



## **An E-Update**

Prepared by Organizational Results  
Missouri Department of Transportation

**April 2007**

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### **First Transportation Research Forum Attracts Experts**

Nearly 70 representatives from public and private research organizations participated in the first Semiannual Transportation Research Forum April 17 in Kansas City, Missouri. The daylong session, co-hosted by the Missouri Transportation Institute and MoDOT, brought together research experts in the areas of highway safety, traffic management and transportation management systems to discuss research needs and capabilities in Missouri. Forum topics included MoDOT's research direction, a federal overview along with presentations from private and public research groups. The keynote luncheon speaker was Deb Elston, who serves as FHWA's director of corporate research and technology. Have a look at all the presentations. [Transportation Research Forum](#)

### **Missouri Peer Exchange Highlights Best Practices in DOTs**

A group of managers from state, federal and university research organizations came together March 5-7 in Jefferson City, Missouri, to consider the best ways to identify research needs, conduct external research and implement research results. The peer exchange process included presentations from each participant on organizational approaches to the three focus areas. And while the primary focus was to evaluate Missouri's program, each participant took something back with him or her to implement. You might find a best practice yourself in the team's report.

[Peer Exchange Report](#)

### **Study Confirms Linseed Oil as Best Bridge Deck Sealer**

Over the past 30 years, linseed oil has always come out on top in Missouri for sealing bridge decks. But when MoDOT crews began noticing excessive cracking on new bridge decks, a study was launched to investigate other possible solutions. The study included investigating what other surrounding states use for sealers and how they test sealants. The result was not surprising. Linseed oil will continue to be the sealer of choice. However, the study did find a new sealant for larger cracks. Ready to be filled in?

[Bridge Deck Sealant Report](#)

### **Department Managers to Help Set Research Priorities**

The Organizational Results staff will host a research project prioritization meeting May 30 with MoDOT senior managers. The meeting is the culmination of several months of interviews with research partners inside and outside the organization. Research needs are categorized by MoDOT's Tangible Results. Participants in the prioritization meeting will vote for the projects that have the greatest potential of improving organizational performance with a high likelihood of being implemented. Organizational Results will use the prioritized list, along with ongoing research projects, to determine the fiscal year 2008 research program.

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page 2

### **Partners Identify Ways to Speed Up Final Project Payments**

The process of closing a construction project and issuing the final payment is a complex process that can last months after the ribbon cutting. This lag is costly for contractors and MoDOT. That's why a group of contractors and MoDOT experts met February 1 to search for better, faster and cheaper ways to speed up final project payments. The daylong session resulted in five action teams being formed. Check out MoDOT's partnering newsletter for all the details. [Partnering for Innovative Efficiencies](#)

### **MoDOT Set to Host National Quality Conference**

The Gateway Arch will welcome DOT quality leaders from across the country to the Show-Me Quality Conference May 21-24 in St. Louis. The conference will feature general sessions with nationally known leaders in the fields of quality management and organizational improvement. Breakout sessions will feature tracks specifically for quality managers and practitioners of varying levels of experience. Take a peek at the agenda or register for the conference at the Standing Committee on Quality homepage. [SCoQ Homepage](#)

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