

# kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

July 30 - August 3, 2012

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## KC District Calendar:

### August 1

Route B Bridge Ribbon Cutting  
Archie, MO, 10 a.m.

### August 6

Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on  
Missouri Transportation Needs  
Gamber Center (Shenandoah A Room), 4  
SE Independence Avenue, Lee's Summit,  
MO 64063  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### August 7

Vision Team  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Board Room

### August 8

Missouri Highway and Transportation  
Commission Meeting  
Hannibal LaGrange University, 2800  
Palmyra Road, Hannibal, Mo.  
10 a.m. - noon

**Have a Great Week!**

## Beat the Extreme Summer Heat

**P**hew, it's hot! And there isn't much relief in sight. As summer creeps by, the temperatures continue to rise, and so does the risk for heat related illnesses. Did you know that those working in a hot environment are most prone to heat exhaustion? That means a majority of MoDOT employees fall within the high risk category. Taking precautions, such as drinking water, water and more water are necessities for each day on the job.

So, how can you protect yourself in these unrelenting days of hot summer? Pace yourself. If you are not accustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment, start slowly and pick up the pace gradually. If exertion in the heat makes your heart pound and leaves you gasping for breath, you need to stop all activity. Find a cool area or at least some shade, and rest. This is most important if you become lightheaded, confused, weak, or faint.

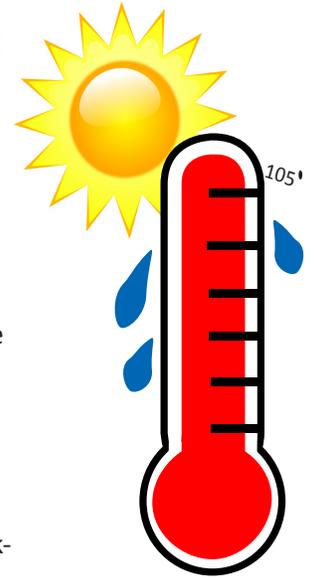
A tip for preventing additional heat related illness includes becoming accustomed to a drinking schedule. Two hours before working outside, drink 24 fluid ounces. When working in the heat, the best way to beat the heat is to continue consuming cold beverages every 15 minutes. Water is best but rehydration drinks or sport drinks will help keep you hydrated. Other tips include wearing lightweight clothing and eating fruits and vegetables to replace nutrients.

Other precautions are being taken throughout the district. In fact, some of the contracted

construction crews have been readjusting their schedules to miss the heat of the day. The jackhammer crew on the bridge portion of the Route 169 Bin Wall project is working 3 a.m. to 1 p.m. to get some relief from the heat. Other construction projects must stick to the cooler, overnight hours as the heat is too extreme for work to be done properly. This includes pouring bridge decks and doing concrete paving in the early morning hours to avoid the heat as much as possible.

Maintenance crews have been working diligently despite the extreme temperatures. However, they are no stranger to keeping their water jugs full. Hydration seems to be the common denominator among all crews out and about keeping our roads safe and maintained.

Please remember, limiting exposure and maintaining hydration are key during these grueling days of summer. Stay safe and keep cool as much as possible. Know the warning signs for heat exhaustion and other heat related illnesses and most importantly, keep an eye on each other!



## KC KUDOS

Thank You MODOT!

Over the course of the past few months, I have used this website to point out issues that I thought MoDOT should be informed about. I have always had great response from the website and today I was just merely writing to say "Thanks" for addressing the three issues I have reported.

1. Signal lights underneath the Christopher Bond Bridge. Issue with the timing has been resolved.
2. Brush and trees along I-35 from Parvin Rd. to Armor Rd. in North Kansas City. MoDOT hired a private contractor to remove the growth and now the signs are very visible. Resolved.
3. Pavement at the I-35 Northbound Exit 12-B to I-435. The pavement has been patched until something can be done about this section of roadway.

For all of these matters I wanted to once again say THANKS.

Respectfully,  
M. LaCapra, Kansas City

## *Save the DATE!!!!*

*The Missouri State Fair is almost here!*

*Stop by and enjoy the fair from August 9 - 19 in Sedalia.*

*Gates open from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.*

*Don't forget, the Kansas City District's day is Friday, August 17.*

### kcConnections sources

**Construction/Materials** Teresa Martin, 607-2100

**Regional Counsel** LeAnn Francis, 607-2082

**Administration** Sherri McGregor, 607-2184

**General Services** Jody Jordan, 347-4100

**Human Resources** Amy Gagne, 607-2141

**Information Systems** JoAnn MacKay, 607-2096

**Right of Way** Dana O'Maley, 607-2056

**Traffic** Laurel McKean, 607-2107

**Editor** Kerri Lewis, 607-2151

Find MoDOT KC on Twitter, Facebook and Youtube.

## Bolder Five-Year Direction Calendar

### 2012

- **December 31:** all facility, equipment and operational changes complete.

### 2013

- **March 31:** all employee reassignments, staff reductions complete.

### Bolder 5-Year Direction Questions?

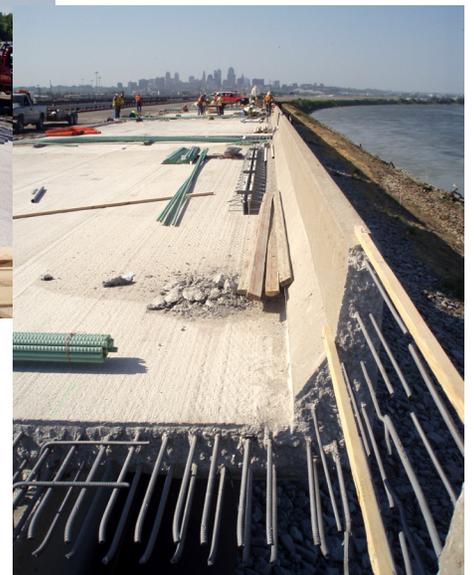
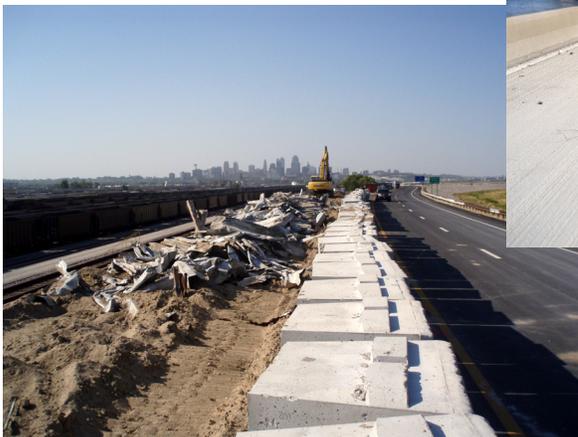
- Visit: [wwwi/intranet/hr/](http://wwwi/intranet/hr/)
- Contact your KC District HR representative

## Routes C and J Over Route 71 Moving Forward

*The July 23 pre-dawn deck pour at the Routes C and J bridge over Route 71 went smoothly, putting the project back on track to meet or perhaps beat the August 10 target date to re-open the bridge in Peculiar. The project was delayed nearly a week when a trucker pulling a trailer and equipment struck the bridge, bending a steel girder. Flame On, Inc., of Monroe, Wash. worked around the clock for several days to straighten the girder, while Phillips Construction Co. workers continued working on other aspects of the project. The bridge awaits concrete barrier and completion of approaches before it can open. Sidewalk completion will continue under traffic so that the bridge will be open in time for the first day of the Raymore-Peculiar School District's 2012-13 school year.*



## Route 169 Bin Wall



*The Route 169 bin wall project moved forward quickly following the July 14 closure. The corrugated metal of the old bin wall lays to the left, between the railroad yard (far left) and the concrete blocks of the new wall system (middle), with a segment of the southbound lanes of Route 169 on the right, and the Missouri River only a few feet away on the far right. The extremely tight corridor illustrates why Route 169 needed to be closed in both directions. Work to replace joints on the southbound bridge also is well under way.*

## EAEC Corner: Profiles

The KC Employee Advisory Extension Council (EAEC) has been active for more than three years and serves KC District employees. The council's goal is to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all employees by assisting management and employees with cultural diversity, policy review, and communication issues.

Take advantage of this avenue to stay informed about our district. You can contact the various members or submit a concern or question through the intranet or through a paper form that can be located in each work unit. All concerns are anonymous and confidential throughout the process.

The EAEC Corner introduces you to the members of the council.

**Name, title and position on the EAEC.**  
*Gina Myles, Intermediate Customer Relations Specialist and member of EAEC.*

**What areas of the district do you represent on the council?** *I represent Kansas City Scout and Customer Relations.*

**Why did you volunteer and what do you hope to accomplish while serving on the EAEC?** *Coming from Scout, I volunteered to learn more about the district, MoDOT and to become more involved in MoDOT through the EAEC. I hope to help meet the needs and obtain answers to questions for my fellow employees while serving on the EAEC.*

**What's the best part of serving on the team?** *Meeting people I haven't ever had any contact with before joining the EAEC.*

**What is one employee issue you hold near and dear to your heart?** *One issue that is important to me is that everyone's concerns be addressed.*

To learn more about the KC District EAEC on the intranet, click on Employee Advisory Council on the left-hand links.



*Gina Myles  
Intermediate Customer Relations Specialist*

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## 'Blue Ribbon' Committee to Gather Public Input on Transportation

The future needs and challenges facing Missouri's transportation system is the subject of a series of public forums across the state this summer. The meetings are sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri Transportation Needs that was appointed by Missouri House Speaker Steven Tilley, R-Perryville, in early March. The Blue Ribbon Committee is a 21-member panel of business leaders, contractors and special interest groups from across the state.

The Committee will meet Monday, Aug. 6, 10 a.m., at the Gamber Center

located at 4 SE Independence Ave. in Lee's Summit. The meeting is open to the public.

"The purpose of the committee is to examine Missouri's current and future transportation needs and explore possible solutions," said Speaker Tilley. "We need to start a conversation with all Missouri citizens to make sure our transportation system can function at a level that will foster economic growth and handle growing traffic safely and efficiently."

Working with the Missouri Department of Transportation, Tilley's Blue Ribbon

Citizens Committee has held public meetings around the state to gather information from citizens and stakeholders.

"Transportation is more than roads and bridges and projects. It's our connection to work, business, family and better government," said Platte County Economic Development Council Executive Director Alicia Stephens. "This is a great opportunity to help shape our transportation system and the quality of life for all Missourians."

For more information, contact MoDOT Customer Relations, 816-607-2153.



## Additional Volunteers Needed for State Fair

Central Office has a few weekend spots left to fill for state fair volunteers. If you're interested in working one of the shifts, please get your supervisor's approval and contact Holly Dentner in CO Customer Relations at 573.522.5528. Spots will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

- Saturday, Aug. 11, afternoon shift -- 2 spots open
- Sunday, Aug. 12 morning shift -- 1 spot open
- Sunday, Aug 12 afternoon shift -- 1 spot open
- Saturday, Aug. 18 afternoon shift -- 2 spots open
- Sunday, Aug. 19 morning shift -- 1 spot open
- Sunday, Aug. 19 afternoon shift -- 1 spot open

## It's Festival Season!

The Kansas City District will be attending two festivals this year to highlight some major construction projects in the Northland. On August 17-19, MoDOT will host a booth at the Parkville Riverfest in Platte County and September 28-29, we will host a booth at the Liberty Fall Festival in Clay County. These festivals will enable district representatives to reach out to people impacted by these projects by providing information and answering questions.

Opportunities are available for those who would like to serve as an ambassador for the district at either event. We need two volunteers per shift, with most shifts lasting about four hours. Please contact Kerri Lewis at 607-2151 or via email if you would like to work a shift, with your supervisor's approval. To see the list of times available, please visit the intranet at [wwwi/intranet/d4/cr/](http://wwwi/intranet/d4/cr/) or on sharepoint.

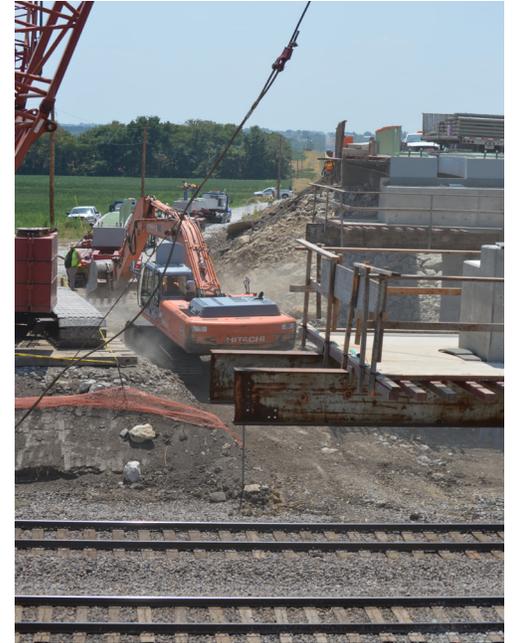
## Johnson County's Final SAS Bridge

The Route 58 Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad in Johnson County is in full swing, literally. Beams were swinging and ready for installation on Monday, July 23. Preparation for an early morning bridge deck pour on July 30 will finish out the week.

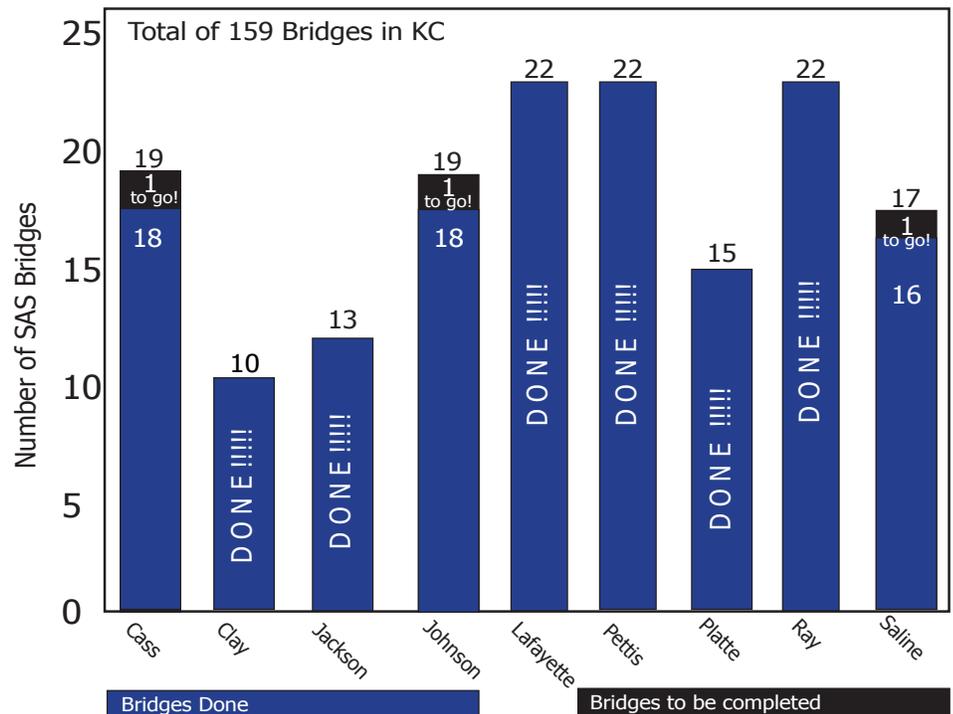


Keeping a tight schedule is important for any bridge closure to ensure the bridge is back open on time. However, the schedule for this bridge is a bit more stringent. Several trains travel beneath this structure daily, requiring the crew to schedule work around the trains' schedule to prevent any interference.

This is the final bridge in Johnson County to be completed under the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program and is on schedule to open by August 17. Once finished, Johnson County will have 19 new or improved bridges serving thousands of motorists each day.



## KC Safe & Sound Bridges On the Rise to Completion



## KC Scout Experiences a Dramatic Reduction in “Frequent Flyers”

For years, it has been MoDOT’s policy to furnish complimentary gas to motorists who have run low on fuel while on select Metro area highways and interstates. The intent of this policy was to enable those stranded vehicles to be quickly removed from the roadway. In most cases, only one gallon is dispensed by KC Scout Motorist Assist personnel and typically that will get the vehicle to the next exit where fuel may be purchased.

This past spring it became apparent to Motorist Assist responders and KC Scout dispatchers that select drivers were appearing to need this service with regularity. They and their vehicles were known as ‘repeat offenders.’ Thus began an effort on KC Scout’s part to track these parties and deny their requests for fuel assists.

A press release was issued and a media segment was aired on KMBC Channel 9 April 26 describing the methodology Scout uses to systematically flag repeat

abusers. With the ability to cite date, time and location of previous assists, Motorist Assist responders could simply tell the driver that they would need to contact another source for assistance, having been helped too many times in the past.

Current statistics show the numbers of chronic violators has dropped significantly since April. In June only three vehicles from the “Hot List” attempted to obtain free gas and there were no new repeat offenders added to the checklist. Overall, there have been fewer requests for fuel assists this year than last. That may correspond to the reduced price of gas overall from

what it was a year ago. Circumstances sometimes do cause vehicles to run low on fuel, whether due to a mechanical gauge failure or simple forgetfulness. MoDOT and KC Scout will continue their policy of helping stranded motorists, but will deny those who attempt to abuse this courtesy.



**Motorist Assist Operator Robert Pruitt assist a motorist providing gasoline to get the vehicle safely off the road.**

## From the Director

Team MoDOT:

You will recall in May I sent you a message about action the Commission had taken to revisit changes to the health care benefits provided to employees and retirees of MoDOT and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I told you that the Commission had decided to form a committee to study this complicated issue over the summer. The committee includes MoDOT and MSHP leadership, active employees and retirees of each agency, and representatives of TEAM and the Troopers Association. Below are the committee members:

Commission Chair Rudy Farber, chair of committee; MoDOT Director Kevin Keith; MSHP Colonel Ron Repogle (Major Sandy Karsten, alternate); Brenda Wells, MoDOT active employee (CO Motor Carriers), Lt. Jim Remillard, MSHP active employee; Jervey Brown, MoDOT retiree; Major Hugh McKay, MSHP retiree; Todd Tyler, TEAM representative (SW District, Financial Services); Sgt. Matt Broniec, MO State Troopers Assn. Lt. Larry Plunkett, alternate)



**Director Kevin Keith**

The committee held its first meeting the week of July 15, and it was largely informational, providing the members with historical and background information to guide their future discussions. I will keep you posted on the work of this committee.

Kevin