

# kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

June 11 - 15, 2012

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## KC District Calendar:

### June 11

Clay, Platte, Ray Counties Area Team  
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
District Office Room #255

### June 12

Retirement Benefits Basics  
District Office, Room #136 E/W  
Session Times: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,  
12:15 p.m.

### June 13

Vision Team Meeting  
District Office Boardroom  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

### June 13

Route 69 Safe and Sound Bridges  
Ribbon Cutting  
Southbound bridge, Route 69, Clay  
County access at the bypass  
2:00 p.m.

### June 14

Employee Advisory Extension Council  
Conference Room #255  
9:00 a.m. - noon

**Have a Great Week!**

## Commission in KC for June Meeting

In baseball terms, putting three Ks on the board mean three strikeouts. But for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, it was more like hitting for the cycle, said Commissioner Stephen Miller.

The Commission held its June monthly meeting at the Kauffman Foundation near the Country Club Plaza on Wednesday. The meeting followed a tour a day earlier of the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown Kansas City, and an evening watching the Kansas City Royals shut out the Minnesota Twins 1-0 at Kauffman Stadium. Commissioner Miller noted how the legacy of Ewing and Muriel Kauffman have made such a positive impact on the Kansas City community. MoDOT Director Kevin Keith lauded the Kansas City District's CDL Training Program, which helped 115 underserved individuals earn their commercial drivers license. The cooperative program that included area churches and organizations, initially set out to help people pass the written test for the CDL. It was expanded to provide hands-on experience and training using MoDOT trucks and instructors. The Kansas City District surpassed its goal of 100 fully licensed drivers by helping 115 people obtain their CDL.

Recognized for their efforts to organize the training were MoDOT employees A.J. Byrd, Jim Fight and Delores Goetz. Three of the 15 participants in the



Members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission toured the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Tuesday, June 5. From left to right: Chairman Rudy Farber, Vice Chair Grace Nichols, Commissioner Ken Suelthaus and Commissioner Stephen Miller held their June monthly meeting the following day at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center in Kansas City.

program who earned their CDLs and are now employed by MoDOT, John Carr, Randy Valerio and Alan Williams, were introduced to the Commission.

The Commission approved a \$2.22 billion operating budget for FY2013. It is \$217 million less than last year's budget, and \$679 million less than four years ago. Although it is the smallest budget since FY2006, MoDOT Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker informed the Commission that the STIP will have a \$700 million construction program, \$100 million more than had been anticipated a year ago, thanks to cost-saving measures of successfully implementing the Bolder Five-Year Direction.

In his legislative update, Governmental Relations Director Jay Wunderlich noted that tolling, public-private partnerships and implementation of the Bolder Five-Year Direction were issues drawing the Missouri General

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# Scout's TIM Message Hits the Road

## Rusty James Gives Presentation to National ITS America Conference

**R**usty James, Kansas City Scout's Incident Management Coordinator took his traffic incident management message on the road to Washington D.C. where he addressed the ITS America National Conference. The conference was held at the Gaylord National Hotel, in National Harbor, Md. May 21-23. Eric Rensel, of Gannett-Fleming, sought James out to request he make a presentation at a session on Traffic Incident Management. His topic was the latest technology in crash investigation.

James spoke about LIDAR based equipment which utilizes laser speed measurement equipment to complete a forensic map of an incident scene and Photogrammetry, a system that utilizes a number of photographs and reference points to construct a forensic map of an incident scene. Additionally he addressed the use of 3-D digital scanning of incident scenes and Total Stations which are the use of equipment that was traditionally used for surveying to complete a forensic map of an incident scene.

"There have been tremendous changes in the technology that is used in the investigation of crashes over the years," said James. "However, this equipment is useless unless we have the human interaction — this equipment, in and of itself, will not clear incidents quicker."

If the new technology is presented and used properly, it is an incentive to do the job differently than before. It allows responders to think more about how to keep the highway open and traffic flowing rather than closing the highway for an investigation.

The result on the Scout system has been a tremendous reduction in incident related congestion, and a dramatic reduction in clearance times. "The most impressive result is that the incident scenes on our highways are safer for responders than they have ever have been in the 36 years that I have worked in the area of traffic safety," said James.

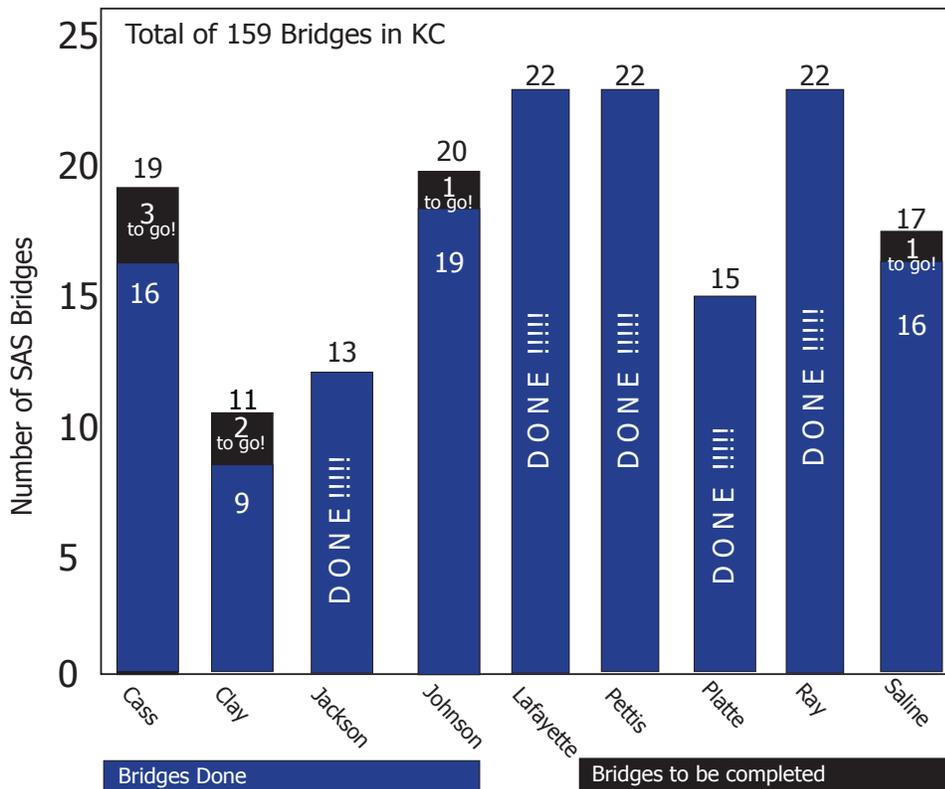


**Kansas City Scout's Incident Management Coordinator, Rusty James, addresses the National ITS America Conference in May at the Gaylord National Hotel located in National Harbor, Md.**

Scout's Traffic Incident Management program continues to gain national notoriety under James' lead. His exper-

tise makes him one of the most highly sought-after speakers on the regional, and more recently, national level.

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



## Large Turnout for Bridge Closure Meeting in Peculiar



MoDOT Area Engineer Matt Killion and Peculiar Mayor Ernest Jungmeyer answer questions from a crowd of about 150 that gathered Tuesday evening in Fellowship Hall to learn more about the Routes C and J bridge closure at Route 71.

**W**hen you are planning to cut in half a town of nearly 5,000, expect a crowd to show up that is intensely interested in the details. About 150 citizens of Peculiar turned out Tuesday to learn details of the July 5 closure of the Routes C and J bridge over Route 71. The highway bridge connects the east and west sides of Peculiar, and the deck must be replaced. Phillips Construction Co. was awarded the contract, and committed to a bridge closure of no longer than 35 days, beginning just after

the Independence Day holiday.

MoDOT Area Engineer Matt Killion, assisted by Transportation Project Manager Allan Ludiker, Transportation Project Designer Jodi Puhr, Maintenance Superintendent Bob Wray, Senior Construction Inspector Brandon Cracraft and Steve Porter with Customer Relations answered questions about the bridge work and also about a new Route 71 interchange for Peculiar now planned for 211th Street. Peculiar Mayor Ernest Jungmeyer, City Administrator Brad

## MHTC, continued from page 1

Assembly's attention during the session completed in May. He said MoDOT's staff reduction of 1,200 employees and the reduction of inventory, property and equipment that will save \$512 million over the next five years to be put into roads sent a strong message to legislators and citizens that the department is doing its part to be efficient and provide best value for every dollar spent.

Wunderlich said discussion of rebuilding I-70 initiated an important dialogue regarding the department's funding shortfall. While no decision was made and nothing was passed

by the General Assembly to solve the transportation funding dilemma, "Citizens now understand there is a real need," he said.

The General Assembly passed one law of particular significance to MoDOT employees – a change to the "Move Over" law that will include MoDOT workers among those protected. This change was one of the commission's highest priorities for the legislative session and enhances MoDOT's safety initiatives by requiring that drivers move over or slow down when approaching MoDOT vehicles that are displaying flashing amber or white lights.

Ratliff and Public Works Director Carl Brooks also joined in to answer questions regarding both topics.

MoDOT presented brochures with details of each project, and also the detour routes and alternate access between the western side of the town and the Raymore Peculiar Schools campus on the east side of the highway. The work is scheduled so that the bridge will be open a week before school begins in mid-August.

## Retirements and Promotions

### Retirements

**Joe Pryor**, Sr. Maintenance Worker  
**Harold Reeder**, Sr. Financial Services Specialist  
**Jeff Wesley**, Maintenance Crew Leader

### Promotions

**Russell Fisher**, Sr. Maintenance Worker  
**Donald Fletcher**, Intermediate Maintenance Worker  
**Chad Harrill**, Intermediate Maintenance Worker  
**Marc Hohe**, Sr. Construction Technician  
**Marty Lambertson**, Intermediate Maintenance Worker  
**Brian Lavender**, Sr. Traffic Technician  
**Nabor (Louis) Madrigal**, Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Also passed was a law to require a medical database of all commercial drivers license holders, effective August 29.

The Commission also awarded a contract for relocation of the north outer road of I-70 in Grain Valley to Radmacher Brothers Excavation Co. The \$13,373,704 construction project is expected to begin this summer. The project is the final improvement in the Kansas City District made possible through Amendment 3 funds.

# I-35 and Route 291 Interchange Project Public Meeting

**R**ecent changes to the preliminary design for interchange improvements at Interstate 35 and Route 291 in Liberty prompted MoDOT and the City of Liberty to host a public meeting on May 7. More than 65 people stopped by the open-house meeting to view the revised plans and to get their questions answered about the project.

The purpose of the project is to enhance capacity and improve safety for the interchange, providing a more efficient roadway to accommodate the current and future needs of citizens, visitors, and businesses within the Cities of Liberty and Kansas City. The recent changes to the design address the need but also reduce the overall cost, right of way impacts and helps ensure the project will meet the aggressive schedule.

Changes were made to the preliminary plans based on the feedback received from the public and stakeholders at a public hearing in April. The design team evaluated alternative options to improve the interchange. The changes include:

- Leave Church Road in its current location



Senior Highway Designer Jacob Wilson shows the revised plans for the Interstate 35 and Route 291 Interchange at a public meeting Thursday, June 7. More than 65 people stopped by to view the updated design and learn more about the project.

- Move the western/northern ramps to I-35 closer to the new bridge
- Adding a third through lane on northbound Route 291 from Glenn Hendren to Ash Street
- Adding a right turn lane on south-

- bound Route 291 from west of the intersection with Church Road and extending to the southbound I-35 ramp
- Adding dedicated turn lanes at Ash/96th onto Route 291
- Adding another left turn lane on Glenn Hendren to southbound Route 291
- Widening the multi-use path from eight feet to 10 feet on the bridge
- Letting date changed from October to November 2012

Construction can begin as early as January 2013 and is expected to be finished by the end of 2013. The overall cost is approximately \$15 million and is a cost share between MoDOT and the City of Liberty. Additional money will be provided by the Kansas City Shoal Creek TIF and Federal Surface Transportation Program funds.



**Pictured Left:** People of all ages stopped by to learn about the roadway and interchange improvements at Interstate 35 and Route 291. TransSystems Principal/Senior Vice President Frank Weatherford (right) answers questions about design changes.



Safety 24/7



## Did you know?

Overexertion is the third leading cause of unintentional injuries in the United States, accounting for about 3.2 million emergency department visits.  
*(Injury Facts)*

Common types of injuries associated with poor ergonomic design include:

STRAINS, SPRAINS

CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME

TENDONITIS

GANGLION CYSTS

TENNIS ELBOW

CHRONIC BACK PAIN

TRIGGER FINGER

## Ergonomics

June 10-16

Ergonomics involves designing the job environment to fit the person and is important to take into consideration at work, but also while working on projects at home. It's about learning how to work smarter and preventing conditions such as overexertion.

Ergonomic conditions are disorders of the soft tissues, specifically of the muscles, nerves, tendons, ligaments, joints, cartilage, blood vessels and spinal discs. These conditions are often caused by factors such as:

- Overexertion while lifting, lowering, pushing, pulling, reaching or stretching
- Repetitive motions
- Working in awkward positions
- Sitting or standing too long in one position
- Using excessive force
- Vibration
- Resting on sharp corners or edges
- Temperature extremes

Remember, these can occur from activities at work, such as working on an assembly line, using heavy equipment or typing on a computer. They also can result from activities at home like playing video games, helping someone move, participating in hobbies such as sewing or through home repair projects.

## Know the signs

Ergonomic conditions are best dealt with when they are caught early. Common symptoms include:

- Pain
- Swelling
- Numbness
- Tingling
- Tenderness
- Clicking
- Loss of grip strength

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, make sure to see your physician or an occupational physician as soon as possible to determine the cause of your pain.

NATIONAL  
**SAFETY**  
MONTH 2012

National Safety Council  
1121 SPRING LAKE DRIVE  
ITASCA, IL 60143-3201  
(800) 621-7619  
NSC.ORG

## Nominate your Hero Today!

No super hero costume or cape required to be a safety hero! The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is seeking nominations for highway safety heros. If there is someone you feel should be recognized for outstanding efforts to reduce fatalities on Missouri roads through education, law enforcement, health care, emergency response, or engineering, please take a few moments to recognize them with a nomination for a **2012 Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Highway Safety Award!**



Four statewide awards and two regional awards (per region) will be selected. The winners will be recognized at the 2012 Blueprint to Save More Lives Conference in Branson at the end of October.

Visit [www.savemolives.com](http://www.savemolives.com) for more details about the awards, and to complete the nomination form. Nominations due by June 30, 2012. Five individuals with an interest in transportation safety have been selected throughout the Midwest to judge the awards. Regional awards will be judged by the regional coalitions or independent judges they choose. Award winners and those who nominate them will be notified by the second week of August. For more information, please call **Marisa Ellison at 573-248-2502** or email [marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov](mailto:marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov).

## 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

## More Students, More Driver's Ed Safety Messages



Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Lindsay Vogt speaks to Liberty High School students about buckling up during Monday's presentation on driver safety.

### 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

Find MoDOT KC on Twitter, Facebook and Youtube.



# Ride for Remembrance

*It is time for the annual Ride for Remembrance to honor MoDOT's fallen workers.*

**When: June 23, 2012**

**Rally Location: Elephant Rock and Johnson's Shut-In**

**T-shirt orders due: August 15, 2012**

*Please contact Dan Weaver, Senior Construction Technician at 573-346-3053 or [daniel.weaver@modot.mo.gov](mailto:daniel.weaver@modot.mo.gov)*