schmitz	CO
Judith L. Magruder	D4	10 Years	
Jerry A. Martin	D5	Jay P. Barnes	D2
Mari L. Heeter	D7	Jody A. Butner	D2
James D. Carney	CO	Rick A. Moore	D4
		Jerrett L. Pence	D4
		Donald M. Ramirez	D9

Claude L. Bright	D10
Darius W. Dowdy	D10
Jason M. Blomberg	CO
Martin A. Brose	CO
Arnold D. Williams	CO

5 Years	
Richard G. Skirvin	D3
Marcus A. Boul	D4
Alan R. Cadwallader	D4
Trenton J. Laur	D6
Sally A. Ledgerwood	D6
Douglas F. Logsdon	D6

September Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Larry Prentzler	D2	10
Curtis Wren	D5	18
Sharon Alles	D6	23
Gary Kemna	D6	30
Jesse Peoples	D6	7
Richard Ragar	D6	15
Kenneth Massey	D8	29
James Preuss	D8	26
Billy Norris	D9	29
Robert Lannert	CO	34
Roland Hoover	CO	10

In Memoriam

Active Employee		
Shane A. Cameron	D9	Oct. 28
Retirees		
Leon G. Higgins	D7	Oct. 7
Lloyd D. King	D1	Oct. 13
William H. Vanderhoff	D2	Oct. 17
Layte H. Imler	CO	Oct. 17
Lloyd "Ike" L. Dotson	D2	Oct. 18
Robert E. Kimmich	D6	Oct. 19
Eugene J. Morrison, Jr.	D2	Oct. 19
Arlen L. Maevers	D10	Oct. 21
Harold L. Dorris	D10	Oct. 23
Jimmie "Jim" D. Matthews	D10	Oct. 24
Roy E. Epple	CO	Oct. 27
Lyle V. McLaughlin	CO	Oct. 31



Central Office

Frankie Ryan has Award-Winning Purchasing Power

When it comes to purchasing power with dedication and a winning attitude, Procurement Agent Frankie Ryan is one of the best in her field. And now she has an award to confirm it. Frankie received the Linda D. Windsor Distinguished Service Award in October at the Kansas City Regional Purchasing Exposition.

"I knew and worked with Linda Windsor. She was a nice person and a great professional who was always willing to help out when needed," Frankie said. "To receive an award named after her really touches me. It's a wonderful way for MAPP to say thank you."

Her years of service, dedication and leadership qualities helped set Frankie



Frankie Ryan and her supervisor, Terry Hartman, display the Linda D. Windsor Distinguished Service Award she received in October for her outstanding accomplishments as a purchasing agent.

"This is a significant accomplishment that undoubtedly shows the hard work and dedication Frankie has put forth to win this prestigious award," said Terry Hartman, procurement supervisor and Frankie's boss. "I am very proud of Frankie's accomplishments and feel very fortunate to have Frankie's knowledge and experience that I can depend on."

The award, which was renamed posthumously after its first recipient Linda D. Windsor, is the highest award offered by the Missouri Association of Public Purchasing, Inc. It recognizes an active member who has taken on leadership responsibilities, made significant contributions and assists the membership whenever called upon.

apart from her colleagues. She has worked for more than 21 years for the state of Missouri, with 17 of those years in procurement. The past six years of her career have been spent here at MoDOT. Frankie currently serves as secretary for MAPP and has been a member of the statewide association since 1992 and a chapter officer for six years.

MAPP is a chapter of the National Institute for Governmental Purchasing, Inc., an organization of professional buyers and purchasing managers from public entities that promotes and ensures the appropriate, open and fair use of public resources through the competitive bid process.

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MoDOT Minute Highlights State Transportation News

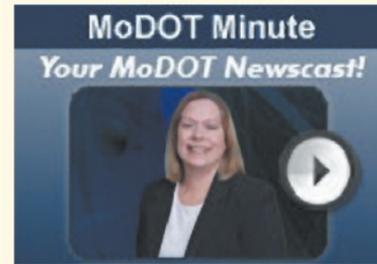
by Sally Oxenhandler

The ways we communicate today are more diverse than ever. From billboards to blogging, getting information to our customers can be a real challenge.

To keep pace with ever-changing communications options, MoDOT's Community Relations Division has developed a new, no-cost tool to

"We have to keep pace with changing technology and find new ways to reach our customers," said Community Relations Director Shane Peck. "With the click of a mouse, the MoDOT Minute gives busy people the highlights of what's going on in transportation in 60 seconds."

Producing the weekly MoDOT Minute is a team effort that involves Community Relations staff members writing, taping and editing the one-minute spot and posting it on our Web site.



Sally Oxenhandler

provide transportation news. It's called the MoDOT Minute and it covers the highlights of state transportation news affecting all Missourians. Presented in a TV-news format, the online video spot airs every Tuesday on our homepage, www.modot.org.

"We've had a lot of positive feedback on the MoDOT Minute, and our goal is to keep it successful over the long term and find new ways to put it in front of more people," Peck said. "We have to continue to find innovative ways to reach our customers."

Treadwell-Martin is Selected to Serve on Governor's Council on Disability

Brenda Treadwell-Martin, director of the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division, has been selected as MoDOT's liaison to the Governor's Council on Disability.



"I am very excited to be selected for the Governor's Council on Disability and to serve in this capacity," said Treadwell-Martin. "I believe my role will also benefit MoDOT as I develop stronger relationships with this community that will allow me to listen to and better understand their needs in several areas, including transportation."

The council promotes full participation and inclusion of the nearly one million Missourians with disabilities in all aspects of community life by educating citizens, businesses, schools, universities and others of their rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Beyond playing a vital educational role, the council also assists the state agencies in complying with ADA laws, recommends policy improvements on issues regarding people with disabilities and ensures that these individuals have equal access to services and employment opportunities.

Treadwell-Martin will be working with the council to help set goals on working with individuals with disabilities.

5



A Verslues Construction contract worker welds a steel beam in place that will provide stronger support to the roof over the Distribution Center.

D1

Northwest

A New Employee

by M. Elaine Justus

Question: What do you get when you combine one really cute stuffed toy with six pounds of gummi bears?

Answer: You get a contest to name the stuffed toy!

Community Relations often gets requests to make presentations to small children. Like a lot of districts, we often talk about how highways are made and show the children a big, yellow truck. With our increasing involvement with the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety and the Regional Blueprint for Safety Coalition, we decided to expand our presentation to include staying safe in automobiles. For

little kids, that means child safety seats and buckling up. We decided we need a soft, child-sized teddy bear to sit in the safety seat to help us make our point.

We found the bear, but decided that our newest employee needed a name. Our only rule: It had to make small children smile. In the end, we received over 50 suggestions for names including some we didn't expect like "Roadie," "Sunny," and "No Smokie The Tires Bear." The winning name, though, was submitted by Bill Bledsoe, maintenance supervisor at Lathrop, who suggested the name "Buckles." Congratulations, Bill! Enjoy the gummi bears.



M. Elaine Justus

Lathrop's Maintenance Supervisor Bill Bledsoe won the "Name the Bear" contest by submitting the name "Buckles." His prize: six pounds of the freshest gummi bears we could find.

MoDOT and the Red Cross

by Holly L. Murphy



Holly L. Murphy

Cameron Maintenance Superintendent Barry Arthur was mobilized in early November to assist the Red Cross in California.

In early November, Maintenance Superintendent Barry Arthur was called to assist with the California wildfire recovery efforts. He received the call on October 23rd and left the next day for what he thought would be a three week stay. Barry has been trained by the American Red Cross as an emergency volunteer. Barry is one of four Missouri state employees who are participating in the American Red Cross Emergency Disaster Leave Program.

According to Barry, the main center of Red Cross activity was Petco Park in San Diego. Besides the massive number of refugees, there was also a logistic issue involving the massive number of volunteers that took two days to straighten out.

"We worked from six in the morning until eight or nine o'clock in the evening for 10 days straight," Barry said. "Since most of the volunteers were past retirement age, any of us that could do heavy lifting were sent to the warehouse to load trucks. Overall, I thought this was really great. There were people from Maine to California, all working together to make the best of a bad situation. If there was one thing that stood out as a drastic need, though, it was the need for young people to volunteer."



MoDOT has a policy (No. 3513) which allows a maximum of 25 state employees leave for a period not to exceed a total of 120 work hours each in any fiscal year. The Disaster Leave Law provides paid leave to salaried employees who volunteer for the American Red Cross or similar volunteer organizations during disasters. Leave under this law is limited to those employees who have completed the necessary training for, and have been certified as, disaster service specialists by the American Red Cross or certified by a volunteer organization with disaster service commitment recognized by the State Emergency Management Agency.

6

for more info

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Arrive Alive at Halloween

by M. Elaine Justus/ photos by Amy Stoner, NWRCOG

You just have to admire creativity.

There is no question that the prospect of being hurt in an automobile accident is a scary thing. One of the most frightening things we know, as a matter of fact. But it would have never occurred to us to use the thought as a Halloween decoration.

It took the creative juices (and mind) of Amy Stoner of the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments to come up with this one.

Amy is an active member of our Regional Blueprint for Safety Coalition, and recognized the potential of the "Buckle Up" logo we've been using to promote seatbelt usage and safe driving. This jack-o'-lantern was proudly displayed in their offices during the recent "Trick or Treat" tradition in downtown Maryville, and was declared a huge hit by all of the children who came by for goodies and candy.

We think it's Spook-tacular!



D2

North Central

District 2 Top 10

by Tammy Wallace

When the leaves turn and there is a chill in the air, many things are happening at MoDOT as another construction and maintenance season winds down, and we start thinking about winter. One of those many things in District 2 was the second annual employee fall meetings.

A highlight of the fall meetings is another annual event - looking back at the success the district had over the last 12 months. This year those successes were presented by District Engineer Dan Niec as our "Top 10."

The first thing was to decide exactly what our Top 10 successes were.



A chip seal completes the Arrow Rock project.

During a meeting of all supervisors a pretty hefty list was made of all the projects we were proud of over the past year. The district's vision team then pulled out the cream of the crop to develop the Top 10.

#10 - Arrow Rock

The Arrow Rock project used enhancement funds to repave the Route 41 spur in the historic village of Arrow Rock in Saline County. Not only was the project unique because of the use of enhancement funds, but also because of the interesting challenge to maintain the integrity of the historic limestone



A converted chip spreader will help maintain aggregate shoulders.

gutters. The project also involved team work between planning, design, construction and maintenance, and was turned over to the village once the project was complete.

#09 - Maintenance Innovations

Employees turned an old chip spreader into a shouldering machine, which is used to maintain our aggregate shoulders - better, faster, cheaper.

Another innovation was using millings to chip seal several centerline miles.

Also making the innovations list was the contract mowing done on Route 65 in the Marshall area.

#08 - Route 65 Box Bridge

An innovative core team comprised of design, materials, bridge, maintenance and special crews rehabilitated an 80-year-old box bridge by pouring flowable fill between the box and

newly installed pipes. The structurally deficient bridge is like new and saved \$450,000 in STIP dollars from the original replacement cost estimate.

#07 - Communications

Employee communications made the list by having an improved look, content and frequency of the district newsletter; improved district Intranet site; the district Tracker now on the Web; and the continuation of the employee spring and fall meetings.

#06 - Employee Fund

It was just one year ago that the district launched the employee fund. To date, 19 events have raised over \$8,000, and more events are on the way. District employees are benefiting from the fund in their time of need.

#05 - Route 65 Chip Seal & Level Course

Halfway through the count down is another project requiring team work from four



32 miles of Route 65 looking good.

maintenance buildings: Trenton, Princeton, Milan and Chillicothe. This team spot patched and sealed 32 miles of Route 65 in Grundy and Mercer County. Nine miles of contracted level course completed the project.

#04 - Historic Glasgow Bridge

Although the Glasgow bridge did not receive contractor bids during the first round of bid openings, this project was still worthy of making the list. The proposed partial replacement - a new superstructure and deck on existing piers, will breathe 50 years of new life into this aging structure. This team met an extremely aggressive schedule for design and environmental studies and did extensive community outreach. The project will be re-bid in December.

#03 - US 36 Four-lane

The largest single project in District 2's history, four-laning 22 miles of Route 36 from Shelbina to Macon, and the final piece to complete the corridor from Illinois to Kansas, was sure to make the Top 10. The cost share with local communities and having the design and right of way acquisition completed in under two years were additional pluses for this project.

#02 - US 63 Corridor Gaps

Two four-lane projects, 4.4 miles in Adair County and 3.9 miles in Macon County, filled in the gaps on this major corridor. Now Route 63 is a four-

lane facility between Kirksville and Jefferson City.

#01 - We Fixed US 36

Top honors for the Top 10 was the dramatic changes to Route 36 across Macon, Linn and Livingston counties. This summer these three counties were one big construction zone, and it was well worth it. The project included:

- resurfaced or diamond ground 170 lane miles
- laid 442,611 tons of asphalt
- rehabilitated 21 bridges



An innovative solution from this core team saved many STIP dollars.

- completed 28,899 square yards of concrete pavement repair
- widened 18 lane miles to standard 12 foot lane width
- upgraded all shoulders to hard surface
- replaced 1,489 signs
- installed 3,300 delineators

These projects, out of many the district is proud of, made the Top 10 this year. Looking back at our successes is a great way to wrap up the season.

New this year to the meetings was a second presentation by Dan called "Rumor or Reality." This presentation focused on the concerns district employees had noted on the employee satisfaction survey conducted last June.

A statement regarding a concern from the satisfaction surveys would appear on the projector screen, then employees were asked if the statement was rumor or reality. Statements from diversity hiring to minor roads upkeep to budget expenditures were discussed. The presentation was interactive and employees got involved.

One question on the fall meeting survey asked employees if they learned something they didn't know from the Rumor or Reality presentation, and if so, what?

The presentation must have been a hit, because 84 percent of employees responding said "Yes", they did learn something.

Another year of success for District 2.



And the #1 project in District 2 - We Fixed US 36!

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D3

Northeast

Wider is Better

Plowing the interstate just got easier for Northeast District crews, at least that is the expectation for some members of the Warren and Montgomery County areas who are responsible for clearing Interstate 70. "We have several operators who were trained to use the new tow plow, so we're anxious to try it out to see how well it works," said Maintenance Superintendent Rick Ellison.

With 55 miles of Interstate 70 to clear, the new tow plow, in conjunction with the truck plow, will clear 25 feet at once.

"If we can't clear both lanes because of traffic backup, we can clear a



Clint Ford from New Florence is one of the team members who has been trained on the new tow plow that will be used to more efficiently clear Interstate 70 during winter weather.

shoulder and a lane at the same time, making it a more efficient operation," said Rick, adding that more than likely clearing both lanes will be done at night. "Another option to reduce traffic backup will be to go to an exit ramp so they can get around."

While other districts have used the tow plow for several years, this is a first for the Northeast District.

The Great Truck Exchange

In an effort to reduce fuel usage with the maintenance truck fleet, the Northeast District piloted a "truck swap" program last summer. This test was to see how well Maintenance Superintendent Randy Shubert's five-building maintenance area could perform work utilizing only one-ton pickup trucks and tandem-axle dump trucks. This gave each of the five buildings an extra pickup to utilize for minor field work. This was not an even 'swap.' Randy's area gave up 10 single-axle dump trucks in return for five one-ton pickups and three tandem-axle dump trucks.

The 'swap' presented a few challenges, including the inability of the one-ton pickups to pull a broom or roller for chip sealing operations. "We had to try different equipment and learned that tractors can pull brooms successfully," Randy said.

Another benefit to testing the 'swap,' was to evaluate the replacement value of Randy's truck fleet. Before the 'swap,' it was \$2 million. The replacement value of the vehicles used during the swap was \$1.5 million. This is a 25 percent reduction in fleet replacement value for just a 7 percent reduction, or two units, in fleet.

"We're hoping the results show that the combination of having one-ton pickups and tandem axle trucks will serve our district as well as having three different types of trucks," said Assistant District Engineer Dave Silvester.

"We are assembling a team from the six maintenance areas to analyze the fuel usage and evaluate the challenges," said Dave. "One of these challenges will be utilizing a two-truck system for winter operations."

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Leaders Learning From Each Other

Even though April Fohey was born and raised in Hannibal, the MoDOT safety and health manager knows the benefits of being one of 20 participants to graduate from the 2007 Leadership Hannibal

class. "I feel very connected to the community and have been involved in local activities all my life, but I have certainly been enlightened about the business and industry in our area," April said.



Terry Sampson, former MoDOT right of way director and now the Hannibal Chamber of Commerce executive director, is pictured with Northeast District team members Sherri McGregor and April Fohey on a tour of Hannibal Regional Hospital's campus during Leadership Hannibal.

Sherri McGregor, business and benefits manager, is not from Hannibal, although she has lived here nearly 25 years. A former teacher in northeast Missouri, she has had the opportunity to learn from others about economic development, infrastructure and businesses that keep Hannibal growing. MoDOT's Northeast District has supported this program for several years. Other team members who have attended include Terry Sampson, Darrell Barnes and Marisa Brown.

Build It and They Will Come?

Chris Shulse has a passion for the environment. As roadside manager for the Northeast District, among other things, he has assisted environmental studies staff in mitigating wetlands when they are removed due to transportation projects. When Chris decided to obtain his Ph.D., he chose to examine the effectiveness of these, and other constructed wetlands, as amphibian habitat.

"Many amphibian species are declining throughout the world because of habitat loss," Chris said. "Because MoDOT creates new habitat through the mitigation process, we have a great opportunity to evaluate designs and placements

that work best for species in Missouri."

In a joint effort with MoDOT, the University of Missouri - Columbia, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chris' intent with the project is to examine the "build it and they will come" philosophy and the translocation of amphibians to newly created sites. "Ultimately, I hope to foster innovative partnerships and provide each agency with information that will assist them in efforts to construct wetlands that benefit amphibians in need of conservation," Chris said.



Chris Shulse (front left) samples a wetland at Whetstone Creek Conservation Area with Andrea Drayer, his advisor Ray Semlitsch, and Doreen Mengel from the Department of Conservation.

D4

Kansas City Area

District 4 Completes Its First Better Roads, Brighter Future Projects

by Kerri Lewis

MoDOT's commitment to improve 3,400 miles of Missouri's major highways is already paying dividends in District 4, where two November ribbon-cutting ceremonies marked the completion of the district's first Better Roads, Brighter Future projects.

Residents throughout the Kansas City region now have first-hand evidence of the improvements they'll experience over the next five years along Route 13 in Johnson and Henry counties, and along Route 2 in Cass County.

On Nov. 6, more than 35 residents joined Sen. Delbert Scott and county and city officials at the intersection of Route 2 and Route 13 in southern Johnson County. There they celebrated the completion of a 25-mile resurfacing and safety enhancement project along Route 13 between Warrensburg and Clinton.

The project included new turn lanes at the Route 2/Route 13 intersection – a feature that was particularly important to Sen. Scott, other state and local officials and the roadway's users. Sen. Scott spoke about the importance

of the improvements and enhancements to motorists' safety during his remarks at the event.

A Nov. 9 ribbon-cutting marked the conclusion of a 16-mile resurfacing and safety-enhancement project on Route 2 between the Kansas state line and just west of Route 71 in Harrisonville.

Safety features included in the Route 2 work included turn lanes at Groh Road next to Cass Midway School – a feature that was included thanks to community input received at a town hall meeting convened by Rep. Luke Scavuzzo earlier this year. Students from the Cass Midway School, local residents and city and state officials attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

And while they didn't get ribbon-cutting events to mark their completion, some other District 4 projects in the Better Roads, Brighter Future program are also in the books or near completion:

- Asphalt overlay on Route 291 in Lee's Summit
- Asphalt overlay and bridge rehabilitation on I-470 south of I-70



Steve Porter

Those attending the Route 13 ribbon-cutting ceremony gathered in front of the intersection of Route 13 and Route 2 in Johnson County where turn lanes were added to enhance safety along this system. The event marked the completion of one of the Kansas City region's first Better Roads, Brighter Future projects.



Steve Porter

A group of students from Cass Midway School helped MoDOT representatives and city and state officials cut the ribbon signifying the completion of Route 2 in Cass County.

- Resurfacing on Route 1 and Route 9 in Clay County
- Resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation on Route 71 in Jackson County
- Mill and overlay on Route 92 in Clay County
- Resurfacing on I-435 in Platte and Clay counties

With these Better Roads, Brighter Future projects already under its belt, District 4 is ready to continue its role in helping bring 85 percent of Missouri's major highways to good condition by the end of 2011.

Prime Example of One-Team MoDOT

by Kerri Lewis

Working as a team, striving to achieve one goal through finding the most efficient solution, creating a positive work environment or maintaining the most productive work ethic would all describe working as one-team MoDOT.

Ron Cordes, Regional Maintenance supervisor for Higginsville, will tell you what teamwork means to him: Tremendous Employees Achieving Maximum Work On Roadway Knowledge.

Cordes says that's exactly how District 4 worked together as a team, and

reached across the district to help find an efficient and workable solution to a problem that he and his crew were facing.

For several years, District 4 maintenance crews from the Higginsville area have struggled to maintain and patch Route T in Lafayette County. Funding limitations precluded a complete overlay or chip seal, so workers could only do minimal patch jobs along the route.

This summer, due to the extremely hot temperatures, the pavement basically exploded, breaking the past overlays into big sheets and creating

a very unsafe driving surface. That's when the crew went district wide, seeking help to fix the problem.

After explaining the situation and notifying other maintenance departments about their dilemma, the Higginsville maintenance crew received an overwhelming response. Other work units from across the district pooled their available hay-dite materials and assembled enough material to

create a nice chip seal and complete Route T near Higginsville. Some crews even sent manpower to help with the effort.

Cordes offered his thanks to the following crews for acting as one-team MoDOT: Higginsville, Concordia, Odessa, Richmond, Independence, Blue Springs, Lee's Summit, Knob Noster, Warrensburg, Kearney and Excelsior Springs.



To the left, Route T prior to chip seal. Below, Route T after chip seal.



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D5 Central

Mizzou Fans Learn that the Best Defense is to Buckle Up

by Holly Dentner

For the second year in a row, University of Missouri football fans were greeted by the Central Regional Group of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, this time at the Nov. 10 game against Texas A&M. Nearly 65,000 people



Wes Farris

A young football fan holds one half of the Arrive Alive "D-Fence" sign.

attended the game, where Coalition partners spread the message of buckling up and driving sober. The Central Region Coalition used the Mizzou game to unveil its newest creation – a golf cart modified with roll bars

and seat belts, called the Buckle Mobile. Visitors can sit in the Buckle Mobile; fasten their seat belts; and get their photo taken, printed, and inserted in a specially designed card covered in Missouri safety belt statistics.

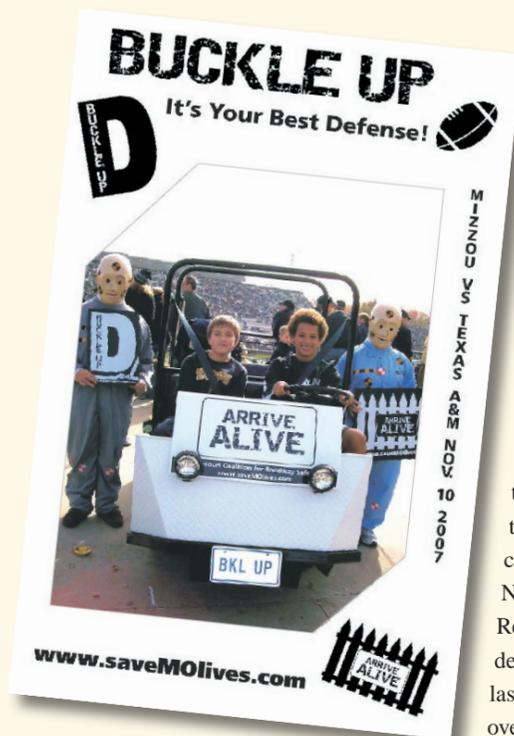
engineer and regional coalition coordinator. "The photo they put on their fridge or in their office is framed by our message to buckle up."

Crash test dummies Vince and Larry enjoyed posing with people in the Buckle Mobile and handing out Arrive Alive "D-Fence" signs to people entering the stadium. An impaired driving display and MoDOT's crashed utility truck also caught the attention of the crowd.

At half time Coalition members received the game ball and watched as Mizzou mascot Truman the Tiger run around the field wearing a seat belt. At the same time, radio listeners could hear Lt. Dave Earney with the Missouri State Highway Patrol talk about buckling up during an interview with one of the game commentators.

Twenty-one volunteers worked at the game, including MoDOT District 5 employees, ThinkFirst Missouri representatives, Mothers Against Drunk Driving volunteers and officers from the Columbia and Osage Beach Police departments and the Camden County Sheriff's Department.

The Coalition presence at the game is part of a contract with the University of Missouri - Columbia Athletic Depart-



Vince and Larry pose with a couple football fans in the Regional Coalition's Buckle Mobile. Printed photos were inserted in customized souvenir cards.

ment. Missouri had the largest drop in traffic-related fatalities in 2006 of any state in the nation – down by 161 compared to 2005. As of November 2007, the Central Region has seen a 19 percent decrease in fatalities from last year, closely matching the overall 12 percent decrease statewide.

Both the Central Region and the statewide Coalition group contributed to the campaign, which also included public service announcements taped by Coach Gary Pinkel that aired during each home football game. Public service announcements also aired on the statewide Tiger Radio Network during each broadcast of the twelve Mizzou football games.

"Our Central Region partners believe this campaign raises awareness for the Arrive Alive message and targets our key demographic of young male drivers across the state," said Myers. "We had a lot of positive feedback from last year and we think targeting our efforts at one of the state's most popular sports programs can help reduce fatalities on Missouri roadways."



Wes Farris

Truman the Tiger buckles up during the half time show.

New Facilities for Columbia



The Columbia maintenance buildings and project office recently moved to a new location a few miles north of the Interstate 70/Route 63 interchange. A developer interested in the old property completely financed the move and construction so there was no cost to the district.



Tim Ackert

New resident engineer office



Tim Ackert

Salt dome and garage area

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Big Crowds Turn Out for Mid-Missouri Public Meetings

Four public meetings held in October and November drew hundreds of Central Missouri citizens interested in MoDOT's plans for their local roadways.

On Oct. 24, about 200 people attended a meeting to review alternatives presented as part of the East Columbia Environmental Impact Statement. The study is designed to identify and evaluate options to improve transportation in the rapidly growing area between Interstate 70 south to New Haven Road, and U.S. Highway 63 east to State Highway Z.

More than 400 people viewed the progress made on the Route 63 environmental study at meetings held on Oct. 25 and 30. MoDOT is evaluating the current and future transportation needs on Route 63 in Osage, Maries and Phelps counties, and presented a reasonable range of alternative alignments for the public to review.



Kristin Gerber

Regional Maintenance Supervisor Mark Buscher discusses one of the alignments at the Route 63 meeting in Vienna.

MoDOT also proposed safety improvements for the intersection of Routes 50 and 127 in Pettis County. Approximately 180 residents came to a public meeting Nov. 8 to review those plans.



Kristin Gerber

District Planning Manager Mike Dusenbergl talks with East Columbia residents.

D6

St. Louis Area

St. Louis High Schools Conduct Successful Seatbelt Checks

story and photos by Kara Price



Students at Lindbergh High School recently performed an unannounced seat belt check where 77 percent of teen motorists wore their seat belts.

Dozens of high school students within the St. Louis metropolitan area are not afraid of a challenge. Students at Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School (MICDS) and Lindbergh High School are among many teens that have teamed up with MoDOT by taking on the Battle of the Belt Challenge, a statewide educational program where high schools compete against each other to increase seat belt use and potentially save lives.

District 6 has also teamed up with local police departments and the Sing for Safety Foundation in the Battle of the

Belt Challenge to reduce the number of motor vehicle fatalities among Missouri high school students by increasing seat belt usage. This year's program will run from Sept. 6 to Dec. 31. Sing for Safety Foundation's mission is to support educational programs that are directed toward teaching teens to make healthy and responsible choices with an emphasis on reducing traffic accidents.

"Battle of the Belt is a fun challenge with Missouri teens that can save lives," said Melissa Gall, founder of Sing for Safety Foundation and a senior at MICDS who organized its unan-

nounced seat belt checks. "It is unique because teens are conducting unannounced seat belt checks that serve as reminders to their peers to buckle up. Our goal is to increase the participation of area schools, so that the program's message reaches as many students as possible."

The challenge involves an unannounced seat belt check of students, followed by a peer-designed educational blitz with a final surprise safety belt check to determine if a change of behavior has occurred. These high schools were among the many high schools statewide that conducted two unannounced seat belt checks as teens arrive at school between mid-September to late October. Students did a great job in conducting the seat belt checks and making sure motorists got through safely. The results of the recent seat belt checks at the two high schools are 98 percent of MICDS teen passengers wear their seat belts, and 77 percent of teen passengers at Lindbergh High School wear their seat belts.

"After seeing several friends get seriously hurt in car crashes from not wearing their seat belts, I want to make a difference by encouraging my peers to buckle up," added Gall. "I plan on making every effort to educate teen drivers and passengers on the importance of

wearing a seat belt and how it can save their lives."

In 2006, more than 100 schools participated statewide in the Battle of the Belt Challenge with two winners chosen from each of 10 regions. Winners will be determined by which school has the highest seat belt usage and which school has the greatest percentage increase in seat belt usage by the end of the program. In this year's challenge, there will be additional components including a storyboard and video PSA contest with \$1,000 as a prize for each winner. The program is jointly sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, American Family Insurance and American College of Emergency Physicians.

Teens are an important audience for safety belt messages since they are least likely to buckle up according to a statewide survey. MoDOT, in conjunction with the Missouri Safety Center, recently conducted a study showing only 61 percent of Missouri teenagers wear seat belts. In the past three years, more than 500 young people died in Missouri traffic crashes, and 75 percent were not buckled up. For more information on the Battle of the Belt Challenge or the importance of safety belts, visit www.saveMOLives.com.



Students at MICDS High School conducted an unannounced seat belt check in late September to kick off the Battle of the Belt Challenge where 98 percent of teen motorists wore their seat belts.

New and Improved Cameras Help Reduce Traffic Volumes

by Andrew Gates

With the impending closure of the western portion of Interstate 64 one month away, St. Louis traffic management operators are keeping a close eye on traffic volumes. Those operators are now able to do a more thorough job due to an outstanding effort by contractors and MoDOT employees in St. Louis. Their efforts allow the center and customers around St. Louis to view feeds from nearly 60 more cameras around the region.

"These new cameras give drivers and center operators a broader view of traffic," said Teresa Krenning, MoDOT Transportation Management Center manager. "This regional view will help commuters, especially during the I-64 reconstruction."

The traffic management center previously had 20 camera feeds available to keep an eye on traffic flow at major intersections. The new camera feeds help fill in any traffic gaps.

"Originally, cameras were installed at major interstate-to-interstate interchanges and major river crossings," said Krenning. "The additional cameras have been placed to cover the interstates as much as possible with an emphasis on placing cameras to view major cross streets."

TMC operators use these cameras to verify traffic conditions on freeways around the region. During traffic incidents, they can quickly provide information to responding agencies to clear the incident quicker. Commuters can also access camera images using MoDOT's travel information Web site, Gateway Guide, to make more effective travel decisions. Introducing these cameras online caused some challenges for the contractor and operator team, according to Krenning. The new cameras required upgrades in communication methods and equipment.

"Our technical staff had to develop the appropriate interfaces to control the

cameras, capture snapshots from these cameras for the public and save those files to a web-based server," she said. "We are working hard to help interface our newer equipment with our legacy systems."

The credit for the success of this project goes to many people, Krenning added. The first steps included efforts by designers, who developed the plans to install the cameras. Next, came the team that configured the communication network and equipment to control the cameras and view the video streams. Finally, another team worked hard to develop the interface that provided the camera images to the public.

"Our entire endeavor included MoDOT staff, contractors and consultants working to ultimately achieve the same outcome," said Krenning. "The success of the efforts to get enhanced video and still coverage of the roadway is due to all their hard work."

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D7

Southwest

Highway Signing Dedicated to Veterans

by Lori Marble and Wendy Brunner-Lewis

Over 30,000 drivers travel Interstate 44 near Mt. Vernon on a daily basis. It takes no stretch of the imagination to think quite a few of them are veterans, have a family member who is a veteran or hold someone in high regard who once served in the military.

A dedication ceremony was held Nov. 9 at 2 p.m., in honor of the official naming of a stretch of I-44 as the Purple Heart Memorial Highway. The ceremony took place at the westbound Halltown rest area in Lawrence County with comments from Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz, Sen. Jack Goodman and Rep. Charlie Denison.

Rep. Denison told the approximately 50 veterans in attendance that there was “no way we could thank you or describe the wounds you received while serving our country.”

He said making the memorial signing happen was a “no brainer as a



State Representative Charlie Denison thanks the military veterans for their service.

legislator. It’s the most wonderful thing a legislator can do.”

Sen. Goodman continued the praise for the veterans. “I grew up in a time when the risk of going off to war wasn’t there,” he said. “My generation and the following generations are not aware of what you soldiers lived

through. We’re able to live a life of comfort and freedom, and I’m honored I can tell my young sons they have a veteran to thank.”

According to wikipedia.org, “the Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those who

have been wounded or killed while serving on or after April 5, 1917 with the U.S. military.

The original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by George Washington—then the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army—by order from his Newburgh, New York headquarters on August 7, 1782.

During the early period of American involvement in World War II, the Purple Heart was awarded both for wounds received in action against the enemy and for meritorious performance of duty. With the establishment of the Legion of Merit, by an Act of Congress, the practice of awarding the Purple Heart for meritorious service was discontinued.

The most Purple Hearts received by one person is eight. Six U.S. Army soldiers share that distinction.”

Mt. Vernon’s Roethemeier Places Third in Statewide Rodeo

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

Congratulations to Mt. Vernon Maintenance Crew Leader Dennis Roethemeier on placing third in the statewide winter skills assessment Rodeo in Sedalia on Oct. 18! He was within 20 points of first place.

Kerry Grogan of District 9 placed first and Justin Anderson of District 5 placed second.

The competition tested both the mental and physical skills required to operate a snowplow truck and a loader. Operators had to complete a written exam, a pre-trip vehicle inspection and a hands-on driving skills course. They had to back into narrow spaces for loading, plow in a straight line and through obstacles, clear curbs and interchanges and meet other challenges.

Mt. Vernon Senior Crew Worker Danny Bowling was District 7’s other statewide Rodeo competitor.

Roethemeier and Bowling are no strangers to the Rodeo. They both placed in the top five in the District 7 competitions in 1999 and 2000.



Dennis Roethemeier competes at the statewide Rodeo in Sedalia.

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‘Treating’ the 20th and Range Line Businesses

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

Instead of decorating the 20th and Range Line intersection with orange for Halloween, the contractor was taking all the orange down. The improvements to the Joplin intersection were officially completed Oct. 31, and the contractor was busy removing cones and signs.

As a way of saying thank you to the businesses affected by the nearly year-long construction, District Engineer Becky Baltz, Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury, Resident Engineer Michael Middleton, Community Relations Manager Lori Marble and Senior Community Relations Specialist

Wendy Brunner-Lewis “treated” those businesses to goodie bags on Halloween morning.

“We know all the orange cones and lane closures were scary for the businesses at times, so we wanted to thank them for their patience,” Middleton said.

The businesses appreciated the goodie bags filled with maps, Arrive Alive t-shirts and Buckle Up keychains, and of course, candy, and they were all happy the construction was finished.

One business that didn’t complain about the construction was Pizza By Stout. The restaurant owner and

employees say they saw an increase in patrons because their large windows provided kids, young and old, an excellent viewing spot of all the big construction machines in action.



Michael Middleton presents Display Advertising Manager Chuck Elliott at the Big Nickel newspaper with his treat bag.

D8

Springfield Area



D8 at Work

Working on the four-laning of Route 65 between Hollister and the Missouri-Arkansas line progress (above), Branson Senior Construction Inspector Terry Morgan, right, talks with a contractor employee.

Among the many District 8 crews completing fall mowing is the Lampe crew (top right) working along Stone County Route OO near Kimberling City – Senior Maintenance Workers Joe Watson, front, and David Lippe on tractors and Jerad Finch in the protective truck.

Senior Facility Operations Crew Member Phyllis Schofield (bottom right) adapts District Office ceiling fixtures for new energy-efficient lighting. This is part of the district's ongoing effort to reduce energy costs.



Bob Edwards

I-44/65 Completed; More Interchange Work Coming

by Angela Eden

One down, four to go.

Even as the finishing touches were made in November to the I-44/U.S. 65 interchange reconstruction, District 8 was planning for and scheduling more interchange revamp work:

- Two along Route 60 – at Glenstone Avenue and at Route 65.
- Two along I-44 – at Glenstone Avenue and at Kansas Expressway.

Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller said the complex project at I-44/U.S. 65 and those coming up at the other busy interchanges are needed because of the metro area's ongoing vigorous growth, welcome yet challenging.

"This is the price you pay for being the fastest growing area of the state," Mueller said. "We are experiencing growing pains."

The improvements at I-44/Route 65 include a first-for-Springfield "flyover" ramp for northbound-to-westbound traffic, eliminating a conflict point with westbound-to-southbound traffic under-

neath Route 65. The \$25-million project also included ramp realignments and replacement of the high-maintenance northbound Route 65 bridge over I-44.

Resident Engineer John Sanders said the job went well and finished well ahead of the May 2008 deadline. He also indicated that continuous police enforcement of the work zone speed

limit slowed traffic and improved safety for everyone.

"It helped keep people in check so they could observe the traffic pattern changes," Sanders said.

The partial rebuild did not address all of the interchange's problems, Mueller said, but it did take care of the immediate needs.

"We are taking a practical, scaled-back approach" on all projects, Mueller said.

"We look at what will give us the most bang for our buck.

"Instead of spending all available dollars on one interchange, smaller amounts can be spread around to help alleviate the worst problems at several locations."

Partnerships Boost Lebanon, Marshfield Projects

by Bob Edwards

Traffic congestion relief projects making progress in Marshfield and Lebanon are made possible through partnerships with the two communities.

The city of Marshfield is paying half of the \$4.5-million cost to widen Route 38/Spur Drive to five lanes between Interstate 44 and Route CC/Hubble Drive. The city's share comes from a 1/2-cent sales tax for transportation approved by voters in 2005.

The city of Lebanon has put \$1 million toward the \$5.3-million project to rebuild the Exit 127 interchange, including a new, wider bridge over I-44. The city also has taken over maintenance of the I-44 Business Loop along Elm Street through town.

Would these two projects be under construction in 2007 (with completion in mid-2008) without city participation?

"Almost certainly not," said Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller.

"We welcome the opportunity to partner with local communities," Mueller said. "One of our goals is to leverage the limited funds we have to get more accomplished. By bringing local money into the equation, communities get their projects drastically accelerated."

District Planning Manager Frank Miller said partnerships have been well-received in District 8 for several years. This year, for example, more than 20 percent of the active projects in MODO's statewide cost-share program involve District 8 communities.

"It's going to take partnerships for a lot of these communities to get expansion projects done," Miller said, and more and more local officials realize it.

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"Talkin' Transportation"
Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

D9

South Central

Grogan Wins Statewide Winter Skills Roadeo

District 9 Well Represented by Grogan and Cooper

After a successful run during the District 9 Winter Skills Roadeo, Senior Maintenance Crew Workers Kerry Grogan, Summersville, and Don Cooper, West Plains, headed for the statewide competition. The pair had scored greater than 98 percent at the district level and proved their skills were consistent at the statewide event in Sedalia on Oct. 18. So consistent in fact, Grogan was named statewide winner and Cooper placed twelfth.

According to Maintenance Superintendent Dan Sherbo who attended the Roadeo, it was an exciting day.

“Kerry was tied with Justin Anderson of Sedalia for total score,” he said. “Each had 3,450 points. The group decided to break the tie by having them run the truck course again. Ten seconds were taken off the two minute target time making the new target 1:50.”

Grogan won the coin toss and chose to go second. After each had run the



MoDOT Director Pete Rahn presents Senior Maintenance Crew Worker Kerry Grogan with the Winter Skills Roadeo State Champion trophy.

course, Grogan walked away 28 points ahead making him the new state champion. He was interviewed by media at the event and has enjoyed local recognition, including a feature in the *Summersville Beacon* newspaper, since returning home.

The scores of Grogan and Cooper were combined to create the overall score for the district. District 9 was third in state for total score.

Maintenance Operations Engineer Henry Haggard said he is proud of Grogan and all of District 9. “Our scores at the district Roadeo were excellent and I feel we are well prepared for winter weather,” he said. “Kerry and Don represented District 9 well at the statewide Roadeo and should be proud of their performance.”

District 9 Fondly Remembers Shane Cameron

Highway Designer Loses Nearly Four-Year, Bravely Fought Cancer Battle

It was as a summer intern in construction that Shane Cameron first made an impression on the employees of District 9. Then, in January of 2004, he became a full-time member of the design department. Only a couple of months into

his career with the department, he was diagnosed with Leukemia.

A nearly four-year battle with the disease was ahead of him. During that time, he managed to set the impact his condition was having on his health aside and devote himself to his work and the team he was a part of. He came to work on days when no one was sure how he found the strength. Even into his last month of work with the department, Shane remained committed.

Shane’s supervisor, Mike Carda, said he was very impressed with the dedication Shane displayed. “He always gave 100 percent, regardless of how he felt,” he said. “He was going to prove his sickness wasn’t going to slow him down and that he could keep up with the rest of us. Everyone enjoyed having him around and he got along with all of his co-workers.”

The relationships he developed with his MoDOT family were clearly evident as he passed on Oct. 28. Close watch was kept during Shane’s final hours with updates being shared throughout the district. When it came time to pay respects, ideas to honor Shane flooded in.

Stickers featuring Shane’s photo were created and worn by those attending the funeral and a special document honoring Shane’s service was drafted. This document was signed by MoDOT Director Pete Rahn and District Engineer Tom Stehn and framed. It then was circulated among those who knew him best for signing the back of the frame and presented to Shane’s family.

An excerpt from the document reads: *Shane’s engineering abilities and sound judgment contributed to the successful completion of several projects including the four-lane expansion of Route 60 through Carter, Shannon and Howell Counties. He worked numerous hours,*

accurately completing many tasks, in a short amount of time. He succeeded in accomplishing MoDOT goals and living the MoDOT Values. His most remarkable attribute was not his technical skill, but his attitude. He consistently displayed positive thinking and enthusiasm as he carried out his work.

Shane entered into eternal rest at the age of 27. He was a graduate of West Plains High School and the University of Missouri – Rolla and played football for both schools. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, canoeing, dirt roading and watching football with his friends.



Shane Alan Cameron
1980 — 2007

14

for more info

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Willow Springs, MO 65793



Members of Shane Cameron’s design squad paid tribute to his dedication to work by drafting a special document. Pictured, front row from left, are Wade White and Mike Carda. Second row, from left are Jodi Paulson, Nathan Moss and Melanie Rickard-Elmore. Top row, Elquin Auala.

D10

Southeast

Battle of the Belt in Full Swing Chaffee High School Holds Arrive Alive Event

With Battle of the Belt in full swing in Southeast Missouri and throughout the state, students at participating Battle of the Belt schools have been informing their peers and communities of the importance of buckling up to Arrive Alive.

“We currently have 28 Southeast Missouri schools participating in the 2007 competition and we are anticipating a couple more,” said MoDOT Intermediate Community Relations Specialist and Battle of the Belt Regional Coordinator Belinda McMurry. “We are fortunate to have such great school districts in our region, and these schools are making amazing efforts to get the Buckle Up message out to their student bodies and communities.”

Battle of the Belt is a high school seat belt challenge that runs through the end of the year. More than 100 schools are expected to participate throughout the state with students performing surprise seat belt checks at their high school and then reaching out to members of the student body with an educational campaign on the importance of seat belt use.

While a statewide survey released in September showed more teens are buckling their seat belts than ever before – 61 percent in 2007 compared to 58 percent in 2006 – the number is still well below the 77 percent usage rate for all Missourians. Unfortunately, hundreds of Missouri teens are killed or injured every year in traffic crashes and the large majority of those killed are not wearing a seat belt.

Recently, one Southeast high school said “enough is enough” and decided to take action.

Chaffee High School, a 2007 Battle of the Belt school, partnered with the

Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, and recently held an Arrive Alive event at their high school during a home football game. The primary goal of the event was to get the message out to their peers to “Buckle Up and Arrive Alive.”

To help get that message out to the students and to the community, the Seat Belt Convincer, a “ride” that simulates the impact of a car accident, was on hand for students to experience.

To help motivate young people to ride the Convincer, each student that rode it had their name entered in a drawing for an iPod Shuffle that was donated by the Chaffee Montgomery Bank. The drawing for the iPod was held during a half time presentation by the highway patrol.

In addition to the Convincer, Arrive Alive t-shirts were launched into the football stands and informative fliers were handed out with “Click It” noisemakers.

“It was great seeing the Chaffee school and community get involved with the Arrive Alive event,” said McMurry. “We may not be able to convince everyone of the importance of buckling up, but Chaffee High School made a great effort to get the message out to their community.”

In addition to the events at Chaffee High School, other similar efforts are being made throughout Southeast Missouri. Battle of the Belt participating schools are developing their own creative and unique ways of reaching their students and communities with the important life-saving message of buckling up.



The Chaffee High School cheerleaders help to promote the Arrive Alive message during a home football game.



Arrive Alive t-shirts are launched into the football stands during the game.



By using the Convincer, the highway patrol encourages students to buckle up and Arrive Alive. Each student that rode the Convincer was able to enter their names into a drawing for a free iPod.

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Service Awards Given in D10



5 Year Service Awards: (from left) Craig Duncan, Mike Riley, Billy Aycock, Jamie Schaffer, Terry Nailling, Jason Harris, Nathan Conner, Mike Chasteen



10 Year Service Awards: (front row, from left) Martin Elliott, Charles Corlew, North Mosby, (second row) Gretchen Hanks, Betty Kelley, Denise Hopper, Sue Sifford, Lisa Cook, Dallas McRoy, Daniel Lacy, (back row) Joe Allgier, Travis Stanback, Donald Essner, Chris Huffman, Danny Bedwell, Roger Thompson, Tommy Burgess, Lee Bright



15 Year Service Award: (front row) Teia Burks, Alberta Green, Bill Robison, (back row) Jeff Amelunke, Mark Pfeffer, Rick Russell, Eugene Earnheart, Jerome Henson, Donald Boyer, Lynn Smith, Kenny Adkins, Brian Holt, Linn Davault, Jeff Lambert



20 Year Service Award: Gary Sager (standing with his wife, District Engineer Mark Shelton and Director of System Management Don Hillis)



30 Year Service Awards: (from left) J. Reece Johnson, Howard Blake, Tom Fellows



35 Year Service Award: Wendell Moore (standing with his wife, Director of System Management Don Hillis and District Engineer Mark Shelton)

Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

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MoDOT Completes Rigorous Winter Skills Training

by Kristi Jamison / photos by Cathy Morrison

There's plenty of fast-paced action at your average rodeo ... from bull or bronco riding to calf roping to barrel racing competitions. Well, here at MoDOT, we put a twist of our own on our annual action-packed Rodeo, y'all! But just like any other stampede, there may be some fun, but it's really a very serious event. In fact, the rigorous statewide training sharpens the snow and ice fighting skills of our winter maintenance crews through two levels of friendly competition.

The competition first pit winter maintenance employees against each other at the district level. This year, more than 2,500 MoDOT employees participated in training exercises in their respective districts. Then, the top two scorers from each district earned a trip to the statewide competition at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia on Oct. 18.

The winner of the Winter Skills Rodeo finals was Senior Maintenance Worker Kerry Grogan, a member of

the Summersville Maintenance crew in District 9. Justin Anderson, a senior maintenance worker at the Sedalia maintenance building in District 5, was runner up.

"Congratulations to Kerry for winning statewide honors and to Justin for coming in second place in this year's stiff competition," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "We were very pleased with the fine level of competition from all participants.

"This training ensures our maintenance crews are better prepared than they've ever been to clear the roads in bad weather. They have to work in extremely hazardous conditions, so it's important that they're properly trained to stay safe and keep others safe on the roads."

The competition tested both the mental and physical skills required to operate a snowplow truck and a loader. Operators had to complete a written exam, a pre-trip vehicle inspection and a hands-on driving skills course. They had to back

into narrow spaces for loading, plow in a straight line and through obstacles, clear curbs and interchanges and meet other challenges.

Last year, MoDOT maintenance crews spent more than 541,000 hours clearing roads at a cost of about \$43 million.

District Winners

District 1

Tony Lager
William Luther

District 2

Eugene Oser
Richard McClain

District 3

Mark Sprock
David S. Thompson

District 4

Joey Edwards
Eric Nold

District 5

Jason Lackman
Justin Anderson

*Statewide winner

District 6

Kelly Hensen
Brandon Anderson

District 7

Dennis R. Roethemeier
Danny J. Bowling

District 8

Todd Richter
Billie Torner

District 9

Don Cooper
Kerry Grogan*

District 10

Joe Hoehn
Nick Elliott



A maintenance worker tests his skills at backing into a narrow space. The object of the test was to back up to within 12 inches of the barricade without knocking it over.



A snowplow operator waits for the timekeeper to signal the start of an obstacle course.



Another maintenance worker is tested on his ability to load a "truck" without knocking the bar down.