

# kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

July 16 - 20, 2012

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## Kansas City District Hosts KCSTI Summer Institute Students Learn about Transportation Careers

July 11 marked the ninth year MoDOT's Kansas City District welcomed students participating in the Kansas City Summer Transportation Institute (KCSTI). The KCSTI provides an exciting opportunity for high school students in the Greater Kansas City area to learn about careers in transportation through an intense, four-week summer program. The group visited several departments in the district office including Kansas City Scout, Design and Construction and Materials among others. The students had an enjoyable visit and they were full of questions regarding transportation careers at MoDOT.

"MoDOT is a valuable partner in making the program successful. MoDOT has sponsored our program from the very beginning and without their leadership and guidance this would not be possible." said KCSTI Project Director, Derrick

Willis. "I want to thank MoDOT for everything they do in support of the KCSTI and a special thanks to A.J. Byrd and Donnetta Cole for going out of their way to provide a place for us to meet, and for reaching out to us to offer us assistance where and however we need it."

The program, funded by the Federal Highway Administration, allows the KCSTI to create awareness and stimulate interest in the wealth of career opportunities that exists in the transportation industry. There are approximately nine programs in the country; however, the KCSTI is the only program that accepts students with disabilities. Mr. Willis feels this aspect promotes self-discovery activities designed to enhance teamwork, leadership, and allows the students to form a bond with their disabled counterparts.

*Continued on page 2*

## KC District Calendar:

- July 17**  
Job Status Meeting  
1 to 4 p.m., Board Room
- July 18**  
Advance Work Zone Training  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m., District Garage
- July 19**  
Advance Work Zone Training  
8 -11:30 a.m., District Garage
- July 24**  
Management Team Meeting  
9 -11:30 a.m., Board Room

**Have a Great Week!**



*Intermediate Materials Technician Gregory Copeland talks with KCSTI students about the work that is done in MoDOT's materials lab.*



## KCSTI Continued

“They become very nurturing toward and protective of the disabled students in the program,” stated Willis. The students also visited other sites such as Garmin, Black and Veatch, the Downtown Kansas City Airport’s Air Traffic Control Tower and the Airline History Museum.

This year’s program will finish with an awards luncheon on July 17. Students will be honored for their accomplishments in the categories of Most Educated, Most Empowered, Most Engaged and Most Valued.



*Left: Assistant District Construction & Materials Engineer Warren Roberts answers questions from KCSTI staff as MoDOT Office of External Civil Rights administrative assistant Esther Moten looks on.*



*Below: Scout Traffic Center Manager Jason Sims gives KCSTI students an overview of the Scout system.*

## Routes C and J Bridge Replacement Moving Right Along

The morning after Independence Day fireworks faded from the skies, Phillips Construction Co. was hard at work removing the deck of the Routes C and J bridge over Route 71 in Peculiar. By Sunday, July 8, the old deck was gone and workers were already installing falsework for the new deck. MoDOT and the community are watching as this 35-day closure unfolds and a vital connector for the area is restored.



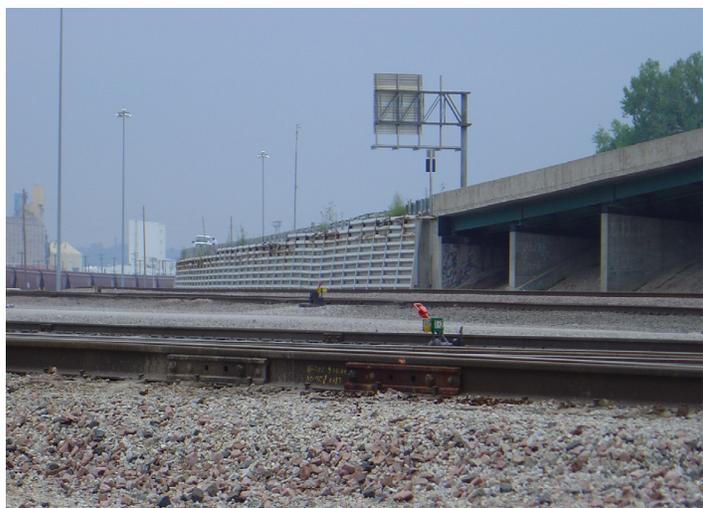
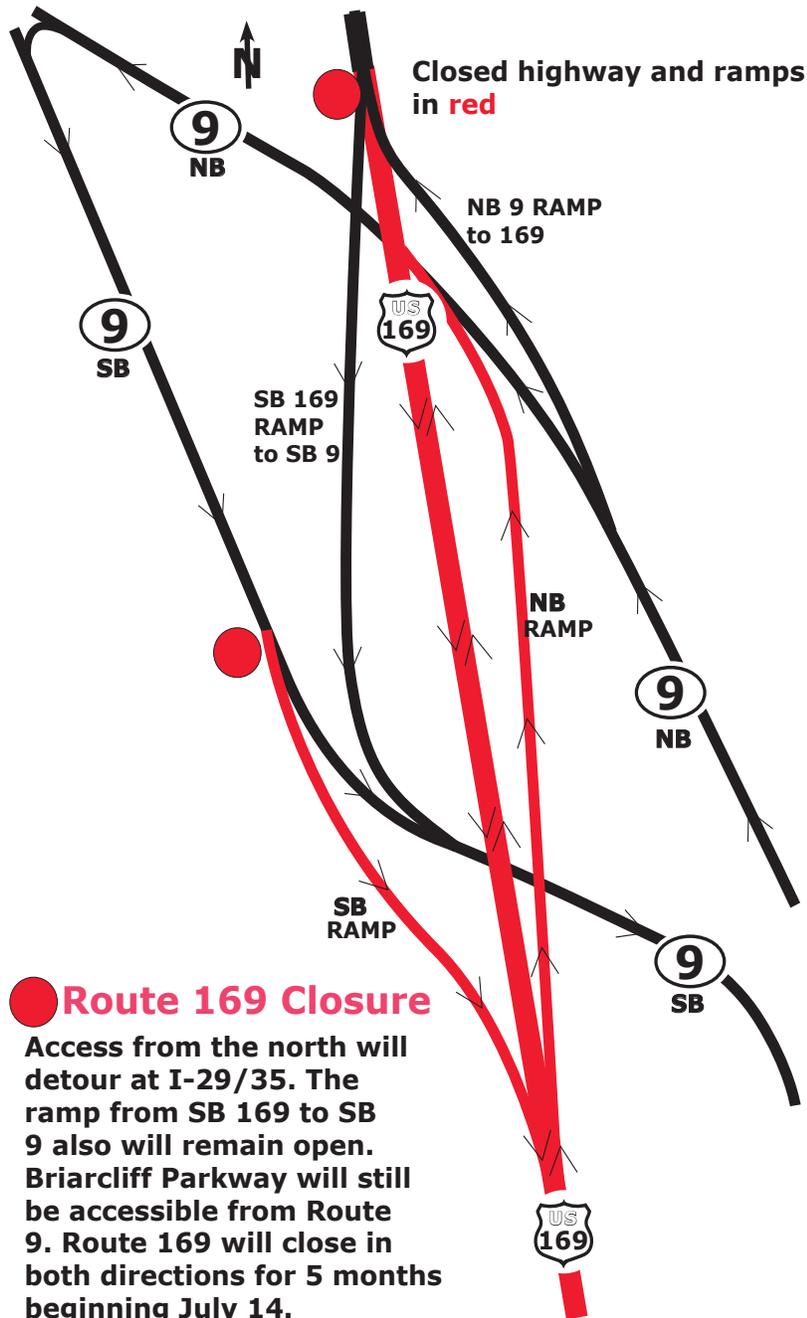
# MoDOT Prepares for Route 169 Closure

Just to make sure that luck – good or bad – isn't a factor, MoDOT will close Route 169 between the Wheeler Downtown Airport and Route 9 at one minute past midnight on Saturday, July 14.

And as if eliminating Friday the 13th from the mix wasn't good enough, MoDOT also ensured all week preceding the closure that the public knew what was coming. By midday Friday, radio and television interviews were being aired showing a map of the closure and why the work was necessary now. Assistant District Engineer Brian Kidwell met with reporters at a news conference Friday morning in the median between northbound and southbound Route 9 a half mile south of Briarcliff Parkway. The message: Find another way into Downtown if you've been using the Broadway Extension.

The shutdown of all lanes in both directions will inconvenience 35,000 motorists each day for the next five months. However, it is necessary to do the work now so that an unplanned emergency closure doesn't require a much longer shutdown, and more expense.

The work includes replacing more than 4,000 feet of corrugated metal bin wall that holds up the east side of the northbound lanes along the levee, repairs bridgework on the southbound side and solves drainage issues between northbound and southbound lanes. Pyramid Construction has the \$10.1 million project, and is scheduled to finish in mid-December.



## Ground Breaking Celebrates Improvements in Grain Valley



**Above:** Grain Valley Interchange Improvement project ground breakers, from left to right: Ryan Hunt, Grain Valley Director of Public Works; Scott Shafer, Grain Valley Alderman; Yolanda West, Grain Valley Alderman; Mike Scully, Grain Valley Alderman; Bob Headley, Grain Valley Alderman; Mike Todd, Grain Valley Mayor; Jeanne Lauer, Missouri State Representative; Will Kraus, Missouri State Senator; Sheila Solon, Missouri State Representative; MHTC Commissioner Lloyd Carmichael, Brian Kidwell, MoDOT KC Assistant District Engineer; Jeff Hardy, MoDOT KC Project Manager; Nancy Totton, Grain Valley Alderman; Dale Arnold,

**Right:** MHTC Commissioner Lloyd Carmichael speaks about MoDOT's current funding challenges. In the background from left to right: Grain Valley Mayor Mike Todd; KC Assistant District Engineer Brian Kidwell; Missouri State Rep. Sheila Solon; Missouri State Rep. Jeanie Lauer; and Missouri State Sen. Will Kraus.



## KC Scout Among Top Stops for DOTs

On July 11, KC Scout hosted four UDOT ITS staff engineers and their consultant as part of an eight-city Traffic Management Center site visit tour. They were interested in learning about freeway and arterial management operations technology and deployment platforms. Among the topics discussed were KC Scout's Ramp Metering project, Operation Green Light, and ATMS mapping design and event management software applications. UDOT is in the process of updating its ATMS platform to that used by Scout and were seeking input on Scout's success and lessons learned. E. Jason Sims, KC Scout's TMC Manager along with members of his team spent several hours with the group answering questions and demonstrating several key software and development tools.

This is one of many such visits by DOT staff from around the country who have made KC Scout a destination TMC due to its national reputation as a leader in ITS deployment and systems management.



Mark Sommerhauser, Kansas City District Project Manager discusses Scout's Ramp Metering Project with Utah's Department of Transportation staff during their visit to Scout.

## 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.**  
*Toni Terry, Senior General Services Technician, Representative*

**What areas of the district do you represent on the council?** *I represent the General Services Department.*

**Why did you volunteer and what do you hope to accomplish while serving on the EAEC?** *To help employees get answers and solutions to their concerns.*

**What's the best part of serving on the team?** *Being connected to a group of individuals who care about MoDOT employees and are willing to help in whatever way they can to get answers for the questions.*

**What is one employee issue you hold near and dear to your heart?** *Concerns regarding our medical insurance and how changes can possibly affect employees and their families.*

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



*Toni Terry  
Senior General Services Technician*

## MoDOT All-Stars Win in Preparation Before the Big Game

Weeks of work by MoDOT's maintenance team preparing for the All-Star Game paid off abundantly when visitors from throughout the world saw glimpses of tidy roadsides throughout the metropolitan area this week.

Crews shifted their schedules to work last Sunday to be sure everything looked good. They responded quickly to issues such as removing or covering new graffiti. Just ask Mulberry Maintenance Supervisor Ronnie Smith, whose team tackled the late-breaking annoyance quickly a day or two before activities at Kauffman Stadium.

Motorist Assist & Emergency Response crews also adjusted their schedules just for the events, and Kansas City Scout put

up special messaging along the highways to help inform and direct travelers.

In the days just prior to All-Star Week, mowing around the baseball design on the embankment in the Jackson Curve was completed and prepared for representatives of the Royals and Major League Baseball to paint an MLB logo and All-Star Game message alongside the baseball. The timing was perfect, and the coordination with outside partners clicked into place.

"MoDOT's Kansas City District team did an extraordinary job," said District Engineer Dan Niec. "Thank you for showing the region and the world how we can deliver."

And we did deliver! The Kansas City Star noted how well MoDOT performed

in its transportation role, and Niec pointed out the recognition given in the Star's 10-category report card published in Wednesday's July 11 edition, which listed Transportation as the only straight A on the card.

"We put forth a tremendous amount planning, effort and coordination with other agencies and it paid off," Niec said. "Of the 10-categories graded, the one that we had the most direct influence on delivering ranked the best. Congratulations!"

In ranking Transportation so highly, the Star story said, "Much praise was given for the 18 months of planning, reconfigured ramps around Kauffman Stadium,

*Continued on page 6*

**Thanks to each of you for the outstanding work and effort at the recent All-Star Game! You made all of Team MoDOT proud! Congratulations and keep up the good work!**

**Kevin Keith, Director**

## MoDOT All-Stars Continued from page 5

and the thousands of cameras around the city that help keep motorists moving.

Throw in emergency responders assisting with stalled vehicles on I-70 and guiding traffic in and out of the stadium, traffic flow topped the rest.”

The KC District should be proud of how well we performed for the All-Star festivities. In fact, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller commended the district at the Commission’s July meeting for an award

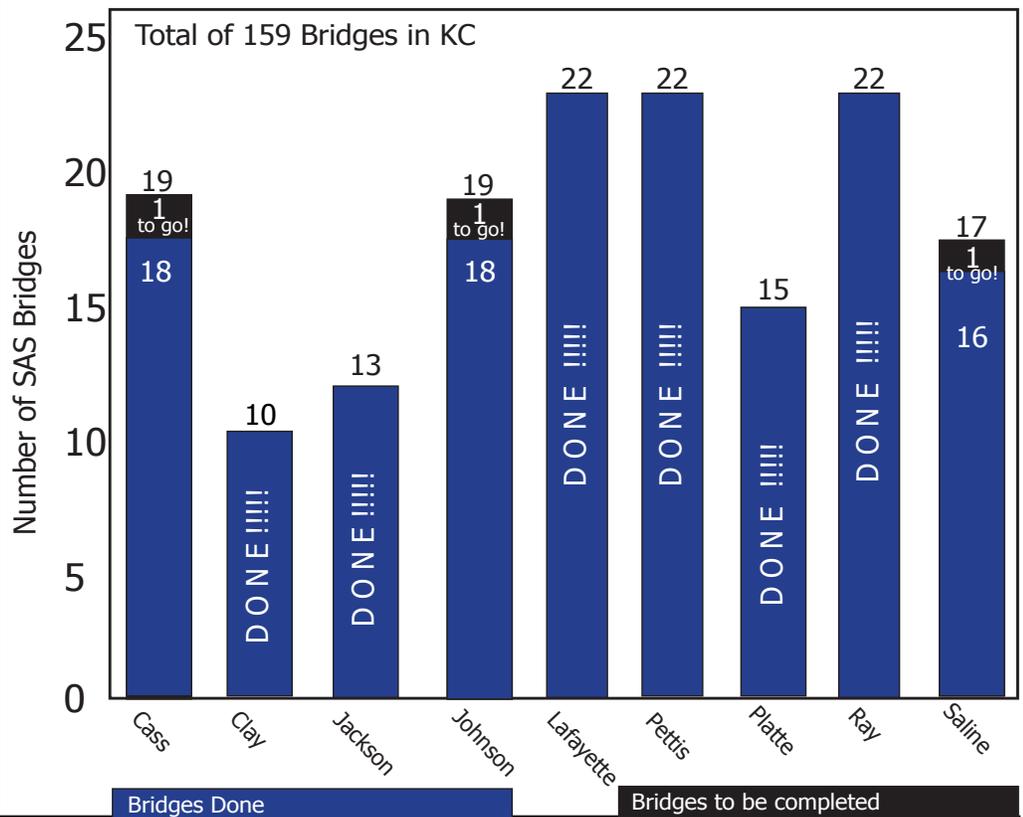
winning performance. With these extra efforts, the district stepped up to the plate and helped make Kansas City shine!

## 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.

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



## From the Director

I am very pleased to tell you that Governor Jay Nixon has signed Senate Bill 611, which expands Missouri's current "Move Over" law to now include MoDOT vehicles. The law requires motorists to slow down or move over when approaching law enforcement or emergency response vehicles parked on the side of the road. It now also includes MoDOT vehicles parked with amber and white lights flashing. This legislation was one of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission's highest priorities for the 2012 legislative session.

This means another level of safety for us -- MoDOT workers who spend their days performing construction, maintenance or emergency response activities on our state routes. I want all MoDOT employees to work in the safest environment possible so that everyone can go home safe, every day. I offer my thanks and appreciation to the Commission, the Governor and the Missouri Legislature for helping to make this law happen for our employees.

Kevin



Director Kevin Keith

# Safety News

## Wood Chipper Safety

Self-feeding wood chippers are commonly used during tree trimming and brush removal operations. Carelessness or inattention around wood chippers can lead to serious accidents and/or injuries. Here are some safety tips to protect workers from being caught by the chipper feed mechanism:

- Supervisors shall ensure all workers are trained in safe work procedures, prior to use. This includes reviewing the manufacturer's operation manual.
- At least two workers should be in contact with each other when operating the chipper. Never use a wood chipper alone.
- Workers shall wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) including head, face and eye protection, hearing protection, gloves and protected toe footwear.
- Workers should not wear loose fitting clothing, gloves or pants with cuffs. Loose fitting sleeves can be secured with duct tape.

- Only one worker should be assigned to feed material into the chipper. It



is recommended the "feeder" wear a close fitting, Class II t-shirt, in lieu of a safety vest. All other workers must wear a safety vest while on the right-of-way.

- Worker's hands and feet shall remain outside the in-feed hopper, even when the machine is off.
- Workers should feed brush and limbs into the in-feed hopper butt end first. Do not feed limbs that are too big for the machine.
- Workers feeding material should be positioned to the side of the machine to allow quick operation of the emergency shut-off device and minimize risk of entanglement in branches. Because of differences among machines, the manufacturer's operating manual must be consulted for guidance.



- Workers should walk away from the machine once the feed mechanism has grabbed the material.
- Workers should lay short material on top of longer material that is feeding or use a longer branch to push it through the in-feed hopper.
- All safety devices and controls, such as emergency shut-off devices, shall be tested and verified to be functioning properly before the chipper is used.
- Workers should load small raked-up material such as twigs and leaves directly into the chip truck or in trash cans or bags instead of feeding it into the chipper.
- Workers should keep the area around the wood chipper free of tripping hazards.



If you would like more information on how to safely operate or work around a wood chipper, contact your KC District risk management office.

## KC KUDOS

On behalf of the City of North Kansas City, I want to extend our appreciation to you and your staff for the outstanding cooperation and support provided to the City during preparations for the City's recent Centennial Celebration. The local MoDOT maintenance staff provided barricades, signs, and a message board to help facilitate traffic for the event. They also mowed the highway right of ways and swept the local highways prior to the celebration, which helped give our city a clean appearance. North Kansas City never looked better!

Please recognize the efforts put forth by Deloris Goetz and her entire crew for the exemplary job they did in preparation of the important event. It is a pleasure to work together with MoDOT staff as we did throughout the construction of the Paseo Corridor Project. I'm looking forward to continuing the good communication and relations with you and your staff for many years to come.

Sincerely,  
Pat Hawver, Director of Public Works, North Kansas City

Thank you for constructing the MO224 eastbound to MO13 southbound ramp near Lexington. Even though this was a very small project, it will save over half a mile from the present route. I appreciate that funds were found for this project in light of a tight state budget.

**Tom Bridges**  
**Richmond**

Excellent performance by Ideker on the Route 169 and 96th Street Interchange project. Also, kudos to MoDOT project manager [editor's note: Mark Fisher].

**M. Riley**

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

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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