



A Publication of Missouri Department of Transportation's

# Motor Carrier Services

## IRP Cab Cards Now a Matter of Fax

As of March 3, International Registration Plan cab cards can be faxed and e-mailed to drivers anywhere.

Recent decisions by the International Registration Plan Dispute Resolution Committee and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission allow delivery or replacement of cab cards by e-mail, photocopy or fax.

Because cab cards are used to prove that a vehicle is properly registered, drivers without good registration documents can be cited by law enforcement.

The new policy helps drivers obtain cab cards quickly and easily. Carriers can now store original cab cards at their home base or ask

MoDOT to send an e-mail copy to them. They can then send a copy to drivers by fax or e-mail. Affected drivers can pick up the copy anywhere on the road. That saves time and trouble.

Another part of the decision will soon make it easier when it is time to remove a truck from a fleet. Carriers can choose to return cab cards to MCS or certify with a written statement that the card was destroyed. Soon, carriers will be able to certify card destruction by simply clicking a box in the MoDOT Online Express application.

Watch for upcoming news on the online option on the MCS Web site, [www.modot.org/mcs](http://www.modot.org/mcs) and future issues of News on Wheels.

## MO Legislators Consider UCR Bill

Senate Bill 200, which proposes that Missouri adopt the Uniform Carrier Registration program, is progressing in the Missouri Legislature.

Uniform Carrier Registration replaces the Single State Registration System. The new registration program, created by the federal government in 2005's SAFETY-LU act, includes both for-hire and private carriers as well as interstate exempt carriers, leasing companies, freight forwarders and brokers.

If UCR is adopted and signed into law, Missouri-based carriers can fulfill their registration obligation through the same office that processes IFTA, IRP and many other programs – MoDOT Motor Carrier Services. The \$2.3 million the program generates for transportation safety programs would also remain in the state.

### Inside

- 3 Remainder of Major Highways to be Improved
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# Jan's Letter

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## Customers Satisfaction With MCS at All-Time High

### *Yahoo!*

That was the response of Motor Carrier Services' employees when given the latest customer satisfaction report.

Every three months, a randomly-selected group of MCS customers are asked to rate their satisfaction with several service points and with MCS performance overall. The latest survey result revealed that 88.6 percent of MCS customers are satisfied or very satisfied.

MCS appreciates our customers' patience through several transitions. We've found many of your suggestions useful

and encourage you to continue to show us how we can serve you better. Keep those ideas coming! E-mail them to [ContactMCS@modot.mo.gov](mailto:ContactMCS@modot.mo.gov).

We're pleased that you're pleased, but rest assured, 88.6 percent satisfaction isn't good enough for our customers. We will keep working as hard as you do.



Motor Carrier Services Director

## The New I-64

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If you've been near St. Louis lately, you've heard the buzz. Highway 40's days are numbered. A large portion of the road is already known as Interstate 64 and beginning this spring, improvements along its busiest section will upgrade even more of the U.S. route to interstate standards.

The project will disrupt a major commuter artery in St. Louis City and County. Though commercial vehicles rarely use Highway 40 as a through-route, truckers could start to feel the effects of the project as early as this spring as commuters search for substitutes for their normal route.

Don't expect too many more cars on Interstates 70, 44 and 55 during normal workdays this year. Major lane closures in 2007 will largely take place on weekends and at night.

Traffic disruption will increase as the project intensifies in 2008 and 2009. Commuters will use local roads and interstates more heavily.

To accommodate more traffic, changes are planned for the lanes of I-70 and I-44. In mid-2007, one lane will be added in each direction of I-70 between I-270 and I-170. The same will happen on I-44 between I-270 and I-55.

Lanes will shrink from 12 to 11 feet wide with very small shoulders. The speed limit in the areas will drop from 60 m.p.h. to 55 m.p.h. The extra lanes are temporary. When the I-64 project is complete, the lanes will return to their former width.

St. Louis area interstate loops, I-270 and I-255 will retain normal lane widths.

News on Wheels will provide updates on the project and its effect on St. Louis area freight lanes. More information is also available on the project Web site, [www.thenewI64.org](http://www.thenewI64.org).

## Bridge Improvement Causes Rte. 136 Closure in Atchison County

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A bridge rehabilitation project will cause Route 136 near Phelps City to close for two to three months. The bridge is 1 mile east of Route U near Phelps City. Work could begin as early as March 5, and is scheduled to end on or before May 31 – depending on weather and material availability.

The road will close right at the bridge, but motorists will still have access to Phelps City. A signed detour will direct

travelers north on Route D to Route A, then east on Route A to Interstate 29.

Bridge rehabilitation involves the demolition of the existing bridge deck and replacing it with a new deck along with adding guardrail and stripes.

# MoDOT To Improve Remainder of 5,600-mile Major Highway System Over Five Years;

## Better Roads, Brighter Future Program To Save Lives, Create Jobs

The Missouri Department of Transportation will improve the remainder of the state's 5,600 miles of major highways over the next five years. These highways will receive smooth pavement, wider stripes and rumble stripes, brighter signs and paved shoulders by the end of 2011.



*MoDOT's Better Roads, Brighter Future program will improve state highways like this one, with worn-out pavement and poor shoulders.*

"Missourians told us that we've got to bring our-heavily traveled roads up to good condition," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "The Smooth Roads Initiative, which we completed last December, got the first 2,200 miles in good condition.

"This new program is the Smooth Roads Initiative on steeroads. Nearly every single Missourian will benefit from these improvements."

Called Better Roads, Brighter Future, the program targets highways carrying 80 percent of all traffic on the state highway system. About 95 percent of all Missourians live within 10 miles of one of these roads.

"This program delivers three tremendous benefits – it will save lives, create jobs and save motorists money," Rahn said. "When the five-year program is complete, the improved roads will prevent 85 disabling injuries and save 10 lives every year.

"Good roads bring jobs," he added. "The program will support more than 48,000

jobs. And when the roads are improved, every city along those highways will be a more attractive place for a new company to locate."

"Smooth roads save fuel, too – a 2.4 percent improvement in fuel economy, to be exact. With all the miles traveled each day on these roads, that works out to \$100 million a year in fuel savings – that money goes right back into motorists' pockets. It's also estimated that rough roads cost the average driver \$275 a year in increased maintenance costs – that's more money that will be saved when the roads are better," Rahn said.

The five-year program will cost \$1.1 billion, using existing funds allocated for taking care of the state highway system. "We're identifying the roads most in need of improvement and that will benefit the most drivers, and focusing our resources in this area," Rahn said.

To kick-start the Better Roads, Brighter Future program, MoDOT is adding or accelerating 34 projects into its construction program for 2007. Additional projects will be added each year through 2011.

For more details on the Better Roads, Brighter Future program, please visit [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org).



*Improvements will include paved shoulders, smooth pavement, new stripes and rumble stripes. By 2011, 85 percent of the state's busiest highways will be in good condition.*

# Tour of Missouri Brings World's Best to State Highways

Six hundred miles. Fifteen teams of the world's most elite cyclists. Thousands of new fans.

For six days in September, Missouri will be the center of the cycling world. State and local officials, and race organizers have announced an inaugural world-class international professional cycling race, the Tour of Missouri, planned for Sept. 11-16, 2007.

Patterned after the famous Tour de France, the race will feature point-to-point racing in six stages as 120 world-class cyclists traverse west to south to north to east through more than 600 miles of the Show Me State. Kansas City, Clinton, Springfield, Branson, Lebanon, Columbia, Jefferson City, St. Charles and St. Louis have been selected to play host to either a start and/or a finish of the inaugural race.

"Missouri is an absolutely beautiful state for a professional cycling race of this nature," said Jim Birrell of Medalists Sports, the company managing the race. "It has rich and varied terrain. I think cyclists will be surprised by the amount of hills in the state."

Motorists will be well informed of the impact the race might have on traffic. Most of the course is planned on low-volume, rural routes. That's good for drivers and good for cyclists, too. Professional riders prefer challenging courses.

The race is expected to pack a financial wallop. Similar races in Georgia and California have registered more than \$26 million in quantified economic impact and tourist attraction.

## Quick Facts And Contacts

Complete information and photographs:

[www.tourofmissouri.com](http://www.tourofmissouri.com)

The official race route will be announced later this year.

### Schedule

- Sept. 11, Tuesday – Kansas City, circuit race
- Sept. 12, Wednesday – Clinton to Springfield, road race
- Sept. 13, Thursday – Branson, individual time trial
- Sept. 14, Friday – Lebanon to Columbia, road race
- Sept. 15, Saturday – Jefferson City to St. Charles, road race
- Sept. 16, Sunday – St. Louis, circuit race

### By the Numbers

- Estimated total miles: 600
- Total cyclists invited: 120
- Number of teams: 15 (all elite professional teams, and at least five European teams)

## TUG to Help MCS Improve Service

Imagine you've bought a new vehicle. It runs just the way you expected. You're happy. Then your neighbor raves about the GPS in his truck. Boy, could you use that! You ask and find that it can be added to your vehicle – for a price. Now you have to decide if having GPS is worth the investment or whether it can wait.

That's how Jan Skouby, director of MoDOT Motor Carrier Services, described the job of a new Technical Users Group when they met for the first time in Jefferson City recently. Representatives from several motor carrier companies and employees from MoDOT's Information Systems and MCS divisions will dream of ways that MoDOT Carrier Express can improve, then advise which are practical.

Do you have an idea the group should consider? E-mail it to MCS at [ContactMCS@modot.mo.gov](mailto:ContactMCS@modot.mo.gov).



Ron Breau, vice president of the Missouri Motor Carriers Association, makes a point during the first Technical Users Group meeting at MCS.

# Smooth Roads Mean Le\$\$ at the Pump

A recent Missouri Department of Transportation study shows smoother roads mean increased fuel efficiency for travelers.

Researchers discovered that the smoothing of Interstate 70 resulted in a 2.4 percent fuel savings for large trucks, which translates to a savings of more than \$7 million per year for the trucking industry. The study showed the smoother roads save cars about one percent in fuel costs. Motorists can also expect to save about \$275 in vehicle maintenance costs each year because of the smoother pavements.

The study was based on a 53 percent improvement in road smoothness resulting from MoDOT's recently com-



pleted Smooth Roads Initiative, which improved 2,200 miles of the state's busiest highways.

"Improving our roads has tremendous benefits that range from saving lives to saving gasoline," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "We're pleased to be able to deliver a better transportation system that not only gives Missourians a smoother ride, but is also gentler on their wallets."

MoDOT's study compared pavement on I-70 before and after pavement resurfacing. Employees drove four dump trucks equipped with special instruments more than 50 hours and 2,000 miles on a 22-mile test loop. The trucks were equipped with a monitoring system that automatically downloaded vehicle performance information, including miles traveled and fuel consumed.

## Missouri I-44, I-70 Among Nation's Most Improved Roads, Truckers Say

Interstates 44 and 70 in Missouri are among the nation's most improved highways, according to a nationwide survey of truckers. The survey results show that I-44 in Missouri is the second-most improved stretch of highway in the country, with I-70 coming in third.

More than 400 professional drivers offered their opinions on highway conditions in the survey conducted by Overdrive magazine, a publication serving the commercial motor carrier industry.

Just one year ago Overdrive readers ranked Missouri I-44 as the second-worst highway in the nation.

"No one knows road conditions better than commercial drivers, so I'm very pleased they've found Missouri's interstates among the most improved," said Pete Rahn, director of the Missouri Department of Transportation. "Our work on the Smooth Roads Initiative is already paying off."

The Smooth Roads Initiative, a two-year Smoother, Safer, Sooner project completed in December, brought the state's 2,200 most heavily traveled highways, including interstate highways, up to good condition. Two years ago, three-fourths of these highways were in fair to poor condition. Improvements included smoother pavement, brighter signs and stripes, median guard cable and emergency reference markers.

### Most Improved Roads

(from Overdrive magazine survey)

1. I-40 Arkansas
2. (tie) I-44 Missouri & I-80 Pennsylvania
3. I-70 Missouri
4. I-30 Arkansas
5. I-10 Texas

## Smooth Roads and Work Zones Go Hand-in-Hand

In 2007, travelers on Missouri interstates will see fewer work zones than they have during the past two years.

Now, with the Better Roads, Brighter Future program it's time for other major highways to get some attention. Expect to see repairs, resurfacing and safety projects on and alongside U.S. and Missouri routes.

MoDOT's Web site, [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org) features a map that shows every planned work zone for the day. Check it or call 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636) to find out if you will encounter highway workers on or near the road.

Please use caution and respect speed and passing restrictions in the zones. Drive Smart!

# Look! Listen! Live!

## Railroad Safety Week April 23-27

About once a week. That is the average rate for vehicle vs. train collisions in Missouri.

Whether at a fully lit, gated intersection or lonely country road, an automobile or commercial truck is no match for even an empty freight train.

Missourians are getting the message. Highway rail crossing collisions are much more rare than 30 years ago, but when they do occur, the results are often devastating to

life and property. That's why MoDOT and Operation Lifesaver, a rail safety education organization, are working together to educate drivers and pedestrians.

To learn more about crossing and rail safety for travelers and families, please visit Operation Lifesaver's Web site, [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org).



## What If Your Vehicle Stalls on the Tracks?

### ■ **Get out IMMEDIATELY**

Do not stay with your vehicle. Remove all passengers.



### ■ **Move away**

Walk toward an oncoming train and away from the tracks at a 45-degree angle. (If your vehicle is hit, debris will spread in the same direction the train is moving.)

### ■ **Locate the emergency phone number**

When safely away from the tracks, find the railroad's emergency phone number and the DOT crossing identification number. Look on crossbuck and signal poles and power sheds.

### ■ **Call for help**

Call the railroad emergency number, the local police or 911. Tell them a vehicle is on the tracks. Provide location information. Do not allow anyone to approach the vehicle until you know the railroad has stopped all trains.

## Highway-Rail Crossings *7 Steps for Safety*

### 1. **Approach crossings with care**

Warn others you are slowing. Turn on 4-way flashers. Use pull-out lane if available.

### 2. **Prepare to stop**

Turn off the radio and fans and roll down windows. Stop at least 15 feet from nearest rail.

### 3. **Look and listen both ways, carefully**

Bend forward to see around mirrors and A-pillars

### 4. **If it won't fit, don't commit**

Trains extend beyond the rail width by 3 feet on each side. Remember your vehicle and cargo overhang when close to tracks.

### 5. **Look again**

Before you move, take another look in both directions.

### 6. **Cross with care**

Signal, watch for a safe gap, pull back onto the road if you used a pull-out lane. Use the highest gear that will let you cross without shifting.

### 7. **Keep going once you start – even if lights flash or gates come down**

## Interstate Closure, Other Info Available Through E-Updates

E-Updates is MoDOT's subscription-based e-mail service. MCS uses it to share information about IFTA, IRP, OD/OW, Single State Registration, Safety and Compliance matters, major highway incidents and other news, subscribers receive a note in their e-mailbox.

It's easy to subscribe. Simply visit [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org), click the E-Update tab on the left side of the page and create an account. You'll be asked to create your own ID and password and to provide your name and e-mail address. Log into the system and click on Edit Your Subscriptions. You'll choose from a list of motor carrier topics. Select one or all of them and when there is news you need to know MCS will e-mail it to you. You can unsubscribe at any time.

## "Trucker Tea" Anything But Refreshing

Commercial drivers pride themselves on their safety records. They drive carefully and keep an eye out for other drivers. But there's a growing practice that puts the health of highway workers and others at risk.

More and more often, urine-filled bottles, often known as "trucker tea," but might be more fairly called "traveler tea", are found on the side of Missouri highways, tossed there by a handful of travelers who skip the restroom in favor of "going while they're going."

The trouble is, someone has to pick them up. Missouri's Adopt-A-Highway groups are told to leave the biohazards where they sit and to inform MoDOT of the location. Highway crews don protective gear and remove the containers from the roadside – when they find them in time. Unfortunately, most bottles go undetected – until struck by a mower. Highway workers don't plan on or deserve that kind of health risk.

Please help. If you use a portable urinal, please empty it in a restroom. If you know someone who engages in the practice, let them know that the disgusting habit may earn them a ticket with a fine of up to \$1,000...  
...And just try explaining that ticket to the boss.

## Datelines

### April 2

2nd quarter IRP renewals due on file

### April 2-6

National Work Zone Awareness Week

### April 16

Financial statements for household goods carriers and non-charter passenger carriers due

### April 30

1st quarter fuel tax returns due

### May 9

Harry S Truman's Birthday – State Holiday – MCS offices open, other MoDOT offices closed

### May 28

Memorial Day – State Holiday – All MoDOT offices closed

### June 1

2nd quarter IRP renewal due to be paid

### June 5-7

Roadcheck 2007. Annual truck enforcement blitz sponsored by Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

### June 30

2nd quarter IRP 2007 credentials must be displayed

### July 2

3rd quarter IRP renewal due on file

### July 4

Independence Day – State Holiday – All MoDOT Offices Closed

## Did You Know?

### It's Work Zone Season

Slowing from 70 mph to 50 mph for a one-mile work zone adds just 20 seconds to your trip.

## News on Wheels

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Additional copies available upon request. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to the address at left.

**Motor Carrier Services Director**  
Jan Skouby

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*Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.*





# News on **Wheels**

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<b>International Registration Plan</b>	Regulations, IRP applications, reciprocity, trip permits, temporary authorizations, license plates, cab cards
<b>International Fuel Tax Agreement</b>	Regulations, Missouri IFTA applications, temporary fuel permits
<b>Overdimension and Overweight</b>	Regulations, permits, blanket permits
<b>Intrastate Authority, Housemovers License, Hazardous Waste and Waste Tires</b>	Applications, stickers, licenses, proof of insurance
<b>Safety and HM Regulations/Enforcement</b>	Information, regulations, training, compliance reviews, educational contacts, complaint investigations