

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

April 16-20, 2012

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KC District Calendar:

April 16-18, 20, 24, 27
 Spring Employee Meetings
 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. April 16-18: District Office Garage; April 20: Nashua; April 24: Marshall; April 27: Harrisonville

April 17
 I-70 Second Tier EIS Listening Post
 4 - 7 p.m.
 Gregg/Klice Community Center, KCMO

April 19
 Safe & Sound Ribbon Cutting
 Route 7 at Clear Creek near 227th St.
 2 p.m.

NoMORe Trash! Bash

KC District Scores Big In Innovation Challenge Statewide Competition Mill Head Tooth Changer Takes 4th Place

Matt Findley, Maintenance Crew Leader and Chris Coon, Intermediate Crew Worker of the Independence Strike Crew in the KC District were awarded fourth place in the MoDOT statewide Innovation Showcase. Findley and Coon, along with all the other district winners, attended the final competition held in Springfield Monday, April 9 where the judges assessed the entries. After a public showing Tuesday April 10, the winners were announced. The Mill Head Teeth Changer was one of four of the Kansas City District's six district innovation challenge winners selected for the statewide Innovation Challenge in Springfield. Findley and Coon each won \$75 when their design was selected for the statewide competition and then received

an additional \$425 for a total of \$500 for their creativity. They also brought home a \$10,000 check for the Kansas City District to use to improve roads.

The Mill Head Teeth Changer helps to take out and replace grinding teeth on various tools. The hydraulic nature of the tool causes less strain on workers and improves safety. It also simplifies work and saves time and money. The design was entered in the category of Pavement Maintenance/Injury Reduction.

They came up with the idea after a long day of smashing fingers and bruising hands about four years ago, while manually changing mill head teeth on equipment.

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KC District Innovation Challenge Winners, Matt Findley, Maintenance Crew Leader (center) and Chris Coon, Intermediate Crew Worker (right) of the Independence Strike Crew are congratulated by Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec.

Innovation Challenge

continued from first page

“We started looking around the garage to find some way to make the job easier and safer,” said Coon. “That process and the design of the new tool took about an hour from start to finish and made our job a lot easier.” Existing tools were used to invent the design so there was no cost associated with it.

“We never intended to enter the Mill Head Teeth Changer into the Innovation Challenge”, said Findley. “We came up with it in 2007 and were surprised when we won on the district level.” Coon added, “We were shocked when we won on the statewide level.” Coon plans to use his prize money to replace his leather jacket and chaps he wears when riding his motorcycle, and Findley is still undecided on what to do with his winnings.

The Kansas District offers congratulations to our statewide winners and are proud to have their innovation and creativity recognized on a statewide level.

To see how the Mill Head Tooth Changer Works view the video on You Tube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xklri gab06g&feature=youtu.be>
To view all the statewide winners go to: <http://wwwwi/intranet/cr/SolutionsAtWork/2011-2012Challenge.htm>



Kansas City Innovation Challenge winning entry Mill Head Teeth Changer Tool designed by Matt Findley and Chris Coon of the Independence Strike Crew.

MoDOT Teaches Students About Roundabouts, Traffic Safety



Ryan Hale and Lisa Stupps explain roundabouts to students in the Health class at Winnetonka High School.

A team of MoDOT engineers ventured to Winnetonka High School Thursday and Friday to teach students in Health classes about roundabouts and traffic safety, and perhaps save lives. The presentation was the first this season of what is expected to be another busy year of presentations to high school students through either Health or Drivers Education classes. MoDOT engineers Randy Johnson, Lisa Stupps, Jodi Puhr and Lindsay Vogt, and Steve Porter from Customer Relations began the programs in 2005 to familiarize students in Belton and other areas with the new roundabouts soon to be completed in their communities.

Johnson, Vogt and Porter, who work with Destination Safe to reduce transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries, also saw it as an opportunity to reach the most vulnerable drivers with safety messages. The most important message – buckle up – is hammered home time and again through videos and slides that illustrate the dangers of not buckling up, distracted and impaired driving.

The presentation includes a segment on roundabouts, which teaches the novice and soon-to-be drivers the basics of a relatively new intersection design. They become the ambassadors to their parents, grandparents and older siblings, who often seem resistant to roundabouts.

Videos also show the relative safety of staying in a vehicle during a crash, and how important seatbelts are to ensuring you remain inside. In the last few years the team also has added a video on texting while driving. The emotional impact of family members and a Missouri Highway Patrol officer explaining in the video why texting killed a young person always seems to sink in to the young audience. Students who answer questions during the hour-long presentations can receive trinkets ranging from “buckle up” window clings to wrist bands, coasters and posters. At the end of each class, students are asked what one factor a law enforcement officer checks off as the most common contributor in a fatal crash. The first person who says “not wearing a seatbelt” wins an Arrive Alive T-shirt with the “Buckle Up!” message on the back.

These presentations have gone out to more than 20 schools in the span of the eight-year program. They are so popular now that teachers are calling MoDOT months in advance to arrange for a visit. So far this year, MoDOT has scheduled Winnetonka, Warrensburg, Pleasant Hill and Truman high schools. Before mid-July, the presentation team, which also includes Ryan Hale, Jim Templer, Jeena John, Paul Boenisch, JuanYin, Jacob Wilson and others, will likely visit more than a dozen schools.

Warrensburg LPA Project Moving Full Steam Ahead

The Missouri Department of Transportation and representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, local agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, consultants and industry gathered a team to improve the delivery of local federal aid projects statewide. These days, city, county and state agencies seek to make the most of limited funds and are finding ways to complete federally-funded projects on time, on budget and in compliance with federal law, these projects fall into a category called LPA (Local Public Agencies).

An example of an ongoing LPA within the Kansas City District is the Warrensburg, Missouri Downtown Revitalization Project. Recently a groundbreaking ceremony was held to kick off the third phase of the city's continuing improvements to its downtown area. Phases I & II were sidewalk, ADA and lighting

improvements along the downtown portion of Holden Street. Phase III is to do similar improvements to Pine Street which intersects the work previously done. Utility work is to kick-off immediately with construction to begin on May 7, 2012 following the end of classes at the University of Central Missouri. This LPA project includes a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Small Urban STP dollars and City funds working together to improve pedestrian facilities and bring new life to a portion of downtown Warrensburg. This is an example of MoDOT assisting Local Public Agencies (LPA) in planning, programming and facilitating projects of great value and economic benefit for their communities.



Above: A Warrensburg family views the LPA plans for the Downtown Revitalization Project during the groundbreaking ceremony held April 9, 2012.



Warrensburg's groundbreaking ceremony held April 9, 2012. Key speakers included: Mayor Baird Brock, City of Warrensburg; Missouri State Senator David Pearce; and Jeff Imboden, Warrensburg Arts Commission Chair.

Retirements

The following employees have retired from MoDOT. Join us in congratulating them and offering best wishes for the future.

- Scott Humphrey, Transportation Project Manager
 - Richard Knipp, Senior Materials Inspector
 - Paul Russ, Senior Construction Inspector
-

Bolder 5-Year Direction Timeline

2012

- **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

Questions about the Spring Employee Meetings? Contact Jennifer Benefield at 607-2153 or jennifer.benefield@modot.mo.gov.

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

Find MoDOT KC on Twitter, Facebook and Youtube.

Save the DATE!!!!

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

April 16-18,

Spring Employee Meetings
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m at District Office Garage

April 19

Spring Cleaning! District wide No MOre Trash! Cleanup Event

April 20

Spring Employee Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m, Nashua Maintenance Bldg.

April 24

Spring Employee Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m, Marshall Maintenance Bldg.

April 27

Spring Employee Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Harrisonville Maintenance Bldg.

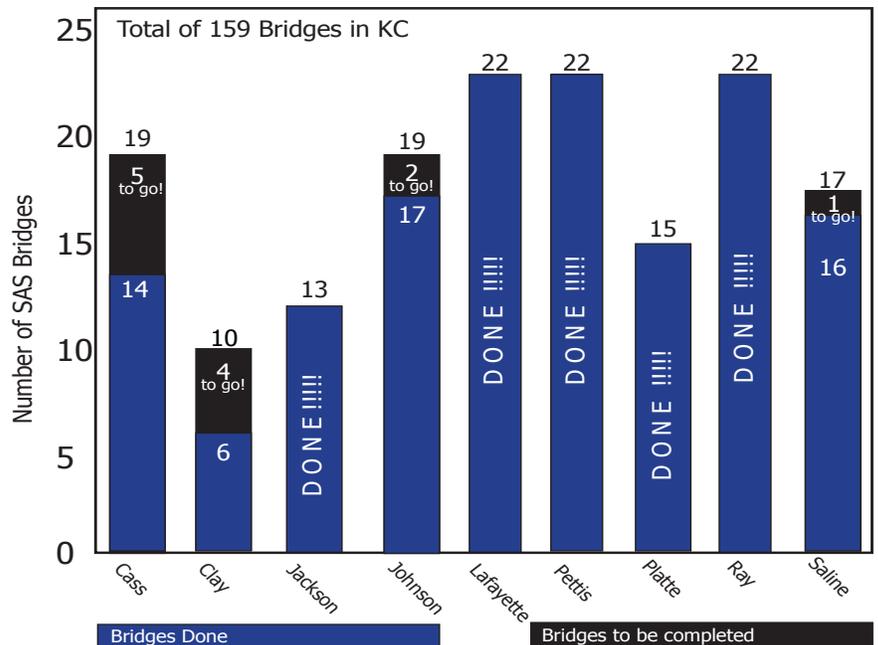
Week of April 23-27

Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

Thursday, April 26

Bring Your Child to Work Day
Big Truck Night

KC Safe & Sound Bridges On the Rise to Completion



Safety First - Alcohol Awareness

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Excessive drinking is a dangerous behavior for both men and women. This year, the Center for Disease Control is drawing attention to the risks to women from binge drinking, a dangerous behavior that leads to many health and social problems for women, particularly if they are pregnant or may become pregnant.

Here are some facts you may not have been aware of:

- National surveys show that about 6 out of every 10 women, between the ages of 18–44 years of age use alcohol, and about 1/3 of women in this age group binge drink.
- Binge drinking is defined as consuming 4 or more drinks per occasion for women (5 or more drinks per occasion for men). It is a common and dangerous behavior that contributes to more than 11,500 deaths among women in the U.S. each year.
- It is estimated that 10% of women have been involved in drinking during the past 30 days. On average, women who binge drink perform this risky behavior at least 3 times per month.
- Binge drinking increases the risk for breast cancer, heart disease, and stroke, all of which are leading causes of death in women.

- Upon drinking equal amounts, women tend to absorb more alcohol when they drink, and take longer to break it down and remove it from their bodies compared to men. These differences are caused by differences in body composition and chemistry between men and women.
- Alcohol tends to leave the body at a slower rate in women who take birth control pills compared with those who do not. The result can be greater alcohol impairment in women who take birth control pills.
- Binge drinking is a risk factor for sexual assault, especially among young women in college settings. The risk for rape or sexual assault increases when both the perpetrator and victim have used alcohol before the attack.
- Women who binge drink are more likely to have unprotected sex and multiple sex partners, which can increase their risk of acquiring HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- No amount of alcohol is safe to drink while pregnant! There is also no safe time during pregnancy to drink, and no safe kind of alcohol.
- Women who drink alcohol while pregnant increase their risk of having



a baby with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). This group of conditions includes physical and intellectual disabilities, as well as problems with behavior and learning.

Binge drinking and the harms that result from it can be prevented. Drink only in moderation. If you have a drinking problem, seek care from a health care provider or contact the Employee Assistance Program. Here are some websites that may be helpful:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/Women's Health - US Dept of Health and Human Services>: <http://www.hhs.gov/National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism>: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/Alcohol Awareness>

Spring into the Spring Employee Meetings

Spring has sprung in the Kansas City District which signals the arrival of the 2012 Spring Employee Meetings.

The meetings run from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM and the dates and locations are as follows:

District Garage:

- Friday, April 13, 2012
- Monday, April 16, 2012
- Tuesday, April 17, 2012
- Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Nashua Maintenance Facility:

Friday, April 20, 2012

Marshall Maintenance Facility:

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Harrisonville Maintenance Facility:

Friday, April 27, 2012



The agenda topics include:

Employee Expectations, the 2012 Business Plan, Safety Culture, Customer Service Center/Work Zone Awareness Month, Work Life Topics, Area Engineer Update, EAEC Update, Workforce Planning Update, MAPS – 2012-2013 Cycle, Employee Recognition, Innovation Challenge Results, Maintenance Operations Work Plan (Area Specific), Construction Project Overview/2013-2017 Draft STIP and Distracted Driving. Lunch will also be included.

The Kansas City District Employee meetings provide valuable and interesting information to keep employees abreast of important district happenings. Please check your email for the date and location you are expected to attend.

MoDOT Launches Big Trucks Campaign Motorists Reminded to Drive Safely Around Big Trucks

Commercial motor vehicles are an important part of our nation's economy and make up a large portion of the traffic on our highways. While fewer of today's crashes involve commercial motor vehicles, they do still occur. Research shows that in the majority of these cases, drivers of passenger cars, especially young people, unnecessarily endanger themselves due to inattention and reckless driving around big rigs. Learning to drive safely near big rigs will help Missouri's drivers reduce their risk of serious injury or death.

From April 16 to May 6, an awareness campaign will remind all motorists to drive safely around commercial motor vehicles. In turn, commercial motor vehicle drivers will be reminded to obey traffic

Some helpful reminders to keep you safe this travel season are:

- Don't cut off large trucks or buses. Make sure you can see the top of the truck or bus in your rearview mirror before moving back into your original lane.
- Stay out of a truck's blind spots or "No Zone." Big rigs have large blind spots on either side and up to 200 feet behind a vehicle. Pass only on the left side.
- Watch your following distance. Keep a safety cushion around trucks. Can you see the truck's side mirrors? If not, the driver cannot see you.

Seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury



by 45 percent. Drivers are required by state law to wear their seat belt. Failure to do so can result in a citation. Interstate commercial drivers risk both the driver and company's safety score if operating unbelted.

For additional information regarding roadway safety, or other transportation-related topics, contact the MoDOT Customer Service Center toll free, at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636). For more information on the Big Trucks Campaign, visit www.savemolives.com.



Don't forget, April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

