

# kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

July 9 - 13, 2012

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## KC District Calendar:

**July 9**  
Grain Valley Ground Breaking Ceremony  
6 p.m., corner of Route 40 and Main St.

**July 10**  
Vision Team  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Boardroom  
  
Major League All-Star Game  
Kauffman Stadium

**July 11**  
North Area Team Meeting  
8 - 10 a.m., Room 236  
  
MHTC Meeting  
10 a.m. to noon, Washington City Hall  
405 Jefferson Street, Washington MO

Advance Work Zone Training  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m., District Garage

**July 12**  
Advance Work Zone Training  
8 - 11:30 a.m., second floor conference  
room in District Garage

**Have a Great Week!**

## Grain Valley Pre-Construction Meeting Kicks Off New Interchange Project

A pre-construction meeting kicked off the last of the Amendment 3 projects for the Kansas City District. The Grain Valley Main Street Interchange Improvement meeting held July 2, 2012 at the district office officially gets the project under way.

Completion of the project will bring relief to the current interchange at Main Street/Buckner Tarsney which does not have the infrastructure capacity to meet the current traffic demands. This restriction has also limited economic development within Grain Valley. The daily traffic back-ups and delays have become a burden for residents, existing businesses and visitors.

The project will include the following safety and capacity improvements:

- Relocating the US 40 and Main Street / Buckner Tarsney intersection approximately 400 feet south of the current location to increase the separation from the traffic signal at the I-70 southern ramp terminals.
- Improvements to promote alternative forms of transportation, such as pedestrian connectivity and cycling in the safest way possible.
- Improving the existing interchange

with lanes added behind the columns of the existing bridge and additional turn lanes to the I-70 off-ramps to reduce backups and increase intersection capacity.

- Relocating the north outer roads approximately 600 feet north of the current location to increase the separation from the traffic signal at the I-70 northern ramp terminals.

Project Manager Jeff Hardy and Resident Engineer Brian Iles conducted the meeting which addressed various issues and the different phases of the project. Representatives from MoDOT, the City of Grain Valley, Radmacher Brother Excavating Company, various utility companies, and others associated with the project totaling more than 50 people in attendance.

A ground breaking ceremony on Monday July 9 commences construction on the project. Missouri Senator Will Kraus, Representative Sheila Solon, Representative Jeanie Lauer, Grain Valley elected officials and MoDOT staff will turn the dirt at 6 p.m. at the I-70 and Grain Valley exit to the right of 40 Highway on the southwest side of Main St.



Grain Valley Interchange Improvement Project Team

## A Hardhat Can Save Your Life

An updated Head and Eye/Face Protection Policy that took effect on July 1 has expanded personal protective equipment usage and requirements. An accident on June 26 underscores the benefits of wearing a hardhat, which far outweigh the consequences of exposing an unprotected head to workplace hazards.

It can happen in a flash. "I don't even recall hitting my head," said Jerrett Pence, Maintenance Crew Leader in Belton. "The last thing I remember was feeling the mower slide, and the next thing I knew, I heard voices around me."

A steamy, hot day of mowing turned into a lifesaving situation. Pence was working to complete mowing around the northeast corner of Route 71 and Truman Road. He wanted to finish the area with the mower to minimize the amount that would require others to weed eat later. The mower Pence was riding was approaching the final pass when one wheel dropped off the retaining wall. By then, it was too late.

The mower toppled six feet to the sidewalk below, landing on its side with Pence still strapped in. His head hit the pavement which resulted in a serious

gash on the back of his head. The hardhat absorbed the brunt of the impact, without it, the result would have been much worse, possibly fatal.

"I hit my head so hard my jaw actually bruised my collarbone. I am real fortunate. I know it could have been much worse."

Efforts put forth by David Eppright, Warrensburg Maintenance Crew Leader and Loren Moore, Warrensburg Senior Maintenance Worker kept the situation from becoming more horrific. Pence actually landed just feet from active lanes of traffic on the ramp for Route 71. Eppright and Moore responded immediately to secure the scene. They quickly unbelted Pence and moved him away from the machine regardless of the gas leaking onto the hot engine. They immediately began applying first aid until the ambulance arrived.

"We just had to get to him," explained Eppright. "Our first aid training kicked in immediately, and we knew just what to do."

First aid and CPR training offered for all MoDOT employees proved to be an important resource on that eventful day. "We are fortunate to receive this valu-

able training and it matters. It made all the difference that day," said Eppright. "We really did remember what we learned, remained calm, and asked all the questions. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this training."

Pence is grateful, beyond words for the efforts put forth by both Eppright and Moore. "I can't put into words what their actions mean to me. If they wouldn't have been there, I don't know what would have happened."

"I believe anyone else would have done the same thing. We just happened to be the ones there at that time. I trust my coworkers with my life every day! We (Kansas City District) have great employees," said Eppright.

As for the hardhat, they would all agree. It is better to be safe than sorry. And without sounding like a Nike ad, "just do it" is some good advice offered by Pence. "The hardhat probably saved my life! Wear it and it could save yours!"



From left to right: Jerrett Pence, Belton Maintenance Crew Leader; Loren Moore, Warrensburg Senior Maintenance Worker; David Eppright, Warrensburg Maintenance Crew Leader.



Eppright



Moore

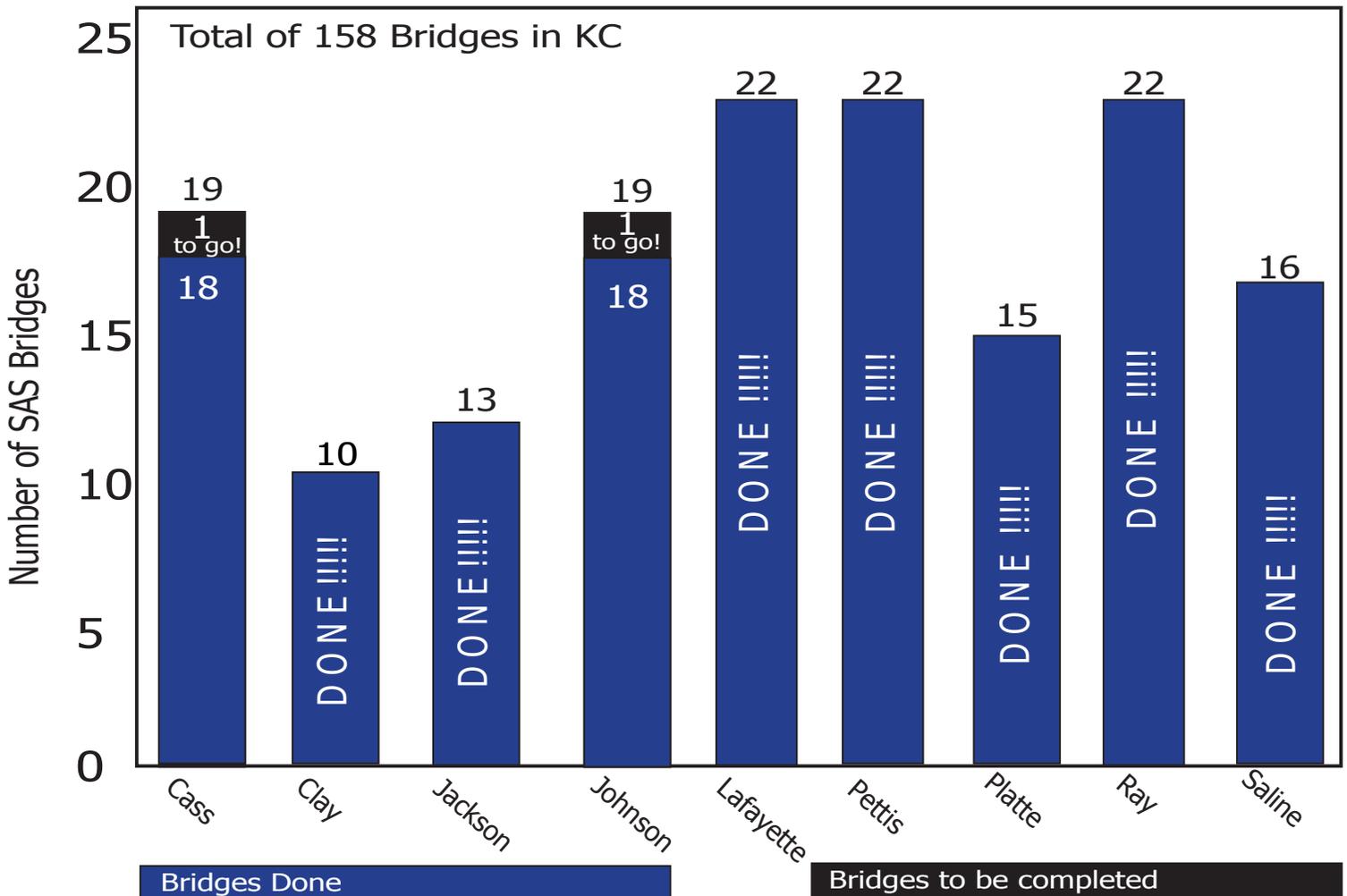
# Calling All Volunteers

## 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



# Safety News

**M**oDOT will not compromise safety because we believe in the well-being of employees and customers. Two recent serious incidents reminds us all to keep safety on the forefront and go home safely everyday.

A MoDOT employee experienced chest pains while returning to the maintenance building from a job site on June 28 and was taken to the hospital. Dehydration was present. The crew leader had made the rounds about an hour before this situation, offering water while checking on the crew. During this extremely hot weather it is vital that we

stay hydrated and watch each other for signs of heat stroke and dehydration.

The second occurred in Ste. Genevieve County. A worker for a contractor was resurfacing I-55 and was adjusting signs when he was backed over by a dump truck. The initial report indicates the worker was picking up a highway sign and crossed the southbound lanes of I-55 when the dump truck ran over him. The worker did not see the truck slowly backing up in the left lane and was struck. We are very sorry to report that he died at the scene. Our thoughts and prayers are with the worker's family, the

contractor and their employees as they work through this difficult time.

Both of these incidents remind us that the work we do puts us in jobs where we must be ever vigilant. It can be as simple as being sure we all have cool water to remain hydrated and that we must be constantly aware of our surroundings and the activities around us.

MoDOT empowers any employee to stop or shut down a project if they observe unsafe behaviors or an unsafe work environment.

Everyone goes home uninjured everyday. Anything less is unacceptable.

## Backing Safely

According to National Safety Council, 350 workers were killed as a result of vehicles backing up between 2005 and 2010. Often either the driver did not know someone was behind him or the driver lost sight of the spotter he knew was there. Here are a few highlights the Spotter Policy to help protect spotters when equipment and trucks are backing up:

- If the vehicle or equipment operator/driver loses sight or communication with the spotter, they SHALL STOP IMMEDIATELY!
- Operators and drivers shall always obey the signal of the spotter and never back up or move in congested areas until the spotter indicates the path is clear.
- Vehicles and equipment operators/drivers shall have the windows rolled down.
- Neither the vehicle or equipment operator/driver, nor the spotter, shall be speaking on, texting with or otherwise operating or viewing a cell phone or other personal data device.
- The spotter shall stand alone. If the spotter is in conversation with another person, the driver shall STOP.
- The spotter shall be aware of the area's hazards for the vehicle/equipment they are spotting, including but not limited to: overhead obstacles, items that could be in the line of impact, soft ground, ditches/trenches, slopes, etc.
- Spotters must always be aware of the



terrain/trip hazards, being careful not to lose their footing.

- Employees on foot shall maintain a safe minimum distance between themselves and the moving vehicles and equipment.
- The spotter shall always have an escape route.
- The spotter shall be wearing MoDOT approved High Visibility Safety Apparel and a Hard Hat in accordance with Safety Policies 1.0 and 1.6.
- During nighttime spotting operations, in addition to the standard Class III reflective clothing, the spotter shall use a flashlight.

For more information, please refer to the Spotter Policy which is due to come out Fall of 2012.

# KC KUDOS

On behalf of the Kansas City Public Schools, and its Superintendent, Dr. R. Stephen Green, I would like to thank you for your timely response to addressing a graffiti issue last month at US-71 and the Truman Road exit.

I placed a call to AJ Byrd, one of your community liaisons, to see if we could remedy the disparaging artwork that appeared on one of the underpasses. He was very helpful and assured me the situation I described to him would be handled. We know you have many pressing issues you must deal with on a daily basis. Our request might have appeared insignificant to some, but you responded quickly – and for that we are grateful.

As a district, we appreciate your willingness to address our concern. Thank you for your assistance in this matter; it is deeply appreciated.

*Sincerely,  
Eileen Houston-Stewart  
Chief Communications & Community Engagement Officer  
Kansas City Public Schools*

I just wanted to say what a wonderful job you guys did on the I-70 and I-435 exchange. The work was done masterfully and on time, and turned out great! Keep up the good work.

*S. Archer, Liberty*

We appreciate the mowing and brushing that has taken place along 71 Hwy, thank you.

*Dennis Randolph  
Director of Public Works, City of Grandview*

The improvements you have made to I-70 and I-435 are incredible!!! I travel daily from Raytown to north of the river to work and I am overwhelmed at the results of this project!!! This is going to be so much safer and so much more smooth a transition. Thank you MoDOT. Thank you ...thank you....thank you!!!!

*D. Dierking, Raytown*

## kcConnections sources

**Construction** Bev Chrisco, 607-2101

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

**Administration** Sherri McGregor, 607-2184

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

**Human Resources** Amy Gagne, 607-2145

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

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

**Traffic** Laurel McKean, 607-2107

**Editor** Kerri Lewis, 607-2151

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## 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