

Work Zones Everywhere! **Travel Tools Available for Missouri Travelers**

The warm, dry days of summer are perfect for many highway maintenance and construction activities. But this year is different.

This year, in addition to its normal schedule, MoDOT has American Recovery and Reinvest-



ment Act projects and Safe & Sound bridge projects underway.

All around the state, flaggers direct vehicles around work zones. Bridges are closed for replacement. Interstate traffic is occasionally rerouted. What is a driver to do?

Head to the Internet. MoDOT has several on-line tools to help travelers cope. An enhancement to the Traveler Information Map now reports future work zone locations up to a week in advance. The Safe & Sound Web site reports which bridges are currently under repair or reconstruction and those where work will start within three months or in 12 months.

You can get messages about highway incidents through the Motor Carrier Services eUpdates

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GPS Information Now Considered Record of Duty Document by FMCSA

In December 2008, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rescinded its policy that had limited the use of advanced technology data during reviews. The policy gave the carrier industry an opportunity to fully employ Global Positioning Systems in operations and overall safety management systems.

Now that the technology is common – often seen as essential for today's logistics, operations and safety management systems – the FMCSA considers GPS records to be supporting

documents. They record the time, date and location of vehicles and drivers and can be used to verify records of duty status.

As with other RODS, GPS records and other advanced technology records must be maintained for a period of six months. If a carrier maintains GPS records and an investigator is refused access, that action is considered a "denial of access". Fines may be assessed against a carrier that refuses to provide the information.

www.modot.org/mcs

News on Wheels

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Jan's Letter

At times this summer, I've wondered, is there any square inch of Missouri highway that's not under construction? Work zones seem to be everywhere!

MoDOT is out working on normal maintenance and construction PLUS a huge bridge improvement program PLUS using federal American Recovery and Reconstruction Act funds to boost infrastructure and provide good jobs. It is making routing decisions tough for many of you.

That's why I'm happy that there are so many tools to help. Use MoDOT's Traveler Information Map to find current and most upcoming work zones. Check the Safe & Sound Web site to see if bridges on your normal routes are scheduled for repair or complete reconstruction. We'll keep sending e-Updates about major highway incidents to our subscribers and you can follow St. Louis, Kansas City and Interstate 70 incidents on Twitter. See the stories on pages 4 and 5 for all the Web site addresses and more about these tools.

When driving through work zones, pay attention. Did you have enough warning? Were the signs visible? Did the speed limit make sense? Then tell us what you think. Visit www.modot.org and find the Rate Our Work Zones button toward the bottom of the page. Your comments will help us design safer, more efficient work zones.

Also, see the story on page 7. Trip permits are available through MoDOT Carrier Express! Ranging from no fee to \$25, they're out of our shop and on the way to you immediately. Be sure to order before you need them!

Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions on how we can serve you better. Call toll-free 1-866-831-6277 or send a note to contactMCS@modot.mo.gov.

Have a safe and successful summer!



Motor Carrier Services Director

HAZ MATT'S CORNER

Background Checks Required for "H" and "X" Endorsements



Matt Freeman is MoDOT's hazardous materials specialist.

When a driver is hauling a placardable amount of hazardous material such as a straight truck hauling propane tanks or a driver hauling a tanker full of gasoline, an "H" or "X" endorsement is required on the driver's CDL.

The "H" endorsement is required to haul any placardable amount of hazardous material. The "X" endorsement combines the "H" and "N" endorsements to transport haz mat in cargo tanks and portable tanks with a capacity of 1,000 gallons or more.

The Transportation Security Administration requires a background check on "H" and "X" endorsed drivers. Start the hazmat endorsement renewal and background check process 30 days prior to CDL expiration online at www.hazprints.com or by phone toll-free at 1-877-429-7746. The application fee is \$89.25.

When the application is filed, the driver receives a confirmation number, which must be given to the fingerprinting facility. The fingerprint logging and verification process takes about 30 days to complete.

Fingerprinting locations are listed on the TSA Web site. In Missouri, there are eight:

- Cooper County Sheriff's Dept. in Boonville
- ODACS, Inc. in Cape Girardeau
- EMSI, Inc. in Chesterfield
- Chillicothe Police Dept.
- Saline County Sheriff Dept. in Marshall
- Corporate Compliance Solution, Inc. in Kansas City
- Pettis County Sheriff's Dept. in Sedalia, and
- Omni Health in Springfield

Most fingerprint locations are closed on legal holidays and some have limited parking. Call ahead to confirm the facility's operating hours.

Have a question for HazMatt? Send an e-mail to contactMCS@modot.mo.gov.

Online IFTA Quarterly Tax Return Filing a Big Hit

Filing fuel tax returns isn't normally considered a pleasant task, but MoDOT Carrier Express makes the process a lot easier as thousands of carriers discovered earlier this year.

During the first quarter of 2009, postcards arrived in IFTA license holders' mail, encouraging them to try the online filing system. Try they did! The number of online filers doubled to 61 percent.

MoDOT Carrier Express users reported that it was just as easy to type mileage and fuel information as it is to write it on paper. Because the computer "knew" the tax rates and did all the calculations, it actually took less time for most. The math error rate fell, too, and fewer folks will have to pay penalties and interest because of bad figures.

Those who were nervous about the process found a friendly voice and helpful advice when they called in to

talk to Motor Carrier Services agents. Most carriers' issues were cleared up in minutes.

Taxpayers and the environment benefit from online filing, too. MoDOT saves thousands of dollars and several trees by mailing reminder postcards instead of full packets of IFTA forms. Thank you to all who filed online – or are thinking about it!

IFTA Fuel Tax Return Schedule

Reporting Period	Tax Return and Payment Due
January 1 – March 31	April 30
April 1 – June 30	July 31
July 1 – September 30	October 31
October 1 – December 31	January 31

MoDOT Carrier Express Saves Carrier Hours of Work

Everyone loves love letters! We heard from a carrier who specializes in two-state hauling who told us that he is able to work more quickly using MoDOT Carrier Express. He encourages all carriers to follow suit saying, "If they try it, they'll like it!"

I just wanted to tell you how nice it was for me to file my IFTA fuel tax reports, and truck license – both renewal and to add or transfer a license plate from one truck to the other. Filing online is so much simpler and easier. I transferred a few license plates today and it only took me 20

minutes from start to finish. It used to take me 1-2 hours to do this before with all the different forms.

Fuel reports are the same way. Instead of dealing with 3 pages of paperwork, I can just fill out one form online, and I'm done in 10 minutes.

I just wanted to drop you a note and let you know how easy and convenient this online system is. Thanks!

Richard Howard - Main Line

Medical Certificate Now Required for Passenger Carrier Drivers

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance updated out-of-service criteria for passenger carriers. Now, drivers must possess a valid DOT medical certificate or risk being placed out-of-service.

The rule applies to all interstate operations in a vehicle with a capacity of 16 or more passengers, including the driver. An exemption applies for organizations that operate as a non-profit group such as a church group, Boy and Girl Scouts or fraternal organization.

Interstate operations transporting 9-15 passengers are generally exempt from the medical certificate require-

ment unless they operate a vehicle that otherwise meets the definition of a CMV (e.g. the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating above 10,000 pounds).

Drivers in Missouri who operate vehicles with a seating capacity of 6 or more (including the driver) must comply with the rule unless they hold a Missouri chauffeurs license issued on or before May 13, 1988. The chauffeur license exemption applies only within Missouri's borders.

How Tweet It Is!

MoDOT using Twitter for traffic updates in St. Louis, Kansas City and along I-70

MoDOT joins the chorus of tweets on Twitter, a micro-blog allowing the agency to provide important travel updates and news in 140 characters or less.

Real-time traffic alerts are available in St. Louis, Kansas City and along I-70 across the state. Follow at:

St. Louis: <http://twitter.com/StLouisTraffic>

KC Scout: <http://twitter.com/KansasCityScout>

I-70 Corridor: <http://twitter.com/scout70corridor>

I-44 Corridor: <http://twitter.com/i44trafficmodot>

MoDOT's central office offers news and links of statewide interest at <http://twitter.com/MoDOT>, and several district

offices have accounts to reach local travelers. Find available Twitter accounts at www.modot.mo.gov/Twitter/index.htm.

Twitter is one of the fastest-growing social media tools. It is tailor-made for short bites of real-time information like traffic updates.

Visitors to Twitter will need to create an account to begin following traffic alerts and other Twitter updates. Once you have created an account or logged on, a "follow" button is located under each profile picture. Happy Tweets!

e-Updates: Free Service Helps Trucks Move Freely

What free service can keep you out of big traffic jams, saving time and money? MoDOT's e-Updates service!

Sign up to get e-mail messages on several topics. Most e-mails report highway incidents such as snow or flood closures or emergency shut downs. News on oversize/overweight permits, IRP, IFTA, UCR and safety concerns is also e-mailed to subscribers.

Dispatchers love the service. If you're an independent driver, consider asking a friend or family member to sign up. They can pass the messages on to you when you're on the road.

It's easy to start.

Visit MoDOT's main Website, www.modot.org. Look on the left side of the page for a dark blue e-Update tab. Create an account, choose your own userID and password. Scroll down to the Motor Carrier Area near the bottom of the page and choose the topics that fit your needs.

You can choose to receive e-mail about projects near you from MoDOT district offices, too. Change your options or cancel the service at any time.

See Blue, Think Orange

Future Work Zone Locations Mapped Online

A new, blue icon on MoDOT's Traveler Information Map marks the location of future highway work zones up to a week in advance.

Motor carriers and other travelers asked for more advance notice of work zone locations. Being able to build extra time into their trip or plan an alternate route provides an extra measure of confidence and safety. Haulers of oversized loads can use the map to identify routes that are clear, or at least clearer, than preferred routes under construction.

In order to see the new icon, visit www.modot.org and click on the Traveler Information Map section of the page.

Once you see the map, click the checkbox next to the blue icon in the legend. Dozens of future work zones will populate the map. Use the zoom function further down the legend to narrow the view to your planned route.

There will be times that work zone forecasts will be off. Emergency work zones can occur without notice. Weather and supply factors might delay work. Mowing and other roadside activities can occur anytime the weather is right, so keep a lookout for workers and their equipment.

Drive Smart in work zones.

KTU Constructors Selected to Complete Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program

All the pieces are now in place to complete the Safe & Sound program - the largest bridge improvement in Missouri history.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission selected KTU Constructors to replace 554 bridges across the state in the next four years through a Design-Build contract. Combined with another 248 bridge projects that the Missouri Department of Transportation is completing with innovative contracting methods, travelers will drive across 802 new bridges by Oct. 31, 2014.

KTU's proposal, to build all 554 new bridges by the end of 2013 at a cost of \$487 million, was deemed by the Commission to be the 'best-value.' The full 802-bridge program is expected to cost \$700 million. MoDOT will sell bonds to finance the program, repaying them with annual

payments of \$50 million coming from the Federal bridge funds it receives each year.

Speed of construction and flexibility in construction schedules to respond to local issues were critical components of MoDOT's program requirements. For 493 bridges on low-volume routes, the contract requires the average closure be 45 days. The remaining 61 bridges will either be closed, built in stages, or use bypasses to minimize impacts to motorists.

Keep up to date on Safe & Sound progress at the program's Web site - www.modot.org/safeandsound. An interactive map utilizes color-coded icons to identify each bridge location and illustrate its schedule milestones. The site also gives other details about each bridge, including suggested detour routes.

Work Zones Everywhere

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service or Twitter feeds. Look elsewhere on this page for more information and the addresses for these services.

Pick up the phone and call MoDOT customer service anytime to learn if there are any work zones on your planned route. The toll-free number, 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636) is answered around the clock.

In Brief

Unified Carrier Registration fees for 2010 will no longer include trailers in the equipment count; only power units. The fee schedule will change, but at press time, the costs were not finalized.

Carriers with IRP apportioned plates can meet the filing deadline and avoid a penalty fee by simply delivering a completed renewal application on time and turning in required documents before the license plate expires.

The Kansas City Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) office moved to 8821 Long St., Lenexa, KS 66215-3586. It is open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, weekdays.

Jerry Baker Joins MoDOT MCS

If his face looks familiar, there's a reason. MoDOT Motor Carrier Services' newest transportation program manager served 22 years with the Missouri State Highway Patrol in the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement division.

After 12 years working at the Odessa, Mo., scalehouse and



10 more years at MSHP headquarters as the Hazardous Materials and Training Coordinator, Baker began his second career at MoDOT in April.

He oversees the Safety and Compliance offices in southwest and south central Missouri.

Jerry and Cindy Baker have been married 32 years and are the proud parents of daughter Stasha. Stasha expanded the family with the addition of the Baker's first granddog, Ziggy, the long-haired chihuahua.

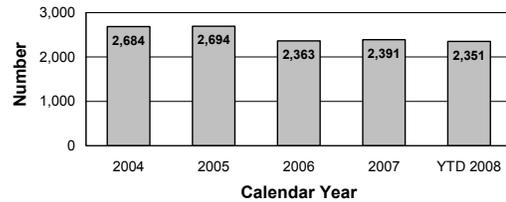
Number of Fatal & Injury Crashes involving CMV Down Figures Are Part of MoDOT's Performance Report

Between 2004 and 2007, the number of fatal crashes involving a commercial motor vehicle in Missouri fell 19 percent and those resulting in injury fell 11 percent. Preliminary figures for 2008 bring more good news - 11 fewer deaths and 40 fewer injuries than in 2007.

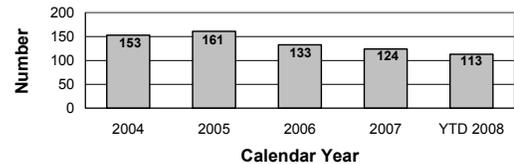
Credit for the improvement goes to drivers who are dedicated to safety, carriers who operate to high standards, enforcement and regulatory agencies and to engineering and emergency medical services improvements.

Follow Missouri's progress by clicking the Tracker Performance Measurement button on www.modot.org.

Number of Commercial Motor Vehicle Crashes Resulting in Injuries



Number of Commercial Motor Vehicle Crashes Resulting in Fatalities



What Is PrePass?

PrePass is an automatic vehicle identification system that enables participating transponder-equipped commercial vehicles to be pre-screened throughout the nation at designated weigh stations and port-of-entry facilities. Cleared vehicles are then able to "bypass" the facility while traveling at highway speed.

Vehicles participating in the PrePass program are pre-certified. Customers' safety records and credentials are routinely verified with state & federal agencies to ensure adherence to the safety and bypass criteria established by PrePass and member states. If an approaching PrePass-equipped vehicle's weight and credentials are found to be satisfactory, a green light and audible signal from the windshield mounted PrePass transponder advise the driver to bypass the weigh station. Otherwise a red light and audible signal advise the driver to pull into the weigh station for regular processing.

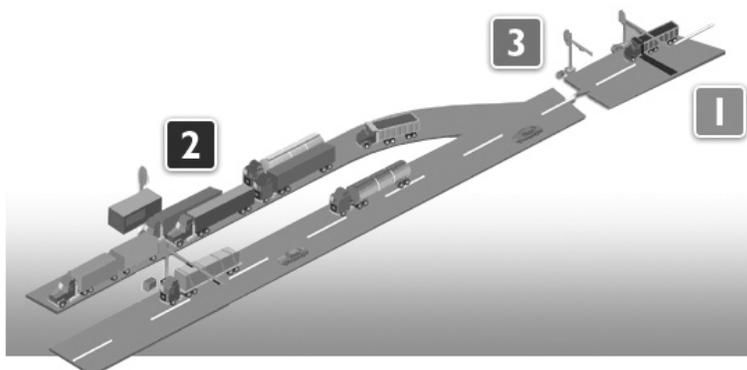
Vehicles bypassing inspection facilities save drivers and their companies valuable time on the road, thereby reducing fuel and operating costs, while increasing productiv-

ity. PrePass also benefits member states and everyone who uses our nation's highways. By reducing congestion around inspection facilities and enabling state inspection staff to focus their efforts on carriers that demand the most attention, PrePass helps make the roadways safer for everyone. Learn more and calculate your potential savings by visiting www.prepass.com.

How PrePass Works

1. Trucks with PrePass are assigned small, wireless transponders that easily mount onto vehicles' windshields. As the truck approaches a PrePass-equipped weigh station, an electronic reader on a boom over the road automatically scans the transponder and identifies the vehicle.
2. A secure PrePass computer located inside the scale house accesses the vehicle information associated with the transponder and validates it to ensure compliance with state requirements. At the same time, technologies such as weigh-in-motion scales are often used to verify the truck's configuration and ensure axle and gross vehicle weights are within acceptable limits.

3. Finally, as the truck passes beneath a second boom, a signal indicating whether the vehicle may bypass is transmitted back to the transponder. If the vehicle's information cannot be validated, or if it is selected for a random manual inspection, a red light on the transponder alerts the driver to stop. If the vehicle's credentials, safety, and weight are all in order however, a green light tells the driver to go ahead and bypass the facility.



It's a Trip!

Order Your Own Missouri Trip Permits Online

MoDOT Carrier Express now allows any account holder to order trip permits online. If you already have a userID and password for the MoDOT Carrier Express system, you're ready to take the trip permits option for a spin.

Existing MoDOT customers who never used the online system, can ask for access and be set within a day. Carriers who've never registered in Missouri will fill out and send a New Customer form that is available on the Forms and Manuals page at www.modot.org/mcs, obtain their ID and password and be ready to go within a day or two.

As with other MoDOT Carrier Express invoices, e-Check, credit card or debit card online payments are accepted.

There are essentially 5 type of individual permits and a combo option:

72-Hour Reciprocity Trip Permit \$10 Interstate

Required for carriers based elsewhere that do not have Missouri on their IRP cab card. Must have prior to entry into Missouri. *Valid in Missouri only.*

72-Hour Special Fuel Permit \$10 Interstate

Carriers that do not have an IFTA license must have a fuel permit for each state when operating interstate. Drivers must have this permit prior to entry into Missouri – even if they are based in Missouri and are coming home. *Valid in Missouri only.*

72-Hour Trip Permit \$5 Intrastate

Carriers use this permit if they've been approved for intrastate operating authority but want to move before the required decals arrive. For example, a company purchases a new truck and wants to put it on the road immediately.

Hunter's Permit \$25 Interstate

When a lease is cancelled and the license plate is surrendered to the lessor, this permit grants former lessees authority to move empty and look for work in the 48 states and 10 provinces that participate in the International Registration Plan - up to 30 days.

Temporary Decal Permit Free Interstate

This 30-day permit is used to carriers who are approved for and waiting on a Missouri-issued IFTA decal. For example, a company purchases a new truck and wants to put it on the road immediately. *Valid in all IFTA jurisdictions.*

Combination Permit \$15-25

Carriers can request a combination of 72-hour reciprocity, fuel or intrastate authority trip permits.

Datelines

July 31

Second quarter 2009 IFTA tax returns due.

August 1

Application deadline for carriers with apportioned plates that expire September 30

September 2

Fee deadline for carriers with apportioned plates that expire September 30

September 7

Labor Day – State Holiday – All MoDOT offices closed

September 30

Carriers whose apportioned plates expire today must carry new cab cards tomorrow.

October 1

Application deadline for carriers whose apportioned plates expire Dec. 31.

October 12

Columbus Day – MCS open, most MoDOT offices closed

News on Wheels

Missouri Department of Transportation
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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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toll-free 866.831.6277

Fax

573.751.0916

Get Your Kicks at the I-44 Conway Welcome Center Super-Sized Parking Area Accommodate 75 CMVs

If you get the urge while motoring west – or east for that matter on Interstate 44, roll into the new Conway Welcome Centers near mile marker 111. The Route 66-themed facilities serve both casual and commercial travelers well.

Parking for commercial drivers is outstanding. At both sites, 75 large, well-lit commercial and recreational vehicle spots are located away from interstate traffic noise.

The lot features plenty of room to maneuver into pull-in, pull-out spaces. Compared to the former rest area at this location, that’s at least three times the number of spaces.

In the main building, vending machines offer sandwiches, drinks and snacks while screens above show current weather and traffic conditions. Outside, picnic shelters resemble businesses on “Mother Road”. Pets even have their own relief stations!

If you’re traveling on I-44 down from St. Louie or Joplin, Missouri, stop into a modern tribute to a legendary era.



Web site: www.modot.org/mcs

E-Mail: ContactMCS@modot.mo.gov