

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

April 2-6, 2012

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KC District Calendar:

Tuesday, April 3
Northland Area Team Meeting
9-11:30 a.m., Room 236

Tuesday, April 3
MHTC Meeting
10 a.m., Jefferson City

Thursday, April 5
Killion Area Team Meeting
8 to 10 a.m., Room 255

Wednesday, April 11
Statewide MO Railplan-Public Meeting
4:30-7 p.m., Mid-America Regional
Council, 600 Broadway, Suite 200,
KCMO 64105 - Board Room

Minds Are Mixing: Help Shape the Future of I-70 in Kansas City

April community meeting, on-line town hall offer early, on-going opportunities

An upcoming community meeting and on-line virtual town hall are just two of the many ways you can provide input on how to improve about seven miles of Interstate 70 in Jackson County from The Paseo interchange to the Blue Ridge Cutoff interchange.

The first I-70 Second Tier Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) community meeting will be held Tuesday, April 17, 2012 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Gregg/Klice Community Center located at 1600 John "Buck" O'Neil Way in Kansas City, Mo. Representatives from the I-70 Second

Tier EIS study team and MoDOT, and Community Advisory Group members will be there to listen to your concerns and to gather input about the transportation problems that the study is intended to address.

Minds are also mixing at an ongoing "virtual" town hall meeting: <http://www.metroi70.com/>. A smart phone, laptop, desktop, or tablet computer can be used to easily participate on line with other community members to discuss how best to increase safety, improve key bottlenecks, or expand upon/support other people's ideas. We look forward

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Area Engineer Matt Killion (standing left) and Transportation Planning Specialist Allan Zafft (standing right) facilitate the second meeting of the I-70 Second Tier EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) Community Advisory Group March 23. The group worked together on a dot exercise designed to identify problems along seven miles of I-70 between The Paseo Boulevard and Blue Ridge Cutoff interchanges.

Future I-70

continued from first page

to hearing from you often as the study progresses.

The study began in December 2011, will last about 30 months, and conclude in spring 2014. It builds upon the broader work of the I-70 First Tier EIS to help devise a more detailed plan on how to best improve the safety and conditions of I-70. The portion of interstate

under study is experiencing pavement and bridge deterioration, traffic delays and congestion, and merging/weaving issues at interchanges.

Although there is currently no funding for design and construction, completing this study is an important step in having the project ready to go should funding become available.

To learn more, please contact visit the project website: www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity/metroi70

Join the conversation: <http://www.metroi70.com/>

or contact MoDOT Transportation Planning Specialist Allan Zafft at 816-607-2258, allan.zafft@modot.mo.gov



QBQ Training



Caroline Pearon (standing front), Central Office Employee Development, teaches the last “Personal Accountability and the QBQ!” (Question Behind the Question) class March 22 in the Kansas City District. Pearon retires at month’s end, and the course license will not be renewed.

KC KUDOS



When a customer call came in on March 20, the maintenance crew in Cass County took immediate action. A pot hole located on Route 58 caused some issues for a driver in the area. He called and we listened. Not only did the Cass County crew permanently fix the pot hole, they also addressed other areas. This hard work and diligence did not go unnoticed. In fact, the customer called back two days later to personally thank MoDOT for our quick action and fixing the problem and to say just how much he appreciated our prompt response.

MoDOT on Ice

MoDOT Hosts Fan Appreciation Night with the Mavericks

MoDOT gave a grand performance on Friday, March 23 as host of the Missouri Mavericks' Fan Appreciation Night. Although no one donned ice-skates, several MoDOT employees and partners were available to provide safety information with booths, greeted fans with Arrive Alive rally towels, reminded folks to buckle up with a special appearance by Buckle Bear, among other activities.

Barrel Bob and Barrel Betty were the first to greet fans at the two main entrances into the arena. The seatbelt convincer provided by Mo. State Highway Patrol gave patrons an opportunity to feel the impact of a slow speed collision, stressing the importance of wearing a seatbelt. The array of activity inside the arena continued safety messages throughout the game between the Missouri Mavericks and the Bloomington Blaze to a sold out crowd of 5,800 fans.

The Mavericks were not the only winners that night. Melanie Lanigan, Senior Administrative Technician, dropped the ceremonial puck to kick-off the game. Michelle Moore, Administrative Assistant, won the "chuck-a-puck" game worth \$1200 split with another lucky player. Kerri Lewis, Senior Customer Relations Specialist, placed second in a quick singing competition while sharing the message to buckle up and arrive alive, and several kids among the crowd had the opportunity to give high fives to Buckle Bear as he continued to stress the importance of wearing a seatbelt.

The partnership between MoDOT and the Missouri Mavericks continues to flourish. Look for other opportunities coming in the near future to participate and have some fun.





Bolder 5-Year Direction Timeline

2012

- **April 13:** Statewide video conference for all SG 1-5 positions from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in District Office Rooms 147, 185, and 255, Marshall, Nashua and Truman RE Offices.
- **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: SalaryGrade6-10@modot.mo.gov
- E-mail: SalaryGrade1-5@modot.mo.gov
- Contact your KC District HR representative

Save the DATE!!!!

The district has some great events in the near future, so mark your calendar with these important dates.

April 13, 16-18,

**Spring Employee Meetings
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m at District Office Garage**

April 20

**Spring Employee Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m, Nashua Maintenance Bldg.**

April 24

**Spring Employee Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m, Marshall Maintenance Bldg.**

April 27

**Spring Employee Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Harrisonville Maintenance Bldg.**

Week of April 23-27

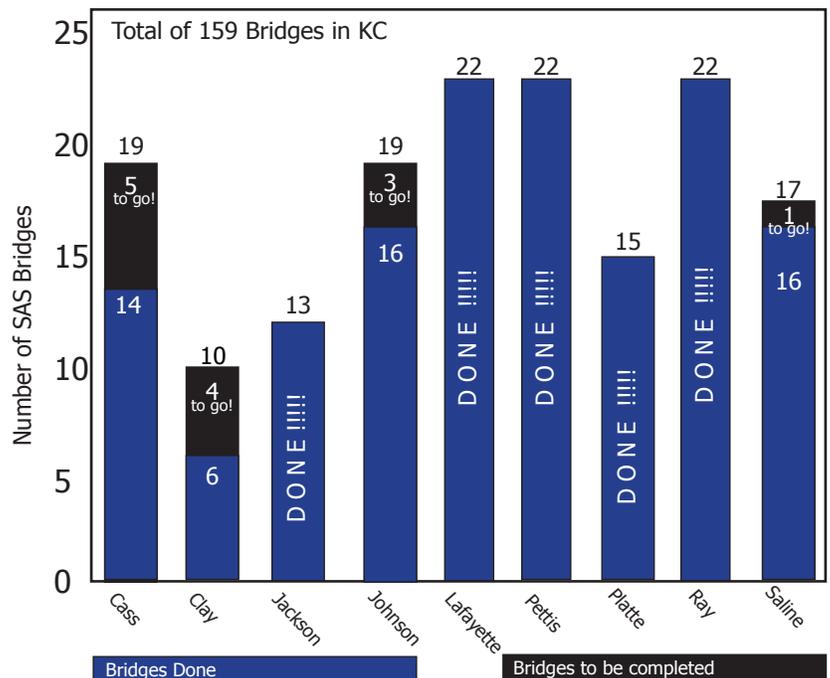
Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

Thursday, April 26

**Bring Your Child to Work Day
Big Truck Night**

Keep an eye out for more information to come!

KC Safe & Sound Bridges On the Rise to Completion



kcConnections sources

- Construction** Bev Chrisco, 607-2101
- Regional Counsel** LeAnn Francis, 607-2082
- Administration** Sherri McGregor, 607-2184
- General Services** Jody Jordan, 347-4100
- Human Resources** Amy Gagne, 607-2145
- Information Systems** JoAnn MacKay, 607-2096
- Right of Way** Dana O'Malley, 607-2056
- Traffic** Laurel McKean, 607-2107
- Editor** Kerri Lewis, 607-2151

Safety First - April is National Distracted Driving Month

April is National Distracted Driving Month and is a great opportunity to educate yourself and others about the importance of keeping your eyes and mind on the road when operating a motor vehicle. National Distracted Driving Awareness Month was introduced as a resolution in 2010 by former Representative Betsy Markey (D-CO) and passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in a 410-2 vote on March 23, 2010. The resolution mentions 9-year-old Erica Forney, who was struck and killed by a distracted driver in Fort Collins, CO, in November 2008. Erica's mother, Shelley Forney, is a founding board member of FocusDriven.

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. It is any activity that will potentially divert the driver's attention away from the primary task of driving.

Distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming

- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3

All of these distractions can do three things. They will take the driver's eyes off the road (visual), mind off the road (cognitive) and/or hands off the steering wheel (manual).

In 2010, more than 3,000 people were killed in distracted driving crashes. One of the biggest distractions facing drivers today is use of cell phones, and because text messaging requires visual, manual and cognitive attention, it is by far the most detrimental form of distracted driving.

According to the National Safety Council, so far this year in the United States, there have been an estimated 310,728 crashes involving drivers using cell phones and texting. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation, developers of www.distraction.gov, state that cell phone use while driving has increased so significantly within the last few years that as many as 10 per-

cent of drivers use either a hand-held or hands-free phone.

If you think it can't happen to you, consider these facts provided by distraction.gov:

- Hands-free devices do not eliminate cognitive distraction
- Cognitively distracted drivers can miss up to 50% of their driving environment, including stop signs, pedestrians and red lights
- Nearly 25% of all crashes involve drivers distracted by cell phones
- Drivers talking on cell phones – handheld or hands-free – are four times as likely to crash
- Drivers who text increase their likelihood of a crash by 8 to 23 times

Distracted driving is something we must all take seriously. Talk to young drivers about the dangers associated with anything that can distract them from operating a vehicle. Take a pledge to eliminate cell phone use while driving a motor vehicle. Encourage family and coworkers to do the same. It is time to take a stand against distracted driving and arrive to your destination safely.

Still not convinced? Check out ATT's *The Last Text* by clicking www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=2964.

Did you Know...

Key Facts and Statistics – Provided by Distraction.gov

- In 2009, 5,474 people were killed in crashes involving driver distraction, and an estimated 448,000 were injured. (NHTSA)
- 16% of fatal crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving. (NHTSA)
- 20% of injury crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving. (NHTSA)
- In the month of June 2011, more than 196 billion text messages were sent or received in the US, up nearly 50% from June 2009. (CTIA)
- Teen drivers are more likely than

other age groups to be involved in a fatal crash where distraction is reported. In 2009, 16% of teen drivers involved in a fatal crash were reported to have been distracted. (NHTSA)

- 40% of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger. (Pew)
- Drivers who use hand-held devices are 4 times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. (Monash University)
- Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted. (VTTI)
- Sending or receiving a text takes

a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent-at 55 mph-of driving the length of an entire football field, blind. (VTTI)

- Headset cell phone use is not substantially safer than hand-held use. (VTTI)
- Using a cell phone while driving - whether it's hand-held or hands-free delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent. (University of Utah)
- Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37%. (Carnegie Mellon)



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HOW MANY will it take?

Thousands die needlessly because people continue to use their cell phones while driving



Take the pledge.
nsc.org/pledge



MoDOT Gathers Public Feedback on Draft State Rail Plan

Enhancing passenger rail service and improving freight rail access are among the top public recommendations included in a new draft State Rail Plan, intended to provide a 20-year strategic framework for passenger and freight rail development in Missouri. MoDOT will be gathering public feedback on the plan at meetings throughout all districts in April.

An open-house meeting will be held in the Kansas City District Wed., April 11 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with a presentation at 4:45 p.m., at the Mid-America Regional Council (Boardroom), located at 600 Broadway Street, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO 6410. The draft plan is available at www.morail.org, where the online version of the public meeting will also be available starting April 10. Public comments will be accepted until May 4.

“Missourians told us both freight and passenger rail provide numerous economic, environmental and transportation benefits to the state,” said Eric Curtit,

state administrator of railroads. “They made it very clear increased access to both types of service is important to Missouri’s future.”

Draft recommendations also call for completion of projects designed to improve the reliability of the state-supported Amtrak Missouri River Runner service, with a longer-term goal of adding more trains and schedule options to the route. This service currently operates at 79 mph and with incremental improvements could travel as fast as 90 mph. The plan also proposes a staged approach to establishing dedicated high-speed passenger rail service (110 mph or higher) between St. Louis and Kansas City and setting priorities for new corridor developments, such as service to Springfield and Hannibal and feeder bus routes to Branson, Columbia and St. Joseph.

Proposals to maximize the economic benefits of freight rail in coordination with the Missouri Department of Economic Development are also included.

As funding becomes available, the plan suggests identifying ways to encourage intermodal access at Missouri ports by increasing capacity of existing tracks, industrial spurs and sidings and by supporting the development of additional rail access where new industrial development opportunities exist.

The recommendations also include an array of policy proposals to better fund and encourage the continued development of Missouri’s rail system. Amtrak, freight railroads operating in Missouri, shippers, economic and transportation agencies and citizens participated in community leader workshops and public meetings last fall.

“The ideas and guidance shared by individuals and organizations last fall led to the creation of a good plan,” said Kristi Jamison, state rail plan project manager. “Public input is just as important now as we finalize Missouri’s rail development strategies for the next two decades.”



On Track!

MISSOURI

state rail plan

Enhancing passenger rail and improving freight rail access are among the top recommendations included in the new draft State Rail Plan, the Missouri Department of Transportation's 20-year strategic framework for passenger and freight rail development in Missouri.

The plan reflects input from freight railroads operating in Missouri, shippers, economic and transportation agencies and citizens. MoDOT wants to know what you think. Join us at an upcoming public meeting, or by reviewing the draft plan online at www.morail.org.

Public Open House Meeting Calendar

All open house meetings will be held from 4:30 to 6 pm, with a presentation at 4:45 p.m. All public meeting sites are wheelchair-accessible.

Tuesday, April 10

St. Joseph

East Hills Library
Theater Room
502 North Woodbine St.

Tuesday, April 17

Springfield

Springfield Chamber of
Commerce
202 South John Q.
Hammons Pkwy.

Wednesday, April 25

Poplar Bluff

Poplar Bluff Chamber
of Commerce
1111 West Pine St.

Wednesday, April 11

Kansas City

Mid-America Regional
Council
Board Room
600 Broadway St.
Suite 200

Wednesday, April 18

Jefferson City

MoDOT Central Office
Conference Room 100
105 W. Capitol Ave.

Thursday, April 26

Kirkwood

Kirkwood Train Station
110 West Argonne Dr.

Thursday, April 12

Hannibal

Hannibal Nutrition
Center
219 South 10th St.

Can't make it to a meeting?
Join our online public meeting
at www.morail.org
April 10 through May 4, 2012.

Learn more at www.morail.org.
1-888-275-6636

