

# kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

Jan. 30 - Feb. 3, 2012

## In This Issue

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Route 92 .....               | 1 |
| Bolder Direction Timeline... | 2 |
| Departments Moving.....      | 2 |
| KC Scout.....                | 3 |
| EAEC Corner.....             | 4 |
| Lane Miles Increase.....     | 5 |
| Safety First.....            | 5 |
| Route 71 to I-49.....        | 6 |

## Calendar of Events:

*Safety Slogan Contest Deadline*  
Tuesday, Jan. 31

*Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, MO*  
Wednesday, Feb. 1

## Improvements Peak Interest in Kearney Plans Unveiled for Route 92

**W**hat will improve safety, relieve congestion, and allow for economic development in Kearney? Improvements to Route 92 from just east of Interstate 35 to Nation Road.

The KC District has been working closely with the City of Kearney to develop a plan for improving this busy section of roadway. Currently a two-lane road carrying more than 4,500 vehicles per day, Route 92 is obsolete and can no longer support the city's growing population. Traffic projections over the next several years show traffic increasing from around 1400 vehicles per hour at peak times to 3400.

A public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 24 unveiled the preliminary plans for improving Route 92. More than 50 people stopped by the see the proposed improvements. The proposed solution will widen the road to four lanes with turn lanes, creating a 5-lane section of roadway from just east of I-35 to Sam Barr Road. The proposed changes are designed to minimize congestion and enhance safety along this busy roadway. A designated lane for turns allow vehicles to safely pull out of the driving lanes to make a turn while through traffic continues to move along Route 92.

*Continued on next page*



At the Route 92 public hearing in Kearney, Mark Fisher, project manager shows residents what improvements they can expect at the Route 92 and I-35 Interchange. More than 50 people stopped by the meeting to learn about improving Route 92. Photo by Kerri Lewis.

## Bolder 5-Year Direction Timeline 2012

- **January-March 2012:** SG 6-10 positions (technicians and support) filled competitively.
- **January 31:** announcement of SG 11-16 positions.
- **February 3:** non-supervisory Salary Grade 6-10 deadline to enter online profile and preferences.
- **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: [www/intranet/hr/](http://www.intranet/hr/)
- E-mail: [SalaryGrade11-16@modot.mo.gov](mailto:SalaryGrade11-16@modot.mo.gov)
- E-mail: [SalaryGrade6-10@modot.mo.gov](mailto:SalaryGrade6-10@modot.mo.gov)
- E-mail: [SalaryGrade1-5@modot.mo.gov](mailto:SalaryGrade1-5@modot.mo.gov)
- Contact your KC District HR representative

## Route 92 *Continued from page one*

Proposed improvements also include building an additional westbound lane underneath the bridge at I-35. Sidewalks will be added along the south side of Route 92, and the section between Sam Barr Road and Nation Road will receive significant safety enhancements including a roundabout at Route 92 and Sam Barr Road and at Route 92 and Nation Road. The hills along this section will also be cut down to improve sight distance.

Several people left the meeting feeling certain that the enhancements would improve the road overall. "I think it is good to finally use roundabouts," said one attendee. Another was eager to see the signals removed and roundabouts added to slow traffic through the busy intersections. "I have seen a number of severe accidents here and think a roundabout will make it safer."

With support of the city and community, MoDOT can soon move forward with final plans. Construction can begin as early as spring 2013.



Ryan Hale, Design, shows where the signal at Route 92 and Sam Barr Road will be replaced with a roundabout to slow traffic and improve safety. Photo by Kerri Lewis

## Excuse Our Mess

### *District Office Departments Moving*

You may have noticed that the district office is under construction. Departments are moving to different locations across the building. The purpose of the moves are to put groups who work together in closer proximity to each other. The goal is to further enhance collaboration with work units, according to Jennifer Benefield, community relations manager.

A team is working to move cubicles and help employees move equipment. As this process continues, please

remember to be safe. Watch for tripping hazards, lift with your legs, and seek assistance when moving heavy objects.

The plan is a work in progress, and as it becomes finalized, updates will be posted on the intranet and in kcConnections.



### kcConnections sources

- Construction** Bev Chrisco, 607-2101
- Regional Counsel** LeAnn Francis, 607-2082
- Administration** Judy Magruder, 607-2294
- 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** Melanie Lanigan, 607-2171
- Editor** Kerri Lewis, 607-2151

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# Come On In

*Scout leaves door open to make it easier to visit the Traffic Management Center*

**K**ansas City Scout has always maintained an open door policy, however, if you have passed by the Traffic Management Center lately you may have noticed Scout has adopted an open door policy literally. Monday through Friday from 7 AM until 5 PM the door to the center remains open to extend an invitation for Kansas City District employees and visitors to come in to see firsthand how the traffic center operates.

This is an opportunity for employees

to drop in to see what Scout employees do and learn about the services Scout offers. Scout wants all MoDOT employees to be ambassadors for Kansas City Scout, to be knowledgeable about Scout's services and operations, and be able to educate them about Kansas City's Traffic Management System.

Scout is a part of MoDOT and wants to make sure that everyone in the Kansas City District feels welcome in the Traffic Management Center at any time. If you



are passing by the center feel free to stop in, say hello or view the cameras up close, you are always welcome to visit.

## Did You Know?

*KC Scout manages I-70 from St. Louis to Colorado border*

Kansas City Scout, the bi-state venture between the Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation, now manages the entire I-70 corridor from west of St. Louis to the Colorado border, approximately 615 miles of interstate.

In Missouri, Scout Traffic System operators monitor 25 closed-circuit television cameras and provide messaging for 20 changeable message signs from St. Louis to Kansas City. Just like the operators observe the Scout network of cameras, I-70 corridor

management on the Missouri side is a 24-hour task.

Scout staff also keeps an eye on 30 KDOT cameras and 20 changeable message signs primarily evenings and weekends from Kansas City, Kansas to Colorado. These numbers do not include the 37 closed circuit cameras and 10 dynamic message signs along I-70 included in the existing Scout network of cameras and message boards. The total number of 97 cameras and 50 message signs along the bi-state corridor is quite impressive.

Scout posts messages for incidents, roadwork, weather-related updates and construction projects. It provides leadership for incident management coordination along corridor spanning both Missouri and Kansas. Like Scout, the corridor management network is the first and only one of its kind (at this time), in the country to provide a network of cameras, message signs, incident management and other components of intelligent transportation systems. It helps ensure a smoother, safer commute for motorists as they make the 615 mile journey across the heartland.



## EAEC Corner: Employee Profile

The KC Employee Advisory Extension Council (EAEC) has been active for more than three years and serves KC District employees. The council's goal is to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all employees by assisting management and employees with cultural diversity, policy review, and communication issues.

Take advantage of this avenue to stay informed about our district. You can contact the various members or submit a concern or question through the intranet or through a paper form that can be located in each work unit. All concerns are anonymous and confidential throughout the process.

The EAEC Corner introduces you to the members of the council.

**Name, title and position on the EAEC.**  
Todd Matthews, Senior Construction Inspector, member of the Marketing

and Communications Subcommittee on the KCEAEC.

**What areas of the district do you represent on the council?** I am the representative for the Marshall Construction Office.

**Why did you volunteer and what do you hope to accomplish while serving on the EAEC?** I see the EAEC as being a vital tool for the employee's to get prompt answers to concerns they may have or clarification on policies that are not always clear. I hope that the KCEAEC has made some differences in the communication process.

**What's the best part of serving on the team?** Having the opportunity meet and get to know my co-workers



that I would not ordinarily have the opportunity to associate with.

**What is one employee issue you hold near and dear to your heart?** Communication and the Bolder Five-Year Direction.

To learn more about the KC District EAEC on the intranet, click on Employee Advisory Council on the left-hand links.

## Ready To Join The Statewide EAC?

The EAC is still taking applications for the next term of members.

Applications will be accepted until March. If you would like to apply, go to the statewide intranet.

The EAC looks forward to working with all employees to continue to make MoDOT a great place to work.

## Safety Slogan Contest -- Enter Today!

*Don't Forget: Contest Ends January 31*

Are you safety conscious? Do you look for ways to keep safety in the forefront on every part of your job? It is time to kick-off our safest year yet in the KC District, and we have a challenge for you!

We are looking for a catchy, memorable, meaningful slogan that conveys our commitment to workplace safety. This slogan will be used in all safety messages.

So, put your creativity to work and enter in the district-wide safety slogan contest.

Attached is the official entry form with instructions for the contest. Looking forward to seeing the many wonderful entries. Don't delay, enter today!



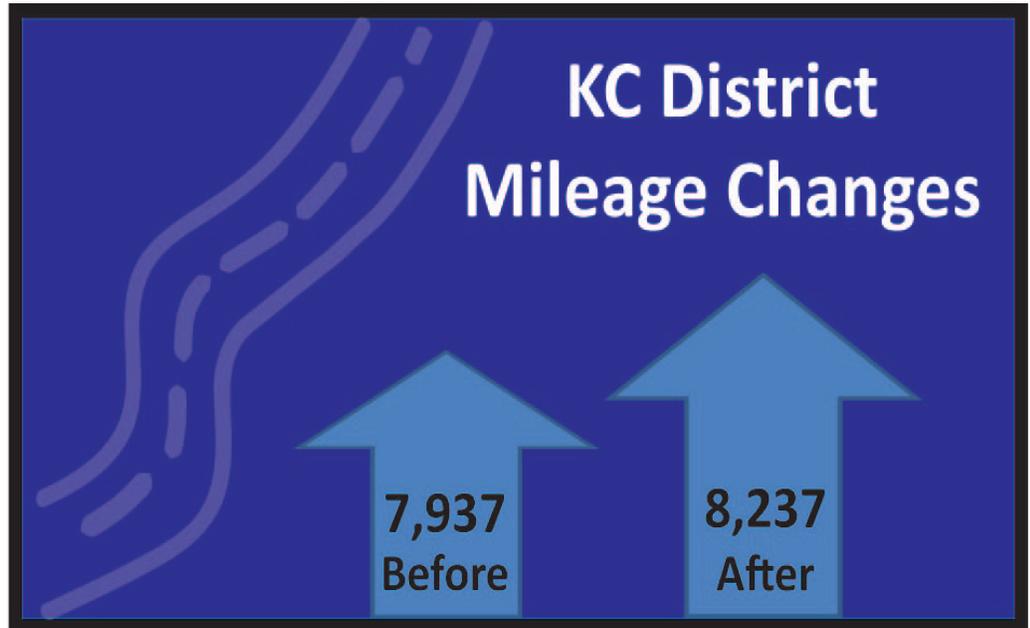
**Check out the District Innovation Challenge Winners on the home page of the Intranet.**

# KC District Adds 303 Miles To Lane Mile Totals

The work to recount the number of lane miles in the Transportation Management System (TMS) has paid off. The KC District added 303 miles to TMS, increasing from 7,934 to 8,237. About 20 employees in field maintenance, district maintenance, planning, right of way, and construction and materials departments joined forces to complete the project.

“It has been a time intensive process, but definitely worth it. We want to be sure we get credit for all the lane miles we maintain in the Kansas City district,” said Chris Redline, Assistant District Engineer.

“I want to specifically thank Tom Allen, Eric Foster, Lori Wyrick, Alex Martinez, Griffin Smith, Charlie Geiger, Will Degroat, Brad Street, Steve Elrick, Paul Cella, and the Field Maintenance



staff including Kevin Mullins, Daniel Newton, Randy Newkirk, Danny Everts, Randy Jones, Jeffrey Wesley, Chris Sholl,

Doug Patton, David Johnson, Joe Sims, Deon Grigsby and Dudley Newham, who worked so hard on this project.”

## Safety First -- Working In Cold Weather

Working in cold weather can create adverse effects on our performance and health. It decreases our dexterity and increases the risk of injury from common hazards such as sprains and strains. Cold weather can also aggravate health conditions, especially if you suffer from chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes or cardiovascular disease

Here are some basic tips to help you deal comfortably in cold weather. Wear clothing in layers that can be quickly adjusted to changing conditions. Cotton is a good inner layer to wick away moisture. Wool makes a good middle insulator, but synthetic fiber material, such as polyfil, is lighter and more flexible. Finally, cover yourself in a water repellent material, such as Gore-Tex, to protect against wind and rain.

Don't forget to properly cover your head, hands and feet. You can lose

as much as 40% of your body heat through your head so wear a head cover. On extreme days, you need to cover your face and ears as well. Feet can be kept warm, even in steel toed boots, by wearing woolen socks or removable felt liners.

Try to schedule work for the warmest part of the day. Be sure to take frequent breaks in a warm dry shelter to allow your body to warm up. Avoid heavy, physically demanding work (if possible). Use the buddy system - work in pairs so that one worker can watch the other. Be alert for any obvious danger signs in each other. Drink warm, sweet beverages and avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol. These raise your heart rate and increase sensitivity. Eat warm, high-calorie foods such as hot pasta dishes or soup.

Finally, working outside in winter conditions can damage your eyes due

to glare, ultraviolet light and blowing ice crystals. Wear safety glasses.

The normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Hypothermia is the condition when the temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Signs of hypothermia include, fatigue, drowsiness, uncontrolled shivering, irrational or confused behavior. If you suspect hypothermia: (1) Call for emergency medical help immediately. (2) Move the person to a warm, dry area. Don't leave the person alone. Remove any wet clothing and replace with warm, dry clothing or wrap the person in blankets. (3) Have the person drink warm, sweet drinks if they are alert. (4) Have the person move their arms and legs to create muscle heat. If they are unable to do this, place warm bottles or hot packs in the arm pits, groin, neck, and head areas. DO NOT rub the person's body or place them in warm water bath. This may stop their heart.

# Bridges Are Key To Transforming Route 71 to I-49

Route 71 south of Kansas City is getting a promotion – to I-49. It won't happen overnight, but by the end of this year, changes south of Harrisonville will improve Route 71 to interstate standards.

The Kansas City District's team of Resident Engineer Tom Markway, Assistant Resident Engineer Matt Haug, Senior Construction Inspector Albert Janssens and Intermediate Construction Inspector Wade Hildenbrand are overseeing the projects in Cass County.

This winter work is already under way to eliminate at-grade intersections on Route 71 south of Route 7. They are the last of more than 20 at-grade intersections to be eliminated between I-44 near Carthage and Route 7 in Harrisonville.

MoDOT has placed a Web cam near the highway so that the public can monitor progress on these important changes. Go to <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/modot/i-49> for up-to-the-moment views of work at 307th Street. We've also added a project web page on the MoDOT Website to continually provide information about these improvements. Click on Route 71 to I-49 under the featured menu.

In Cass County, the crossings at 283rd and 327th will be replaced by bridges over Route 71, with no access to 71. The crossing at 307th will be built as a full interchange. Radmacher Construction Co. has been awarded the contract for all three. These new overpasses will be completed by the end of 2012. It is all part of a broader effort by Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri to complete I-49 from New Orleans to Kansas City.

MoDOT is nearly finished with work on Route 71 from I-44 north to the Bates/Cass county line. Four interchanges south of Cass County funded through \$26.9 million of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are now complete.



**Work begins on the interchange at 307th Street to upgrade Route 71 to I-49. Photo by Albert Janssens.**

While elimination of three at-grade intersections are the only major changes necessary to raise Route 71 to interstate standards in the Kansas City District, other improvements are being made along the corridor. In the last few years, MoDOT has untangled the Triangle interchange, reconstructed the Route 150 interchange to a single-

point urban interchange, reconstructed 163rd Street interchange, and added a new North Cass Parkway interchange at 187th Street. This year MoDOT will re-deck the Routes J/C interchange in Peculiar and next year will replace the 291 interchange in Harrisonville with a diverging diamond.



**Work begins on the interchange at 307th Street to upgrade Route 71 to I-49. The work in Cass County is the last of the interchanges needing to be upgraded. Photo by Albert Janssens.**