

kcConnections



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2011 Was a Big Year for Safe & Sound Bridges

Getting to grandma's house for the holidays became a lot easier in 2011, thanks to repair or replacement of 72 of MoDOT's worst bridges in the Kansas City District.

Whether the bridges are "over the river and through the woods" along some of our most remote supplementary routes, or smack dab in the heart of the urban area, more than 78,000 motorists each day find their trips are safer and smoother because of these bridge improvements.

This year MoDOT completed 16 bridges in Lafayette County, concluding three years of work that fixed 22 bridges altogether. In Ray County, 13 were finished this year, also the last of three years and 22 bridges. The last of 15 bridges in Platte County were completed this year. Some of these bridges date back to the



turn of the last century, including Route 0 in southwest Cass County.

Two on Route 224 in Lafayette County are on Scenic Byways, where often antique and collector car owners tour the countryside on weekends.

Some, like the Blue Ridge Boulevard bridge over Route 350 or the Route 24

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In 2011, 72 of the Kansas City District's worst condition bridges were repaired or replaced. In 2012, just 13 bridges remain to be repaired or replaced in our nine-county region: Clay - 4, Cass - 5, Johnson - 3 and Saline - 1.

Bolder 5-Year Direction Timeline

2011

- **October 2011-January 2012:** SG 11-16 positions (professionals) filled competitively.
- **December 31:** deadline for Supervisor SG 12-16s and SG 10-11s to separate from the Department and be compensated for annual leave and comp time at their current rate of pay if being demoted.

2012

- **January-March 2012:** SG 6-10 positions (technicians and support) filled competitively.
- **January 1:** salary changes take effect for demoted Supervisor SG 12-16s and SG 10-11s.
- **January 25:** video conference for SG 6-10.
- **January 31:** announcement of SG 11-16 positions.
- **April-May 2012:** SG 1-5 positions (support) filled competitively.
- **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/
- E-mail: SalaryGrade11-16@modot.mo.gov
- E-mail: SalaryGrade6-10@modot.mo.gov
- E-mail: SalaryGrade1-5@modot.mo.gov
- Contact your KC District HR representative



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bridge in western Independence, see thousands of motorists a day in the busiest urban neighborhoods.

Many others, like Route W bridge over the Grand River near Amarugia Highlands, are distant from even the nearest farmhouse.



The threat of flooding on the Missouri River, plus the needs of farmers during harvest season, delayed closure of three Route 10 bridges west of Hardin in Ray County this year. Flooding on the Missouri River also inundated one bridge last year in Lafayette County and threatened two others in 2011. Just as with the Route 10 bridges in Ray County, MoDOT worked with communities throughout the District to time bridge closures as carefully as possible to minimize disruption to local festivals, schools and emergency response.



While all Safe & Sound bridges are now complete in Lafayette, Platte, Jackson, Pettis and Ray counties, there are still bridges to be rehabilitated or replaced in 2012. Clay County has four, Cass County has five, three are in Johnson County and one remains to be replaced in Saline County.



MoDOT's Kansas City District added Saline and Pettis counties in mid-2011, and shifted Henry County to the Southwest District. Henry County now has 19 fresh bridges over the past three years, Pettis has 15 and Saline 10.

For more information on Kansas City's Safe & Sound program, visit www.modot.org/kc

Focus on the Road Winner Gets New Ford Focus

Jody Mealy of Portland, Mo., pledged to focus on the road and not drive distracted. On Monday evening, as a result of that pledge, she won a new car just in time for Christmas.

A 2012 Ford Focus from Joe Machens Ford was awarded to Mealy at the Machens dealership in Columbia as part of an awareness campaign to keep drivers attentive behind the wheel. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety teamed up with Machens Ford and KRCG-TV to sponsor the "Focus on the Road" campaign.

Nearly 9,000 people made the pledge on KRCG's website to stay focused on driving. Of the entries, 11 finalists were chosen and each was given a key to try

in the new vehicle on Monday evening and the winner was announced during KRCG's 6 p.m. broadcast.

Each day, distracted driving causes nearly 8,000 crashes nationwide. In 2010, a total of 3,092 people were killed in crashes involving distracted drivers in the U.S.



Driver distractions include a wide range of activities from putting on makeup to tuning a radio, but the most common is using a cell phone. Recent research showed dialing a phone increases the risk of a crash by as much as six times, and people texting are 23 times more likely to be in a crash.

"When you're behind the wheel, there is no more important activity than being focused on the road," said MoDOT Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue. "No conversation or text is worth the risk of a crash."

For more information about staying focused on the road, visit <http://www.savemolives.com/>.

Safety First: Winter and Holiday Driving

Whether you are traveling this weekend for the holiday or staying close to home, preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost are the keys to safe winter driving.

Every winter you should have a mechanic check your vehicle's:

- Battery
- Antifreeze
- Wipers and windshield washer fluid
- Lights (including hazard lights)
- Exhaust system
- Heater
- Brakes
- Oil level and grade
- Tires

Before leaving on a long winter journey:

- Map out your trip carefully and plan to travel during daylight. Check out the Traveler Information Map for any potential construction or traffic detours.

- Try to take at least one other person with you.
- Dress warmly, wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing.
- Pack an emergency kit, containing:
 1. Flashlight with extra batteries
 2. First aid kit with pocket knife
 3. Blankets and sleeping bags
 4. Matches
 5. Extra set of mittens, socks, wool cap, clothing, including an old pair of boots
 6. Bag of sand for wheel traction
 7. Small or folding shovel
 8. Booster cables
 9. Set of tire chains or traction mats
 10. Emergency "help" sign and/or brightly colored cloth to use as a flag

If you become trapped in your vehicle during a blizzard:

- Stay put! Don't leave the car to search for help unless help is visible nearby. Display a trouble sign

or hang a brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna.

- Turn on the vehicle's engine for about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning, though. Open a window slightly and keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Do minor exercises to keep up circulation, but avoid overexertion, such as shoveling snow or pushing a vehicle. Cold weather puts added strain on the heart, and heavy physical activity could trigger a heart attack.

Holidays are a great time to celebrate friends and family, but if your celebration includes alcohol or other intoxicants, make a plan that includes a designated driver, alternate transportation or a safe place to stay.

More safety information is available on the intranet under Risk Management.

Events Around the District

This week's events featured awards for the KC District employees on the statewide striping team and Christmas for the families from the Phoenix Group.

As with any event MoDOT hosts, employees are always welcome to attend. Visit our website at www.modot.org/kc and click on "News and Information" for a link to the public meetings scheduled for the coming weeks.

Events Calendar

State Offices Closed for Holiday
Dec. 26, 2011

Les Willard Retirement Reception
Dec. 30, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.
Jeffery Kyle's Restaurant
Richmond

State Offices Closed for Holiday
Jan. 2, 2012

Personal Awareness Safety Training
Jan. 4, 2012
Conference Room 136
MoDOT KC District Office

Innovation Challenge Open House
Jan. 5, 2012 at 9 a.m.
Lee's Summit Maintenance Facility



The district gave generously this holiday season. Thanks to the kindness shown by several individuals and departments, 10 families and three senior citizens from the KC Metro area were adopted for Christmas. The overwhelming number of presents shown here were donated to these families. The Phoenix Family Corporation was humbled by the number of families the district adopted, and thanks to our support, were able to help more than 200 families this year, surpassing years past. Photo below: Kerri Lewis, Customer Relations



The Human Resources Department adopted a single mom and her two small children and had the opportunity to meet them on December 19. With gifts in hand, the group surprised 3-year-old TyRhiana, her mom, LaToya, and 5-year-old brother, Tyron.



MoDOT's Striping Leadership Team received the Silver Performance Excellence Award from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Among the team members were Kansas City District employees Scott Brelsford and Susan Barry. Photo: Jennifer Benefield, Customer Relations

SAFE SOUND



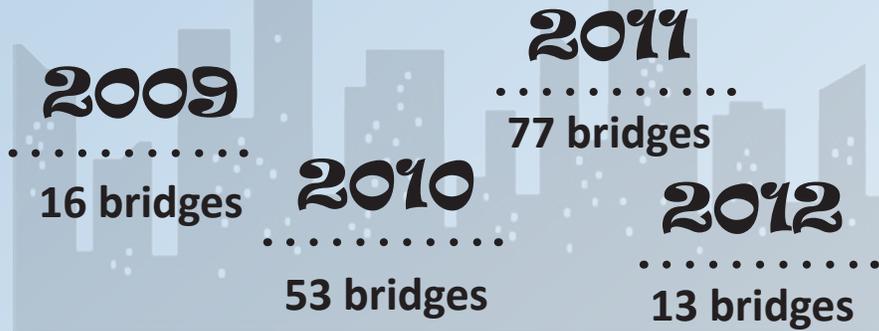
1,093 are in poor
(4) or serious (3) condition

← Safe & Sound will replace
or repair 802 of these
-- 159 in the Kansas City District →



**S A F E &
S O U N D**

No. of Safe & Sound Bridges in Kansas City District



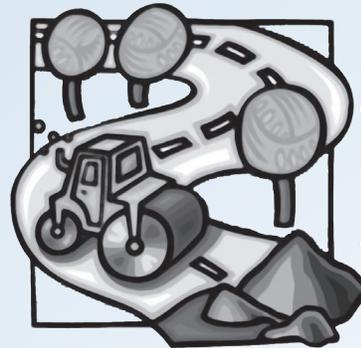
Program supports

5,300
local jobs
across
the state



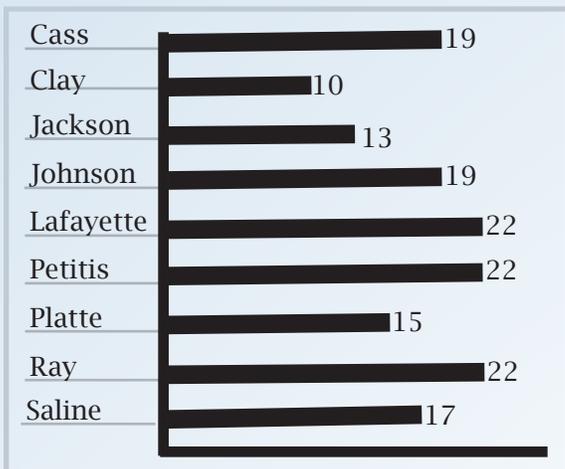
8.7
Average Rating of a
Safe & Sound Bridge,
on a 9-Point Scale

Avg. number
of bridges
Completed
per month



85,300 square
feet of concrete
+ 69,500 square
feet of asphalt

During a 103-day span in summer/fall 2010, 114 bridges were completed --
90 were total replacements



Safe & Sound by County

78,300
Vehicles



Cross new
bridges every day

The **2011-2012 Innovation Challenge** will showcase the best innovations in our district. But before we show the state how good we are, we invite all District Employees to attend the....

RESCHEDULED!

Innovation Challenge Open House

Jan. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lee's Summit
Maintenance Facility

Innovations must emphasize:

- Work Zones
- Injury Reduction
- Bridge Maintenance
- Pavement Maintenance

They are judged on:

- Cost Savings
- Safety
- Implementation
- Impact on Five-Year Direction
- Convenience/Ease of Use

From the entries, judges will choose six to send to the statewide competition.

District winners receive **\$75 per person** or a maximum of \$450 per team. Each of the statewide winners will earn **\$425 per person** or a maximum of \$1,550 per team and an extra **\$10,000** for the district budget.



The Challengers Have Spoken

It's **MoDOT** Appreciation Day
with the **University of Central Missouri!**



Join Mules Basketball as they
take on their rival
Missouri Western in
Televised MIAA Action.

Saturday, January 14
UCM--Multipurpose Building
Jennies play at 1 p.m.
Mules play at 3 p.m.



ALL employees and family get in for FREE
and will receive a meal voucher!

Employees are encouraged to attend the game as honored guests. MoDOT will receive special recognition during the game, so make plans to come and represent.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Kerri Lewis--607-2151 or kerri.lewis@modot.mo.gov to reserve your seat today. Car pooling is available for employees leaving from the District Office.

UCM would like to show MoDOT employees appreciation for the outstanding job that we continue to do for the district.



Brought to you by your EAEC.
Contact a representative today for more details.