

econnections

Missouri Department
of Transportation



January 2009

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

Meetings/Training

Tuesday, January 13
Stock Area Team Meeting
8-10 a.m., Room 255

Wednesday, January 14
Job Status Meeting, Room 236
8:30-10:00 Jackson/Cass Counties
10:00-11:30 Interstates
12:00-1:30 Clay/Platte Counties
1:30-3:00Lafayette/Johnson/Henry/Ray

Thursday, January 22
Management Team
8 - 10 a.m., Room 136

Wednesday, February 11
Maintenance Supervisors
12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m., Room 136

Wednesday, February 18
Job Status Meeting, Room 236
8:30-10:00 Jackson/Cass Counties
10:00-11:30 Interstates
12:00-1:30 Clay/Platte Counties
1:30-3:00Lafayette/Johnson/Henry/Ray

Events

Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
State Offices Closed

Monday, January 12
Governor's Inauguration Day

Tuesday, January 20
President-elect Obama Inauguration Day

Thursday, February 12
Lincoln's Birthday
State Offices Closed

Monday, February 16
Washington's Birthday
State Offices Closed

Ribbons of Celebration

by Kerri Lewis

With 2008 behind us, it is time to look forward to 2009. 2008 proved to be a busy construction season with several projects that have enhanced our transportation system coming to a close and more underway. D4 celebrated these accomplishments with many ribbon-cutting celebrations and ground-breakings to signify the work and collaboration among MoDOT, city and county officials and community members.

The first ribbon cutting on August 11 celebrated the completion of the new Pryor Road interchange located just north of the Route 50 and I-470 interchange. In a partnership effort between MoDOT and the city of Lee's Summit, the new interchange opened to traffic Friday, August 15.

"We listened to citizens who stated

a need for this project. We are pleased to work with the city of Lee's Summit to open this interchange that will allow motorists to move through this area safer and with more ease. It also allows businesses to continue to expand along this corridor," said Elizabeth Wright, MoDOT District Engineer.

In a second ribbon-cutting celebration, MoDOT signified the completion of safety

improvements at

the intersection of Route 92 and Commercial Street in Smithville, MO on time and within budget. Smithville's first, new roundabout opened to traffic on Monday, August 18.

"MoDOT's first priority is safety, and building a roundabout is an innovative way for creating a safer intersection. This great alternative to a signalized intersection means motorists will find a quicker, safer, and more economical route to reach their destination," said Wright.

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The new Noland Road Bridge ribbon cutting celebration.

Retirement...

“Until We Meet Again”

Regional Maintenance Supervisor
Gary Baxter

Regional Maintenance supervisor
Phillip Brant

Senior Maintenance Worker
James Beason

Senior Electrician
Stephen Saale

Motorist Assistance Shift Supervisor
Frederick McCombs

Regional Maintenance Supervisor
Kenneth Waters

Motorist Assistance Operations Supervisor
Randall Freeman

Support Services Manager
Dean Bolin

District Design Liaison
John Fontana

Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Jones

Maintenance Superintendent
Darrell Webb



Dean Bolin retired after 42 years of commitment to MoDOT. To the right, Dean receives some help from his granddaughter, Madeline.



Mailbag

I am pleased at all the work the members of the Clay County MoDOT buildings have accomplished during all of the snow events. I travel from the south end of Clay County (near the Chouteau building) to just north of 291 Hwy. (Liberty building) I don't think you can find better workers any where than the ones here. My hats off, for making the roads safe during the storms, all Missourians should be proud of the work you do!!!



Sincerely,
JD

I just wanted to let the MoDOT workers know that I appreciate all the hard work they put in to keep our roads clear. I work in Kansas City but live in Garden City and the roads have been well kept through all of this weather. I just wanted to thank all of you for your hard work.

Dear MoDot

I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to your great crew for "pushing snow" and keeping the roads clear and safer for us commuters!! The guys and gals do an excellent job and we appreciate all the effort and time it takes to help make our commute a safer one!! Now if we can just do something about the tailgaters!!

From an appreciative Cass County Resident!!



Kenny Waters, Regional Maintenance Supervisor for Nashua, celebrated his retirement in September after 30 years of service. Below, Kenny and wife Melissa enjoy a gathering of friends.



Ribbons

continued from first page

In yet another ribbon cutting, MoDOT celebrated the completion of the Noland Road Bridge on September 25. An aging Noland Road Bridge over I-70 was removed February 16, and in less than two months, a new bridge was in place and carrying traffic. Ramp replacement, landscaping and other off-roadway construction continued throughout the summer. The Independence community and MoDOT celebrated the completion of this \$9.3 million project with a ribbon cutting.



Route D was a huge success for Cass County motorists.

“This bridge is a winner for tens of thousands of motorists each day because MoDOT and the citizens of Independence are part of a great team. Together we tackled a project that could have cost \$33 million and might have taken more than a year to re-open, however, we were able to build it for \$9.3 million and got it open in less than two months,” said Chris Redline, Assistant District Engineer.

In the south side of D4, more projects were completed and ribbon cuttings were held. Representatives from the Village of Loch Lloyd, the City of Belton and MoDOT celebrated another major project completion by cutting the ribbon in late September to reopen Route D, concluding weeks of closure for the vital state highway through Cass County. MoDOT’s improvements to Route D have provided a smoother, long-lasting highway that doesn’t demand continual maintenance.

“Keeping the highway open ensured customer access to merchants in Greenwood who rely on outside shoppers looking for the many unique items offered in their shops,” said Sharon Taegel, MoDOT Assistant to the District Engineer. “Greenwood’s financial vitality depends on the success of the businesses flanking Route 150.”



MoDOT, city and county officials do the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon for the new Smithville Roundabout.

Route D was closed to all through traffic from Route 58 in Cass County to Route 150 in south Kansas City beginning July 29, with only local access for property owners. Using the old concrete pavement as a stabilized base, geotextile was placed on top of the base and a five-inch-thick layer of concrete poured over the old highway surface. Access to Loch Lloyd was provided from the north during the first phase, and then switched to the newly constructed pavement on the south side. The middle phase from just north of Loch Lloyd to near 164th Street concluded before Labor Day, with a left turn lane added at 165th Street. The third phase, reconstructing the pavement from about 164th Street north to Route 150, included a left-turn lane at Kenneth Road.

The new Route 150 Bridge over Big Creek in Greenwood officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early October. The replacement of a structurally deficient, functionally obsolete and substandard bridge over the Big Creek and Union Pacific Railroad was designed after the public’s input convinced MoDOT to keep at least one lane open through Greenwood during construction. For several months last summer, one-lane, signal-controlled traffic moved slowly across half of the old bridge while the new bridge was being built. The staged construction ensured that businesses continued to draw customers and the two sides of the community would not be isolated. Work began in March 2007.

With so many projects celebrating completion, MoDOT D4 crews remained busy preparing for



Local students, MoDOT and county officials were pleased to celebrate the completion for the Route 150 Bridge in Greenwood.

more projects to get underway. Groundbreakings for the Route 150 project

and the North Cass Parkway celebrated project kick-off.

During a ceremony in September, representatives from Grandview, Kansas City and Lee’s Summit joined MoDOT near the northeast corner of Route 71 and Route 150 to break ground on two significant roadway projects for the area. Work on the interchange of Route 71 at Route 150 and the widening of Route 150 from Route 71 to Route 291 is officially under way.

Also in September, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to signify the beginning for a new \$10.1 million North Cass Parkway interchange near 187th



The overturned ground signified the kick-off for two major projects in Cass County.

Street and Route 71, and the \$13.5 million project to redesign the interchange at 163rd Street. The cities of Belton and Raymore are teaming with Cass County and MoDOT to build North Cass Parkway interchange two miles south of Route 58 on Route 71. The city of Belton is providing substantial financial support to reconstruct the 163rd Street (Route Y) interchange a mile north of Route 58 on Route 71.

After so many projects completed and others just beginning in 2008, D4 definitely had a reason to celebrate. And with a new year underway, there are many more projects on the horizon to keep the ribbons flying.

Kansas City Scout Receives MARC Regional Leadership Award

by Gina Myles

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) bestowed Kansas City Scout with its Regional Leadership Award in June, 2008. The award recognizes individual and institutions that demonstrate leadership and excellence in the improvement of the quality of life for the region's citizens. US Senator, Pat Roberts and Missouri State Senator, Chris Koster also received this high honor.

Award recipients were honored for advocating regional programs, advancing the vision of the region as a community of excellence, addressing regional challenges, and applying innovative solutions to regional problems.

The award was presented to E. Jason Sims, Manager of Kansas City Scout and Jerry Younger, Kansas Department of Transportation, Deputy Secretary for Engineering & State Transportation Engineer, at a luncheon ceremony held today at the Westin Crown Center, in downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

Scout earned the award for its "Travel Time Implementation Project", which highlights the need to reduce congestion on area interstates and the realization that conventional methods such as pavement expansion had already been exhausted. As a solution Kansas City Scout launched Travel Times, and in a concept new to the nation, combined Travel Time Messaging



MARC Regional Leadership Award

with Incident Messaging in an innovative two-phase message concept.

Travel Times represents the time it takes a driver, driving at current freeway speeds to travel from one fixed point to another target. Incident Messaging along with Travel Times greatly satisfies the commuting public's desire to receive real time travel information. If an incident occurs, messages are configured to show both travel time messages and incident messages.

This information now lets commuters gauge how long it will take to get past the blocked lane(s) coupling travel times with incident information drivers can make informed decisions about alternative routes.



Allison Smith, KDOT MPO Transportation Planner, Bill Kemle, Delcan Project Manager Travel Time Project, Blake Hansen, Transcore Project Manager, Don Spencer, Scout TMC Supervisor, Davonna Moore, KDOT Urban Planning Manager, Jim Pickett, KDOT Metro Engineer, Jason Sims, Manager Kansas City Scout, Chris Redline, MoDOT Assistant District Engineer, Sharon Taegel, MoDOT Assistant to District Engineer, Jackie Davis, Scout TMC Supervisor.

Motorist Assist Commemorates 15 Years of Service

District 4 Motorist Assist celebrates 15 years of helping Kansas City motorists on area interstates. Motorist Assist began operations in 1993 with four trucks and eight operators patrolling 24 miles of Kansas City freeways. The Motorist Assist operation has grown and has proved to be much more successful than ever imagined when it first came into existence. There are now 18 operators, including 2 shift supervisors, a fleet of nine Motorist Assist trucks, 2 Emergency Response trucks, and 2 Supervisor units, providing a quality, valuable service to Kansas City area motorists.

Motorist Assist and Emergency Response operators put their lives on the line everyday as they patrol some of the busiest interstates in and around the Kansas City metropolitan area offering assistance to disabled motorists, searching for lane obstructions be it stalled vehicles in traffic lanes, on the shoulder, car accidents or debris in the roadway. These dedicated public servants' goals are to minimize major disruption of freeway traffic flow, to focus on the factors that create disruption in the flow, remove those factors, to relieve congestion and maintain a consistent flow of traffic during an incident and to reduce clearance time for incidents, all to offer Kansas City area motorists a smoother, safer commute.

MoDOT employee, Kim Gordon was with motorist assist when the wheels first began to turn and was one of the first female operators in the program, she states, "The thing I remember most is the pride I felt in doing my job, knowing that I was helping someone, sometimes stranded women with children and elderly people, who really needed my help. This gave me and the other operators so much satisfaction because you could see how much it meant to the person you assisted that you were there in a time of need." Kim has moved on and now works in D4 Customer Service department but she fondly recalls her 10 years with Motorist Assist as one of the most gratifying jobs in her 21-year career with the department.

Motorist Assist operators also provide support to law enforcement, emergency responders and other emergency agencies in the form of traffic control and back up for incidents on the area interstates.

econnections sources

Construction Bev Chrisco, 6341

Design Flo Noear, 0455

Regional Counsel LeAnn Francis, 6382

Administration Judy Magruder, 6309

General Services Toni Terry, 0056

Human Resources Belinda Fite, 6321

Right of Way Melbra Taylor, 6351

Traffic Dawn Phillips, 0401

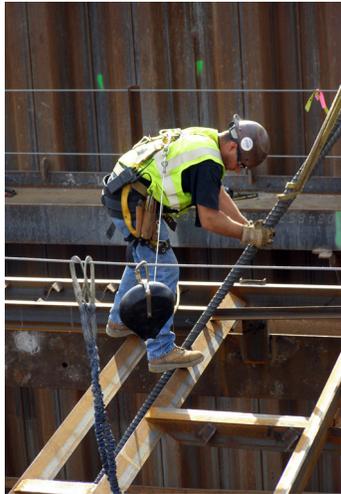
Editor Kerri Lewis, 6328

kcICON Project Marks First Year of Progress

\$68.7 million of \$232 construction contract complete

By Joy Wasendorf, Paseo Corridor Constructors

November 14 marked one year since the Missouri Highways and Transportation



A Paseo Corridor Constructors crewman places a portion of the 235 miles of rebar that will be used to construct the Christopher S. Bond River Bridge in Kansas City, Mo. on Nov 5. To view daily river bridge progress, visit www.kcicon.com and click "Project Webcam."

– and its subcontract forces had logged more than 115,200 hours on design activities.

As construction progresses through 2011, there might be minor modifications or "field design changes" made to the plans, but for the most part the project's design was set as of December 5, 2008.

With the foundation work now done on the river bridge center pylon, people will start to see the delta-shaped support structure rising out of the water as a series of segmental concrete pours take place in the coming months.

Other ongoing river bridge work includes forming the five vertical columns for each of the five bridge bents that will

help support the structure. Building each of these 25 columns involves drilling about 100 feet into the ground, forming and setting the metal rebar cage inside the shaft and pouring about 220 cubic yards of concrete.

While most of the river bridge work is occurring east of the existing highway corridor and is not impacting the traveling public, other construction activities associated with the highway improvements are more noticeable. Some of the ongoing and upcoming highway construction activities include:

- Highway widening work on the east side of the viaduct that spans the railroad tracks just north of Bedford Avenue. Work



A final look at the rebar cage before the Paseo Corridor Constructors river bridge crew placed 1,500 cubic yards of concrete to form the footing of the Christopher S. Bond River Bridge in Kansas City, Mo. on Nov. 8. To view daily river bridge progress, visit www.kcicon.com and click "Project Webcam."

on the bridge abutment along Bedford requires closing the Bedford Avenue off-ramp from northbound I-29/35. This off-ramp was closed the morning of Monday, Dec. 1 and will remain closed for about two years. During this time, motorists wanting to access the Paseo Industrial District will need to go north to 16th Avenue

and re-enter the highway going south to the Levee Road exit.

- Widening to the outside of the southbound I-29/35 lanes between Front Street and Independence Avenue. This work will eventually require a short-term closure of the Independence Avenue loop ramp to westbound I-70. This closure, anticipated to last about 2 months, is tentatively planned for spring 2009.

- Retaining wall construction and drainage work between Levee Road and Bedford Avenue on the east side of the highway.

- Highway widening work on the east side of the viaduct that spans the railroad tracks just south of the Front Street interchange.

- Installation of sound wall panels on top of the retaining wall panels that are in place along the Armour Road off-ramp from northbound I-29/35.

- Construction of the bridge abutment on the north side of Armour Road for the new southbound

highway viaduct.

For the latest project information and Web cam progress photos, visit www.kcicon.com.



Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

July:

Maintenance Worker **David Atkins-Hubbard**
Maintenance Worker **Patricia Guffey**
Senior Electrician **Rebecca Pratt**
Maintenance Supervisor **Bryan Wessler**

August:

Assistant Construction Technician
Deborah Bruening
Senior Human Resources Specialist **Jim Fight**
Highway Designer **Thankam Mathew**

September

Materials Technician **Roger Boessen**
Executive Assistant **John Cooper**
Senior Office Assistant **Stacey McKinley**
Senior Materials Technician **Matthew Sonner**
Facility Operations Specialist **Brian Strong**

October

Maintenance Worker **Mark Bradley**
Maintenance Worker **Steven Gonzales**
Traffic Systems Operator **LaKeshia Hardin**
Maintenance Worker **Tiffany Burris**
Traffic Systems Operator **David McDaniel**
Maintenance Worker **Jason Parks**
Maintenance Worker **Robert Rogers**
Maintenance Worker **Melvin Rushing**
Traffic Systems Operator **Lindsey Veit**

November

Maintenance Worker **Travis Coats**
Maintenance Worker **Donald Fletcher**
Maintenance Worker **Matthew Franklin**

December

Maintenance Worker **Floyd Bessard Jr.**
Senior Construction Technician **Jeffrey Brown**
Maintenance Worker **Diane Hanson**
Assistant Construction Tech **Daniel Hernandez**
Maintenance Worker **Gary Hoepfner**
Maintenance Worker **Jeffrey Jones**
Maintenance Worker **Gerald Loges**
Maintenance Worker **Robert Maupin**
Maintenance Worker **Christopher McGlone**
Equipment Tech Supervisor **Mark Montgomery**
Maintenance Worker **Kendrick Stith**
Intermediate Design Tech Intern **Joshua Tinkey**
Maintenance Worker **Paul Valdez**

Promoted

July:

Intermediate Construction Inspector
Chad Baldwin
Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Donald Colbey
Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Christopher Coon
Senior Traffic Specialist **Brandon Daniel**
Senior Construction Inspector **EJ Dunkseson**
Human Resource Specialist **Amy Gagne**
Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist
Matthew Haug
Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Amanda Howe
Traffic Speciliast **Matthew Kelley**
Senior Maintenance Worker
William Landsman
Maintenance Worker **Nabor Madrigal**
Intermediate Maintenacne Worker
Alvin Richardson
Senior Maintenance Worker **Danny Snider**
Senior Maintenance Worker
William Van Dyne II
Maintenance Worker **Kyle Warren**

August:

Pavement Specialist **Clem Anderson III**
Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Dan Duncan
Senior Traffic Technician **Pricilla Harris**
Maintenance Worker Elizabeth **Hart-Hopkins**
Motorist Assistance Operator **Robert Johnson**
Highway Designer **Timothy McClaran**
Highway Designer **Jeremy Morken**
Maintenance Worker **Donald Pitter**
Maintenance Crew Leader **Kevin Rash**
Maintenance Crew Leader **James Reavis**
Maintenance Worker **Darryl Suiter**
Motorist Assistance Operator **Francis Turner**
Intermediate Planning Tech **Tammy Wimmer**

September

Maintenance Crew Leader **Deloris Goetz**
Senior Maintenance Worker **Kevin Simcosky**
Senior Maintenance Worker **Rebel Walker**
Senior Maintenance Worker **Jamale Wilcox**
Maintenance Crew Leader **T.J. Williams**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Steve Windle**

October

Maintenance Worker **Dedrick Abbott**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Michael Atteberry**
Maintenance Worker **Burt Baker**
Maintenance Crew Leader **David Blunder Jr.**
Maintenance Worker **Kevin Byers**
Materials Inspector **Steven Elrick**
Materials Inspector **Robin Green**
Traffic Systems Supervisor **Nancy Powell**
Intermediate Construction Tech **Lisa Raybourn**
Intermediate Maintenance Tech **Jeffrey Still**
Materials Inspector **Rex Studt**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Shawn Stuetzger**
Maintenance Worker **Stephen Vogt**
Maintenance Worker **Jerry Wathen**
Maintenance Worker **Davin Werths**
Regional Maintenance Supervisor **Gary Wulff**

November

Intermediate Maint. Worker **Jacob Bradley**
Maintenance Worker **Lisa Craig**
Intermediate Transp. Planner **Jeffrey Cremer**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Donald Dunn**
Maintenance Superintendent **Billy Glazier**
Maintenance Worker **Lawrence Johannsen**
Intermediate Highway Designer **Jeanna John**
Regional Maint. Supervisor **O. Martin Johnson**
Senior Maintenance Worker **Rocky Johnson**
Intermediate Info. Sys. Tech. **JoAnn Mackay**
Intermediate Highway Designer **Nicole Noah**
Regional Maint. Supervisor **Dennis Pence**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Stephen Pope**
Senior Maintenance Worker **Terry Summers**
Senior General Services Technician **Toni Terry**

December

Motorist Assist. Shift Supervisor **Scott Banes**
Senior Maintenance Worker **Anthony Delce**
Senior Electrician **Theodore Dewolf**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Ronald Gassen**
Maintenance Worker **Gregory Glass**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Brian Huffner**
Maintenance Worker **Zakary Ingraham**
Maintenance Worker **Carol Johnson**
Maintenance Worker **Dustin Jordan**
Senior Maintenance Worker **Michael Keith**
Intermediate Maint. Worker **Dena Lee**
Maintenance Worker **Bernard Noble**
Maintenance Worker **David Odom**
Maintenance Worker **David Shouse**

New Community Connections Office Now Open

by Gina Myles

District 4 has always made an effort to include women and minorities in its operations, contracts and training opportunities. The Missouri Department of Transportation has deepened this commitment with a new Community Connections office located at 4415 E. 50th Terrace in the Shops on Blue Parkway. The new office affords the community better interaction with MoDOT as it is centrally located in the city, closer to local businesses and it allows easier accessibility by citizens through public transit.

The office is staffed by Donnetta Cole, Senior Civil Rights Specialist from the office of External Civil Rights. Ms. Cole is instrumental in providing a link for those in the community seeking to take advantage of MoDOT's procurement opportunities, construction project on-the-job-training opportunities and employment opportunities. Ms. Cole is very excited about the opening of the new office and said, "we (D4) are proud to be housed in the community and by us being located here we can reach out to more minorities and individuals that we may not otherwise have contact with".

She is also involved with MoDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services Program, a 2 year pilot partnership program, that provides a variety of services and one-on-one training specific to the needs of each disadvantaged business participating. The initiative uses the internationally known Kauffman Foundation's FASTTRAC business development model to assist DBE firms to increase their capacity and business acumen in specific and measurable areas over a two-year period.

The Community Connections office is equipped with computer kiosks that allow interested applicants to complete an employment application on-line, which is beneficial for those who do not have access to a computer. The facility has a conference room for meetings and access to a larger room to conduct training exercises.

The office was the result of a commitment made by MoDOT to Rev. Hartsfield and others in the community. Rev. Hartsfield, a prominent minister and community leader in Kansas City and a former member of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony, emphasizing the importance of the need for the new office to get MoDOT more involved in the community and commending D4 for taking the initiative to bring the project to fruition.



Scout Unveils "My KC Scout" Web Alerts

by Gina Myles

Kansas City area motorists have always turned to Scout, a partnership between MoDOT and KDOT, for the latest in real-time traffic and roadwork information. In November 2008, Kansas City Scout began to offer Kansas City motorists another innovative way to navigate their way around congestion and traffic backups, when it unveiled "My KC Scout" web alerts, a new tool to help them avoid tie ups and delays.

The launch of "My KC Scout" was held at the Scout Traffic Management Center and kicked off with a press conference, a live radio remote broadcast and support from local media outlets including an article that appeared in the Kansas City Star detailing the web alert service.

The free, highly customizable "My KC

Scout" service allows motorists to designate routes, day(s) of the week, and times of travel to receive daily text messages and/or email alerts about what to expect on their drive. Users can simply login to the Scout website at www.kcscout.net to subscribe to "My KC Scout" and instantly begin receiving automatic alerts about

incidents affecting their routes. Based on this information motorists can select an alternative route or delay departure. With my KC Scout, subscribers can also choose to receive weather, amber, ozone, homeland security and public safety alerts in addition to traffic alerts.

"Scout is Kansas City's Traffic Management System, a real-time, technology based system which improves the safety and operation of our highways. The launch of "My KC Scout" offers an additional congestion management tool for motorist to make informed decisions on their commute" said E. Jason Sims, Manager of Kansas City Scout.



Jason Sims explains the new "My KC Scout" web alerts.

I-29/35 Project Workforce Partnering Agreement Finalized

by Jennifer Benefield

In August, MODOT and its roundtable partners agreed to a Workforce Utilization Partnering Agreement that will increase the number of socially and economically disadvantaged individuals trained for work on the Interstate 29/35 corridor project.

Roundtable partners include the Federal Highway Administration, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), contractors, labor management, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs, and community groups.

"MoDOT has dedicated up to \$1.25 million for workforce development," said kciCON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "We are extremely pleased that everyone has agreed on a plan that will increase the number of trained workers for the kciCON project and future highway construction projects."

A kciCON Workforce Advisory Committee will be established to identify pre-apprenticeship training programs, recommend these programs for funding, and monitor them for accountability and producing trainees ready for highway construction apprenticeships.

"We are excited to have a project in Kansas City that will link training and employment of minorities, women and economically disadvantaged individuals. Therefore, the outcome is results," said MoDOT External Civil Rights Administrator Lester Woods. "It is a 'new day' at MoDOT, and we are thankful to all those stakeholders who have been involved."



D4 Office of External Civil Rights Celebrates DBE Graduation

by Gina Myles

On December 4, 2008 MoDOT District 4's Office of External Civil Rights, held its graduation ceremony for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services Pilot Program. The graduates received the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's FastTrac certifications, marking the completion of their two-year training in the Supportive Services' entrepreneurship program. The graduation ceremony was held at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center in Kansas City.

The first graduating class consisted of business owners from several Kansas City area companies; Lana and Derek Couch - Couch Excavating Company, Inc, Herman Davila - Davilla Sheet Metal Contracting, Vickie Enloe - Enloe Enterprises, LLC, Raymond Okuagu - Premier Engineering Consultants, Timberland Smith - Mustardseed Cultural & Environmental Services, LLC, John Rolls - Whatever It Takes Electric Contracting and Ina Montgomery - The CODA Company.

The DBE Pilot Partnership Program was originally developed to address the needs of minority and women-owned companies that were State certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise's (DBE), seeking work on federally funded highway projects. The program provided a variety of services specific to the needs of each firm participating. The initiative used the internationally known Kauffman Foundation's

FASTTRAC business development model to assist DBE firms to increase their capacity and business acumen in specific and measurable areas over a two-year period.

The DBE Supportive Services Pilot Partnership Program operates in conjunction with and is supported by the Business Assistance Center. The center offers in-house assistance or administers services from external providers through one-on-one business development counseling and coaching and facilitated and/or computer-based training/workshops, and internet accessible resource materials and data to participants in the PILOT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM and other certified DBEs in all areas of business development, marketing and management.

MoDOT's DBE Supportive Services Pilot Partnership Program recently received federal funding for another two years.



Graduating class and the owner and manager for P/Strada.

Donetta Cole, Senior Civil Rights Specialist from the office of External Civil Rights spoke to the group commending them on their accomplishment.