

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

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MoDOT, Partners Seek Public Comment on I-29/Tiffany Springs Improvements

February 28 hearing, on-line meeting offer feedback opportunities

Steady population growth and economic development North of the River have created a need to improve traffic flow, capacity and safety for the busy Interstate 29 and Tiffany Springs Parkway interchange. Surrounding business owners and area residents agree, and they communicated their support of the proposed enhancements at a design public hearing held Feb. 28, 2012 at the Platte County Resource Center.

“It looks like a good plan,” commented area resident Kevin Hey. “I have no concerns.” The plan calls for converting a standard Diamond Interchange into a Diverging Diamond Interchange. In

this configuration, traffic crosses from the right side of the road to the left side at two signalized intersections on either side of the interchange. These crossovers allow for free flowing right-turns in advance of the cross-overs, and free flowing left-turns between the cross-overs. This enhances the safety and capacity of the interchange while keeping the costs of reconfiguration to a minimum.

Additionally, N.W. Prairie View Road will be expanded to four-lanes south of Tiffany Springs Parkway, and will connect directly with N.W. Congress, creating an alternative route to the Recreation

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KC District Calendar:

Friday, March 9

Northland Area Team Meeting
8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Room 236

Monday, March 12

Route 13 North Loop Ground Breaking
10:30 a.m. in Warningsburg at Route
HH/Hwy 50

Route 169 and 96th / 108th
Interchanges Ground Breaking
10 a.m. at the Northland Cathedral

Tuesday, March 20

Job Status
1 to 4 p.m., Boardroom



MoDOT Project Manager Randy Johnson (right) and Transportation Project Designer Debbie Huffman (left), discuss the plans to improve I-29 and the Tiffany Springs Parkway in Platte County with area business owner Larry Wenger. MoDOT has partnered with the KCI Corridor TIF, as has the Kansas City Aviation Department to fund this \$14 million project. Utility relocation work could begin as early as August 2012 in advance of construction planned for 2013 and 2014.

I-29/Tiffany Springs

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Complex, Zona Rosa shopping areas, and the business district along Barry Road. An additional lane will also be added to I-29 both north- and southbound, between Route 152 and Tiffany Springs interchanges.

Barbara Ehlers, sales manager at nearby Embassy Suites/Homewood Suites KCI said she loved the idea. "I like the walkway plans, too. It's great for our hotel customers and the entire community."

Attendees were also interested in learning more about how traffic would be impacted during construction. "The current plan keeps interchange open throughout construction except for a couple of short-term closures

(2 to 4 weeks each of the two ramps on the north side of Tiffany Springs Parkway," said MoDOT Project Manager Randy Johnson. "Detours will still enable traffic to flow, and all other roadways will remain accessible to at least one lane of traffic in each direction throughout construction."

This project is part of the KCI Corridor Tax Increment Financing (TIF) improvements planned for the area. The TIF exists to enhance development opportunities and support growth through investment in infrastructure needed to foster and sustain that growth. MoDOT has partnered with the KCI Corridor TIF, as has the Kansas City Aviation

Department to fund the \$14 million project.

The project is currently planned for a January 2013 bid letting by MoDOT. It is expected that construction will last throughout 2013 and through most of the 2014 construction season. Utility relocation work could begin around August 2012 to make sure utilities are clear for construction.

To learn more about the project and to participate in the on-line meeting, visit: <http://www.modot.org/kansascity/I-29TiffanySpringsParkway.htm>

Reminder You Can Still Register for the ITS Heartland Conference



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.

KC KUDOS:

// Lights were on this morning at 5:30 a.m. on I-35 at the 12th Street Bridge to the Broadway Bridge. Recently, one or two were off, but thanks to the quick response from MoDOT, the lights are working now. Light was a nice change.

Thanks,
J. Steven Crabtree

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

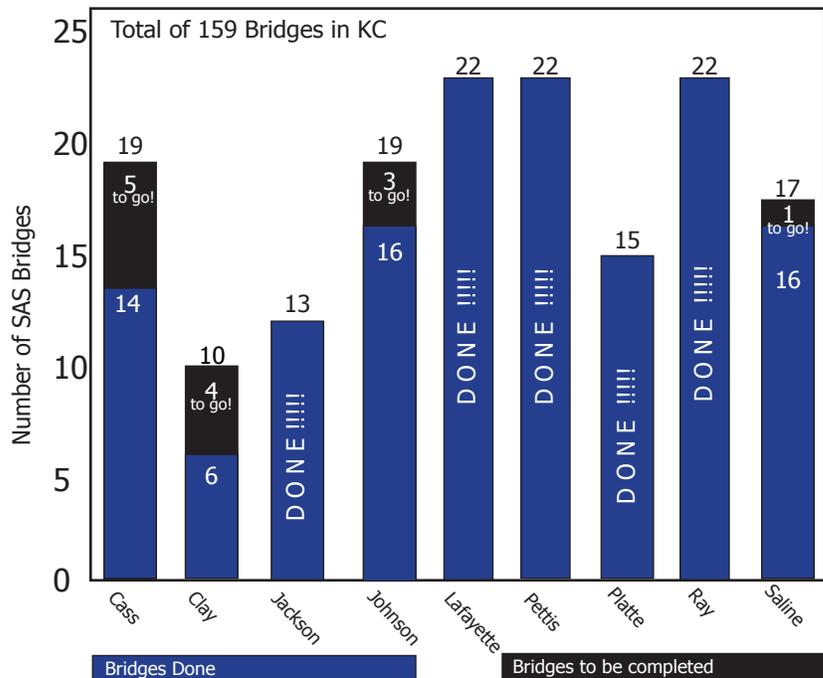
Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

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 - Not Your Mother's Shake & Bake

A crude new method of making methamphetamine poses a risk to MoDOT employees and the public, even those who never get anywhere near the drug. It is filling hospitals with thousands of burn patients requiring millions of dollars in advanced treatment. So-called "shake and bake" meth is produced by combining raw, unstable ingredients in a 2-liter soda bottle. Also known as the "one-pot" approach, the method is popular because it uses less pseudoephedrine, a common component in some cold and allergy pills. It also yields meth in minutes rather than hours, and it's cheaper and easier to conceal. Meth cooks can carry all the ingredients in a backpack and mix them almost anywhere.

- Shake & Bake first emerged several years ago, partly in response to attempts by many states to limit or forbid over-the-counter access to pseudoephedrine. Since then, the shake-and-bake recipe has spread to become the method of choice. Unfortunately, it is common in Missouri.
- Shake & Bake is particularly dangerous because if the person mixing the noxious brew makes the slightest

error, such as removing the cap too soon or accidentally perforating the plastic, the concoction can explode causing permanent disfigurement, blindness or even death.

- Meth makers may discard bottles to hide evidence or if something goes wrong and they fear explosion. Discarded bottles on the roadside can explode without notice hours or days after being thrown out. Never assume that discarded bags, boxes, etc. are safe. Gently, open and look inside before handling them to make sure they don't contain meth making materials or any other hazard.
- Pay close attention to what you're picking up. Never pick up or touch a bottle that you suspect may contain meth-making materials. Capped or sealed bottles require extra caution, but even empty ones could still present a chemical hazard.
- If you find a suspected Shake & Bake bottle, back off and contact your supervisor immediately. If you feel the item is an immediate threat, call 911 first, then follow up with your supervisor. Police and fire



responders have special equipment to deal with the hazards.

It's well known methamphetamine use destroys lives. Now even our drug-free workforce is at risk from it as we perform honest work for our customers. It's also an unfortunate fact that Missouri remains at or near the top nationally in terms of meth production. The possibility of finding meth-making materials is very real in both urban and rural areas. Handle that threat with respect and a safety attitude, as you would any work-related hazard like moving traffic or heavy equipment, and avoid getting burned.

If you would like more information on avoiding Shake & Bake hazards, contact district Risk Management staff at 816.607.2041.

Are you Prepared When Severe Weather Strikes?

The National Weather Service and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) have declared the week of March 12-16 as **Severe Weather Awareness Week for Missouri**. The goal of the week is quite simple: **SAVE LIVES**. The best way to do this is by being prepared. Everyone should have a basic knowledge of severe weather safety rules and have a severe weather plan in place. Knowing what actions to take when severe weather threatens can be the difference between life and death. A good time for all Missouri citizens to practice their severe weather plans will be during the Annual Missouri Severe Weather Drill, which will be held Tuesday, March 13, around 1:30 pm.

Special Note: The National Weather Service will make every effort to hold the drill on Tuesday, March 13. Clouds, rain or snow will not be enough to cancel, unless it is a major storm. However, if conditions warrant, the backup day for the drill will be Thursday, March 15, also around 1:30 pm. **(Provided by the National Weather Service and SEMA)**

The KC District will be prepared when severe weather hits. Employees are asked to participate during the statewide tornado drill on Tuesday, March 13. For procedures and each facility's "take cover" areas, please click on/or visit http://wwwi/intranet/d4/ri/Emergency_Response.htm

EAEC Corner

Prioritize, Plan, Organize and Improve That's the Chouteau Motto!

KC District EAEC members Rick Herrera, Intermediate Maintenance Worker and Jim Taylor, Senior Safety Officer visited with the Chouteau maintenance field crew on February 23. The purpose of their visit was two-fold; to give a plug for safety at the crew's morning toolbox meeting, and to gather information to highlight some of the things they're proud to be doing, living by their motto "Prioritize, Plan, Organize and Improve."

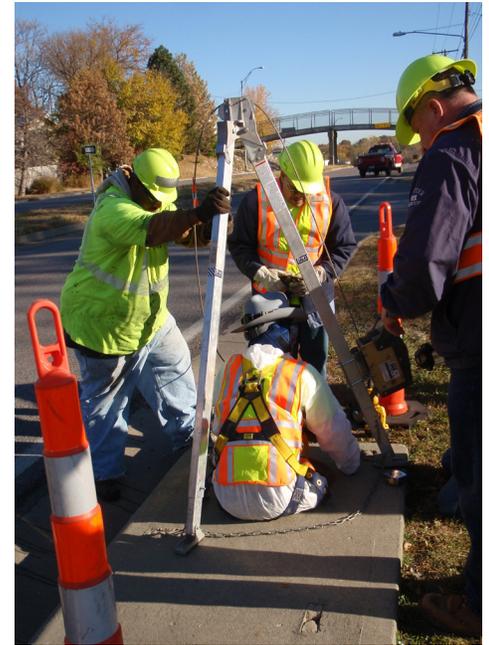
After the safety meeting, Delores "Dee" Goetz, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, and John Arnold, Crew Leader showed off one of the "ready-bags" adopted by the Chouteau crew. Goetz explained that the crew often augments and assists other crews, and they never know what kind of work might pop up day-to-day. As a result, they must be prepared for anything.

One way to ensure they can work safely and comfortably is to have extra PPE and clothing immediately available in their ready-bags. About the size of a large gym bag, these bags contain cold, hot and wet weather gear, night

gear, and even dry clothes and boots to change into to avoid hazards like hypothermia in case they get soaked. The bags also hold items like flashlights and thermoses, to reduce the danger of having those items lying around loose in a truck cab.

Although the crew was proud of their preparedness, they are prouder still of the work they do in helping other crews accomplish the department's mission. "Every member of my team has to be ready for a different job almost every day. We do everything, and we do it pretty well," said Goetz. When she says everything, she means it. For example, Goetz is the key supervisor over the KC District's CDL Training: The Next Steps, in addition to her normal duties.

Another example of the crew's flexibility was coordinating with the Mulberry crew and Risk Management to enter a "permit required" confined space to clean out a drainage area along Route 69. Dave Winship, Maintenance Worker volunteered to assist KC Safety personnel in training new seasonal employees. He and Chris Divine, Maintenance Worker



Teamwork proved essential when members from the Chouteau crew joined forces with the Mulberry crew to safely complete work on drainage issues along Route 69.

helped develop a pull-behind offset mower for the Innovations Challenge that's on its way to the statewide competition. Ismael "Izzy" Sierra, Maintenance Worker recently took over signing duties and stepped up to learn fast, and he's even teaching the crew some conversational Spanish. Maintenance workers Kevin Simkowski and Rick McKown brought unique abilities to Chouteau and improved the team by passing those skills on to others. Kevin came from roadsides and Rick from Northmoor.

The Chouteau maintenance facility, which is slated to close shortly, has a long and storied history going back many years. Chouteau's final crew is without a doubt one of its safest and most effective. As they transition to other buildings, it is fitting they do so knowing every crew before them would have been proud to work with them.



The Chouteau Crew stands behind their motto "Prioritize, Plan, Organize and Improve" through day-to-day maintenance efforts. Pictured from left to right are Ismael Sierra, John Arnold, Delores Goetz, Rick McKown, Kevin Simkowski, David Winship and Chris Divine.

Saying Goodbye to Long-Time Friends and Colleagues

On February 28, the district said goodbye to a couple of friends and colleagues. Cake, punch and even some BBQ celebrated 57 years of combined public service.

After 29 years, Paul Russ, Construction celebrated a long awaited retirement. Surrounded by family, friends and coworkers, Paul enjoyed some laughs and BBQ to say farewell.

Not long after, on the same day, Scott Humphrey, Design said "Bon Voyage" to many friends and coworkers after 28 years of service. Often referred to as the "quiet" one, Scott celebrated with a full house as he said goodbye.

Paul Russ had a great celebration with good friends on February 28 during his retirement party. Fellow employees viewed the display of numerous antique locks and tools that Paul collects. He looks forward to continuing the hunt for new "old" tools with the extra free time he now has after 29 years of service to MoDOT.



Scott Humphrey enjoyed some tasty cake while celebrating his retirement on February 28. Brian Kidwell stopped in to wish him well and presented him with a plaque thanking Scott for 28 years of service to MoDOT.



District Retirees

Randall Ashley
Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Tony Bryant
Maintenance Supervisor

Joe Caldarella
Senior Facility Operations Specialist

Barbara Flannagan
Senior Maintenance Technician

District Promotions

Daniel Allred
Materials Inspector

Curtis Hathaway
Construction Inspector

Jody Jordan
General Services Specialist

Charles Street
Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Paul Valadez
Intermediate Maintenance Worker

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



MODOT

Group Night at the Mavericks - Independence Events Center

Date/Time: Friday, March 23 at 7:05pm

SAVE \$6 Off REGULAR PRICE!!

Special ticket price: **\$23 & FREE PARKING!**

(Discounted tickets not available at Box Office)

Contact: **Melanie Lanigan**

Phone: **816-607-2171**

For more information,
call 816-252-PUCK (7825).

MissouriMavericks.com



SHOW ME HOCKEY!