

kcConnections



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May 28-June 1, 2012

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KC District Calendar:

- May 28**
Memorial Day
State Offices Closed
- May 30**
Management Team
9-11:30 a.m., Boardroom
- June 1**
Maintenance Superintendent Meeting
8:30 a.m. - noon
- June 5**
Route 71/C/J Public Meeting
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Friendship Hall, 163 W. Center Street,
Peculiar, Mo.
- June 6**
Mo. Highways and Transportation
Commission Meeting
10 a.m. to noon, Kansas City

Have a Great Week!

A Move in the Right Direction Move Over Law Passes to Include MoDOT Workers

Red and blue lights glow, alerting motorists that an emergency vehicle is on the shoulder of a busy highway. Tail lights flash quickly as drivers slow and move over to the other lane, providing additional room between their motor vehicle and the emergency responder. Moving over increases safety for all, but is not just a courtesy; it's required by law for all motorists on Missouri highways.

The move over law states that drivers must move over or slow down for stationary emergency vehicles. Recently,

legislation passed an act to amend the current move over law, expanding it to include all MoDOT vehicles. It also further modifies the definition of an emergency vehicle to include any MoDOT vehicle marked as Emergency Response or Motorist Assist. This is great news for anyone working beside fast moving traffic.

"This legislation is essential to the safety of all MoDOT personnel who work on the highways every day. People don't always move over for MoDOT vehicles. As with any law, most people will comply just because it is required. A large portion of the motorists will voluntarily comply, and for those who do not there can now be some recourse," said William "Rusty" James, Incident Management Coordinator.



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Ribbon Cutting Completes DDI at Front Street

More than 50 people turned out to cut the ribbon on I-435 and Front Street DDI May 25.

Fifth District U.S. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II spoke of the urgency for more transportation funding.

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller spoke of the risk taken by MoDOT, and the rewards for designing and building the first DDIs.

The ribbon cutting was held at the northwest corner of I-435 and Front Street.



Terri Barr of Senator McCaskill's office and MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Brian Kidwell listen as Commissioner Stephen Miller and Congressman Emanuel Cleaver discuss transportation challenges. Kansas City Public Works Director Sherri McIntyre and Matt Haase of Senator Blunt's office discuss other issues and opportunities.

Move Over Law

Continued from first page

James is very enthusiastic about the move over law. "When I came to MoDOT in 2007, I immediately saw a need for the Mover Over Law to be amended to include MoDOT vehicles. Also a strong need for Motorist Assist and Emergency Response vehicles to be classified as emergency vehicles. In fact, Motorist Assist and Emergency Response vehicles are about the only vehicles on the highways responding to incidents that are not classified as emergency vehicles. Quick response is essential to the management of incidents on the highways. This law will allow MoDOT to respond to incidents somewhat quicker, reducing the time that traffic flow is restricted due to an incident.

"Several of our partners testified at the legislature in favor of this change as they rely on our personnel to respond to incidents as quickly as possible. They feel strongly that we should have the necessary tools to do our job."

MoDOT's statewide safety initiative, Safety Begins With YOU, is supported now more than ever by the Missouri Legislature. Once signed by Governor Nixon, the amended move over law will be strictly enforced by law enforcement statewide, protecting MoDOT workers in the same way as the Highway Patrol and other emergency responders.

"I would like to thank the Legislature for taking the necessary steps to improve safety for all of the hard working MoDOT personnel who risk their lives every day making the highways better and safer for the citizens of Missouri. To all our fellow Missourians and visitors, please watch for MoDOT personnel out there on the highways. It is a very dangerous job, and the risk is great," James stated.

With fewer construction dollars, MoDOT is virtually in a maintenance-only mode, making the work that our maintenance forces perform much more important than ever. Taking care of the existing system of highways and bridges is a high priority, and it is the goal for MoDOT to provide the safest environment possible to ensure that every employee can go home safe every day. This law will make it easier to do so.

"We will be counting on the motorists to move over or slow down so that we can do our job as safely as we can, in an inherently dangerous environment."



KC Kudos

I commend you on the progress for Route 45 in Parkville. It has gone smoothly, with very little delay. I have not seen one accident relative to this construction. We are looking forward to the completion as we use this route practically everyday. It is also interesting to watch all of the new methods of road building and the daily progress that is being made. - D. Dobson, Liberty

MoDOT has done an OUTSTANDING job on the speed of the bridge replacements on Route 69 north of Liberty. Please let the workers know how much we appreciate their promptness. - J. Love, Parkville

I am a school bus driver. I travel Route 45 several times daily. I also have stops in the construction zone. I just have to say, the guys working on the road are very nice to stop working and stop the equipment while I am loading and unloading students.

- M. O'Connell, Parkville

Wonderful time management on the Route 69 bridge project.

- Kristy Clemmons, Lawson

Safety News: Missouri One Call (1-800-DIG-RITE)

An excavation is defined as any operation that breaks the surface of the ground. An excavation can be done with mechanical equipment, such as a backhoe, or just a garden shovel. Regardless of the tool used, Missouri state law requires anyone planning an excavation to contact the Missouri One Call System.

There are four basic steps to the "One Call" process:

1. The excavator calls or goes online to file a locate request
2. The call center processes and transfers the request
3. The utility owner or operator marks the dig site or advises that the site is clear
4. The excavator digs with appropriate care

Missouri One Call System can be reached at 1-800-DIG-RITE (800-344-7483), or at 811 (the national "call before you dig" number) or online www.mo1call.com. You must allow at least two working days, plus the day of the call, for processing and to allow the utility time to mark the area. If you begin a dig too early and strike a utility, you may be under increased liability or worse.

Markings are considered approximate (generally within about two feet). Never assume the markings are perfectly accurate. Always finish the last two feet of excavation with

handtools rather than heavy equipment to minimize the chance of breaking a utility or line.

Making repairs on your own without the utility owner's permission, or failing to report even the most minor damage is against the law and can incur heavy penalties. Even a small scrape or nick can allow corrosion that may cause failure



later, so always report any damage.

The cost of damaging a utility can be high. For example, the average cost of repairing a fiber-optic line damaged by digging or trenching is about \$500,000. Emergency services like 911 and even hospitals can suffer communications shutdowns if a phone line is cut. Even more importantly, the risk of injury or death is very real. Striking a gas main or electrical line can be fatal. Failing to follow proper guidelines for trenching and shoring increases the chance for the dig to collapse on someone. Be careful, and never bite off more than you can chew!

Although the markings are usually accurate relative to utility latitude and longitude layout, the one exception is always the depth the utility is buried. Information is very sketchy here, so never assume any information you receive about bury depth is correct. The actual depth may be way off.

Excavation of all types is much safer with the proper use of DIG-RITE. Without DIG-RITE you may not only open up a hole, but you may open up a huge risk for yourself and for the department. Take a few minutes to do it right, for safety's sake. If you would like more information on the Missouri One Call System, contact your KC District Health and Safety Department.



MoDOT Employees Give Gift of Life

Did you know that only three out of 100 people in America donate blood? Each donation saves up to three lives. Recently, the District Office hosted a blood drive with the Community Blood Center and as usual, several MoDOT employees gave the gift of life. Thanks to the generosity of those that stopped by to donate, 22 units of blood were collected and will help up to 66 people! There were 7 first time donors.

Thank you to each for taking time out of your busy schedule and giving such a special gift! Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation.

Save a Life. Right Here, Right Now.



Is Noise a Factor?

Adding lanes to a project has the potential for adding noise to the surrounding community. Did you know there is a wall for that? Sound walls are concrete walls that are built to reduce or block some highway noise from reaching homes along the roadway.

MoDOT conducts a noise study to determine if an area qualifies for a wall. Just because those driving by might honk a horn or rev the engine does not mean MoDOT will stop by to study the noise levels on your street. Actually, an area receives a noise study based on certain criteria before determination for sound walls can be made. The criteria include:

- Construction of a highway on a new location,
- Alteration of an existing highway,
- Addition of a through-traffic lane,

- Addition of an auxiliary lane,
- Relocation of interchange lanes or ramps to complete an existing partial interchange,
- Restriping existing pavement for the purpose of adding a through-traffic lane or auxiliary lane, or
- Addition of a new or substantial alteration of a weigh station, rest stop, ride-share lot or toll plaza.



receive 25 percent. The majority wins, but absentees are counted as no votes.

Recently, MoDOT and the City of Oak Grove held a vote to determine if the Route F widening project would include sound walls. Only a small number of residents met the requirements for a sound wall and the majority voted for MoDOT to construct the wall.

After a noise study is conducted, the results indicate locations along the project parameters where noise will increase enough to warrant a sound wall. Every property owner and/or resident

per each benefited receptor is given the opportunity to vote for or against having a sound wall built. Property owners receive 75 percent of the vote and renters

So the next time you are driving and you see a row of walls alongside the road, just know they were not built for looks. Much time and effort went into the final decision to build those sound walls and members in the community used their voice to make the final call...wall or no wall.



Left, Craig Skorseth, Highway Designer, talks with Steven Craig, City Administrator for City of Oak Grove about the need for a potential sound wall as part of the project to widen Route F through Oak Grove. Those participating in the voting process voted in favor of building a wall as part of the project. Construction is expected to begin in early 2013.

City of Kansas City Plans for the Northland Future

Kyle Elliott, Lead Planner for KC Citywide Planning Division stopped by the Northland Area Team Meeting in May to discuss the city's plans for the Northland in the next several years. Since 1998, development and growth has been mostly north of the River. In fact, the Northland has gained 57,000 people in the past 15 years, with a 21 percent growth in the past year alone. The division is looking at a long range plan to address the growing needs for the area.



KC Safe & Sound Bridges On the Rise to Completion

Bolder Five-Year Direction Calendar

2012

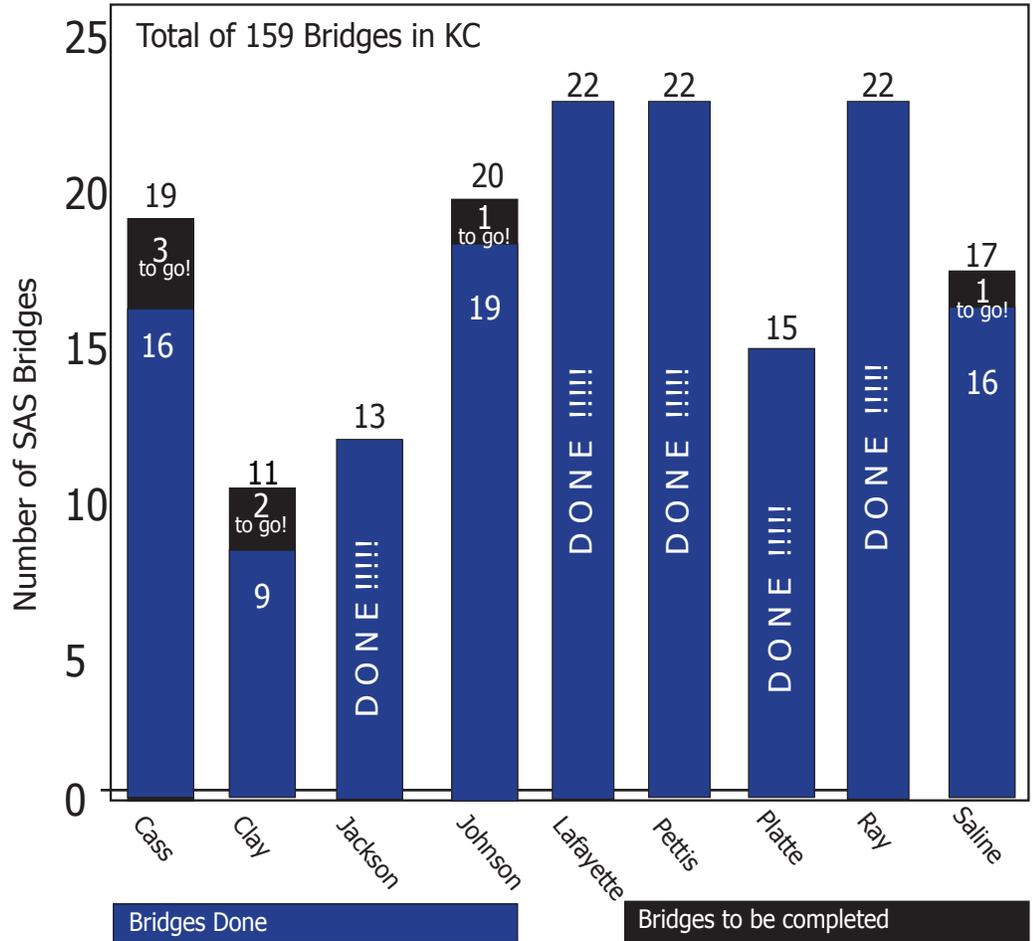
- **April-May 2012:** SG 1-5 positions (support) filled competitively.
- **June 5:** Teleconference for the displaced SG 1-5 employees at 10:00 a.m. at the DO in Conference Room 255.
- **December 31:** all facility, equipment and operational changes complete.

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



Ride for Remembrance

It is time for the annual Ride for Remembrance to honor MoDOT's fallen workers.

When: June 23, 2012

Rally Location: Elephant Rock and Johnson's Shut-In

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2012

T-shirt orders due: August 15, 2012

Please contact Dan Weaver, Senior Construction Technician at 573-346-3053 or daniel.weaver@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

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KC District Employees Reach out to the Community

The district's Crashed Truck made its traveling debut during Truman Medical Center's Safety and Injury Prevention fair. The truck served as a great visual aide and grabbed visitors' attention. Laurel McKean, District Traffic Engineer with a little help from KC Wolf of the Chiefs offered safety material and goodies to visitors. A big thank you to our district office mechanics and general services for making the truck mobile. The team rehabilitated an old trailer and made all the necessary adjustments to the truck to ensure its safe travels.



Jim Templer, Design explains the benefits of roundabouts to students in the Pleasant Hill driver's education class on May 22. MoDOT's team will present to Lee's Summit and Liberty driver's education classes next week, and go to Belton in early June.

Nominate your Hero Today!

No super hero costume or cape required to be a safety hero! The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is seeking nominations for highway safety heros. If there is someone you feel should be recognized for outstanding efforts to reduce fatalities on Missouri roads through education, law enforcement, health care, emergency response, or engineering, please take a few moments to recognize them with a nomination for a **2012 Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Highway Safety Award!**



Four statewide awards and two regional awards (per region) will be selected. The winners will be recognized at the 2012 Blueprint to Save More Lives Conference in Branson at the end of October.

Visit www.savemolives.com for more details about the awards, and to complete the nomination form. Nominations due by June 30, 2012. Five individuals with an interest in transportation safety have been selected throughout the Midwest to judge the awards. Regional awards will be judged by the regional coalitions or independent judges they choose. Award winners and those who nominate them will be notified by the second week of August. For more information, please call **Marisa Ellison at 573-248-2502** or email marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov.