

Roadside Review

Winter 2008 Issue 49

A quarterly newsletter of the
Missouri Department of Transportation's
Adopt-A-Highway Program



Missouri Roadsides Need Spring Cleaning



Everything looks better after a good scrubbing, and Missouri's roadsides and waterways are no exception. Volunteers can help make Missouri beautiful by cleaning up litter during the annual No MORE Trash! Bash starting April 1st and ending the 30th.

"We are hoping for good weather this year, and double the amount of volunteers as we had last year," said Stacy Armstrong, MoDOT, roadside management supervisor.

In 2007, despite record cold in April, more than 10,000 volunteers collected over 72,000 bags of litter and numerous truckloads of larger items that wouldn't fit into trash bags. MoDOT crews, Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Team members and other employees, Adopt-A-Highway participants, incarcerated crews and other volunteers helped clean up last spring.

Each year, MoDOT alone spends approximately \$5.7 million to clear litter along highways throughout the state – mostly litter that people have thrown out or that has blown out of vehicle windows. The Missouri Department of Conservation spends an additional \$1 million a year to clean up waterways and conservation areas.

The more than 3,700 Adopt-A-Highway volunteer groups also spend countless hours on litter cleanup, but litter continues to line our roads and streams.

"The ultimate goal of the Bash is to raise awareness about littering," Armstrong said. "The money spent on clean up could be used



in many more productive ways like fixing potholes and improving roads."

The month-long Bash supports No MORE Trash!, a year-round litter prevention campaign established by the Missouri departments of Conservation and Transportation. To raise litter awareness during April, schedule a litter pickup, educate others about litter and/or conduct or participate in a litter-free activity visit www.nomoretrash.org.

Any volunteers who report their activities will be recognized for their efforts with a lapel pin. Brochures to help keep track of clean up or other activities will be mailed to all existing Adopt-A-Highway groups on or around March 1. ■

ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT Adopting Litter Control into the Curriculum

About five years ago Elizabeth Petersen, a 7th grade science teacher at Ladue Middle School, decided she needed a better way to show her students the importance of taking care of the environment. So she and the rest of Ladue Middle School became the proud adopters of a stretch of Outer Road Highway 40 in St. Louis County.

"I wanted to help kids understand what we are doing in our classroom," Petersen

said. "Seventh grade science is all about learning about the environment."

Every month Petersen takes a group of her students to pick up litter after school.

"They have really bonded with the clean up site and always want to go out and clean it up!" Petersen said.

She enjoys seeing the kids understand the immediate applications of taking

care of the environment and actually having fun while learning. She says it is amazing what all the kids have found while cleaning.

"One student found half of a \$20 bill and because it was the larger portion, it was still useful!" Petersen said.

Her students also love finding the bones of animals and are astounded to see so much trash along the side of the road.

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Welcome to Missouri

Travelers will soon be experiencing more pleasant respites from their drives through the Show Me state. The Missouri Department of Transportation is putting out the welcome mat at several new, user-friendly welcome centers, which showcase the region they serve.

More facilities, lighting, and parking have been added, and some centers also provide such convenience that “users never even have to open a door,” said Rand Swanigan, MoDOT Roadside Management Specialist.

“We want people to feel welcome no matter where they are traveling in Missouri,” said Swanigan. “We are working to make each new center reflect the part of Missouri where it is located.”

One new welcome center opened on Interstate 44 eastbound from Oklahoma near Joplin in November. It will feature a mural reflecting the scenic vistas of Joplin.

Another facility will be opened in late winter near Eagleville greeting travelers on Interstate 35 southbound from Iowa, which is part of Missouri’s Prairie Passage. Large metal silhouettes of buffalo and a Native American have been placed in the prairie grasses just behind the building.

A third location is set to open in early 2009 near Conway between Lebanon and Springfield on I-44. Buildings will welcome visitors on



both the eastbound and westbound lanes. Both will be designed to take visitors on a trip down historic Route 66.

“Themed picnic shelters will look like store fronts on historic Route 66, and pictures will reflect other towns along this route,” said Swanigan.

Several more facilities are expected to be built in the next few years. They will continue to welcome visitors and showcase the unique aspects of the parts of Missouri they call home. ■

MoDOT “Beets” Mother Nature This Winter

MoDOT helped “beet” Mother Nature this winter by using an anti-icing product made from sugar beets to help keep the roads clear. Besides its tried and true snow removal equipment and materials, the department has been testing a product called Geomelt that helps cut down on the amount of salt used.

“The beet juice is a natural product that works well when mixed with either rock salt or liquid salt brine to keep ice from forming on the roads before a storm,” said Jim Carney, MoDOT’s state maintenance engineer. “It also helps melt snow and ice once they are already

on the roads. Combined with salt, the beet juice freezes at a lower temperature than just salt alone so it can be used when the weather is colder – even at temperatures well below zero.”

MoDOT has successfully been testing the product in the northwest and Springfield area districts for the past couple of years. “We have used about 24,000 gallons in our district this year, mainly as a pre-treatment to keep the salt from caking, but also to enhance the salt’s performance,” said Brad Brown, MoDOT senior pavement specialist in the Springfield District.

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ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

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2 Ladue Middle School also has a Stream Team near their Adopt-A-Highway site, to help clean litter out of the water as well.

By taking her students outside the classroom, Petersen is able to help her students not only learn about the environment, but develop a desire to take care of their world. ■



MoDOT Wins Missouri Quality Award

In his first State of Transportation Address to Missouri legislators in 2005, MoDOT Director Pete Rahn made the following promise: “MoDOT will be a model for what today’s state government should be - efficient, streamlined, forward-thinking, results-driven and customer-oriented.”



Rahn made good on his promise when the Excellence in Missouri Foundation honored MoDOT with the 2007 Missouri Quality Award. The award, modeled after

the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, is the official state recognition for excellence in quality leadership. It is recognized as one of the strongest state-level quality award programs in the country. Only one other state agency has ever achieved this honor – the Missouri Department of Revenue in 2000.

In giving the award, the foundation cited MoDOT’s visionary leadership and its use of innovative tools and programs to meet its customers’ transportation needs. The award also recognized the agency’s efforts to improve roads statewide, reduce traffic fatalities and bring projects in on time and within budget. MoDOT’s efforts to provide quality results have helped the agency go from a target of criticism to a national transportation leader, said the foundation.

“Every single MoDOT employee is responsible for achieving this recognition,” Rahn said. “We’ve worked hard as a team to restore credibility and regain public trust, and this award attests to that. We thank the Excellence in

Missouri 2007
Quality Award
Winner

Missouri Foundation for recognizing the strides we’ve made to become a quality organization.”

Honeywell’s Kansas City Plant was the other 2007 quality award winner.

“We are honored to be in the company of such outstanding organizations as Honeywell,” Rahn said. “Working to obtain the Missouri Quality Award has been a great experience that will help us continue to improve as an agency.”

For more information on the Missouri Quality Award, visit www.modot.org. ■

Editor’s note: For further details, including photos and sound bites, please visit MoDOT’s newsroom – www.modot.org/newsroom.

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The sugar beet juice is brown in color, so salt mixed with it is somewhat brown as well.

“These aren’t the purple beets that people eat,” said Carney. “The liquid is a by-product of sugar production from beets that are grown mainly in the Dakotas.”

The mixture reduces the corrosive properties of salt and improves its effectiveness. That means less salt, more efficiency, less

equipment and less bridge deck and vehicle corrosion. The beet juice costs about \$1.66 per gallon and the department is considering using more of it across the state in coming years. ■

Editor’s note: Downloadable sound bites from Maintenance Liaison Engineer Tim Jackson, along with winter operations photos can be found at www.modot.org/newsroom.

MoDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Litter Cleanup



5,217 MILES

3,707 ADOPTERS

SAFETY TIP

Wear gloves for protection during your adoption activity. Keep moistened towelettes or hand gel nearby for quick cleanups. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.

If It Looks Like Ice and Snow, Take It Slow

Missouri weather is unpredictable. Although winter is coming to a close, MoDOT wants to remind motorists of this winter's refrain: Ice and Snow, Take It Slow.

Missouri joined several other states in a group called Clear Roads to send consistent messages during the winter season with the best advice for driving in winter weather – Ice and Snow, Take it Slow.

“It’s common sense, but it is a great reminder, especially after we haven’t seen snow for a while,” said Jim Carney, state maintenance engineer. “When we get a spring snowfall, many of us have forgotten how to drive on a slick road, and the best thing you can do is slow down.”

Although MoDOT works hard to clear roads fast and make them safe for motorists, it is also the motorist’s job to drive cautiously, pay extra attention to signs and drive defensively, according to Carney.

Clear Roads is a pooled-fund winter highway maintenance research project. Messages from the campaign developed by the group began this winter with posters and radio public service announcements, as well as travel tips and road condition information provided to media outlets during winter weather events.

MoDOT Testing Soy Stripes

Are highways and soybeans a good fit? That’s what MoDOT is trying to find out.

MoDOT is testing four types of yellow and white soy-based paints that contain varying amounts of soybean oil to see how they work for highway striping. The soy-based paint is made by using the same raw materials and processing techniques as traditional, water-based paint, except the soybean oil replaces some of the petroleum ingredients. Soy paint is considered to be more environmentally friendly than other paints because it’s made from soybeans, a renewable agricultural crop that is plentiful in Missouri.

The 12-foot test stripes, which are located on Route 63 just north of Jefferson City, run across the roadway – from the shoulder to the center stripe. That way, the paint can be

MoDOT uses a priority system of routes to determine which roadways are cleared first and get traffic moving as quickly as possible. The following are priority levels for snow and ice-removal:

- Priority 1: Highest traffic-volume roadways are cleared first, including interstates and other major routes. These roads receive continuous treatment throughout a storm.
- Priority 2: Lower-volume, lettered or numbered routes are opened to two-way traffic and treated with salt at critical areas such as intersections, hills and curves.

After storms during regular work hours, workers clean up accumulation on shoulders, bridge edges and interchanges.

Annually MoDOT spends approximately \$30 million on snow and ice removal. Last year, approximately 3,000 employees spent more than 541,000 hours using the 1,800 snow-removal vehicles, which added up to \$43 million on snow and ice prevention and removal. Department facilities are stocked with snow-removal materials by Nov 1.

“Remember to give snowplows plenty of room to work, don’t tailgate and try not to

Winter Driving Safety Tips

- Slow down for wet, snowy, icy conditions.
- Avoid quick braking or acceleration.
- Find out about driving conditions before you go.
- Every time you travel – Buckle Up.
- Turn signals, brake lights and windows need to be clear of snow.
- You should never use cruise control in winter weather conditions.

pass,” Carney said. “We want everyone to get home safely. Always buckle up, and remember, when driving in Ice and Snow, Take It Slow.”

For information on road conditions across the state, safe traveling tips and a diagram on driveway clearing techniques, visit www.modot.org or call 888-ASK MODOT. Recorded road-condition information is available at (800) 222-6400. ■



tested for how well it sticks to the ground and holds up against tire wear. MoDOT will also be looking to see how the paint withstands the ultimate test: snowplow blades. “Snowplows are the Achilles heel of any highway paint,” said Todd Bennett, MoDOT’s chemical laboratory director. “As we monitor the wear and tear of the paint over the next year, we’ll especially be

looking to see how durable it is in winter weather.”

MoDOT has been working with the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council to test the paint which was developed by Cargill.

“Missouri soybean farmers are pleased to work with MoDOT and our industrial partners to find new ways for soybeans to be used,” said Dale R. Ludwig, the council’s Executive Director/CEO. “Finding new uses for soybeans is good for the rural economy and the environment.”

The state transportation department typically buys about 1.5 million gallons of water-based paint a year. Missouri, which ranks seventh in the nation in soybean production, produced more than 194 million bushels of soybeans valued at \$1.2 billion last year. ■

New Adopters

October 2007 - January 2008

October 2007

Alpha Eta Rho
 Belton, MO Cub Scout Pack 510
 Cass County Democrats
 Dunklin Fire District
 Edgewater Village Homeowners
 In Loving Memory of Christopher M. Rider
 In Loving Memory of Cornie Grote and Toby Brock Miller
 In Loving Memory of Eugene George
 In Loving Memory of Eugene Willis Knoche, Our Father
 In Loving Memory of My Husband & Best Friend, Stephen Kalin
 In Loving Memory of Stephen M. Nolte
 In Memory of LCPL Tenzin Dengkhim
 In Memory of Terry Wayne Peat, Caney Mtn. VFD #15
 Jamestown FBLA
 KCMO B.A.C.A. In Loving Memory of Kevin "Go Dog" Tanck
 Kristin Vargo Dream Girls USA Supreme Talent Queen
 Mark Hutchinson, River City Real Estate
 Mathew and Dana Fox and Family
 Michael and Diana Campbell
 Mike Kehoe Ford
 Navy Operational Support Center, Springfield
 NU Society U.C.M.
 Park University Sigma Alpha Pi
 Phi Slamma Jamma
 Route AC Neighbors
 Submarine Veterans
 Texas County Adult Drug Court
 The Green Center
 US MO RT. 66 Canoe Rental LLC

November 2007

American Legion Flower City USA
 Faith Lutheran Church, LCMS
 Family and Friends of H. D. Nichols
 In Loving Memory David & Jesse Busby, St. Clair HS NHS & FFA
 In Loving Memory of Greg A. Kilgore
 In Memory of Hershel H. Roberts
 In Remembrance of Kiona Stewart "Ms. Bunny"
 Neosho High School Student Council
 The Sisters of Xi Zeta Delta
 Velma Foster

December 2007

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 12
 Heisinger Bluffers
 In Loving Memory of Carolyn Morris
 In Loving Memory of Gary Gene Ross – Son, Brother, Dad & Paw Paw
 In Loving Memory of Keith & Helen Thompson, Bob & Terrie
 In Memory of John and Barbara Wilkerson
 Jennifer Gloriod, Michael, Alexandria and Victoria
 Kristy and Family, In Loving Memory of Erick G. Paulette
 New Salem Baptist Church
 O.A.C.A.C. Youth in Action, Verona High School
 Risco High School Junior and Senior Beta Clubs
 Traver Home Winery
 Twisted Kreations Car Club, In Memory of Brad Smith

January 2008

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
 Catholic Youth Group, Canton, MO
 Elaine Edwards, In Memory of Tim Martin
 Family & Friends of Ethan "Bub" Wayne Riggs
 Family and Friends, In Loving Memory of Christopher Meyer
 In Loving Memory of Brandon Bristow, by Dad, Mom, Sis & Bub
 In Loving Memory of Jon "Tunza" Pierce By Family & Friends
 In Memory of Carl and Rosetta Bouse
 In Memory of Gene Stein
 In Memory of Leo McGrew "Toast"
 Matt and Amy Payne
 P.P.S. Tammy Berg-Neuman Probation Services
 R.E. Signature Homes, Inc.
 Scout County Sheriff's Department, Explorer Post 4279
 The Elsworth Family
 The Warrenton Jaycees
 Wal-Mart Supercenter

Thank You New Adopters!

Roadside Review is a quarterly newsletter published by the Maintenance unit of the Missouri Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups. After reading, please share this newsletter with others. Additional copies are available upon request.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

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



For more information about the Adopt-A-Highway program:

888 ASK MODOT
aah@modot.mo.gov
www.modot.org

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TALKIN' TRASH

Going the Extra Mile to Pick Up Litter

Most people do not think picking up trash is fun. But for Richard McAllister of Piedmont, cleaning up litter is his passion.



McAllister first adopted a 2-mile stretch of highway along Route 49 in Wayne County in 2002. Since then the retired McAllister has continued to adopt, and now cleans almost all of northwest Wayne County. McAllister picks up approximately 100 miles of roadway every two weeks—that's roughly 8 miles a day.

"We're proud of Richard's contributions," said Maintenance Superintendent Butch Anderson. "When you drive into the northern part of Wayne County, you don't see glass bottles and trash along the roads. Richard's work is very evident."

McAllister isn't all alone, however. In 2006, he hired someone to assist him in picking up litter along Wayne County's roadways. He also created

Citizens Against Trash, a non-profit group, to raise money and help clean up Missouri, although some of his funding comes from McAllister's own bank account.

Because of his devotion, McAllister received the Adopt-A-Highway Appreciation Award at a ceremony at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Piedmont on January 15th.

"It's an honor to have Mr. McAllister in our part of the state," said Intermediate Community Relations Specialist Belinda McMurry. "Mr. McAllister is a generous and selfless man. He is someone that always goes the 'extra mile' for his family, neighbors and community. We are lucky to have such a great man in our district doing so many great things with the Adopt-A-Highway program."

McAllister has become one of the top adopters in the state, but still has loftier goals. He says he would like to eventually pick up all of western Wayne County. ■