

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

March 19-23, 2012

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KC District Calendar:

Tuesday, March 20

Job Status
1 to 4 p.m., Boardroom

Wednesday, March 21

Supervisor's Spring Meeting
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Garozzo's

Friday, March 23

MoDOT Night with the MO Mavericks
7:05 p.m., Independence Event Ctr

Friday, March 23 through Sunday, March 25

MoDOT and Jackson County Sheriff
partner at 2012 KC Home Show,
Bartle Hall

A Ground Breaking Day

Two Major Projects, One Day of Celebrations

March 12 was a ground breaking day. Not only did the day start a week that proved spring has sprung with some record breaking temperatures, but the KC District celebrated the kick-off of two major projects with ground breaking ceremonies.

The start of the Route 13 North Leg project in Johnson County was made official at a 10:30 a.m. ground breaking ceremony. About 50 people joined Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Rudy Farber, state, county and local officials, representatives from the Route 13 Corridor Committee and the Pioneer Trails Rural Planning Committee to break ground for the project.

The project will extend the last five miles of the 11-mile-long Route 13 East Loop around Warrensburg. Emery Sapp & Sons is the general contractor for the \$10,126,672 project. Work will conclude in August 2013.

The final segment completes a long-planned realignment of the main highway route. By tying in the north leg several miles north of Route 50, through traffic will avoid stop-and-go congestion in downtown Warrensburg. The new route is a two-lane highway built on enough right of way to someday expand to four lanes, when traffic volume requires it. The new segment will be constructed between the portion

Continued on page 2



Above, DE Dan Niec and recently appointed MHTC Chair Rudy Farber turn dirt to signify the start of the Route 13 North Leg project in Johnson County on March 12. To the right, Farber joined by Senator David Pearce (left) speaks about the improvements and how this project will ensure motorist and community safety by completing work to shift through-traffic away from stop-and-go congestion in Downtown Warrensburg.



Ground Breaking *continued from first page*

completed in 2010 at Route HH north of Route 50 to a point of existing Route 13 just south of the intersection with Routes V and OO.

Another ceremony, this one in Clay County broke ground on the \$24 million project to build two new interchanges on Route 169. More than 50 people stopped by to help kick-off the project with MoDOT, city, county and state officials.

The new interchanges at 96th and 108th Streets in Kansas City will improve traffic safety, provide better access, and accommodate economic development. Full access diamond interchanges will replace the signalized intersections at 95th Terrace and 108th Street.

Awarded to Ideker Construction Company, these safety improvements are a welcome sight for the thousands of motorists and MoDOT's partners in the Northland. Work has begun and will conclude November 2013.



MoDOT Area Engineer Shelie Daniel (7th from left) surrounded by city and state elected officials, representatives from the City of Kansas City, Missouri (KCMO), and members of the Northland Cathedral broke ground on two new interchanges to be constructed at Route 169 and 96th and 108th Streets during a March 12 ceremony. This \$24-million project will improve traffic safety, provide better access and accommodate economic development and is made possible by many partners to include funding by KCMO, design by MoDOT, and construction by Ideker Construction Company. MoDOT will manage construction which is now under way and scheduled to be completed by November 2013.

Kansas City Scout Has the X Factor *"The X FACTOR" Highlights TOC for Season 2 Premier*

The national television show, "The X FACTOR," made a stop at MoDOT's Kansas City District headquarters on Wednesday, March 14 to take a look at Kansas City through the eyes of the Scout cameras.

A producer from "The X FACTOR" was impressed by the traffic management center and stopped by to shoot some footage to include with their expose of Kansas City sights.

As with any television show production of this caliber, it is unknown at this time as to whether the footage they captured will make the cut. However if it is selected for use, it will appear during the season premier, the actual air date has yet to be announced.

The visiting X-Factor film crew was in awe of Scout's traffic management center, the video wall



and the capabilities of the intelligent transportation software. They expressed how much they enjoyed the visit and stated they will be back in Kansas City in

May. Of course Scout staff extended the invitation for them to come back to visit and bring more of "The X FACTOR" crew.

Presentation Ceremony Celebrates Disadvantaged Business Enterprise's Graduation Candidates

Office of External Civil Rights hosts annual event

The Kansas City District's Office of External Civil Rights celebrated candidates for graduation on March 15 for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Supportive Services Entrepreneurship Training Program. The graduate firms participated in a 10-week business training which utilized the award-winning national Kauffman Foundation's FastTrac – GrowthVenture Program. The program was developed by the late entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ewing Marion Kauffman to advance entrepreneurial knowledge, growth and success. The presentation ceremony was held at the Kansas City District Headquarters in Lee's Summit.

The graduating class consisted of business owners from several Kansas City area companies; Nilson Goetz, CEO - Infinite Energy Construction, Jerry Woods - United Underground Utilities, Inc., Jonathan Dickens, CEO - Dicken's Demolition & Construction, LLC., L. Dewayne Beasley, CEO - Yelsaeb Enterprises, Carol Taylor, CEO - A Clean Slate, Ruth Turner, CEO - 3T Design & Development, LLC, Sheryl Clanton, CEO - McCorkendale Construction, Inc., Raymond Davis, CEO - Affordable Lawn Care, Jayne Njuguna - Immaculate Enterprises, LLC., Valerie McCaw, CEO, - VSM Engineering, LLC., AbduRaqeeb (AJ) Joseph White, CEO - Hejjra Electric Contracting, LLC., and Jacques Pierre Fransaw for TSI Engineering, Inc. The candidates will receive graduation certificates contingent upon submittal of their final business plan by March 30 to Senior External Civil Rights Specialist Donnetta Cole.

Cole opened the ceremony by introducing Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline. Redline spoke to the potential graduates about the statewide opportunities throughout MoDOT for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. A panel consisting of George Phillips

of Phillips and Associates, Chris Kelly, Program Coordinator of Supplier Diversity for Metropolitan Community College District and Mark Allen of UMKC's Office of Research and Economic Development critiqued the candidates on their business presentations made to the group and offered constructive criticism to the candidates.

Graduation candidate Jayne Njuguna considered was pleased to participate in the program. "I thought I knew a lot about business, but once I started going through the classes, I found out I really didn't know much at all. It has been a tremendous, fantastic experience. I learned so much from attending the classes."

MoDOT's Supportive Services Entrepreneurship Training Program assists certified DBE firm owners in increasing their business skills in specific and measurable areas. The program emphasizes development of a successful business plan, collaborative engagement of participants, and guest speakers from MoDOT and the construction community. Those who

complete the program are positioned for improved readiness in their field and to successfully compete for contracts in the construction industry. Currently, MoDOT Supportive Services conducts this program regularly in the St. Louis and Kansas City metropolitan areas.

Kelly said the presentation ceremony brought great value to the program participants. "It brings value to the community because it better prepares the graduates."

Particular areas of focus for the Entrepreneurship Training Program include: your business environment; making strategic financial decisions; strengthening the product/service; developing and evaluating your business strategy; marketing strategies; charting financial performance; and systems, processes and controls for growing your organization.

Guest speaker topics include: entrepreneurship; doing business with MoDOT; funding sources; teaming; sub-contracting; bonding; bid preparation; estimating; project management; and compliance.



Senior External Civil Rights Specialist Donnetta Cole (left front row) organized and emceed a presentation and graduation celebration March 15 for 13 area business owners and participating members of the 2012 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Supportive Services Entrepreneurship Training Program.

Bolder 5-Year Direction Timeline

2012

- **January-March 2012:** SG 6-10 positions (technicians and support) filled competitively.
- **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: wwwwi/intranet/hr/
- E-mail: SalaryGrade6-10@modot.mo.gov
- E-mail: SalaryGrade1-5@modot.mo.gov
- Contact your KC District HR representative

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** Melanie Lanigan, 607-2171
- 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.

Friday, March 23

MoDOT Night with the MO Mavericks

March 26-28

Intelligent Transportation Systems Heartland Chapter Annual Meeting Hosted by KC Scout

Week of April 23-27

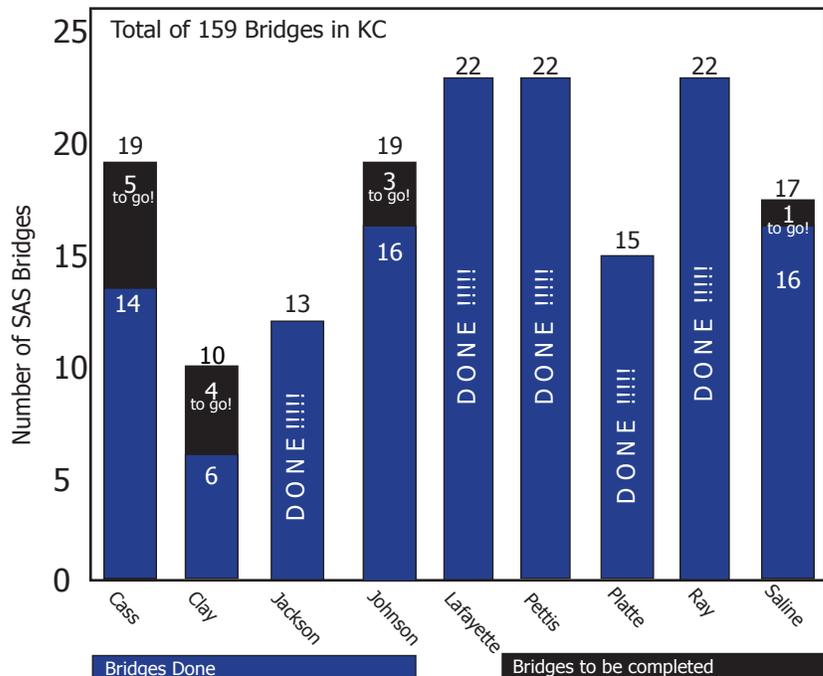
Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

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



Safety First - Spring into Cleaning with These Helpful Safety Tips

It's almost spring, and that means spring cleaning duties have been assigned. Before springing into action on that to-do list, make sure home safety is at the top of your list.

According to national statistics, unintentional injuries in the home result in nearly 21 million medical visits on average each year.

Cleaning and organizing your home not only make it a more enjoyable environment but are also significant steps toward creating a safer home. Take care because a good spring cleaning often means climbing, lifting heavy objects and using strong cleaning solutions. All of these are potential safety hazards. Here are some simple safety steps to reduce risk and remedy home safety hazards.

- Always keep stairs, steps, landings and all floors clear of toys and clutter.
- When cleaning walls and ceilings, use the opportunity to replace burned out light bulbs with bright lights over stairs and steps.

- Carry loads you can see over, and keep one hand free to hold banisters and railings.
- Safely tuck telephone and electrical cords out of walkways.
- Keep children away from anyone cleaning or opening windows.
- Shut upper windows and promptly replace any removed window guards.
- When washing window blinds, check that cords are stored up high, out of a child's reach.
- If you need to climb, always use a ladder.
- When using a ladder, stand at or below the highest safe standing level. For a stepladder, the safe standing level is the 2nd rung from the top. For an extension ladder, it is the 4th rung from the top.
- Before using a ladder, make sure the rungs are dry and the ladder is securely positioned on a flat surface.
- Know any chemicals or products you are using.
- Follow product label safety



recommendations, like wearing gloves and masks, when using harsh products.

- Do not mix household cleaning products together because their contents could react with dangerous results.
- Carefully read the labels on all products and medications and separate those that say "Caution", "Warning" and "Poison." Lock these products up and out of sight of young children.
- Empty buckets after use. Store them turned over or upside down.

Your safety is important at home as much as it is at work. Please keep safe practices at the top of your to-do list. Be safe while cleaning up and cleaning out your home, garage and yard. If you would like more information on working safely at home, contact KC District Risk Management.

Reminder ITS Heartland Conference is Approaching



Click on the following link, www.itsheartland.org to secure your spot for fun, information sharing and networking opportunities at the 13th Annual Meeting of the ITS Heartland.

EAEC Corner

Calling New Members!

The EAEC takes pride in being a voice for employees and helping to resolve questions, concerns and issues. If you would like to be a part of this valuable team, now is your chance. The KC EAEC is calling new members to join the council for the April 2013-14 term.

Why is the EAEC so important?

- We exist to serve the employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation.
- We will communicate with department employees in a timely and forthright manner through the various means at our disposal.
- We will be fair, honest, and open, while acting with integrity in handling matters concerning the KC EAEC.

- We will hold all matters confidential within the KC EAEC.
- We represent all of KC EAEC and act as a sounding board between employees and the senior management team.

Interested? Here are a few requirements.

- Must be salaried or permanent part-time employee from the KC District.
- Have at least six months experience with the department.
- Must meet or exceed their performance expectations with no serious disciplinary action at or above the level of suspension within the past three years and while serving on the EAEC.
- Have supervisors support and permission.



Pick me, pick me! If you are interested in joining the EAEC team, simply talk to your supervisor and with approval, contact a current EAEC representative or board member to let them know you are interested. If selected, you too can provide invaluable input and serve as a voice for the KC District.

For a list of current EAEC representatives, please visit the intranet at wwwi/intranet/d4/District4EmployeeAdvisoryCouncil.htm.

KC KUDOS

I recently visited modot.mo.gov. I am very pleased with the graphics and project status updates your staff provides to the public, especially I-49 and Route 150. You have my full support on projects you are currently working and planning in Jackson County.

Sincerely,
Russ Klement, Lee's Summit

A half a mile of brush on I-435 between Shoal Creek Parkway and the NE Pleasant Valley Road overpass was cleared recently thanks to the joint effort between MoDOT and a group of 300 volunteers. Seven employees with equipment spent their Saturday helping with this cleanup effort and are very appreciated for their hard work and dedication.

It was incredible. I was especially appreciative of the team from MoDOT. They were terrific. Always helpful, hardworking, and never a complaint. I can't thank you all enough.

Regards,
Dwight Beebe, Temple Engineering, Inc.

It was a great day and MoDOT came through with flying colors! Thank you so much for your great support and help.
Rodney A. Ames
Withers, Brant,
Igoe & Mullennix,
P.C.

THANK YOU for the median cables in Lee's Summit on Hwy 50!! I passed two separate wrecks in the west-bound lane in February and clearly the cables had contained the accidents on THAT side of the road and had prevented cross-over damage. There are already several torn up places in the cable along that stretch as evidence of the wrecks that have been stopped from crossing over. I don't know what's so "tricky" about that stretch of road, but the cabling has really been a lifesaver (probably literally)!

Kelly Murray Edmondson--Facebook



**WELCOME TO YOUR VERY OWN
PRO HOCKEY NIGHT.**



MoDOT

Group Night at the Mavericks - Independence Events Center

Date/Time: *Friday, March 23 at 7:05 p.m.*

SAVE \$6 Off REGULAR PRICE!!

Special ticket price: **\$20 and FREE Parking**

(Discounted tickets not available at Box Office)

*To get the tickets at the special price,
you must visit*

*[ticketmaster.com/event/0600470F
A11AA89F?did=modot](http://ticketmaster.com/event/0600470F111AA89F?did=modot)*

PROMO CODE: MODOT

*For more information, please contact
Melanie Lanigan at 607-2171*



SHOW ME HOCKEY!