

Connections

January 2012

Transportation Events that Made News in 2011

Drop in Highway Deaths Tops the List

Traffic deaths on Missouri highways declined for the sixth straight year, making the drop in fatalities the top news story of 2011. Highway deaths have decreased every year since 2005 and are the lowest they've been since 1949.

Other transportation events that made news in 2011:

Bolder Five-Year Direction

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission in June adopted a plan to make MoDOT a smaller agency so more funding can be directed to needed road and bridge projects. The plan calls for reducing MoDOT's staff size by 1,200,



A MoDOT plow clears snow from the highway. Missouri received record snowfall on Feb. 1.

closing 131 facilities and selling more than 740 pieces of equipment. By 2015, the plan will save \$512 million that will be used for vital road and bridge projects.

Record Snow Closes I-70

A record snowfall on Feb. 1 ultimately caused the closing of Interstate 70 for the first time in history. Despite the winter weather challenges, MoDOT spent less on snow and ice removal than the previous year due to more practical operations and other cost-saving measures.

Safe and Sound

MoDOT repaired or replaced 344 bridges, bringing the total number of bridges fixed under the Safe & Sound program to 674. The \$685 million program is 84 percent complete and on track to finish more than a year ahead of schedule.

MoDOT Suggests Public Private Partnership to Fix I-70

In the next legislative session, MoDOT plans to ask the legislature for approval to expand

the use of public private partnerships for rebuilding the I-70 corridor between Kansas City and St. Louis.

Red Light Cameras Get Green Light

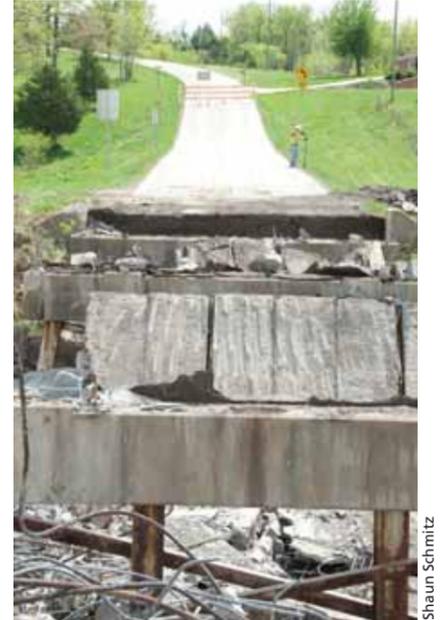
A policy to help ensure cameras used to ticket red-light runners are used fairly and consistently was adopted by the commission in January. The policy provides better guidance on how the cameras can be used and more oversight to make sure the cameras are used to increase safety and prevent injuries and death.

Cracking Down on Cell Phone Use While Driving

The National Transportation Safety Board recommended a nationwide ban on the use of personal electronic devices while driving. That recommendation came on the heels of an announcement that commercial motor vehicle drivers are banned from using hand-held mobile phones and push-to-talk cell phones while driving.

Flooding Closes, Damages Roads

The Mississippi and Missouri rivers leapt from their banks this summer causing extensive flooding. Large sections of busy highways and lettered routes were com-



A Missouri state route is closed while crews replace the bridge deck for the Safe & Sound Bridge Program.

pletely destroyed by fast-moving water. Most of those are back in service.

Show Me My Buzz

A new smartphone application launched

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MoDOT Receives \$20 Million in USDOT TIGER Funding

Fund Awarded for CityArchRiver 2015 Project

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced the award of \$20 million to MoDOT to fund improvements along the I-70 corridor road system in St. Louis.

A key component of the project is a pedestrian land bridge over I-70 that will connect the Old Courthouse, Luther Ely Smith Square and the Gateway Arch grounds.

The third round of the TIGER grant was competitive, with more than 800 applicants requesting \$14.1 billion in funds. This was much more than the \$527 million available.

The \$20 million grant from USDOT comes with a local match of \$25 million from MoDOT and \$10 million from the

CityArchRiver 2015 Foundation.

TIGER grants are awarded to transportation projects that have a significant national or regional impact. One of the criteria for projects is to enhance the quality of living and working environments of communities through increased transportation choices and connections.

"We are thrilled to receive this funding. It enables us to start on the transportation component of this great project of national significance," said St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger. "We are proud to be a partner in this bigger project to transform the Arch grounds."



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood spoke in St. Louis with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (left) Dec. 21, 2011, about the benefits the TIGER funding will have for the city.

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Be Here Tomorrow! Be Smart
SW District launches new safety campaign

Quite Frankly

With the start of a new year, I have some great news to share. MoDOT employees went above and beyond, once again, to pledge a tremendous amount to the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign -- more than \$170,000!



The district winner for contributions goes to the St. Louis District who raised more than \$30 per capita. The winning team is the Organizational Support Team, with more than \$100 per capita raised.

Your contributions will help so many people in need this year, and it makes me proud to be a part of this team. Thank you for all of your support to this campaign. Well done!

Best wishes in 2012!

Kevin



Pictured (l-r) is Danielle Thomas, Jennifer Jorgensen, Lisa Lemaster, Lori Tackett, Elizabeth Oliver, Don Jones, Jackie Kampeter and Dawn Haslag.



The St. Louis District won for this year's district contributions. Pictured (l-r) are Sandy Fritz, Mike Fogg and St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger.

MoDOT Employees Get Close View of New Bridge Construction

MoDOT employees who would like to view on-going construction for the new Mississippi River Bridge can join in one of the bridge team's monthly internal tours.

The Mississippi River Bridge team is offering an hour-and-a-half-long tour to up to 25 MoDOT employees on the final Friday of each month, starting in Febru-

ary at (314) 453-1808 or e-mail Andrew.gates@modot.mo.gov. Attendees can also get 1.5 professional development hours for the tour.



MoDOT employees will get a chance to take a tour of the Mississippi River Bridge beginning in February.

ary, at 10 a.m. Attendees will get a short briefing on the bridge construction over the past two years and get an opportunity to see the on-going construction from the banks of the Mississippi River.

To make reservations for the tour, call Andrew Gates, St. Louis Customer Rela-

tions at (314) 453-1808 or e-mail Andrew.gates@modot.mo.gov. Attendees can also get 1.5 professional development hours for the tour.

Family members can get the opportunity to view the ongoing construction during two monthly public tours, also on the final Friday of each month. The two public tours are at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Reservations for the public tours are required and may be obtained by calling (314) 453-1808 or e-mailing Andrew.gates@modot.mo.gov.

Tours may be canceled due to the river levels or to construction activities. Public tour attendees will need to dress appropriately, to include long pants and closed-toed shoes, and will be expected to walk about a mile as part of the tour.

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Legislative Update

Creative Funding Proposal for I-70 Tops 2012 Legislative Agenda

With no increase in state or federal funding in sight, MoDOT senior management has taken the initial steps to explore an alternative way to improve Interstate 70 across the state. Public-private partnerships would allow a private company to fund and rebuild I-70 from St. Louis to Kansas City. MoDOT has already been given the okay to explore this funding option from the Federal Highway Administration, and discussions with key legislative leaders have created a significant number of supporters at the state level.

"We actually began the process this past summer by meeting with key stakeholders who would be impacted by this project," said Governmental Relations Director Jay Wunderlich. "That was followed by meetings with a few key state legislators in each house."

Sponsors will now be sought for legislation to expand the use of PPPs in Missouri, which is currently limited to rail, port, aviation and other non-highway projects. MoDOT previously received authority to use a public-private partnership to build the New Mississippi River Bridge in St. Louis, but chose not to use it.

Wunderlich said the legislation being proposed will only allow MoDOT to develop a proposal to see if there is any interest in the private sector. Once MoDOT determines the level of interest, it can put more details on how such a partnership would work in Missouri. The attraction for private companies would be the ability to recover its investment over a period of 20 to 30 years in the form of tolls.

Aside from the obvious benefit of getting needed improvements to I-70 faster, a public private partnership would free up nearly \$70 million to \$90 million each year that is regularly spent on maintaining the 60-year-old interstate. Those

savings would mean more highway improvements around the state could be built. The state's economy also would benefit from an estimated 75,000 jobs for 7-10 years during construction.

Other top priorities for the department during the 2012 session will include legislation to clean up the state's driving while intoxicated law, require medical examination requirements for commercial driver's licenses, eliminate MoDOT post termination hearings and include MoDOT in the state's "Move Over" Law.

Changes to the 2010 DWI law would bring the state into federal compliance and free up \$16 million of federal-aid highway funds each year, which is now transferred to the MoDOT Highway Safety Program. This would give the department the flexibility to spend the funds on both safety and construction and maintenance projects. Another federal compliance issue would be remedied with proposed legislation to implement medical examination requirements for commercial driver's licenses. Failure to pass this measure could cost MoDOT \$30 million the first year it's determined to be out of compliance and \$60 million each year after that. The elimination of post termination hearings would free department staff and MHTC commissioners from the process and allow MoDOT employees to use other avenues within state government. Finally, proposed changes to the "Move Over" Law would improve worker safety by requiring motorists to slow down or move over when approaching stationary MoDOT vehicles displaying amber or amber and white warning lights.

Wunderlich noted the general assembly's biggest job this session will be trimming about \$450 million from general revenue to offset the end of federal stimulus money. The 2012 session runs from Jan. 4 to May 18.

Signals Cycle Overnight on Missouri Highways

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

At signalized intersections throughout the state, a subtle revision is expected to save lives and prevent countless serious injuries.

Addressing a "Missouri Blueprint to Arrive Alive" goal to improve intersection safety, MoDOT now programs signals to operate on a 24-hour basis, ending the practice of flashing red or yellow lights in the wee hours.

Cycles are programmed to show green on the main road until a vehicle is detected on the side street. The signal will quickly change to green for that motorist.

As soon as the detected vehicle(s) pass, a green light will return for the main road.

The changes are expected to reduce the number of nighttime right-angle collisions, commonly known as broadside or T-bone crashes, at these intersections. Studies of similar conversions in North Carolina and Michigan resulted in impressive safety improvements, with a 78 percent reduction of right-angle crashes in N.C. and 91 percent fewer in Michigan.

Intersections without detection technology are programmed to operate with three-signal cycles. Those controlled by preset timing will eventually be upgraded with detection equipment.

The Not Boring, Award-Winning Bridge

by Michelle Compton

It's already been called the "antidote for the boring bridges," and now the Broadway Overpass over I-670 in the southwest corner of Kansas City's Downtown Loop can also be called award-winning.

Last month the bridge designers were awarded a Merit Award in the Design Excellence as part of the annual American Institute of Architects Kansas City Design Excellence Awards.

The bridge design, which was in competition against several larger building projects, received many positive critiques including one judge who called it, "thought-provoking urban intervention." This striking infrastructure is the result of effective state and city cooperation, combined with a flair for art and performance. A joint MoDOT and Kansas City effort, the Broadway Overpass

project expands and enhances a key avenue through downtown.

Originally built in 1966, the structure supports approximately 20,000 daily drivers. The new bridge is wider and includes 10-foot sidewalks for pedestrians attending events at Bartle Hall, the Power & Light District and the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

The overpass closed in early May, and in record time, crews removed and replaced the bridge in five months. MoDOT and its general contractor, Clarkson Construction Company, delivered the completed project on time and under budget.

The structure features that classic Kansas City art deco style that epitomizes the city's skyline. Backlit panels will give the entire bridge a warm glow after the sun sets.



The yellow backlit panels provide nighttime illumination for pedestrian traffic along the Broadway Overpass, and a glowing beauty to the I-670 traffic below.

Transportation Events

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in August is helping people make smart choices about designating a sober driver. "Show Me My Buzz" allows users to calculate their estimated blood alcohol concentration based on their weight, gender and how many and what kind of drinks they've consumed.

MoDOT Crews Join in Tornado Cleanup

Maintenance employees joined other emergency responders in clearing roads, restoring traffic control, communicating needs and caring for those impacted by a devastating tornado that hit Joplin on May 22.

Innovative Products and Techniques

The department tested or use a number

of innovative tools in 2011, including:

- A type of concrete designed to absorb smog;
- A new machine called the Gator Getter that scoops up trash while the vehicle travels with traffic at a comfortable 45 to 50 mph;
- A flood control system called Big Bags that takes the place of 500 sand bags;
- A bridge-jacking technique that involves building a bridge deck next to the bridge being repaired and



Flooding took its toll on transportation.

then sliding the deck into place to reduce the impact to motorists.

More Riders, Happier Riders

Missouri River Runner ridership rose 16 percent in fiscal year 2011. An 89 percent on-time performance rate and excellent service continues to draw travelers to the rails.

Mississippi River Bridge

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Attendees must be at least 12 years old, and will have to sign a waiver (a parent or guardian must sign the waiver for attendees under 18 years old). The MRB team will provide other safety gear needed to participate in the tour.

For people whose schedules may not allow them to participate in one of the public walking tours, the MRB team has launched a virtual tour of the project. Visitors to the virtual tour can take a look at information about the construction process, see photos and videos of completed work and see what's next in the main span construction.

To visit the virtual tour, surf to: www.newriverbridge.org/VirtualTourHomePage.htm.

January Service Anniversaries

35 Years

Dale C. Niece NE
Richard D. Ziegelmeyer SL
Robert O. Cannon SW

30 Years

William A. Weitkamp KC
Kevin W. Golden SL

25 Years

Karl D. Davenport CD

20 Years

Robert E. Hendricks NE
Christopher G. Redline KC
Steven R. Wyrick KC
Arturo Gonzalez KC
David T. Silvester CD
Wayne L. Shaver SE

15 Years

Margaret E. Justus NW
Steven T. Rodgers NW
Dorothy J. Johnson NW
Penny S. Priest CD
Susan E. Ivy CD
Brian W. Umfleet SL
Curt D. Woolsey SW
Charles Corlew SE
Michael W. Harris SE
Jason R. Vanderfelt CO
Walter M. Rankin CO
Jesse S. Elseman CO

10 Years

Vince G. Kaimann SL
Bradley W. Ruble SL
Stuart R. McNeil SL
Brett A. Foster SW
Joseph D. Turner SW
Adam R. Humphrey SW
Robert J. Watson SW
Todd W. Lowrance SW
Darin R. Hamelink SW
Nathan R. Conner SE
Elvin W. Terrill SE
Jamie J. Schaeffer SE
Michael D. Riley SE
Keith E. Lee SE
Brandon M. Hansberry CO

5 Years

Kevin L. Christian NW
David E. Allred NE
Samuel L. Closser NE
Lori A. Wallace NE
Bret M. Cox KC
Jody L. Jordan KC
Gerri A. Doyle KC
Reid N. Riley KC
Michael J. Winckler KC
Michael J. Bax CD
Brian K. Perry CD
Todd J. Burgess SL
Keith A. Sims SL
Christopher L. Schaeffer SL

Alexander L. Wassman SL
Douglas L. Hahs SL
Michael A. Berger SE
Charles E. McFadden SE
Douglas J. Geohagan SE
David B. Hollmann SE
Erica Y. Cage CO
Matthew J. Lackman CO

November Retirements

Name	District	Years of Service
Tommy Kenny	NW	11
Larry Parsons	NW	25
Laverne Ward	NW	8
Jana Hughes	NW	26
Kim Nelson	NW	26
Perry Hannon	KC	33
Orville Johnson	KC	32
Theodore DeWolf	KC	29
Twila Lee	KC	16
Gary Balke	KC	26
Kirk Juranas	CD	76
David Morris	CD	30
Jesse Gallagher	CD	10
Clinton Timmerman	SL	27
Richard Gross	SL	28
Edward Dishman	SW	28
Teresa Huntzicker	SW	10
William Leiber	SW	25

In Memoriam

Active

Douglas Renick CD Nov. 1

Retirees

John Bentley Former D2 Nov. 4
Roy Riley CO Nov. 5
Lawrence Stubbs Former D9 Nov. 5
Primo Nicolai Former D2 Nov. 8
William Kremer CO Nov. 8
Peter Redel Former D5 Nov. 11
Billy Gash Former D7 Nov. 12
Edward Minshall Former D4 Nov. 13
Donald Janssen CO Nov. 14
Billy Alloway Former D1 Nov. 17
Buren Lee Former D10 Nov. 23
Thomas Shockley CO Nov. 24
Howard Adam Former D3 Nov. 25

Retired From:

Darwin Doll SW 27
Gary Doolen SW 6
Barry Reynolds SE 7
Danny Pruett SE 25
Randolph Ross SE 27
William Talley SE 16
Carol Ricks CO 24
Rita Fester CO 35
Debra Sparks CO 23
Madalynn Bell CO 23
Janet Smyer CO 12

Central Office

Bridge Division Planning Saves Time, Money

A detailed process of up-front design work will benefit MoDOT bridge and district design employees for many years to come.

A team of six employees in the Central Office Bridge Division has been working for more than a year to complete standards for several thousand AASHTO LRFD concrete box culverts. Over 25,000 design iterations were performed in developing more than 3,000 standard designs. The designs and details are covered by the Engineering Policy Guide and the Missouri Standard Plans for Highway Construction. Any other culvert size and depth of fill would be considered nonstandard when either the design or details given in the Standard Plans are inadequate. The new standards include many more sizes and fill depths which will save design time and money going forward.

Each culvert was individually designed. With design tables and detailed drawings easily accessible, users can



Shaun Schmitz

Central Office Bridge Division employees worked as a team to complete standards for several thousand AASHTO LRFD concrete box culverts. The new standards will be available to benefit designers throughout the state. Pictured (l-r) are Neal Isaak, Gregory Sanders, Drew Grimm, Boyd Denson, Darren Kemna and Mandy Raithel.

take what they need for their project by referencing the Standard Plans. The work of this team will save a great deal of time for designers throughout Missouri.

“This is something the whole state can use,” said Gregory Sanders, Central Office Structural Development and Support Engineer.

Find more information in the Engineering Policy Guide at http://epg.modot.org/index.php?title=751.8_LRFD_Concrete_Box_Culverts.

Focus on the Road Winner Gets New Ford Focus

Excitement filled the air at the Joe Machens Ford dealership on Monday, Dec. 19 as 11 finalists were handed a key that might start the engine of a brand new 2012 Ford Focus donated as a part of the Focus on the Road Campaign.

One by one, each finalist that had pledged to focus on the road and not drive distracted, climbed in the car and tried their key. Tension mounted when only two contestants were left as Jody Mealy of Portland, Missouri got in the driver’s seat. She turned the key and the engine sprang to life. Mealy was so excited she couldn’t stop smiling. She said the car would make a nice replacement for her 2005 Mercury and that her 15 year-old granddaughter was hoping she’d win.

The car giveaway was part of an awareness campaign to keep drivers attentive behind the wheel. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety teamed up with Machens Ford and KRCG-TV, who donated the car, to sponsor Focus on the Road.

Nearly 9,000 people made the pledge on KRCG’s website to stay focused on driving. Of the entries, 11 finalists were chosen and each was given a key to try in the new vehicle on Monday evening and the winner was announced during KRCG’s 6 p.m. broadcast.

Each day, distracted driving causes nearly 8,000 crashes nationwide. In 2010, a total of 3,092 people were killed in crashes involving distracted drivers in the U.S. Driver distractions include a wide range of activities from putting on makeup to tuning a radio, but the most common is using a cell phone. Recent research showed dialing a phone increases the risk of a crash by as much as six times, and people texting are 23 times more likely to be in a crash.

“When you’re behind the wheel, there is no more important activity than being focused on the road,” said MoDOT Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue. “No conversation or text is worth the risk of a crash.”

For more information about staying focused on the road, visit www.save-MOlives.com.



Cathy Morrison

Jody Mealy of Portland, Mo., is the Focus on the Road winner. Her key started up the engine of the 2012 Ford Focus donated by Joe Machens Ford.

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for more info

Connections Editor
Phone
E-mail

105 W. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Laura Holloway
573.751.5985
laura.holloway@modot.mo.gov

Noteworthy Holiday



Shaun Schmitz

The Thomas Jefferson Middle School Orchestra brought some holiday spirit to Central Office on Dec. 13. with their winter performance.

Northwest District

U.S. 159 Opens!

by Melissa Black



Ravaged by swift-moving flood waters last summer, U.S. 159 suffered severe damage that took months to repair.

Motorists in Holt County can now drive on U.S. 159 after months of closures due to summer flooding. MoDOT announced Dec. 15 the opening of the 2.2-mile section of highway that runs from the Missouri River Bridge at Rulo, NE, to east of MO 111.

Ideker Inc., of St. Joseph, Mo., was awarded the \$2,633,985.63 contract and began the project Oct. 21. The final cost for all repair work will approach \$3.5 million.

“We know this has been a long closure for this route and we’re excited to get it back open for the public,” said Don Wichern, MoDOT’s Northwest District engineer.

The extensive damages to U.S. 159 included four large scour holes ranging in size from 184 feet to 675 feet wide and up to 50 feet deep. More than 172,000 tons of rock was used to fill all the holes. The road was also resurfaced with asphalt and approximately 4,300 feet of new guardrails were added on each side of the fill areas.



U.S. 159 opened recently in Holt County. The new section is pictured here before striping and new guardrails were added.

Meeting with Congressional Representatives

by Melissa Black

Members of MoDOT’s leadership teams from both the Kansas City and Northwest districts met Friday, Dec. 9, at the Kansas City District Office with several congressional representatives to discuss various transportation topics. District Engineers Dan Niec and Don Wichern gave several updates including one on the Bolder Five Year Direction, and one on the Safe and Sound Bridge Program. Governmental Relations Director Jay Wunderlich covered MoDOT’s 2012 Legislative Agenda, as well as funding

information. A project update for the two districts was given by all five area engineers that covered projects currently under construction, projects to be constructed in 2012-2015, and the remaining high priority/discretionary projects on MoDOT’s system. Multi-modal Operations Director Michelle Teel also gave an update on other transportation modes.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Melissa Black
816.387.2481
melissa.black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Safe & Sound Update

by Holly L. Hailey

Ribbons have been flying in Northwest Missouri as several new bridges have been completed as part of the Safe and Sound Bridge Program.



Holly L. Hailey

With the opening of Route E in DeKalb County Dec. 14, the Northwest District has completed 73 bridge projects in 2011, and the total bridges completed is currently at 155. Thirty-five bridge projects remain for 2012.



Holly L. Hailey

Stanberry Mayor Charles Lawson cuts the ribbon at the reopening of U.S. 136 in Gentry County, along with MoDOT District Design Engineer Troy Slagle, other city and KTU representatives. This road closed to traffic in Stanberry between U.S. 169 and Town Branch Bridge in April. Following the completion of the Town Branch bridge and the road reconstruction, project work progressed to the Moccasin Creek Bridge and finally the Wildcat Creek Bridge in Nodaway County. U.S. 136 re-opened to traffic Nov. 17. Approximately \$3 million was spent on these four projects.



Holly L. Hailey

This ribbon cutting celebrates the 600th bridge completed and the reopening of Route H in DeKalb County. The Route H bridge over Dry Branch Creek opened to traffic on Thursday, Oct. 20. The bridge located three miles north of MO 6 was closed for 25 days during construction. This is one of 15 bridges scheduled for rehabilitation or replacement in DeKalb County.



Holly L. Hailey

Northwest District Engineer Don Wichern and Area Engineer Mike Rinehart (far right) at the 600th bridge ribbon cutting talking with Rep. Glenn Klippenstein and Chad Higdon of U.S. Congressman Sam Graves’ office.

Northeast District

Safe & Sound Concludes With "cut 'n run" Event

With the completion of the fifty-eighth bridge on the Safe & Sound Bridge Program, the NE District celebrated the conclusion of the 2011 program by holding a "cut 'n run" ribbon cutting. Also the final bridge in Ralls County, the ceremony was held on Route F at Spencer Creek. "We wanted to create an event that represented the quickness with which these bridges have been completed," said MoDOT Area Engineer Brian Haeffner. A photo and YouTube video have been made to capture the unique event, and can be found on MoDOT's website. During the 2011 construction season, 45 bridges were replaced and 13 rehabilitated. Next year, 24 more Safe & Sound bridges are on the program in Northeast

Missouri. "Some of these bridges could begin as early as February 2012," said Macy Rodenbaugh, who is the MoDOT field engineer for the Safe and Sound bridge program in Northeast Missouri. The Safe & Sound bridges are closed during construction, and improvements are limited to just the bridge itself. To date, the average closure across the state has been about 40 days, or half the time a typical bridge replacement requires. MoDOT and its contractor, KTU Constructors, opened the new bridge at the Cuivre River on U.S. 54 just south of Laddonia after being closed for just 26 days. "The contractors and MoDOT inspectors should be commended for working to get so many of these bridges open so quickly," Rodenbaugh added.



The "cut 'n run" video can be found on MoDOT's YouTube site. Pictured are Butch Mundle, Brian Haeffner, Steve Kullman, KTU, Bob See, Ralls County presiding commissioner, Steve Whitaker, county commissioner, Chris Englbreton, KTU, Lydia Shumake, wife of Rep. Lindell Shumake, Alex Burnett, KTU, Linda Laird, area resident, and Ray Bozarth with U.S. Sen. Blunt's office.

Amy Crawford is New Area Engineer

6 To make MoDOT even more accessible in communities, MoDOT has restructured the role of the area engineer to include direct communication and interaction with each community. Amy Crawford, a professional engineer, is the new area engineer for Adair, Schuyler, Scotland, Knox, Clark and Lewis Counties, serving as an extension to the district office in Hannibal.



Amy Crawford, P.E.

traffic studies specialist. She was selected for this role because of her experience in working directly with the public through the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety and her construction and traffic engineering background.

Crawford will work directly with MoDOT's planning partner, the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission, which serves the same counties.

Originally from Lentner, Missouri, Crawford graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia with a degree in civil engineering. She and her husband, Jeff, and their children, Brooke and Logan, live in LaPlata.

Crawford has been with MoDOT for 11 years and most recently served as a

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Route 61 South
P.O. Box 1067
Hannibal, MO 63401

Marisa Brown-Ellison
573.248.2502
marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov

Around the District...



As part of an enrichment program to help third graders identify the importance of learning math and reading, Traffic Engineer Steve Barteau, with the help of MoDOT employee Dawn Miller, shared information with third graders at Oakwood Elementary in Hannibal. They learned about highway signs, striping and how to solve problems using math. Miller's son, Mikey, is in the class.



More than 40 employees were recognized last month for their long-term safety history. Each was presented a gift and plaque by District Engineer Paula Gough. She is pictured here with 35-year Safety Award recipient Butch Mundle, who is a maintenance superintendent.



The NE District office in Hannibal played host to the statewide customer relations manager's meeting last month. Held appropriately, but not planned, on Mark Twain's 176th birthday, ambassadors to Hannibal Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher greeted everyone as they arrived. Pictured is Marie Elliott, CR Manager for the St. Louis District with Tom and Becky. Tom is Phillip Dauma, son of Tanya Dauma of general services.



The annual Children's Christmas Party was held in the district office last month, playing host to about 20 children from the Hannibal area. Fundraisers are held throughout the year to raise money to buy gifts for each child, and MoDOT "buddies" are assigned to each child to help with the event. Each department provides every child with gifts, such as cookies, gloves, crayons, etc., but Santa gets to hand out the big gifts. Pictured above is Bob Johnston, one of the kids' buddies, giving Santa the packages. Santa was a real hit and bears close resemblance to MoDOT retiree Donnie Kinsler.

Kansas City District

MoDOT Listens, Helps Community Reach Consensus

by Steve Porter

Cass County's fastest growing town is divided by Route 71, but the citizens of Peculiar came together with MoDOT and city leaders in December to decide the best and fastest way to fix that important bridge that connects the city.

For several years, MoDOT maintenance crews had repeatedly patched the 43-year-old bridge at the interchange of Routes J and C over Route 71. The 249-foot-long deck of the two-lane bridge was due for a deck-replacement, and the KC District scheduled that \$1.2 million project for 2012.

Early this fall, engineers and designers

put together plans to replace and widen the deck to add a barrier-protected sidewalk, either through a partial closure that would leave open a narrow lane on the deck for up to 90 days, or total closure for 40 days or less. Some 70 percent of the town's 4,600 population lives west of the interchange; the remaining 30 percent to the east.

Further complications include the area's school campus – elementary, middle school and high school – on the east side, as is the Flying J truck stop, a major merchant and revenue generator for the town. On the west side are most of the town's merchants,



Area Engineer Matt Killion (left) responded to questions from more than 100 citizens of Peculiar who were concerned about a bridge project at Route J/C at Route 71. Mayor Ernest Jungmeyer (right) also fielded questions at the Dec. 2 meeting in the Cass County town of 4,600.

police, fire and ambulance stations. A bridge closure would split the town.

MoDOT met in mid-October with Peculiar's Mayor Ernest Jungmeyer, City Administrator Brad Ratliffe and City Engineer Carl Brooks to discuss the two options for deck replacement. MoDOT asked what other issues might also be weighed in deciding. Peculiar officials asked that the closure not occur when school is in session, to include summer school. They also scheduled two community celebrations in June, and asked that the work not start until after the Independence Day holiday.

District Engineer Dan Niec explained that the department has experience with either option, leaving open a lane or total shutdown, but that each project is different. Regardless of the chosen option, Niec helped city officials to understand that the work would be extremely disruptive to commerce, commuting and to the daily lives of area residents. Whichever option was chosen, MoDOT would work quickly to minimize disruption.

Peculiar officials agreed with MoDOT that a total closure would be preferred. Before proceeding, however, MoDOT also wanted to discuss the issue with the truck stop and school district. They would be the most affected by either choice. Both the truck stop operators and school officials also preferred a shorter disruption.

The mayor presented the plan to the city council in November. Some



State Representative Rick Brattin (left) and a citizen commented about the project and schedule.

merchants on the west side were concerned. A four-mile detour would significantly hurt their businesses, and several merchants insisted on keeping the bridge open. They asked MoDOT to come to a Chamber of Commerce meeting Dec. 2 to explain the options and to listen to their concerns.

Area Engineer Matt Killion, assisted by Project Manager Allan Ludiker, brought brochures explaining the options and a display map showing the detour. During a meeting that stretched beyond an hour, Killion and Ludiker laid out the details, discussed the challenges and answered questions. In the end, all but three of the 100 attending preferred total closure. The work is scheduled to begin after July 4, 2012 and be completed by mid-August.

Ramp Metering is Successful Program Reduces Crashes, Improves Travel Times

by Gina Myles

In an effort to improve safety and decrease congestion, Kansas City Scout deployed a ramp metering pilot program in March 2010. The system was implemented on I-435 between Metcalf Avenue and the Three Trails Memorial Crossing using special traffic signals to regulate the rate at which vehicles enter the freeway from on-ramps. A 12-month evaluation shows the program's overall success, while providing insight to the benefits of using ramp meters.

The evaluation report considered the effectiveness of the meters based on gathered information pertaining to safety and accident reduction; speeds and travel times; compliance of the meters; ramp delay; traffic incident

management; and includes feedback from the public, local officials, and law enforcement. Utilizing on-site observation and Scout closed circuit television cameras, traffic data was collected and compared to traffic conditions from two years prior to installation along I-435.

The results indicate ramp metering has reduced accidents by 64 percent. Prior to the meters, this portion of I-435 had an average of 44 accidents per year. After implementation, that number dropped to an average of 16 accidents, decreasing merging accidents by 81 percent.

Travel times along south I-435 also improved. Kansas City motorists experience less than one minute of

additional wait time on the ramps, which was less than Scout anticipated when it educated the public about ramp meters. Ramp metering coupled with traffic incident management has improved incident clearance times during rush hour.

Kansas City residents in the five-county metropolitan area support the ramp meters according to a 2011 survey issued by KC Scout. In fact, 65 percent of respondents thought ramp meters have improved traffic on I-435 and 62 percent indicated ramp meters should

be added to other Kansas City metro freeways.

Intelligent Transportation Solutions, like ramp metering, are a less expensive option that communities can use to respond to increased traffic congestion and promote safer, more efficient travel. At a cost of approximately \$30,000 per ramp, the meters have proven to be an inexpensive method.

To view the Ramp Metering 2011 Evaluation Report in its entirety visit the Scout web site at: www.kcscout.net.



Ramp metering, seen here, has been an effective tool used to improve safety and reduce congestion at some of the Kansas City region's busier on-ramps.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Jennifer Benefield
816.607.2153
jennifer.benefield@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Central District

Celebration Highlighted New Highways at the Lake

Steady, light-to-moderate rainfall accompanied the pomp and circumstance of the Central District's most recent ribbon-cutting ceremony, held at the Lake of the Ozarks on Dec. 13.

MoDOT gathered with state and local officials, Cub Scouts, members of a local high school marching band, and the general public to gather under umbrellas and tents to celebrate the completion of two major highway projects in the area.



District Engineer David Silvester and Osage Beach Mayor Penny Lyons at the ribbon cutting for U.S. 54.

Cathy Morrison

Bridge in Camden County. The second half, approximately four miles, runs from the Grand Glaize Bridge to just west of Route KK.

The latest section of expressway cost \$31 million to construct, and opened on schedule in late November. There are four new interchanges on the expressway that allow for access to Osage Beach Parkway and other highly traveled routes in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

"U.S. 54 is now a divided, four-lane highway through the lake region, allowing for safer and more efficient traffic flow," said District Engineer David Silvester at the ceremony. "Looking at it from a larger perspective, U.S. 54 is now a divided four-lane highway from



Lake Ozark Mayor Johnnie Franzekos and Osage Beach Mayor Penny Lyons cut the ribbon on Route 242 to celebrate the completion of both projects.

Cathy Morrison

The end of the year marked the conclusion of the final phase of the U.S. 54 Expressway and the new four-lane highway known as Route 242.

In September 2010, MoDOT opened the first half of the U.S. 54 Expressway, which was a five-mile stretch between the Osage River and the Grand Glaize



Members of the School of the Osage Marching Indians lead the parade of vehicles as they travel down the new Route 242.

Cathy Morrison

Mexico, Mo. to Camdenton, as well as a connection to the improved Route 5, which connects to I-44."

In January 2011, work started on the new Route 242. This new four-lane highway connects U.S. 54 in Miller County to the Lake of the Ozarks Community Bridge on Route MM in Camden County. It also connects to the existing Horseshoe Bend Parkway.

The roadway is about two miles long and cost \$8.3 million to construct. It was a joint effort of the Missouri Department of Economic Development and MoDOT.

This new roadway will help to relieve traffic congestion on Business Route 54, which is also known as Bagnell Dam Blvd.

Future plans call for eventually extending Route 242 to Route 5 in Sunrise Beach, with the local planning organization and the Lake of the Ozarks Community Bridge Corporation working to secure funding for this effort.

Over 100 people attended the ceremony, which took place in the westbound lanes of Route 242.

After the ribbon was cut, the ceremony moved to a location on the west end of

the expressway project for another ribbon-cutting photo opportunity for U.S. 54.

Route 242 was opened to traffic following the ceremony.



Members of the Lake Ozark Cub Scout Pack 21 opened the ceremony by presenting the flags.

Cathy Morrison

Around the District

8



MoDOT Director Kevin Keith met with district employees on Nov. 28 at the Rolla maintenance building in Phelps County. Keith outlined his top four priorities for the department and took questions on topics ranging from employee staffing to the possibility of Interstate 70 becoming a toll road facility.

Kristin Gerber



Kristin Gerber



Holly Dentner

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Kristin Gerber
573.522.3375
kristin.gerber@modot.mo.gov

District Safety and Health Manager Chris Engelbrecht discusses 'after hours' emergency contacts during an incident management training for maintenance crew leaders and supervisors. The training, held on Nov. 21, served as a refresher course on the best ways to handle traffic during highway incidents. It also included presentations from representatives from Gateway Guide and KC Scout.

St. Louis District

Boone Bridge Design-Build Process Begins

by Linda Wilson

The procurement process has begun on MoDOT's next Design-Build project. The Interstate 64 Daniel Boone Bridge project will replace the deficient 1935 bridge with a new Missouri River bridge connecting St. Charles and St. Louis counties. Solicitation for letters of interest was sent in December and the Request for Qualifications will be issued Jan. 9.

In addition to a new bridge, the \$125 million project will also provide a bicycle/pedestrian facility connecting the KATY Trail to the Monarch Levee Trail. MoDOT will use a Best

Value selection process to evaluate the ability of the Design-Build proposers to meet or exceed the project goals. Selection of the contractor is expected midsummer 2012. Construction could begin as early as fall 2012 with completion no later than June 2016.

Boone Bridge Project Director Jim Gremaud will hold an informational meeting for interested contractors and consultants Jan. 9 in St. Louis. For more information, visit the project website at: www.modot.org/boone-bridge.



A view of the existing westbound Interstate 64 Boone Bridge over the Missouri River connecting St. Charles and St. Louis counties.

Bike Plan Team is Awarded for Leadership Efforts



East-West Gateway Council of Governments recently recognized MoDOT's St. Louis region with an award for the Gateway Bike Plan's leadership, planning and design innovation. Pictured left: Laura Ellen, MoDOT's representative on the regional bike plan team, and Ed Hasinger, St. Louis District Engineer, proudly accept the award.

for more info

Customer Relations	Marie Elliott
Phone	314.453.1807
E-mail	marie.elliott@modot.mo.gov
1590 Woodlake Drive Chesterfield, MO 63017	

St. Louis Road Milestones "Completed As Promised"

by Kara Price and Jack Wang

St. Charles County Ribbon Cutting
MoDOT recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony in early December to mark the completion of safety improvements on sections of Route 94, Route D, Route DD, and Route P in St. Charles County. The ceremony was held at the Missouri Department of Conservation. The safety improvements were a cost-share project between MoDOT and St. Charles County. This project

were successful with the partnership of MoDOT, St. Charles County officials, state legislators and a civic group called *Shoulders for Safety*. This important group was a driving force in bringing attention and spotlighting issues along rural St. Charles County routes to county and state officials.



MoDOT, Shoulders for Safety group and elected officials cut the ribbon on December 9 to mark the completion of safety improvements on Route 94, Route D, Route DD, and Route P in St. Charles County.

Franklin County Ribbon Cutting

MoDOT recently celebrated the completion of the Interstate 44 and Route 185 Interchange Widening Project in Sullivan with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in early December. It was held at the Lowes parking lot in Sullivan with the interchange in the background.

During construction of the I-44 and Route 185 Interchange Widening Project, MoDOT widened the Route 185 bridge over I-44 in Sullivan to five lanes. Also as part of a cost-share project with the Village of Oak Grove, Route 185 was widened from the

bridge to Springfield Road. The South Outer Road was relocated opposite of Eagle Drive and a signal was installed.

"The existing interchange was experiencing a high level of congestion, and needed to be expanded to meet the current traffic demands," said Judy Wagner, MoDOT Area Engineer for Franklin County. "We are pleased that it took less than a year to reconstruct this interchange and that traffic will run smoother to accommodate the economic growth in Franklin County."



MoDOT, Village of Oak Grove, City of Sullivan and elected officials cut the ribbon on Dec. 2 to mark the completion of the Interstate 44 and Route 185 Interchange Widening Project in Franklin County.

Southwest District

'Be Smart. Be Safe. Be Here Tomorrow!'

by Bob Edwards

Is it wise to swing out of a truck cab and jump down onto a snowy lot?

Is it focusing ahead to walk across a garage bay with arms loaded down with gear while thinking back on your kid's ball game last night?

Not on your life.

That's where the Southwest District's new safety emphasis and motto – "Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Here Tomorrow!" – come into play.



Gary McLarry, left, and Gary Clinton

"We don't want folks getting hurt. Period," Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry said.

So getting into and out of a truck cab requires three-point contact. And when carrying items, make sure you do not haul too much at once, think about where you are going and keep your eyes open to avoid slipping or tripping.

The issue of remaining injury-free is a practical one as well. The Southwest District has plenty of work to accomplish and every hand is needed,

Senior Safety Officer Gary Clinton said.



Be Here Tomorrow!

"We've got to keep our people working," Clinton said.

10 In 2012, the district will turn up the volume on safety.

A new safety slogan, submitted by Stockton Senior Maintenance Worker Robin Wright, and logo, crafted by Senior Highway Designer Sharon Needham, have been developed. New safety-themed posters will be circulated. Weekly emails with safety tips and reminders will be made as timely as possible.

McLarry and Clinton plan to spend lots of time in the field reviewing work zones and checking whether employees are following safety procedures.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

"We're going to pull into work zones and review the processes employees are using for the task at hand and make sure they have all their safety equipment and personal protection in place," McLarry said.

Working on the roads in traffic is a dual safety challenge.

"We're watching out for ourselves and everybody on the road," McLarry said.

Concerted safety efforts in the recent past have been successful, he said.

That includes campaigns to boost seat-belt use to 100 percent and to improve the setting up of work zones.

Now a major goal is a significant reduction in slips, trips and falls.

More to come in 2012.



SW District at Work

Cutting brush along U.S. 71 near Adrian is Butler Intermediate Maintenance Worker Randy Cantrell.



Branson Intermediate Construction Inspector Chris Mills measures a new concrete curb along the recently built Diverging Diamond Interchange at Route 248/65 in Branson.

2011: 66 Safe & Sound Bridges Completed 2012: Only 21 More Will Complete Program

by Lori Marble

The Southwest District, with solid planning and consistent teamwork with contractors, completed 66 bridge projects in 2011 under MoDOT's Safe & Sound program.

That leaves only 21 more bridges to replace or rehabilitate in 2012 of the district's 125-bridge total.

Statewide, MoDOT is repairing or replacing 802 bridges under Safe & Sound, with the program expected to be completed by the end of 2012 – a year ahead of schedule. Construction began in 2009.

Assistant District Construction and Materials Engineer Jim Conley, regional coordinator for Safe & Sound through 2011, said many district bridges were completed in 40 to 50 days.

"It's rewarding to get bridges done that quickly," Conley said. "A lot of other states are looking at us as a model."

"I think we'll pick out a lot of good ideas and for quite some time be imple-

menting best practices we've gleaned from working with KTU (Contractors)," Conley said.

The Safe & Sound projects were completed as work moved forward on many other construction projects – the Route 60/65 reconstruction, building several interchanges along U.S. 71 and rehabilitating three major bridges apart from Safe & Sound.

The Safe & Sound campaign had contractor crews straining to meet tight construction deadlines, kept district construction inspectors on the go for long hours, had maintenance employees scurrying to put up and take down construction and detour signs and pushed community relations and customer service staff to put out timely information and to stay current on progress so they could respond to customers' questions.

"I think we've gone a long way toward building a good reputation with our customers," said Sean Matlock, Southwest District Safe & Sound project manager.

Highlights for 2011

- The Route 76 bridge over Beaver Creek at Bradleyville was opened Oct. 5 – right on time – after 66 days of construction. At 445 feet, it is the lon-

gest bridge in the state's Safe & Sound project list.

- The Route 60 bridge over the Spring River west of Aurora was completed three weeks ahead of schedule – a welcome accomplishment for a project that closed busy Route 60 and detoured traffic on Business Route 60 through Verona and the middle of Aurora.
- Building a new Route 160 bridge over a branch of the Little North Fork River near Mindenmines – actually a box culvert replacement – took only one week to complete.
- Longer-than-expected time to drive pilings put some bridges behind schedule, including the Route 125/Finley River bridge north of Sparta and the Dallas County Route K/Niangua River bridge east of Buffalo. However, the new bridges replaced aging structures needing frequent repair and were welcome improvements.
- In Henry County alone, 17 Safe & Sound projects were completed.

"Talkin' Transportation"
Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield
10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays
radiospringfield.com

Southeast District

Granting Christmas Wishes to Children in Need

Many people have fond memories of waking up early on Christmas, rushing to the tree and then spying the special gift they had been longing for all year carefully waiting among an assortment of wrapping paper, bows and ornaments. For some families, making these memories is easy. But others sometimes need a little extra help. In the Southeast District, that's where the Christmas Angels program comes in.



Kevin Williams volunteers and cooks chili to assist with the Christmas Angels Chili Dinner.

The Christmas Angels program began 25 years ago with a simple crock pot of chili for coworkers to share. Now, the SE District's Christmas Angels Chili Dinner has over 50 volunteers who work to grant Christmas wishes for underprivileged families in Southeast Missouri.



Mike Smith and his son, Shane, double check their shopping list and discuss what to buy next.

This year, the event raised nearly \$5,500.

"It is touching to see such an outpouring of generosity, especially at a time when the economy is down," said Transportation Project Designer Jeff Wachter. "The event continues to generate more and more proceeds each year."

Wachter explained this year's dinner generated almost \$500 more than last year's event.

MoDOT began accepting orders for chili in early November. Despite a slow start, over 70 businesses and individuals lent their support through chili orders, gift cards and donations. Other area organizations provided their equipment to enable MoDOT volunteers to prepare chili.

"We can't thank the businesses, organizations and individuals enough for their continued support of the Christmas Angels Program," said Senior Design Technician Kathy Harrison. "They made it possible to help over 100 children this year."

While the dinner is complete, donations will continue to be accepted. Businesses or individuals wishing to donate to the Christmas Angels program may send or drop their donations by the Division 10 Highway Employees' Credit Union located at 337 N. Main St. in Sikeston, Mo. Checks can be made out to the Division 10 Highway Employees' Credit Union c/o Christmas Angels.

If you or your company would like to be added to the list for the 2012 Christmas Angels Chili Dinner, please send your name, address and phone number to sechristmasangels@yahoo.com.

To view a list of participating individuals, organizations and businesses, please visit: http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/Christmas-Angels2011.htm.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Nicole Thieret
573.472.6632
nicole.thieret@modot.mo.gov

2011 Service Award Recipients



5-Year Service Award Recipients: (front l-r): Christopher "CJ" Ordonia, George Alston, Jose Cervantes, Shelly Cooper, Sarah Messmer (back l-r) Thomas "Neal" Taegtmeier, Scott Crony, Jerrod Jernigan, Ronald Thomason, Michael Wake, Richard Eggers, Todd Siler



10-Year Service Award Recipients: (front l-r) Travis Reese, Marion Cora, Paul Vanbibber, Michael Frazier, Erin Collins, Lisa Camden, James Young (back l-r) Nikki Knight, Janice Murr, Randall Ipock, William Scharnhorst, Benjamin Meredith, James Henson, Donald Thomas, John Allen, Scott Sifford, William Johnson, Melanie Rickard-Elmore



15-Year Service Award Recipients: (front l-r) Jessie Fulton, Nathan Hunt, Terry Fields, Brian Wallace, Michael Harris (back l-r) Howard McNew, Tyson Rutledge, Harold Merritt, Kelly Martin, Steve Limbaugh, Douglas Clark



20-Year Service Award Recipients: (front l-r) John Davis, Brian Frazier, Debbie Foster, Shelly Cauldwell, Cathy Morrison (back l-r) Ronald Bollinger, Randy Gholson, Shannon Inman, Terry Walker, Jeffrey Byrge, Richard Elijah, Ed Hess, Mark Barton



25-Year Service Award Recipients: (front l-r) Kristin Ryan, Debbie Strobel, William "Bill" Goodman, Jackie Jenkins (back l-r) Jay Trammell, Bruce Woods, Donald Cooper, David Vaughn, Tommy Woods

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.

Community Relations
Missouri Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840
www.modot.org
1-888 ASK MODOT

Editor
Laura Holloway

Design Coordinator
Dennis Forbis

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Laura Holloway, editor
573.751.5985
Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov

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.



Missouri Department of Transportation
Community Relations
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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Traveler Map Receives New Features

MoDOT's Traveler Information Map has served travelers well for years, providing drivers with an up-to-the-minute view of road conditions for state highways and interstates. Conditions for these routes are color-coded to give visitors the information they need at a glance.

One new feature involves the homepage. The static map on www.modot.org that linked to the updated map has now been replaced with an at-a-glance updated version. Users can then click through to navigate to their chosen portion of the state.

"It's as easy as looking out the window," said Beth Wright, State Maintenance Engineer. "One click on the map and you can see what's happening on the

roads and determine your plan of action."

By using a recently added zoom function, users can learn the condition of local city and county arteries that receive continuous attention from MoDOT crews. More specific information is available by viewing state highway conditions by city, county or route. As users narrow the view to specific areas, interstate exit numbers and lower-volume highways appear.

A text report and links to road condition maps for surrounding states are also featured on the site. In addition, users can access traffic cameras, view message boards or see if any highway sections are closed by incidents.

For Your Benefit

Review Your Next Check Stub

You should review your electronic check stub regularly to make sure your pay, deductions and leave balances are correct. Your net pay changes if your salary or deductions (health insurance, Cafeteria Plan, deferred comp, etc.) change. Make sure the amounts are right! Find instructions on reviewing your electronic check stub at <http://www.wi.intranet/ct/ess.htm>.

The January 17, 2012 paycheck will change because of the following:

Federal and State Taxes

Any changes to the tax brackets for 2012 will apply beginning with this check.

Cafeteria Plan

The amounts you elected for 2012 Flexible Medical and Dependent Care will be deducted. If you did not opt out of the Cafeteria Plan for medical, vision, or dental premiums during the enrollment period, the premiums will not be subject to taxes and you will see an administration fee deduction.

Delta Dental and VSP Plan

Added or changed coverage deductions will start with this check.

Missouri State Charitable Campaign

The amount you elected during the Charitable Campaign will be deducted.

Optional Life Insurance

Employees enrolled in Optional Life Insurance coverage may see a premium increase on the January 17,

2012 check if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You were employed before July 31, 2011, enrolled in a multiple of 1x to 6x your Annual Benefit Base Rate, and received a salary increase between July 31, 2010 and July 1, 2011, OR:
- You have reached a milestone birthday in December as shown on the rate chart found at: www.modot.mo.gov/newsandinfodocuments/2011OptionalLifeRateChart.pdf.

If you have any questions concerning your coverage please contact your district or division insurance representative or Employee Benefits at 877-863-9406.

If you are enrolled under MOSERS, please contact them for information concerning your benefits toll free at 800-827-1063.

Check your address too!

It is important to make sure the address on your electronic check stub is correct. W-2s will be mailed to your home address in January. Make sure the address is up to date to avoid delays in delivery.

If you have any questions, please contact your district or division payroll representative or Financial Services Payroll section.

Stockton Maintenance Worker Creates Safety Message

by Bob Edwards

Stockton Senior Maintenance Worker Robin Wright had her coworkers in mind when she came up with the message that won the Southwest District safety slogan contest.

"MoDOT is like a family," Wright said. The 17-year maintenance veteran enjoys her fellow employees and she wants to see them back on the job every day.

Thus she came up with "Be Smart. Be Safe. Be Here Tomorrow." Wright's slogan was chosen by a committee of Southwest District coworkers and supervisors as the winning entry (of 52 submitted) to be used for all safety communications through 2012.

"You always have to be thinking and

assessing situations," said Wright. We meet a lot of hazards every day. ...

Think before you do."

Reflecting on Wright's words, Senior Community Relations Specialist Angela Eden and Senior Highway Designer Sharon Needham put their heads together to come

up with a visual component.

The result is an orange sign with an adult-size figure holding hands with two smaller figures representing children. The slogan wraps around the edge.

"In my mind, it was very family-oriented," Needham said trying to capture the spirit of Wright's slogan. "I just ran with the idea of family."



Be Here Tomorrow!