

econnections



June 2007

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

Meetings/Training

Wednesday, June 6

Maintenance Supervisors Meeting
12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m., Room 136

Tuesday, June 12 Room 236

Job Status, District 1, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 1, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 2, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 3, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Job Status, Group 4, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13

Lamson Area Team Meeting
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
District 4 Office

Thursday, June 14

Management Team
9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Room 136

Thursday, June 19

Stock Area Team Meeting
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
87th Street Project Office

Thursday, July 5

Resident Engineers
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Room 255

Events

Sunday, June 17

Father's Day

Thursday, June 19

Public Hearing I-470 and Strother Road Interchange
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Lee's Summit North High School Lecture Hall (West Side Entrance)

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day
State Offices Closed



A State of Emergency

Floodwaters Ravage Much of Missouri

by Kerri Lewis

A line of severe spring thunderstorms that swept across western Missouri and points north in mid-May left the land drenched and quickly filled streams and rivers. Within a few hours, floodwaters were wreaking havoc upon much of northwest Missouri along the Missouri River and its tributaries.

MoDOT crews had to respond quickly to close roads affected by the flooding. The flood drill continued in District 4 until June 4, when Route D in Lafayette County reopened.

Governor Matt Blunt declared Missouri a state of emergency as floodwaters continued to rise. Both major and minor roads across D4 were forced to close as a result of the high waters. Regular updates to the media and the MoDOT website kept travelers informed about their roadways.

According to the Department of Public Safety in the Office of the Adjutant General, several of D4's counties received much attention.

Preliminary Damage Assessment County Reports for D4

· Cass County—Officials reported 32 people were evacuated. It's believed only one structure suffered damage.

· Clay County—Officials reported that pumping continued in Missouri City, with four pumps operating. Only four roads remained closed and the County EOC remained open. About 70 homes in Mosby were affected by floodwaters and residents were evacuated. The Norfolk Southern railroad line closed temporarily.

· Jackson County—Several homes were evacuated at Levasy due to rising water. A shelter had been opened in Buckner to meet the needs of those citizens who were affected. The county's East EOC remained opened. A water main break forced local officials to issue a Boil Water Alert for about 160,000 residents, including the city of Independence.



Route Z was impassable as floodwaters raged out of control.

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News from Across the District

Condolences: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of retiree Harry "Junior" Martin on his passing May 13th. Harry worked as a maintenance employee in the Northmoor building and retired January 1, 1990.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Kevin Pitts, senior maintenance worker in Clinton, and his family on the loss of his father, Ron Pitts on May 14.

Condolences to the family of retiree, Paul Mueller, on his passing May 29. Paul retired from MoDOT as a Permit Inspector about 12 years ago.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Don Thomas, Senior Materials Technician, and his family on the loss of his father May 29.

Condolences also go to Michelle Clevenger, Intermediate Materials Inspector, and her family on the loss of her aunt and cousin.

Congratulations: Mike Sanders, Senior Traffic Center Specialist, and wife Amy had a baby boy, Levi Charles at 2:30 am on May 14. Levi weighed 8lbs. 9oz. and is 20 1/2" long.

Awards Update: And the winner is...

The Above and Beyond Award was presented to Steve Mothersbaugh, Danny Everts, Cliff Everts, Rodney Galloway, Jamale Wilcox, Phil Brant, Randy Jones, Tom Bates, Wayne Harrison, Ron Cordes, Steve Cobb, Tony Bryant, Jerry Smith, Glen Parkes, Mark Swafford, Danny O'Doniel, Chris Coon, Timothy Glass, John Stout, and Wess Murray for emergency repairs to the deck of the bridge on Route DD at Clear Fork near Knob Noster.

More MoDOT News

MoDOT was honored with ARTBA Pride Awards for the Missouri Advanced Planning Initiative (MAP) and for the Ken Hoierman Public Service Announcement in May.

This is the third award won for the MAP Initiative. It previously has been recognized by AASHTO and the National Association of Government Communicators. Also, the Hoierman PSA has now won two awards.

From the Director

It is hard to believe that almost three years have passed since my arrival at MoDOT. It has been a great three years thanks to your efforts. You and your coworkers have produced an incredible amount of work during my tenure and I am proud to be associated with TEAM MoDOT. Every couple of years, MoDOT has taken the pulse of our organization by hiring a consultant to issue an Employee Satisfaction Survey.



Pete Rahn
MoDOT Director

This year, Human Resources Division developed a survey that is less costly to administer, supplies enough data for comparison to previous results, but still provides the same level of anonymity to our employees.

This week, employee surveys will arrive at the division or district offices through interoffice mail. Every full-time employee should receive a copy of the survey. We need to hear from every employee; therefore, you may use regular work time to fill out the survey. You can place your completed survey in the return envelope, and send it through the department mail service or you can add postage to the envelope and drop the completed survey in the mail by June 15. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please submit them to the following e-mail address, EmpSatSur@modot.mo.gov. Your thoughts and opinions are important to me.

As always, I appreciate all you do for MoDOT every day.

Pete

Announced recently at the May Commission meeting, Commission Secretary Mari Ann Winters will retire September 1. Mari Ann began working for MoDOT 37 years ago as a stenographer in Traffic and Maintenance. She has served as the commission secretary for the past 26 years. Pam Harlan, senior governmental relations specialist, will take over the commission secretary position beginning August 1.

The MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) has launched a tool to help employees to better understand retirement benefits via the internet. Feel free to check out the new site at www.mpers.org. This site allows you to browse information about your retirement system and benefits with a click of your mouse.

Highlights of the new website include:

- MPERS Retirement and Disability

Handbooks

- Forms needed to apply for retirement and disability
- Quick Facts brochure that contains interesting facts about the retirement system
- Helpful links to other websites of interest
- Who to contact at MPERS with questions about your benefits
- Information about the Board of Trustees
- Information about MPERS investments
- Seminar opportunities available to assist members in learning about retirement

Floodwaters

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· Lafayette County—Officials stated the water and sewer treatment plants in Lexington were no longer threatened. Ten homes were affected by flooding in the Waterloo area. Highway 224 was closed between Lexington and Wellington for several days. The American Red Cross provided assistance to affected residents.

· Platte County—Officials reported the water level on the Missouri River was falling. In Parkville, 43 businesses evacuated but most did not suffer damage. About 13-15 county homes reportedly have been damaged. The Parkville EOC remains partially open while the Riverside EOC has been closed. Several businesses in Tracy have reportedly been affected by floodwaters. Officials state that 21 county roads, six secondary roads and two primary roads (Highway 45 and Highway 92 at Tracy) were closed at some time.

· Ray County—Officials reported a break on one secondary levee with 15-25 families near Orrick evacuated. 25 county and five state roads were closed.

Many state agencies stepped in to contribute to the efforts. MoDOT's role during the flood included reporting state road closures; preparing news releases for the local media; completing an emergency declaration to waive federal and state regulations for motor carriers to participate in relief efforts; and providing barricades and other support to local jurisdictions as possible.



Route 92 in Tracy.

Right: Route 92 at Clear Creek.



Below: Route DD in Platte County south of Holland Branch.

Clay Rte 92 at Clear Creek
May 9, 2007, 10:30 am



Route E at the Platte River.



I-29 - May 9, 2007
Sandbag Delivery

MoDOT crews had sandbags ready to help minimize flooding off of I-29 in Platte County.

Corporate Ladder

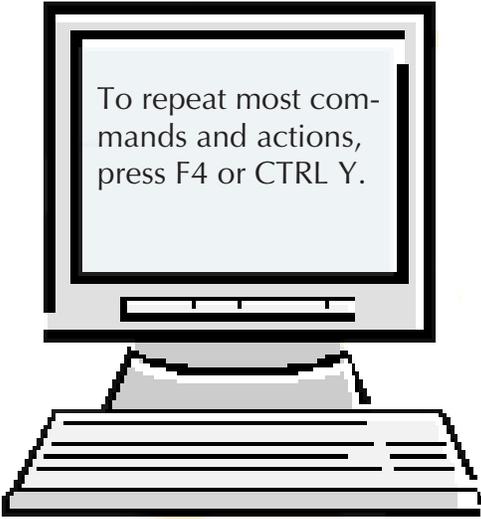
Welcome to District 4

Incident Management Coordinator
William James, III

Promoted

Intermediate Materials Inspector
Charles Harris

Information Systems Tip of the Day



To repeat most commands and actions, press F4 or CTRL Y.

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

Devastation When the Smoke Cleared

Fire Destroys Stadium Project Office

by Kerri Lewis

A May 14th fire destroyed the Stadium Project Office in Kansas City.

Three pumper trucks responded to the alarm, hosing the structure to bring the fire under control. Even with the three-truck response, the building was a total loss. Although the cause is still under investigation, faulty electrical equipment is the chief suspect.

Occupants of the office have temporarily relocated to the old district office garage at 31st and Van Brunt. No decision has been made regarding the permanent placement of the project office. District operations are being reviewed to see if another location would better serve MoDOT's needs.



Mailbag

I want to thank everyone who donated items to Pvt. Holliday and fellow soldiers. We collected 110 pounds of goods and \$55 dollars in cash donations, a stranger also donated \$20, which was put to good use, seeing how the postage came to a total of \$96.04. Six packages were sent to Iraq. Once again I want to thank everyone who made a donation. Our soldiers will be overwhelmed with joy as a result of the great amount of generosity.



Thank you so much!!
James Bentley

To Liberty Maintenance:

I just wanted to thank whoever was working H highway around March 28-30 and was kind enough to find my music bag and see that it was returned to me. It had been stolen from my car and I was really devastated. Having it returned was a dream come true! Your good deed was MUCH appreciated,

Merryl Terry
Plattsburg, MO

Safety Enhanced in Liberty



A traffic light was installed at the corner of Claywoods and Route 291 in Liberty to help increase safety for motorists. Those involved in ensuring this intersection received a traffic light prepare to flip the switch.

From left to right: Ray Mercer, MoDOT, Mark Durham, MoDOT, Kirsten Munck, MoDOT, Nicole Jackson, MoDOT, Nick King, Liberty City Council, State Representative Tim Flook, Liberty Mayor Bob Steincamp, Brian Hess, City Engineer-Liberty, and Lindsay Hogan, MoDOT.

Two Teams Vie for Interstate 29/35 Design-Build Project

by Jennifer Benefield

The Missouri Department of Transportation has pre-qualified two design-build teams from whom it received Statements of Qualification (SOQ) to compete for the contract to construct Interstate 29/35 highway improvements and a new landmark Missouri River crossing.

"We are thrilled to have two exceptional teams with strong local, national and international reputations interested in designing and constructing our project," said kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "We look forward to working with both of them over the next several months as they develop their proposals."

The short-listed teams are as follows:

• **Team #1:** American Bridge Co.

Sole Design-Builder: American Bridge Company

Major Participants: URS Corporation (Overland Park, Ks.)
Ideker, Inc. (St. Joseph, Mo.)

• **Team #2:** Paseo Corridor Constructor

Joint Venture Partners: Clarkson Construction Co. (KC, Mo.)
Massman Construction Co. (KC, Mo.)
Kiewit Western Co. (Omaha, Ne.)

Major Participants: Parsons Transportation Group, Inc. (St. Louis, Mo.)
TranSystems Corporation (KC, Mo.)

American Bridge, Clarkson Construction, and Massman Construction companies each participated in the construction of the original Paseo Bridge between 1952 and 1954.

The kcICON project is one of three pilot design-build projects statewide. The design-build process will shorten the duration of the project and give Missourians more project for the money through innovation.

American Bridge Company and Paseo Corridor Constructors will now start to prepare their plans for how they will approach completion of the project. The contractor team will be selected using a Best Value process to determine who can best meet or exceed MoDOT's project goals:

- Deliver the Interstate 29/35 corridor improvements within the total program budget of \$245 million.
- Construct a landmark Missouri River bridge(s) that can be reasonably maintained to provide more than a

century of useful service.

- Maximize safety, mobility, aesthetic and capacity improvements in the corridor.
- Engage stakeholders and the community to successfully develop and deliver the project.
- Meet or beat the project completion date of October 31, 2011.

The contractor should be selected in fall 2007 and major construction could start by early 2008.

The \$245 million kcICON project will reconstruct/rehabilitate about four miles of Interstate 29/35 from just north of Route 210 (Armour Road) in North Kansas City, Clay County, continuing south over the Missouri River into the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City, Mo. freeway loop. The project includes improving outdated interchanges and a new Missouri River bridge(s). It is scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2011.

Additional information is available on the project's Web site: www.kcicon.org.



Public Helps Bridge the "Gap" on Route 13 in Lexington

by Kerri Lewis

More than 50 people attended the final design public hearing for the Route 13 "Gap Project" on Thursday, May 31 in Lexington.

The project is on schedule and should begin right-of-way acquisition by the end of summer 2007. Construction is on track for 2008 with the road opening to the public by spring 2010.

The project ties Route 13's four-lane divided section, which ends just south of Route 24, with the existing two-lane Route 13 to the south. The 3.1-mile extension is expected to enhance safety,



Jesse Skinner (center), Area Engineer, explains final design plans to an attendee of the Route 13 Gap Project Design Public Hearing.

increase mobility, decrease travel time, provide for efficient movement of traffic, and offer a convenient and economical north/south route.

Amendment 3, approved by Missouri voters in 2004, helped accelerate the schedule for the roadway project. Al-

though current funding limits the project to two lanes, sufficient right-of-way will be acquired to permit expansion to four lanes when needed. The estimated construction cost for this project is \$6.5 million.

New Maintenance Superintendents

Recent evaluations determined that some changes in the Maintenance area would more efficiently serve the district. As a result, some field and office Maintenance Superintendents are being reassigned beginning June 18.

Reassigned superintendents and their new areas:

- Pat Moseley: Clay County
- Tony Bryant: Western Jackson County
- Wess Murray: Eastern Jackson County
- Ron Faulkenberry: Henry and Johnson Counties
- Darrell Webb: Ray and Lafayette Counties
- Bill Billings: Office MS

Bike Safety Family Day

MoDOT hosted a Bike Safety Family Day in cooperation with Destination Safe, the city of Lee's Summit, Share the Road Safety Task Force, Safe Kids Metro KC, Jackson County Sheriff's Department, and the traveling Safety Town from Lees Summit Parks and Recreation on Saturday, May 12 at the Longview Lake beach area.

Riders of all ages attended the free event. Sponsors were on hand to offer safety tips, fun activities, and prizes for members of the entire family. MoDOT's Randy Johnson, Lindsay Hogan, and Nicole Noah participated in the event.



Participants worked their way through a bicycle obstacle course and learned the importance of street signs and proper bicycle safety.

kcICON Upcoming Special Events

Saturday, June 9: Informational booth, City Market, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13: Informational booth, City Market, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 21: Public meeting/safety event, North Kansas City, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 24: Public meeting/safety event, Garrison Square/Columbus Park, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, June 29: Informational booth, kcRiverFest, 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday, June 30: Informational booth, kcRiverFest, 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.