

# Connections

December 2008

## Primary Importance - A Primary Law

by Sean Madden

A primary seat belt law would save approximately 90 lives in the first year it is effective in Missouri and reduce injuries by 1,000. It is the top focus of the MoDOT and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety in the coming legislative session.

In October, the Coalition presented a new Blueprint to Arrive Alive at its biannual conference in Kansas City. Their new goal: to reduce crash fatalities to 850 or less by the year 2012. The coalition considers a primary safety belt law to be one of the best ways to reach this ambitious goal.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, states that have enacted primary safety belt laws have seen,

on average, a 20 percent decline in crash fatalities.

“Over half the states in the country already have a primary law on the books,” said Executive Committee Chair Leanna Depue. “We cannot put a price on the lives Missouri could save with this seemingly simple amendment to our current law.”

Missouri’s current safety belt law is the only Missouri traffic law out of more than 500 that has secondary enforcement. This means a driver must break another law first before they can be cited for a safety belt violation.

Amending our current safety belt law will provide our state with \$16 million to \$20 million in a one-time federal incentive

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Cathy Morrison

## Blueprint Sets New Goal: 850 Fatalities or Less by 2012

by Sean Madden

The second biannual meeting of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety convened in Kansas City Oct. 27-29.

The group met to discuss its plans for reducing the number of crash fatalities in Missouri to 850 by the year 2012. The meeting kicked off with a press conference to announce the new goal and to announce support for a primary safety belt law. Chief Engineer Kevin Keith led the event, flanked by coalition members, law enforcement officials and 478 pairs of shoes, signifying the 478 people killed in

2007 that were not wearing a seat belt (see photo below).

This past year, the coalition reached its goal one year early of less than 1,000 crash fatalities. In 2007, there were 992 deaths.

An awards luncheon was held to recognize the diligent work done across the state by coalition members to protect Missourians and save lives.

Lindsey Stapp, a student and member of the Highway Safety Division’s “Saved by the Belt” program, spoke at the morning press conference. She told her story about how

her seat belt saved her life in a bad traffic crash in 2007. After the press conference, attendees broke out into teams to discuss best practices. Among topics discussed during the three-day event were teen driving, child passenger safety and impaired driving.

The conference closed with a heart-wrenching story from Jeff McAffrey, the oldest of four children, who told how his life as a football star with dreams of graduating from the US Air Force Academy ended tragically after a crash where he was not belted. McAffrey will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Safety leadership, youth safety and fatality reduction awards were also presented during the conference. For a list of winners, go to [www.saveMOLives.com](http://www.saveMOLives.com).



Shaun Schmitz

## Holiday Wishes from the Director

Team MoDOT:

The end of the year is always a good time to reflect on our accomplishments. There is no question that

Team MoDOT has delivered another year of WOW’s to Missouri! We continue to gain statewide and national recognition for the innovative and cost conscious way we are doing business.

We also know we have some challenges ahead. Revenues to maintain and improve our transportation system are declining. But, I am hopeful that an economic stimulus bill will be passed by Congress that includes money for transportation infrastructure. If this happens, it will provide an unexpected opportunity to spend some additional money on gaps in our system and on our lettered routes. I would like to spend a minimum of 10 percent of

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Director Pete Rahn

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### Sign of Success

District 10 wins U.S. 60 Charitable Campaign series

# MoDOT Charitable Campaign Hits Another Home Run

by Kristi Jamison

For the second year in a row, MoDOT held its "Show Me You Care Series" to generate a friendly competition among the districts and the Central Office wheels all in good fun to raise money for the 2009 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign.

This year, however, the method to determine winners changed. Instead of basing a win on the percentage increase of givers in each district, the contest focused on per capita contributions. This was calculated by considering the total amount collected and the number of people in each division or Central Office wheel available to make a contribution. (See results below.)

Employees really stepped up to the plate and came up with several innovative methods of raising money for their favorite charities. Raffles and silent auctions were held, some employees paid to wear jeans, and plenty of food was sold from ice cream and cinnamon rolls to a chili cook-off and a buck-a-bowl soup sale. The Chief Counsel's Office even held a "To the Knee" contest, in which one unlucky coworker who collected the most money had to actually shave his legs.

By the end of the fundraising period, MoDOT had raised \$189,773, a 15 percent increase from last year!



State Design Engineer Kathy Harvey serves a hot dog to Loran Walton, senior printing technician to kick off the Central Office's Charitable Campaign fundraising efforts.

Shaun Schmitz

"Many people gave contributions straight from their pockets, but it is also amazing to see the creative ideas our coworkers came up with to raise one-time gifts for various charities," said MoDOT's 2009 Charitable Campaign Coordinators Stacy Kaiser and Jackie Biele. "Coordinating the Charitable Campaign and experiencing how generous MoDOT employees can be was a rewarding experience. We very much appreciate everyone who showed how much they care for those that are less fortunate."

At the time this article was written, MoDOT was holding the lead as the state agency making the highest contributions for the 2009 campaign, but results weren't final yet.

## Show Me You Care Series Results

**U.S. 36 Show Me You Care Series**  
D3 with \$33.41 per capita for a total of \$12,929 over D1 with \$30.31 per capita for a total of \$12,336

**U.S. 63 Show Me You Care Series**  
D2 with \$23.18 per capita for a total of

\$9,874 over D5 with \$16.63 per capita for a total of \$8,280

## Interstate 70 Show Me You Care Series

D6 with \$30.23 per capita for a total of \$27,085 over D4 with \$16.12 per capita for a total of \$12,463

## Interstate 44 Show Me You Care Series

D8 with \$34.42 per capita for a total of \$17,109 over D7 with \$20.52 per capita for a total of \$8,782

## U.S. 60 Show Me You Care Series

D10 with \$19.19 per capita for a total of \$9,823 over D9 with \$12.31 per capita for a total of \$5,439

## Whitton Expressway Show Me You Care Series

Organizational Support Team with \$102.89 per capita for a total of \$11,215 over the System Delivery Team with \$50.20 per capita for a total of \$34,331 and the System Facilitation Team with \$60.39 per capita for a total of \$20,108

Each winning district engineer was presented with a road sign "trophy" at the Tracker meeting in November. The losing Whitton Expressway Series team leaders will each do a half-day's work in the Organizational Support Team's wheel.



## Legislative Update

A new day will dawn on Missouri politics come January. With a new governor, a new cabinet and several new legislators poised to take office, MoDOT staff will be ready to educate some and re-educate other elected officials on Missouri's vast transportation needs.

When the 2009 legislative session convenes on Jan. 7, MoDOT will be pursuing four legislative proposals:

**Primary Safety Belt** – MoDOT's highest priority will once again be to pursue changes in Missouri's safety belt law to allow for primary enforcement. Amending the current law would allow law enforcement officers to stop and issue citations to drivers for failing to wear their safety belts without the need for such officers to observe and cite the driver for another traffic violation. Missouri's current safety belt law is the only Missouri traffic law out of more than 500 that has secondary enforcement. If passed, primary enforcement would save about 90 lives and prevent 1,000 serious injuries a year. If Missouri does not pass a primary safety belt law this year, it will forfeit a one-time \$16-20 million incentive grant that could be used for safety education, engineering and enforcement.

**Better Incident Management** – MoDOT will seek to amend Missouri law to reduce the amount of time needed to clear traffic lanes of wrecked or stalled vehicles, cargo, etc. This change would reduce the department's and law enforcement's liability exposure regarding the removal of damaged property from the roadway. It would also reduce the required lapse time before a tow company can be called to remove abandoned property from the right of way.

**Multimodal Transportation Services Improvements** – MoDOT will again seek additional funds for rail capacity projects, port capital projects and transit operating costs because there is no dedicated funding source for these multimodal programs. However, the public wants more transportation options due to rising fuel prices.

**Reliable Freight Movement on the Missouri River** – MoDOT will seek the passage of a joint resolution urging the Corps of Engineers to support maintaining a navigable depth on the Missouri River to provide for a reliable alternative mode of transportation for freight movement.

## First Safe & Sound Contracts Awarded

by Bob Brendel

Momentum has been building for a wave of bridge improvement projects around the state during 2009 since the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission gave MoDOT's Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program new direction in September.

Contracts were awarded on the first six rehabilitation projects – five in the St. Louis area and one north of Kansas City – in November, and nearly 100 other bridges have been scheduled for lettings over the next six months. These bridges are part of the 248 that MoDOT has identified for rehabilitation projects through a Modified Design-Bid-Build process.

Meanwhile, the Safe & Sound team has been finalizing the Request for Proposals that covers another 554 bridges that are packaged in a single Design-Build contract. Nearly 150 persons representing contractors and engineering firms attended an industry review meeting in October to learn more about the project. Statements of Qualifications are due from teams wishing to pursue the contract on Dec. 3. Missouri's design-build statute requires that MoDOT receive at least two proposals and no more than five to move forward.

Teams will be short-listed by mid-December for further discussions and negotiations, leading to team selection and contract execution in May.

## Arrive Alive for the Holidays

by Laura Holloway

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants you to arrive alive this holiday season. A holiday impaired driving campaign began Nov. 24 and runs through Dec. 21 urging motorists not to drink and drive. Television, radio and Internet banner ads feature messag-

es about the consequences of driving while impaired, such as financial costs, loss of driving privileges or jail time.

Last year in Missouri, 243 people died in more than 7,700 alcohol-related crashes. Someone was killed or injured every 1.7 hours in an alcohol-related crash.

Arrive Alive! For more information, visit [www.saveMOLives.com](http://www.saveMOLives.com).



# Salt Shortage Will Not Affect MoDOT Snow and Ice Removal

by Sean Madden

When the first snowfall of winter hits this year, MoDOT is prepared with all the salt they need to ensure the roads are cleared and safe for travel. While other towns and municipalities in Missouri may be low on salt because of the shortage, MoDOT will not have trouble keeping highways drivable.

Salt supplies have dropped considerably across the country while prices have gone up. Last year's particularly harsh winter depleted much of the country's

salt supply causing prices to rise. This, coupled with a strong hurricane season and high Mississippi River levels, has made delivery of salt via river barges slow.

However, MoDOT takes salt bids in May and is unaffected by the supply decline that happened later. MoDOT received its first salt shipment over the summer in order to pre-fill and prepare for snow well ahead of winter.

MoDOT is responsible for keeping the state highways in driving condition and clearing them of snow and ice. Salt is supplied by many companies: Cargill Inc., Hutchinson Salt Co., Independent Salt Co., North American Salt Co. and Central Salt Co. If MoDOT runs out of salt before the end of winter, there is a fallback plan. Part of the contract agreements provide for a replenishment order sometime between Nov. 1 and April 30.

"Trying to keep salt throughout the winter and not run out is tricky," said Maintenance Liaison Engineer Tim Jackson. "Conserving as much as possible is the best method. You have to keep the strength of storm in mind and use the right amount at the right time, while still maintaining road safety."

Predicting the weather is difficult, but by looking at the trends and current atmospheric data, the National and Oceanic Atmospheric Administration has predicted a warmer, mild winter for most of the country, including the Mid-



## "In Ice & Snow, Take It Slow"

### Winter Driving Safety Tips

- Slow down for wet, snowy, icy conditions.
- Avoid quick braking or acceleration.
- Find out about driving conditions before you go.
- Every time you travel – Buckle Up.
- Turn signals, brake lights and windows need to be clear of snow.
- You should never use cruise control in winter weather conditions.

west. This does not necessarily mean there will be less precipitation this winter, as parts of Missouri were shown to have a 30 to 40 percent better chance to accumulate more precipitation than their 30-year averages.

## Latest MAPS Form Revision is a Good One: One Employee's Observation

by Sally Oxenhandler, Central Office Community Relations manager

There is a plaque above the door in Room 101 of the Central Office Building that says, "No Surprises." That strikes me as a wise statement. I don't think too many of us like to be caught off guard.

That's why I think the recent change that calls for a mid-year performance rating on the MAPS form is a good one. I've heard some grumbling from co-workers about the MAPS form changing yet again. I know the extra step of

providing a mid-year rating takes a little extra work. However, from my perspective, it also helps take any element of surprise out of the process.

I am a long-time state government employee, though I've only worked at MoDOT for about four years. In my 20+ years of service before coming to MoDOT, I had only one, maybe two, performance evaluations. Now, you might think that's a good thing. But remember the No Surprises motto. When

you don't meet with your supervisor to outline your job expectations and you never get feedback on how well you're meeting those expectations, it can leave the door wide open for a lot of surprises – not to mention stymie chances for advancement.

One thing to keep in mind, too, is that the mid-year rating does not have the same impact as the year-end rating. If you get a mid-year rating of Needs Improvement or Unsuccessful, you're not

automatically disqualified from career ladder promotions, performance-based pay increases, Performance Plus (P+) payouts or a cost of living increase.

By now, we all should have received our mid-year review and been given feedback to let us know if we're on the right track or not. If we are, that's great. If we're not, hopefully we can do something about it. Either way, we should know where we stand and there should be No Surprises.

## Holiday Message

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whatever stimulus money we receive on low volume roads.

The National Weather Service is predicting a much warmer and wetter winter than normal for Missouri. Hopefully, that means we will not have a repeat of last year's horrendous winter. I do know if their prediction is wrong, you are ready to respond.

Please use extra care as you travel. Not only MoDOT wants you safe and healthy, but your family does too! I hope this Christmas you create the magical memories that families remember for a lifetime.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Primary Law

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grant to be used for safety enforcement, education and engineering – 2009 is the last year this grant is available.

The seat belt laws in Missouri affect everyone, whether they realize it or not. Missouri employers lose \$16,500 on average per employee due to vehicle crashes. A total of \$800 million annually in on-the-job and off-the-job vehicle crashes. These crashes negatively affect business and commerce in Missouri.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a primary safety belt law would save taxpayers \$231 million annually in societal costs associated with traffic crashes.

The coalition has attempted to educate Missourians on the importance of safety belt use for years. Unfortunately, Missouri's safety belt use rate of 76 percent remains consistently below the na-

tional average of 83 percent. Strengthening our seat belt law to primary enforcement is the next step in making sure more motorists Arrive Alive.

Want to get involved? Write, phone, or e-mail your local representatives and ask for their support in passing a primary safety belt law in Missouri to save lives. Buckle up to Arrive Alive.



Cathy Morrison

## Team Wins Award for Smooth Handling of I-64 Closure

by Linda Wilson

Despite public concerns about totally closing a five-mile stretch of Interstate 64 in the heart of St. Louis for a year, the closure that took place Jan. 2, 2008, went well and has earned the team responsible the nation's highest transportation award for quality.

On Oct. 19, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials honored the I-64 team with the Presidents' Award for Quality for

near. Coming together as the New I-64 Closure Command Team ensured MoDOT and its partners knew the condition and operations of the region's transportation system so they could actively manage travel and communicate conditions to the public through daily press briefings and e-mail alerts.

"Closing I-64 was a major undertaking for us, and we had a lot at stake, so we are extremely pleased to be recognized

nationally for the successful way it was handled," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "We couldn't have done it without the commitment, dedication, long hours and great efforts of all our partners. This shows that we can achieve great things for St. Louis and Missouri by working together."

Rahn said the partnerships would continue when the

east half of I-64 is closed the middle of this month.

The AASHTO Presidents' Awards are given in nine areas to recognize exemplary service that benefits transportation regionally or nationally.

The I-64 Closure Command Team was recognized in Missouri by Governor Matt Blunt. The team members received the Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity for Customer Service at a ceremony at the Capitol on Oct. 29.



Assistant District Engineer Tom Blair, District Engineer Ed Hassinger, I-64 Project Director Lesley Hoffarth and Director Pete Rahn accepted the AASHTO President's Award for Quality at the annual meeting in Hartford, Conn. in October.

the command center it set up to handle the closure. Team members are the Missouri Department of Transportation, Missouri State Highway Patrol, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Metro and Gateway Constructors, the I-64 contractor.

MoDOT and its partners handled the closure as a planned incident. Well in advance of the highway closing, members worked together to prepare alternate routes to handle more traffic. This preparation built relationships among the agencies as the closure date drew

## Donations Needed for Fallen Workers' Memorial

by Sean Madden

The creation of a memorial for the 127 MoDOT workers killed in the line of duty is well under way.

The choice for the location of the memorial is down to three adjacent parcels of land on the Capitol grounds next to the MoDOT headquarters building. The site options are in a scenic location, in view of the public.

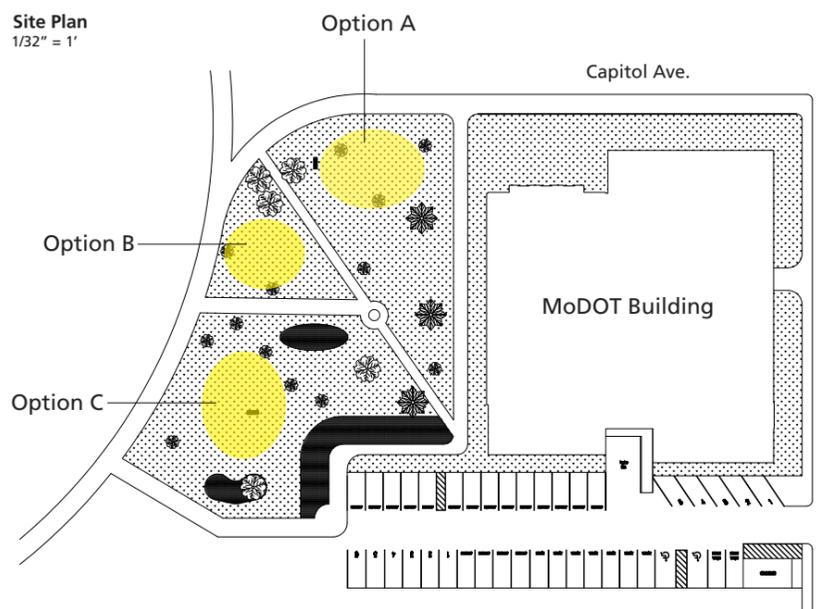
In order to move forward with the project, the memorial committee needs funds to hire a designer who will prepare plans for the memorial. The sooner funds can be raised, the sooner building can begin to honor the coworkers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

"The memorial is a great way to honor the men and women who have lost their lives while improving Missouri roads," said Don Hillis, director of System Management. "I think it is important to have a statewide memorial to honor

these individuals, a memorial funded by MoDOT employees for their fallen MoDOT comrades."

Through various surveys, we have collected the opinions of MoDOT workers from across the state regarding what they want to see on the memorial. The committee will do everything to ensure that those voices are heard and that the best possible memorial is built.

Construction of the memorial will rely solely on individual donations and employee contributions to fund the project. If you would like more information, or to make a donation for the MoDOT Fallen Workers' Memorial, contact Randy Morris at (573) 526-5381. If you plan to support MoDOT's fallen workers with a check, make it payable to State Highway and Transportation Employees Association of Missouri and mail it to: Central Bank, P.O. Box 770, Jefferson City, MO 65102



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### December Service Anniversaries

<b>35 Years</b>		Kevin E. Minear	D7
Randy P. Brown	D2	Dennis Bohannon	D8
Clifford W. Stueve	D10	Johnny L. Teegardin	D8
		Michael R. Govro	D10
<b>30 Years</b>		Brian K. Williams	CO
Michael K. Porter	D2	Leann Ringwald	CO
James E. Bodart	D6		
Kris A. Johnson	D7	<b>10 Years</b>	
		Cathy J. Mackley	D1
<b>25 Years</b>		Fred J. Kraft	D2
Rederick A. Goetting	D2	Lynda N. Long	D3
Darrell L. Barnes	D3	Harry C. Scurlock	D5
Walter M. Wiercinski	D4	Rebecca A. Mackey	CO
Robert D. Ralston	D4	Susan A. Roark	CO
John F. Ferrell	D4	Edward J. Schaefer	CO
Duane M. Whiteman	D6		
Steven M. Corbett	D6	<b>5 Years</b>	
		Edward R. Lowry	D2
<b>20 Years</b>		Charles O. Roberts	D2
Rebecca A. Pratt	D4	Lloyd D. Crawford	D4
Florine E. Noear	D4	John R. Patterson	D5
Mary A. Bax	D5	Delbert J. Fitzpatrick	D5
Catherine A. Cooper	D6	Richard J. Green	D6
Donald L. Weaver	D9	Athena L. Nance	D6
Tim L. Beavers	D9	Mark Sachs	D9
Jeffrey M. Johnson	D9	John F. Baker	D9
Susan C. Buechter	CO	Lisa K. Durnell	D9
Eva R. Voss	CO	Aaron J. Jones	D10
		Dennis E. Day	D10
<b>15 Years</b>		Linda K. Conner	CO
Vicki L. James	D3		
Keith A. Dempsey	D6		

Steve L. Hulbert	CO	Travis Claypool	D7*
Natalie R. Roark	CO	Misty Volkart	CO*
Melissa A. Scheperle	CO		
Deborah L. Thomas	CO		

\*Celebrated five years of service in November

### In Memoriam

Retirees					
Richard C. Schmidt	D4	July 1	Russell L. Miller	D9	Oct. 14
Harve L. Long	D4	Oct. 3	Beverly B. Kimbrough	D2	Oct. 16
John J. Hartman	CO	Oct. 6	Linda K. Blair	D1	Oct. 26
Junior Brumley	D5	Oct. 9	John R. Lutz	D1	Oct. 30
Larry D. Miller	D5	Oct. 12	Charles W. Schaefer	D6	Oct. 30
Jesse E. Wade	D10	Oct. 12			

### October Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service			
Stephen Priebe	D3	35	William Nims	CO	23
Anthony Wieschhaus	D3	31	David McClure	CO	8
Frederick McCombs	D4	43	Mary Scott	CO	19
Kenneth Waters	D4	31	Larry Dudley	D6	25
Linda Short	D5	19	Neil Wagner	D7	5
Ramon Molina	D6	14	Larry Scobee	D8	31
Dorothy Corp	D7	9	Donald Ross	D9	24
William Lord	D7	16	John Wilson	CO	34
Brenda Martin	CO	37			



Central Office

## Fleet Management Earns Environmental Leadership Award

by Kristi Jamison

In another “green” stamp of approval for MoDOT, the National Conference of State Fleet Administrators bestowed its 2008 Honda Environmental Leadership award to our Fleet Management Team.

“We are proud of our status as a role model among government agencies for our increasing use of alternative fuels,” said Jeannie Wilson, Central Office General Services Manager. “The use of alternative resources has helped MoDOT maintain our efforts to be a good steward of the environment.”

In a release issued by the NCSFA, the national organization stated that this year’s evaluation team based the award on “MoDOT’s progressive contributions in the state of Missouri to promote the

- More than 45 percent of the diesel fuel purchased by MODOT in FY ‘07 was biodiesel, or B20.
- MoDOT has earned a large amount of Biodiesel Tax Credits in the amount of \$453,898.
- In the past three years, MoDOT’s E85 bulk sites have expanded from two to seven facilities.
- MoDOT participated in a pilot group that tested Hybrid Aerial Trucks – all other participants were private utility companies.

Jeannie Wilson, Central Office, leads the Fleet Management Team. Other team members are Koelle Barbour (District 1), Darrell Barnes (District 3), Cindy Beebe (District 4), Joey Hinton (District 2), Bradley Leonard (District



Elizabeth Munger, representing American Honda Motors, presents the leadership award to MoDOT Team Leader Jeannie Wilson. Behind them, from left to right, are other team members Bradley Leonard, General Services Director Beth Ring, Cindy Beebe and Koelle Barbour who were also present at the conference to accept the award.

use of alternative fuels in the agency’s fleet vehicles statewide.”

The NCSFA specifically noted several of MoDOT’s environmentally friendly accomplishments. Here are a few:

8), Ronald Miller (District 10), John Sinclair (District 7), Jacky Traw (District 9), Coleen Welter (District 5) and Robert Zahner (District 6).

### for more info

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## Motor Carrier Services is 100% CPR Certified

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Someone passed out! What do we do?

That’s no longer a question Motor Carrier Services employees ask. MCS is the first 100 percent CPR/First Aid-certified Central Office division.

Employees based in the districts joined Jefferson City folks in one of several daylong courses. Hands-on practice followed video and bookwork. Participants splinted imaginary broken bones, performed chest compressions and rescue breathing on dummies and mimicked the actions they would take to help a choking victim.

“You never know when this kind of training can come in handy,” said Jeff Payne, transportation program manager. “Now we’re better equipped to help someone in distress, whether that be at work or, God forbid, in our own home.”

District 9’s leadership as the first 100 percent certified district inspired MCS.



One and two and three and four and... MCS’ Ken Sowers practices chest compressions during CPR training.

“D9’s accomplishment sparked the idea and our team ran with it,” said MCS Director Jan Skouby. “We challenge everyone at MoDOT to take advantage of the training – and we hope they never need to put it to use.”

## MoDOT Honored for Performance Plus Program

by Matt Heibert

MoDOT was recently honored by the Society of Human Resource Management for its innovative Performance Plus Program. This award is given to an organization that successfully develops an innovative and progressive solution to a new or ongoing organizational challenge.

The SHRM awarded the department its annual Innovative Business Solution Award for the incentive program saying “it was unlike any other in Missouri state government.”

An article on SHRM’s online magazine said that incentive programs like this are commonplace in the private sector, but rare in the public sector, and don’t exist in most state governments.

The Performance Plus Program provides up to \$2,000 per year in cash incentives to about 550 eligible



employees. The first two quarters of the program resulted in \$8.5 million in savings for MoDOT, but cost only \$170,000 in employee incentives. Since then, the program has expanded and now includes three individual programs and provides up to \$2,000 per year in cash incentives to about 4,293 eligible employees.

The P+ programs, along with radical cost control measures like Practical Design and value engineering, have resulted in \$236,580,000 in savings for MoDOT in Fiscal Year ‘08, resulting in payouts of \$1,373,842 in employee incentives.

The program also reduced the turnover rate of civil engineers, a position that MoDOT has previously struggled to recruit and retain, to its lowest level in three years.

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## MoDOT’s Handling of Pcard Program Praised

The State Auditor’s Office recently audited statewide oversight of the Pcard program, which provides an avenue for MoDOT and other departments to make small-dollar purchases without generating purchase orders or checks. The Pcard makes these transactions more efficient and cost effective, and also generates revenues for MoDOT, approximately \$150,000 in Fiscal Year 2008 through rebates we received from purchases.

The report gave kudos to MoDOT for providing additional training for Pcard coordinators and replacing the central travel desk card number each quarter to reduce the risk of theft or other inappropriate use. In addition, General Services also tracks the timeliness of payments for all invoices and places great importance on having all payments, including Pcard payments, made within 30 days of the invoice date.

Congratulations, General Services!

# D1

## Northwest

### Corporal Bruns Memorial Highway

by M. Elaine Justus

Corporal Henry C. "Hank" Bruns was only 41 years old when he died in 1987, but he has not been forgotten. Not by the Highway Patrol Troop H, not by the King City community, and definitely not by his family and friends.

On Oct. 20, a ceremony was held at the King City American Legion building to celebrate his life, honor his sacrifice and unveil the new memorial highway signs in his memory. The Master of Ceremonies was Rep. Jim Guest, who sponsored House Bill 2360 that designated a portion of U.S. 169 in Gentry County from the city limits of King City south one mile as "Mo. Hwy. Patrol Corporal Henry C. Bruns Memorial Highway." Corporal Bruns, known as "Hank," served as the first trooper the patrol stationed in King

City in 1969. He died as the result of a traffic crash on Feb. 16, 1987, at the age of 41. According to the patrol, he was riding as a passenger to training in St. Joseph when the vehicle skidded on ice on Highway 6 in Buchanan County. The vehicle struck a bridge abutment on the passenger side.

Over 100 people attended the ceremony including a large number of current and former troopers. Mr. Bruns' widow, Judy, described her late husband as "a dedicated servant who was often more concerned about others' welfare rather than his own." Mrs. Bruns also said she wanted the signs to symbolize the importance of law enforcement to passersby.

The ceremony was closed with the traditional playing of "Amazing Grace."



Mrs. Judy Bruns, widow of Corporal Henry C. Bruns, attended the ceremony honoring her husband. "This is just beautiful," she said. "He thoroughly enjoyed large family gatherings."

It was performed at this event by the Buchanan Highlanders, a group of area bagpipers and drummers composed of

Highway Patrol officers, and area musicians. One of the pipers was MoDOT retiree Bridge Engineer Bob Burnett.

### Boots, Buttons & Blueprint

by M. Elaine Justus, photos by Shaun Schmitz

The 2008 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference, Oct. 27-29 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, held a special significance for the Northwest District.

We were unable to attend the conference in St. Louis two years ago because one of our co-workers had been murdered. With the conference in Kansas City this year, we were thrilled to accept the opportunity. We were also thrilled for the chance to nominate one of our favorite Blueprint Coalition members for the special safety award: Sergeant Sheldon Lyon.

Sgt. Lyon has been an integral part of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety since its inception. He has unfailingly supported every program to save lives, especially those of young drivers. His ideas, input and insights have been critical to our success these last few years. In addition, his involvement with young drivers via docudramas at area schools, displays of the rollover vehicle and the Seat Belt Convincer has made him the most successful of all our partners.

"It is safe to say there is not one high school student in Northwest Missouri

in the last ten years (at least) who has not personally met and/or heard Sgt. Lyon," said District Engineer Don Wichern, "He is truly a tireless supporter, and an invaluable addition to our organization and efforts."



"Save 90 lives in '09" is the rallying cry for the Primary Safety Belt campaign the Coalition is planning for the next legislative session.



Shoes, shoes and more shoes. That was the image greeting everyone at the Coalition press conference. Each pair represents a life lost in a traffic accident when a safety belt was present, but not used. Twenty-one of those pairs belonged to the Northwest District alone.



Lt. Wesley Benitz, Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop H (center), graciously accepted the 2008 Highway Safety Award on behalf of Sgt. Sheldon Lyon who could not be present. Lt. Col. Richard Coffey of the Missouri State Highway Patrol (left) made the award presentation. District Engineer Don Wichern (right) represented the Northwest District at the event.

### Northwest District at the Rodeo

by Holly Murphy

It was an especially tough competition this year, but the Northwest District would like to congratulate two of our very best.

Tony Lager, senior maintenance worker at Barnard (left), and Doug Crookshanks, maintenance crew leader at the Traffic Shop (right), placed first and second in the local competition and represented the Northwest



District at this year's statewide finals competition in Sedalia on Oct. 15.

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# D2

## North Central

### Top 10 for '08

by Tammy Wallace

For the third consecutive year the district has taken time during the employee fall meetings to look back on the successes the district had over the last 12 months, particularly showcasing what we call our "Top 10."



Scott Stephens

**Implementation of a Regional Bridge Crew checks in at No. 4. The regional crew can take care of major repairs in the district and the region.**

#### No. 10 - WorkLIFE Center

The center was created to benefit employees, as noted by the center's mission - *To better service employees from the day they are hired through their retirement years.* Human Resources, Business and Benefits, Risk Management, Information Systems and the Credit Union are part of the Center. Three of the departments are now centrally located for easy access to employees. The center provides employees a one-stop-shop for all of their business needs.



Preston Kramer

**No. 3 - The Alternate Route 63 Project will alleviate traffic congestion and accidents on Baltimore Street in Kirksville.**

#### No. 09 - Signing Initiative

The district's curve plaque signing initiative to increase safety on minor routes covered 3,939 miles, signing 482 roads with 8,574 signs and meeting the deadline.

In addition, many other signs were

upgraded on our high-volume minor routes.

#### No. 08 - Partnering Initiatives - Internal and External

The district partnered this year with cities and counties to provide traffic flow upgrades to intersections at a school, a correctional facility, an ethanol and a biodiesel plant and to provide an alternate route east of the city of Kirksville.

Internal initiatives were also recognized as employees worked with other districts. Maintenance forces shared equipment and assisted others with flood efforts, construction employees

inspected jobs, our project development employees assisted with utility relocations and designing projects and right of way employees appraised property.

#### No. 07 - Mercer Route E Bridge

This bridge was closed due to a bank slide compromising the safety of the structure. Quick action was taken by the team to determine the best solution, which was to replace it. The project was ready for bid in very short order and an emergency contract was funded from the statewide contingency budget.

The district committed to reopening the bridge by June 1, and we kept that commitment.

#### No. 06 - I-70 Corridor Efforts

When an interstate maintenance plan created a corridor approach to our system, we stepped up to work in conjunction with the other districts along the corridor.

The corridor approach has provided consistency in mowing, allowed the use of on-call contracts for large repairs,



Rodney Welch

**No. 2 - Flooding like this had not been seen by the district since 1993. Despite all the long hours put in by crews, priority work was still accomplished.**

the on- and off-ramps are getting more attention and we are sharing new ideas and processes with other districts.

#### No. 05 - Route 63 Better Roads Brighter Future

The district resurfaced or diamond ground 104 lane miles across three counties, laid 195,000 tons of asphalt, re-decked a bridge, completed 2,690 square yards of concrete pavement, upgraded all shoulders to hard surface and installed safety features. A total of \$17.6 million has been spent or is under contract to improve this corridor.

#### No. 04 - Regional Bridge Crew

We are proud to be the first district to implement the regional bridge crew. Working closely with our district bridge crew and District 3's crew, we can now provide the total maintenance package to our district and the region.

By managing the crew locally we

meeting gave citizens more options to participate.

#### No. 02 - Flood Response

The district had three major flood events this season closing several major roadways with more than 60 routes closed at one time. Teamwork efforts kept motorists safe and informed during these emergencies.

Crews worked nearly 18,000 hours, yet still managed to get other priority work completed.

#### No. 01 - Glasgow Bridge Project and Ferry Service

This \$14 million dollar innovative partial replacement topped the list for 2008. The project saves millions over a full replacement while providing 50 plus years of service.

To minimize impacts of the 12-month bridge closure, the district is providing



Catherine Morrison

**The Glasgow Bridge Project - Innovation is No. 1.**

can coordinate and implement work that supports the district's needs for planning purposes and do major projects including painting and structural repairs.

#### No. 03 - Alternate Route 63

A practical design solution plus a 75/25 cost share with the city of Kirksville gave this project the edge to be one of only five projects selected in the state to receive final Amendment 3 dollars. The project will provide 8.5 miles of super-two roadway to the east of Kirksville to relieve congestion and accidents, with construction beginning in 2010.

The cost of the alternate route comes in at \$33.5 million, much less expensive than the original price tag for a 1995 proposed bypass at \$68 million. A final alignment change saved an additional \$8 million.

Extensive public outreach including the district's first online virtual public

a ferry service at a cost of \$1.7 million. The service is proving successful, averaging over 3,000 passengers per week.

The demolitions of the overhead truss spans have been very popular as thousands have visited the Web site to follow the progress by watching video of each of the four demolitions.

The Top 10 for 2008 were chosen for:

- innovations that save money
- teamwork
- partnering with others (internal and external)
- restructuring to be more efficient
- placing an emphasis on safety
- completing projects that are important to our customers
- keeping our commitments, and
- putting an emphasis on employees.

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# D3

## Northeast

### Best Value for 10 Years

by Tana Akright

This year, MoDOT's Northeast District and the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center in Vandalia are celebrating 10 years of work with the incarcerated personnel work release program. The program allows inmates who are nearing their release time to obtain valuable job training while allowing MoDOT to accomplish tasks that otherwise may not be completed. Examples of such tasks include mowing, trimming, litter pickup, landscape maintenance and other odd jobs.

The program started in MoDOT's Northeast District with a single crew of eight offenders in August 1998. Throughout the next 10 years, it has grown to five crews.

"We are very proud of this program and the employees that oversee these crews," said MoDOT Roadside Manager Chris Shulse. "The value that MoDOT and the taxpayers receive from gaining this labor force cannot be measured in dollars alone. We have an opportunity to provide the offenders with skills that will help them become productive citizens when they re-enter society."

MoDOT pays the Department of Corrections \$7.50 or \$9.38 per day (depending on workday length) for each offender participating in the program.

To participate, offenders must have good custody status, no pending disciplinary actions and be minimum custody or security. Additionally, they must be a low-risk offender. The women's facility in Vandalia is very convenient for MoDOT since the inmates must return to the Department of Corrections' custody at the end of each workday.



Beth Page, a supervisor of the incarcerated crews, enjoys working alongside the women from the correctional facility. A typical crew size is eight, and the most challenging part of her job is ensuring she can see all of them at one time.

### EAEC Launches Web Pages



The NE District Employee Advisory Extension Council held its first meeting in August and within a few weeks the group developed, implemented and promoted their own Web pages. "We felt it was important to immediately begin communication and using the Web was one of the obvious vehicles for that communication," said EAEC Team Leader Kenny Glover.

The Web pages feature pictures and contact information for each of its members, as well as suggestion forms, meeting highlights and frequently asked questions.

Some of the key issues that have been discussed during its monthly meetings include performance-based pay and the all access computers.

"We want this to be a positive committee, and we are willing to explore all concerns presented to us," Kenny said. The thirty-member committee was selected from several areas of the employee base to serve their fellow employees.

New members will be appointed every one to two years on a rotating basis. The group meets with the District Engineer to discuss matters related to policies and programs important to both employees and management.

For consistency, the district EAEC chose to use the same mission as the statewide group. "It reflects what we want to accomplish and who we are, so we didn't feel it was necessary to localize the statement," Kenny explained. The link to the EAEC Web pages can be found on the NE District home page.



Northeast District EAEC members are Tana Akright, Tim Hays, Joe McNeill, Secretary Gary Howell, Johnnie Parks, Lynda Long, Jerry Miller, Gary Tolivar, Jayne Darley, David Powell, Vice Team Leader Debbie Lipper, Skip Wilson, Susan Ledbetter, Richie Sanders, Danny Brennan, Paula Gough, Ronnie Calvin, Kenny Glover, Team Leader Mark Wortman, Chris Brownell, Dennis Epperson and Mike Wilson. Not pictured: Becky Novinger, Jeff Leake, Josh Waelder, Kurt Blacklock, Mary Wilson, Roger Page, Tessa Williams, Tim Lake, Jason Shafer and Gerri Smith.

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### In the Pink for a Good Cause

Each October, the nation is decorated with the pink ribbon in support of breast cancer awareness. This year, the Northeast District had another special reason

to participate in pink ribbon activities. A few years ago, Facilities Manager Todd Roth's wife, Sarah, who battled breast cancer, started the Pinkie Pals support



The Customer Service Center was converted to "pink" for the bake sale fund raiser. Tanya Dauma and Dawn Miller are pictured visiting with Teresa Hevel. The event raised \$400 for a local support group called Pinkie Pals.

group to assist women in their quest to conquer the disease. Even though fairly new to the region, Pinkie Pals has 10 regular members and has been featured throughout the Midwest on various media outlets. Dawn Miller and Tanya Dauma, who work with Todd, spearheaded a pink bake sale to raise money for Pinkie Pals, and everyone (including men) were encouraged to wear pink for the day. Sarah was thankful and excited that the sale raised \$400 to help her support group.

### Show Me the Cookout!



With a statewide increase in giving of 14.5 percent, MoDOT's Northeast District increased their donations to edge out the Northwest District in the Show Me You Care 36 Series. The Northeast District will gladly welcome back District Engineer Don Wichern and Assistant District Engineer Tony Mcgaughy from the Northwest District next year for another cookout! Total donations for the Northeast District were \$12,929. Congratulations and thank you for your support!

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# D4

## Kansas City Area

### District 4 Opens New Community Connections Office

by Gina Myles

District 4 has always made an effort to include women and minorities in its operations, contracts and training opportunities. MoDOT has deepened this commitment with a new Community Connections office located at



4415 E. 50th Terrace in the Shops on Blue Parkway, which is centrally located in the city and closer to local businesses, allowing easier accessibility by citizens through public transit.

Donnetta Cole, senior civil rights specialist from the office of External Civil Rights, is instrumental in providing a link for those in the community seeking to take advantage of MoDOT's procurement opportunities, construction project on-the-job-training opportunities and employment opportunities. "We (D4) are proud to be housed in the community and by us being located here we can reach out to more minorities and individuals that we may not otherwise have contact with," Cole said.

She is also involved with MoDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services Program, a two-year pilot partnership program, that

provides a variety of services and one-on-one training specific to the needs of each participating disadvantaged business. The initiative uses the internationally known Kauffman Founda-

tion's FastTrac business development model to assist DBE firms increase their capacity and business acumen in specific and measurable areas over a two-year period.

Equipped with computer kiosks that allow interested applicants to complete an employment application online, a conference room for meetings and access to a larger room to conduct training exercises, the office is a result of a commitment made by MoDOT to Rev. Hartsfield and others in the community. Rev. Hartsfield, a prominent minister and community leader in Kansas City and a former member of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony, emphasizing the importance of the need for the new office to get MoDOT more involved in the community and commending D4 for taking the initiative to bring the project to fruition.

### Motorist Assist Commemorates 15 Years of Service

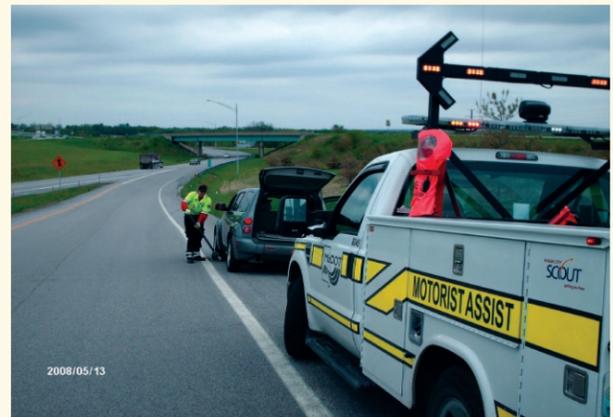
by Gina Myles

District 4 Motorist Assist celebrates 15 years of helping Kansas City motorists on area interstates. Motorist Assist began operations in 1993 with four trucks and eight operators patrolling 24 miles of Kansas City freeways. The Motorist Assist operation has grown and has proved to be much more successful than ever imaged when it first came into existence. There are now 18 operators, including two shift supervisors, a fleet of nine Motorist Assist trucks, two Emergency Response trucks, and two Supervisor units, providing a quality, valuable service to Kansas City area motorists.

Motorist Assist and Emergency Response operators put their lives on the line everyday as they patrol some of the busiest interstates in and around the Kansas City metropolitan area offering assistance to disabled motorists, searching for lane obstructions be it stalled vehicles in traffic lanes, on the shoulder, car accidents or debris in the roadway. These dedicated public servants' goals are to minimize major disruption of freeway traffic flow, focus on the factors that create disruption in the flow, remove those factors, relieve congestion and maintain a consistent flow of traffic during an incident and reduce clearance time for incidents, all to offer Kansas City area motorists a smoother, safer commute.

MoDOT employee Kim Gordon was with Motorist Assist when the wheels first began to turn and was one of the first female operators in the program. "The thing I remember most is the pride I felt in doing my job, knowing that I was helping someone, sometimes stranded women with children and elderly people, who really needed my help," Kim said. "This gave me and the other operators so much satisfaction because you could see how much it meant to the person you assisted that you were there in a time of need." Kim has moved on and now works in the District 4 Customer Service department, but she fondly recalls her 10 years with Motorist Assist as one of the most gratifying jobs in her 21-year career with the department.

Motorist Assist operators also provide support to law enforcement, emergency responders and other emergency agencies in the form of traffic control and back up for incidents on the area interstates.



Motorist Assist Operator Patty Surrette offers a stranded motorist a safe location to be on the side of the road.

### Scout Unveils "My KC Scout" Web Alerts

by Gina Myles

Kansas City area motorists have always turned to Scout, a partnership between MoDOT and KDOT, for the latest in real-time traffic and roadwork information. On Nov. 7, Kansas City Scout began to offer Kansas City motorists another innovative way to navigate their way around congestion and traffic backups when it unveiled "My KC Scout" Web alerts, a new tool to help them avoid tie ups and delays.

The free, highly customizable My KC Scout service allows motorists to designate routes, day(s) of the week, and times of travel to receive daily text messages and/or e-mail alerts about what to expect on their drive. Users can simply login to the Scout Web site at [www.kcscout.net](http://www.kcscout.net) to subscribe to "My KC Scout" and instantly begin receiving automatic alerts about incidents affecting their routes. Based on this information motorists can select



Jason Sims, manager of Kansas City Scout, speaks of the free service now offered to area motorists.

an alternative route or delay departure. With My KC Scout, subscribers can also choose to receive amber alerts as well as weather, ozone, homeland security and public safety alerts in addition to traffic alerts.

"Scout is Kansas City's Traffic Management System, a real-time, technol-

ogy based system which improves the safety and operation of our highways. The launch of My KC Scout offers an additional congestion management tool for motorists to make informed decisions on their commute" said E. Jason Sims, manager of Kansas City Scout.

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# D5 Central

## Paul Jungmeyer Reaches Half Century Mark with MoDOT



Shannon Haslag

It's not uncommon for MoDOT employees to have served 30 or more years in the department before they retire. Senior Financial Services Technician Paul Jungmeyer is still going strong in the Central District business and benefits section after an astounding 50 years! We thank Paul for his service and dedication.

## 1,100 Trees Planted in Moniteau County

MoDOT works carefully to minimize the impact our construction has on the environment. We closely follow the Federal Clean Water Act, which requires us to avoid or minimize our impact to streams and wetlands or supply compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts due to road projects.

To offset impacts to streams that resulted from the U.S. Route 50 project in Moniteau County, MoDOT purchased cropland adjacent to a stream in an effort to restore a riparian corridor along the stream. Establishing a riparian corridor involves planting trees and seeding grasses to provide a buffer between the stream and other adjacent land uses.

“When MoDOT impacts streams on road projects, mitigation or compensation is required to offset the damage done when streams are placed within culverts or pipes,” said Melissa Schepeler, senior environmental specialist at Central Office. “A wide riparian corridor adjacent to the stream provides wildlife benefits, reduces peak flood events, reduces stream erosion and provides shading of the stream, therefore decreasing water temperatures. All of these functions work to benefit the overall health of the stream.”

MoDOT planted approximately 1,100 trees on the Moniteau County property in late October, which is about

2.5 miles south of the existing Route 50, west of California. About 15-20 people took two days to plant the trees, including the central district's Roadside Supervisor John Oehring and inmate crews from Algoa Correctional Center.



Melissa Schepeler

Pink flags form a grid that marked where trees were planted every 20 feet.

“There were hack-

berry, pecan and walnut trees, and three different types of oak trees,” said Oehring. “They were selected because they represent trees that were already in the area.”

The mitigation was required for the second phase of construction for Route 50, which began last August. The new section of highway is 8.35 miles long, from Route K to west of California, and is scheduled for completion in 2010.

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## Ceremonies Mark the Opening of Two Major Projects

Motorists on both sides of Jefferson City are now benefiting from the opening of two major construction projects. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held in late October to celebrate the completion of the City View Drive interchange at Route 50/63, east of Jefferson City, and the new, four-lane U.S. Route 50 in Cole and Moniteau counties, west of Jefferson City.

Officials cut the ribbon for the \$15 million interchange at City View Drive on Oct. 30. Approximately 50 people listened as local and state officials discussed the benefits of the project that was a joint effort between MoDOT, Cole County, Jefferson City, and the



Cathy Morrison

Rep. Mark Brun cuts the ribbon for the Route 50/63 City View Drive interchange.

City View Transportation Development District.

The project will improve safety and traffic flow on Route 50/63 by eliminating several crossovers in the area. On either side of the new interchange bridge are roundabouts, the first on the state highway system in Cole County.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Route 50 was held on Oct. 31. Over 100 people attended the ceremony, which included a performance by a California high school choral ensemble. After the ceremony, a parade of vehicles, including fire trucks, antique cars, and a local motorcycle club, made their way down the new eastbound lanes.

The first phase of the new Route 50 cost \$30 million and included the construction of 11 miles of new four lane highway from just west of the existing St. Martins interchange in Cole County to Route K, east of California. The new highway will provide for additional traffic capacity and improved safety.



Shaun Schmitz

Chief Engineer Kevin Keith helps state and local officials cut the ribbon for phase one of the new Route 50 in Cole and Moniteau counties.

## Mizzou Fans Learn to Arrive Alive



Over 68,000 Mizzou football fans got a chance to learn about safe and sober driving during the Oct. 25 homecoming game sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. Coalition volunteers offered fun and educational activities like the fatal vision football toss, where participants try to throw footballs through a target wearing goggles that simulate impairment.

Cathy Morrison

Buckle Bear made his mark at the football game, posing for photographs and showing off a motorcycle from the Columbia Police Department. Football fans also had a chance to see a new crashed truck, ride the Highway Patrol's seat belt convincer, and experience the “Buckle Booth,” a virtual Seat Belt Convincer that uses an interactive video to spread the seat belt safety message.



Cathy Morrison



Wes Farris

Coalition members also walked along side the crashed truck in the Mizzou homecoming parade. Hundreds saw the crashed truck as it made its way through downtown Columbia.

# D6

## St. Louis Area

### MoDOT Identifies Best Skills in Tool for Equipment Challenge

by Kara Price

MoDOT has a rich history of creating tools and equipment in the field from simple tool modifications to complex equipment designed for specific jobs. With these great skills, how can MoDOT identify the best of the best?

The Tool and Equipment Challenge is a great way to acknowledge these skills with the competition emphasizing on roadsides, pavement marking and bridge maintenance. (Emphasis areas come from maintenance managers and can change each year).

It involves district competitions, a statewide evaluation, the Innovations Challenge Showcase and incentives for individuals, teams and districts. This challenge focuses employees on annual emphasis areas, builds district focus on innovation, showcases innovations for potential users and allows comparisons of like items statewide.

District employees evaluate all exhibitors the evening prior to the showcase. The Tool and Equipment Innovation Showcase, which will be displayed in Spring 2009, displays all district winners in one location and allows districts to see innovations from other areas. The first place and two honorable mentions in each emphasis area are announced as well as the statewide winners.

The 2007 Tool and Equipment Challenge district winner was Rick Schneider, Franklin County maintenance superintendent, for his best practice of a wing plow mounting cart. This solution at work is made out of an old arrow trailer and needed around \$100 in hardware, which took one day to fabricate. It had a ring welded at the center of gravity on the wing plows.



The wing plow mounting cart is an example of a best practice in the Tool and Equipment Challenge.

The incentives for individuals, teams and districts include the following:

- District-level recognition for individuals and teams
- Recognition by peers at Innovations Showcase
- Statewide winners will receive up to \$500 per person or a maximum of \$2,000 per team and an extra \$10,000 for the district maintenance

District competition takes place between June and December. Employee submissions are evaluated by a district evaluation team with set criteria and maximum of two winners per emphasis area sent to statewide competition.

The wing plow mounting cart picks up the balanced plows allowing one person to handle the plow easily to align the mounting pin. It will also allow plows to be mounted or dismantled anywhere and was first implemented in January 2006.

This best practice benefits MoDOT in making the task of working with these plows safer by not using a loader or forklift. This keeps personnel from getting between trucks and equipment as well as out from under loader buckets or forks.

Look forward to the 2009 Tool and Equipment Challenge where your best practice may qualify for an award and be used throughout the state.

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### DBEs Are on the FastTrac to Acquire Major Projects

by Shirlyn Myles

MoDOT is pleased to announce that its first participants of External Civil Rights' Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Pilot Partnership Program will receive FastTrac certification for their two-year entrepreneurship training in December. FastTrac is an entrepreneurial development program sponsored by the Kansas City-based Kauffman Foundation. Listed below are the companies that will receive their certificates in the St. Louis district:

- Basilico Engineering, Inc.
- Hauling Company
- Fletcher Company
- McKays Hauling Company
- New Pot Solutions, Inc.
- Project Controls Group, Inc.
- Rainbow Connection, Inc.
- Sabur Surveying, Inc.
- Shalom Services Corporation
- The Fletcher Company LLC
- Webb Engineering Services, Inc.
- XL Contracting, Inc.

Originally established to address Disadvantaged Business Enterprise's needs, the DBE Pilot Partnership Program was erected out of a necessity to help under-utilized minority and women-owned companies on federally funded highway projects.

The Office of External Civil Rights experienced a measure of success in providing opportunities for disadvantaged businesses. However, there were groups within the DBE Program that were experiencing under-utilization. One method of addressing this under-utilization was providing targeted and comprehensive business development assistance for companies falling into this category.

"The business development assistance needed by these companies had to be targeted, specific and comprehensive in nature," said Patricia Weekley, senior External Civil Rights specialist.

"This type of assistance would address the overall needs of the companies and create the opportunity for sustained growth and success."

The ECR devised a two-step process to accomplish these objectives. First, a Needs Analysis, which was conducted to identify the type of assistance needed. Second, a Business Assistance Center would be established to provide a facility to assist all certified DBEs, which would provide on-site assistance as needed.

The DBE Supportive Services Pilot Partnership Program operates in conjunction with and is supported by the Business Assistance Center. The center offers in-house assistance or administers services from external providers through one-on-one business development counseling and coaching and facilitated and/or computer-based training/workshops and Internet accessible resource materials and data to participants in the Pilot Partnership Program and other certified DBEs in all areas of business development, marketing and management.

According to Patricia Weekley, this program is equivalent to a MBA. While in the program, many companies grew, hired new staff, expanded their businesses, acquired new certifications and much more. Some are currently working on MoDOT projects, including Interstate 64 and IKC projects, and were awarded bids on the New Mississippi River Bridge project.

ECR was recently awarded federal funding to continue the program. A new class will begin next Spring. Congratulations to the graduates for a job well done!

### West Half of I-64 Opens December 15!

by Linda Wilson

Interstate 64 construction is ahead of schedule. The west half will open to traffic and the east half will close Dec. 15. The west half celebration will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14 with a 5K run, cycling time trial, fun bike ride and open five miles to walk around.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. will cap off the day's activities. From Sunday night until 5 a.m. Monday morning, crews will work to close the eastern five miles of I-64 and open the new five miles on the west half. For more details, check out [www.thenewi64.org](http://www.thenewi64.org).



The soon-to-be finished Lindbergh Interchange

# D7

Southwest

## Designer Supports Young Musician

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

Since the earlier part of this decade, Highway Designer Donna Anderson has opened her Carthage home to Avan Yu, a young pianist originally from Hong Kong, who later moved to Vancouver and now studies in Germany to become a concert pianist.

“He was a joy for us to host,” Anderson said. “He was very polite, and after he stayed with us several times, it got to where we loaned him our cars so he could drive himself to MSSU from our house.”

He is the only pianist to win first prize in both the Junior and Senior Divisions of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, and recently won the Silver Medal and the Audience Award at the prestigious 16th Paloma O’Shea Santander International Piano Competition in Spain.

In mid-October, he made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall. Anderson attended with her daughter, who is a graduate student at MIT in Boston.

“It was wonderful seeing this young man perform at Carnegie,” Anderson said. “And even though MSSU isn’t going to hold the International Piano Competition anymore, my husband and I will still keep in touch with Avan.”



Donna Anderson with Avan Yu after his performance at Carnegie Hall.

Anderson became a host family when her daughter’s piano teacher asked her to open her home to a student who was competing in Missouri Southern State University’s International Piano Competition. She first met Avan when he was 14 or 15 years old. He’s now 21.

## Think Pink

12



District 7 employees recently celebrated a Think Pink day, donning pink clothes, and in some instances pink hair, to honor and support fellow team members who are currently facing breast cancer concerns, or who have struggled with this issue in the past.

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## Agencies and Local Media Team Up to Promote Rail Safety



More than 20 percent of the railroad crossing crashes in Missouri during the past two years occurred in either Jasper or Newton counties, causing several agencies to team up recently in order to conduct a weeklong safety blitz combating this dangerous trend.

Law enforcement agencies, transportation officials, railroad and safety presenters scheduled presentations throughout the two counties, raising awareness about railroad crossing safety in Southwest Missouri. Personnel from nine police agencies worked with the railroads and

other officials in conducting Officer on the Train events throughout Jasper and Newton counties. In addition, Operation Lifesaver presenters educated both drivers and pedestrians about how to make safe decisions at crossings and around railroad tracks.

Over 1,400 students and community members heard presentations on railroad crossing safety during the week-long effort, while Officer on the Train efforts yielded 77 total arrests and 27 warnings for miscellaneous violations.

## Un-Civil War Competition Raises \$1,322

A good-natured competition between supervisors and maintenance superintendents raised \$1,322.77 for the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign. The “losers” who didn’t raise the most money had to color their hair in festive colors at the recent Maintenance Area Superintendents’ meeting.



Casey Fairchild and Tracy Tate make a last-ditch effort to support the Un-Civil War fundraiser.

## Bridge Dedicated to Late Senator



Gay Taylor, widow of the late Sen. Larry Gene Taylor, unveils the new sign dedicating the Table Rock Lake Bridge in Shell Knob in honor of her husband. Taylor recounted crossing over the bridge with her husband, “Every time we came across this bridge, we knew we were in heaven.” A number of current elected officials from Barry County, the state of Missouri and past colleagues of the senator were on hand for the unveiling.

# D8

## Springfield Area

### Remote Computer Start Earns 'Solutions' Award

by Angela Eden



Senior Information Systems Technologist Marc Lewis earned an award for the remote wake-up system he developed for computers.

Bob Edwards

A remote wake-up system for computers that saves time and money for MoDOT earned a "Solutions at Work" award for District 8 Senior Information Systems Technologist Marc Lewis.

Lewis developed a way to communicate with computers that are shut down when not in use for long periods under a statewide effort to conserve energy.

Such communication is needed to enable IS staffers to troubleshoot a computer problem or provide software updates when the computers are off and crews are away from their shop.

"The technology was there," Lewis said. "We just had to turn it on" and make it work. The method he came up with uses the small amount of electricity that continually flows to each computer's network card.

Now, with a click of a mouse, Lewis said, Information Systems can reach each desktop computer's address and instruct the computer to turn itself on so technicians can perform needed maintenance, which may require only a small amount of time. This works for computers in the District Office and those in all construction and maintenance offices.

The innovation saves money by reducing fuel use and vehicle wear-and-tear since Information Systems staffers can do needed computer maintenance work from their desk instead of having to drive to tackle a problem, according to District Information Systems Manager Lisa Mattocks.

"The great saving is in people hours, windshield time," Mattocks said.

Registered Survey Party Chief Rick McCallister, left, and Senior General Services Technician Richard Gardner, the 2009 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign coordinators in District 8, helped D8 win the Interstate 44 "trophy sign." D8 also wound up with the highest per-capita donation amount among all districts. District Engineer Kirk Juranas said, "Rick and Richard did an excellent job of asking people to give from their heart. With that, I want to thank all our employees who are contributing to their charity of choice."



Bob Edwards

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Bob Edwards

### D8 at Work

Bridge Crew members repairing the Route 32 bridge over the Osage Fork River (top photo) east of Lebanon include, from left, Larry Allen, Robby Oliver, Brandon Gates, Supervisor Dwayne Rogers and Ryan Hyde.

Checking a tour bus as part of a Motor Carrier Services inspection project in Branson (left photo) is Transportation Enforcement Investigations Supervisor Cody Wilson based in District 8.

Gathering information at a crash site on Route 65 in Springfield (right photo) is District Design Engineer Ron Effland, one of three MoDOT employees statewide certified by the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction. Also certified is District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman.

### Median Guard Cable, Concrete Barrier Being Added on Route 65 in Springfield

by Bob Edwards

Projects are planned and work is scheduled to begin in 2009 to install median guard cable and, eventually, concrete barrier on Route 65 through Springfield.

The guard cable will be installed in 2009 between Interstate 44 and Route 60 (James River Freeway).

When Route 65 is six-laned between Chestnut Expressway and Route 60 in 2010-2012, the guard cable will be replaced by a concrete barrier. The new lanes will go on the "inside" of the existing lanes, eliminating the 32-foot wide grass median.

Guard cable will remain in place on Route 65 between Chestnut Expressway and I-44 until that section is six-laned and a concrete barrier is added.

Any of the guard cable system that will be installed in 2009 and is later replaced by the concrete barrier will be kept and re-used in the median of another highway in the area where needed.

The estimated \$900,000 guard cable project was recently approved. The six-laning projects between Chestnut Expressway and Route 60, estimated

together at \$22 million, are in the five-year construction program.

District Engineer Kirk Juranas said he is thankful for support from MoDOT's Highway Safety and Traffic divisions to fund the guard cable along Route 65, which today carries 70,000 cars a day. He looks forward to the improved safety the cable and then the concrete barrier will provide as traffic continues to increase.

"It's the right time and right place," Juranas said.

Transportation Project Manager Don Saiko, who designed the high-tension, socketed guard cable system on I-44 between mile markers 69-129, will employ the same system on Route 65. Design work is under way.

"It should go pretty quick," Saiko said.

"Talkin' Transportation" Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

# D9

## South Central

### Stehn Recognized by AASHTO for 25 Years Meritorious Service to MoDOT

It was no surprise to hear AASHTO would be recognizing South Central District Engineer Tom Stehn for 25 years Meritorious Service. After all,



South Central District Engineer Tom Stehn

many will contend his blood runs MoDOT blue.

This honor makes Stehn's 25th year of service with the department particularly significant. According to AASHTO information, the award is limited to employees having accrued 25 years of service with one or more AASHTO member departments and who have attained the grade of District Engineer, Assistant Central Office Division Head, Bureau Chief or higher. The director of the nominee's department submits the nomination for the award.

At the Nov. 7 meeting of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, MoDOT Director Pete Rahn announced Stehn would be recognized for his service by AASHTO. The an-

nouncement was met with a standing ovation from those in attendance.

Stehn proves over and over again that public servant is a role he takes very seriously. He makes it a point to familiarize himself with more than just transportation issues in the 13 counties he serves as district engineer and works hard to form good working relationships with his customers.

He spends a great deal of energy on communication and feels strongly that informed employees are more satisfied employees. Employees in his district are often overheard saying, "Tom really does care."

He began his career in Central Office Bridge as a structural designer in June 1983. He transferred to project develop-

ment in August 1987 where he served as a highway design reviewer and estimator until he moved to District 10 in October 1988.

While in District 10, Stehn was a transportation project designer and district chief designer. In February 1995, he returned to Jefferson City where he worked as a design liaison engineer in project development until April 1996 when he was selected for the position of district engineer in District 9, where he still serves today.

Stehn and his wife, Arlene, have four children – Jenni, Ryan, Nikki and Christopher. The family has called West Plains home since Stehn began working in District 9.

### Legislators, Public Get Run Down of Safe & Sound

With a short time frame and a lot of information to share, the South Central District Safe & Sound team targeted legislators and presiding commissioners during the month of November. It was felt by informing this group, they would be better prepared to handle constituent contacts regarding the program.

Meetings were held in three locations – Potosi, Rolla and Willow Springs. Those who attended were appreciative of the opportunity to ask questions and hear about how the program will touch their own areas. The team approach was used in presenting information. A broad overview was followed by bridge specific information, then efforts to address impact and finally communication.

Community briefings began immediately after the elected official meetings, with the first one on Nov. 13 in Mountain View. While there was no formal presentation, stakeholders were welcomed and offered

the opportunity to visit with the same team members who were all versed in information that had been shared with elected officials.

The six scheduled community briefings concluded Dec. 11.

At the same time the elected official and public audiences were being targeted, members of the District 9 Safe & Sound team made contacts with emergency services and school transportation personnel. In most instances, no major conflicts were anticipated.



Safe & Sound Coordinator Ed Hess talks with a community briefing attendee.

### Interstate 44 Arlington Bridge Opens More Than Two Weeks Early

As any district knows, work on the interstate has tremendous impacts and can be very challenging. Add in holiday shipping traffic and the challenge grows exponentially.

A September start to work on the Arlington Bridge over the Little Piney River, eastbound Interstate 44, set the

completion date for the deck replacement at Nov. 24. With the holidays fast approaching, a fast pace was needed. Everything fell into place ahead of time, allowing the department to announce the opening to traffic on Nov. 7, approximately two weeks ahead of schedule.

### District 9 Celebrates 550 Years Experience at Service Awards

Among the greatest assets to any organization are experienced, dedicated employees. In the South Central District 23 employees were honored for their combined 550 years experience during the long-term service award luncheon Nov. 14.

There were 13 employees recognized for 20 years of service, six for 25 years, three for 30 years and Resident Engineer Phill Knott was honored for 50 years.

**20 Years of Service-** Roxy Baldrige, Doug Brower, Don Counts, Ronald

Cook, Jerry Spencer, Patty Pogue, Stuart Reed, Tommy Smith, Kirk Bennett, Mark Thompson, Tim Beavers, Jeff Johnson and Don Weaver

**25 Years of Service-** Wade White, Floyd Conway, Bill Sentman, Tom Stehn, Steve Boatwright and Steve Heavin

**30 Years of Service-** Jed Underwood, Dean Barton and Terry "Bo" Roam

**50 Years of Service-** Phill Knott



Long-term service honorees met at Miller's Grill in Houston on Nov. 14.

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# D10

## Southeast

### Charitable Campaign: Success

The 2009 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign is designed to give employees the option of donating a small portion of their paycheck to a charity of their choice. To help increase participation, a friendly competition was held between districts. This year, thanks in part to Senior Financial Services Specialist Kristy Pettit and Senior Risk Management Technician Sue Sifford, participation increased again in District 10. The Southeast District employees contributed 50 percent more than last year, for a total



District Engineer Mark Shelton (middle) presents Senior Financial Services Specialist Kristy Pettit (left) and Senior Risk Management Technician Sue Sifford (right) with the 2009 Charitable Campaign sign.

of \$9,822.76. The district was awarded the Show Me You Care MSECC sign to display at the district office in Sikeston.

### Highway Dedication Held

A dedication ceremony for the Corporal Rickey L. Bell Memorial Highway was held Oct. 19 near the newly placed memorial highway sign on Route 84 in Caruthersville.

Sen. Rob Mayer sponsored the legislation, naming a section of Route 84 in Pemiscot County from the Interstate 55 exit to the city limits of Caruthersville in honor of Bell. In addition to Mayer's efforts, Rep. Terry Swinger and Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Duane Michie

were also an instrumental part in the memorial highway dedication process.

Prior to Cpl. Rickey L. Bell's death on Aug. 22, 2007, the young 21-year-old was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry Regiment in Fort Lewis, Wash. Bell joined the United States Army upon graduating from Caruthersville High School in 2005. Bell's family currently resides in Caruthersville, where the memorial highway is located.



Family and friends met with Sen. Rob Mayer, Rep. Terry Swinger, and Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Duane Michie to dedicate part of Route 84 in Pemiscot County as the new Corporal Rickey L. Bell Memorial Highway.

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### Southeast Coalition Members Awarded for Life-Saving Work



Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue (far right) honors Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety members with special highway safety awards. Members present include: (from left) Michelle Jackson with the Butler County Community Resource Council, D10 Traffic Operations Engineer Steve Hoernig, Brooke Kirby with Southeast Hospital, D10 Senior Community Relations Specialist Belinda McMurry, Sharee Galnore with Cape Girardeau Safe Communities, and D10 Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Derek Fichtel.

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is made up of individuals that are concerned and are working to decrease the number of fatalities on Missouri roadways.

Members of the Southeast Coalition recently attended the statewide Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference in Kansas City. The Southeast region was recognized at the statewide conference for coming in second place in the state for "reduction of fatalities" within District 10.

In addition to the group award, individuals from the region were also

recognized. Brooke Kirby, with Southeast Hospital's Safe Kids, was awarded the Regional Leadership Award for her contributions to the Southeast Coalition; Sharee Galnore and Lynn Ware were both awarded the Statewide Leadership Award for their work with the coalition and Cape Girardeau's Safe Communities; and Belinda McMurry, District 10 senior Community Relations specialist, was awarded the Statewide Tempe Humphrey Youth Safety Award for her work with the Southeast schools and area youth.

### Service Awards Given in District 10



**5 Year Service Awards:** (from left) Tim Williams, Delmar Whitaker, Bradley Slusher, Monty Sorenson, Gary Glastetter, Narvel Bostic, James Stafford, Tom Obermann, Fred Drury, Dennis Day, Glen Jordan, Earl Robinson, Nick Elliott, Ronnie Cluck, Kirby Woods, Donald Clark, Robert Tripp, Nick Meese, Tim Pippin, Eli Goodrum, Freddie Williams, Marcus Allen, Ada Green, Aaron Jones, Steve Yamnitz, Ron Renkop, Anita Clark, Joe Killian



**15 Year Service Award:** (from left) J.J. Lemmon, Mike Govro, John Fort, Sandra Brookes, Tom Sikes, Connie Roe, Harley Green, Steve Hoernig, Carl Schwent

**20 Year Service Award (group photo not available):** Cheryl Ball, Debra Couch, Stan Johnson, Kevin Evans, Johnnie Sample, Charlotte Butler, David Rea, Dewayne Robey, Debbie Carter, Jill Fetters, Gary Tangen, Freddie Taylor, Theodie Morris, Curtis Clark, Ed Parsley, Willie Hawkins



**10 Year Service Awards:** (from left) Mark Ham, Larry Lizenbee, Dave Wyman, Charlie Logsdon, Danielle Light, Mike Crannick

**25 Year Service Award (group photo not available):** Oliver Heob, Don Edgar, Greg Hinton, Eugene Davis, Randy Grady, Ronald Robertson, James Sullivan, Johnny Lutes, Henry Berry

**30 Year Service Award (group photo not available):** Malcolm Babb, John Tutt, Karen Williams, Willie Robinson, Al Weatherington, Dave Kitchens, Joe Brown, Wendell Lockridge, Ricky Bryant, Don Riley, Randoll Robbins, Norman Cole, Gary Vaeth

**35 Year Service Award (group photo not available):** John Statler, Tom Buttry, Randy Richardet, James White, Lawrence Schumer, Clifford Stueve

## 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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Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

### Mission

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



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# Without Action, We Risk Losing Lives, Jobs, Natural Resources

## MoDOT Issues Annual Report to State Legislature

When you see the face of a bubbly, bouncing baby girl, you probably don't think of transportation. But this year's annual report to the state legislature aims to make the connection that investing in transportation is investing in the next generation's future.

Gracing the cover is the bright-eyed, innocent face of a six-month-old infant. The inside page carries the question, "Will we leave things better or worse? Her future is in our hands." The report points out that jobs, lives and our environment are at stake if we don't invest in transportation.

"Great nations build and invest for succeeding generations, like our parents and grandparents did," Director Pete Rahn said. "We have not. We, the Baby Boomers, have allowed our infrastructure to crumble beneath our Birkenstocks."

Rahn noted that the newest section of Interstate 70 in Missouri is 41 years old, though it was built to last just 20 years. Large truck traffic, which now makes up 25 percent of the travel on Interstates 70 and 44, is expected to double by 2030.

"Our highways are deteriorating with many fixes today being no more than Band-Aids," Rahn said. "We've exceeded the capacity of 83 percent of our national highway system resulting in ever-growing congestion and a tremendous waste of our collective time and waning fuel supplies, as well as increasing air pollution due to idling vehicles."

Although many needs remain, the report also highlights the progress we've made in improving state highways and making them safer. For example:

- Over the last two years, Missouri has seen a 21 percent decrease in traffic deaths – the second-largest

decrease in the nation.

- Seventy-eight percent of the state's major roads are now in good condition compared to 46 percent in 2005.
- Over the last five years, MoDOT has completed \$5.6 billion worth of work within seven-tenths of a percent of the estimate. The \$38 million saved went toward additional highway work.

Looking to the future, our Conversation for Moving Missouri Forward initiative is seeking information from Missourians to find out what they want in their transportation system. The conversation outlines five options for delivering a quality transportation system: take care of roads and bridges; do a better job of providing other ways to get around; rebuild Interstates 70 and 44; tackle needed major projects; and meet regional needs.

We'll also again make a push for the Missouri legislature to amend the current safety belt law in the upcoming legislative session. Now, Missouri's safety belt law allows only secondary enforcement, meaning motorists can be ticketed only if the driver is first pulled over for another offense. A primary safety belt law in Missouri would save an estimated 90 lives and prevent more than 1,000 serious injuries each year.

The entire annual report, including the executive summary, can be found on our Web site, [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org).



Transportation  
for the next  
generation

2008 Report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight



Shaun Schmitz

## Name the Train contest

All aboard, train fans! To celebrate 30 years of state-supported passenger rail across Missouri, as well as major service improvements in the works, MoDOT and Amtrak are sponsoring a contest to give the trains a brand new name.

Currently, the St. Louis-Kansas City passenger trains are operating under two names: "Mules" and "Missouri Service," formerly known as the "Ann Rutledge." Through the "Name the Train" contest, we are reaching out to the public for help in renaming these trains with a new single name.

There will be three phases to the contest.

1. Submit your favorite name online or by mail between Nov. 10 and Dec. 10.

2. Contest judges will select five names as finalists.

3. Vote for your favorite finalist name online or by mail from Dec. 16 to Jan. 16.

Winners will receive Amtrak tickets and more. MoDOT and Amtrak employees and their immediate families are eligible to make name suggestions and vote on finalists, but they are not eligible to win prizes. For more details, go to [www.morail.org](http://www.morail.org).

