

# **D4 WESTport**

**December 2007**

Welcome to the December edition of **WESTport**, MoDOT District 4's newsletter to our Missouri General Assembly members, city and county officials, and other transportation partners from the west central region.

You will receive monthly updates of District 4 projects and activities throughout the regular General Assembly session, and periodic updates during the rest of the year. We hope you will find the information useful and enlightening.

Our District 4 staff is always available to answer your questions and address constituent concerns. See our list of contacts at the bottom of this newsletter for telephone numbers and other information, or visit our district website at [www.modot.org/kansascity](http://www.modot.org/kansascity)

## **Paseo Corridor Constructors Selected for I-29/35 Project**

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission selected Paseo Corridor Constructors as the design-build contractor for the Interstate 29/35 corridor improvement project during their Nov. 14 meeting in Kansas City.

The \$245 million kclCON project features a landmark cable-stay Christopher S. Bond Missouri River bridge, and will upgrade Interstate 29/35 to six lanes from north of the Route 210/Armour Road interchange to Independence Ave. It also adds a southbound lane from the northeast corner of the Central Business District loop to Oak Street.

"Both design-build teams competing for this project submitted excellent proposals, including two incredible landmark river bridge designs," said kclCON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "Paseo Corridor Constructors committed to keep the Paseo Bridge open to traffic during construction and provide more roadway improvements."

Paseo Corridor Constructors comprises joint venture partners Clarkson Construction Company, Kansas City, Mo.; Massman Construction Company, Kansas City, Mo.; and Kiewit Construction Co., Omaha, Neb. Major participant companies are Parsons, USA and TranSystems Corporation, Kansas City, Mo.

Construction will begin in spring 2008. The Paseo Bridge will remain open to traffic for the duration of the project. Paseo Corridor Constructors will provide access to Interstate 29/35 at all times by maintaining two northbound and two southbound lanes of traffic during peak morning and evening travel times, and at least one northbound and one southbound lane of traffic outside of peak travel times.

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"While the interstate will remain open to traffic at all times, these lanes will be narrow. Intermittent interchange and ramp closures will require numerous detours," said Kidwell. "We strongly urge motorists who use this corridor as a through route to consider using alternate routes during construction."

MoDOT will collaborate with its community partners in an effort to ease construction-related traffic during construction.

Full service to all lanes will be restored by June 1, 2011 and final construction completed by July 31, 2011, beating the project goal by three months. The project will feature the following improvements:

- three northbound and three southbound lanes of interstate expandable to eight total lanes;
- a landmark cable-stay Missouri River bridge expandable to eight lanes and capable of accommodating a future bicycle/pedestrian facility once connectivity is established;
- a reconstructed interchange at Route 210/Armour Road with improved ramps and auxiliary lanes;
- a half-diamond interchange at 16th Street that will eliminate the low-speed loop ramp for exiting northbound traffic;
- a split-diamond interchange at Bedford Avenue/Levee Road that provides local street access and connectivity between Levee Road and Bedford Avenue;
- a single-point urban interchange at Front Street.

The design-build delivery method was selected as a way to save time and money. Compared to the more "traditional" design-bid-build method where the design work is completed in its entirety before contractors bid on the job and then order materials and perform the work, the design-build method streamlines the process by enabling construction to begin before design work is complete. This helps minimize price escalation from rising material and labor costs, and facilitates faster project completion to help minimize inconveniences to the public.

"The competition driven by Missouri's innovative design-build method of project delivery has provided our customers with the best value for every dollar available for this project," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "In addition to improving safety and reducing congestion throughout this corridor, we're able to quickly deliver a stunning landmark river bridge that will benefit future generations."

Bridge photos, corridor animation and additional information are available on the project's Web site: <http://www.kcicon.org/>.

## **Triangle Untangled! Celebration Dec. 14**

Route 71 will open to three mainline lanes at its convergence with Interstate 435 and Interstate 470 in mid-December – thereby relieving all capacity restrictions through the Kansas City region's busiest interchange.

At 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, MoDOT will host a celebration to mark the conclusion of the 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway, and the disappearance of the Triangle interchange at the Transit Center, 5300 E. Red Bridge Road (northeast corner of Route 71 and Red Bridge Road).

## **MoDOT Crews Ready for Winter's Worst**

Last winter was tough, with several significant snowstorms, some sleet and freezing rain just to make it interesting. No one knows what to expect this season, but whatever transpires, MoDOT is prepared. What can MoDOT bring to a snow fight in the Kansas City area? How about:

- 475 workers - that's plow truck drivers, equipment operators, mechanics, supervisors, motorist assist operators and customer service representatives in District 4
- Kansas City Scout, its 104 cameras and 38 dynamic message boards
- 46,570 tons of salt distributed among 35 storage facilities that include everything from 6,000-ton domes down to 100-ton storage bays
- 199 trucks and another 60 pieces of equipment ranging from loaders to road graders

The snow team is poised to clear all 7,200 lane miles throughout the eight-county Kansas City District as soon as Mother Nature tips her hand. Interstates and high-volume state routes will be cleared first.

## **Route 150 Bridge Restored to Two-way Traffic**

The Route 150 bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad and Big Creek in Greenwood opened to two-way traffic in mid-November. The shift back to two-lane traffic from one-way, alternating traffic controlled by signal lights marks a midway point in construction of the new bridge. Completion of the project to build a wider, two-lane bridge is on schedule for November 2008.

Loads larger than standard width must continue to take alternative routes. Narrow 10-foot-wide lanes on the partially completed bridge are necessary to allow the contractor to remove the last remnants of the old bridge and complete the other half of the new bridge.

## Winter Weather Information at Your Fingertips

The Missouri Department of Transportation has several tools to keep travel safer as winter weather arrives.

Located at [modot.org](http://modot.org), the Traveler Information Map gives drivers an up-to-the-minute view of road conditions for major Missouri highways. Conditions for major routes across the state are color-coded to give visitors the information they need at a glance. Green means clear, blue is partly covered, purple is covered and a red snowflake means the road is impassable.

The map can display road conditions for major Missouri cities, counties, MoDOT districts and other travel destinations. Individual routes can also be selected. A text report and links to road condition maps for surrounding states are also available on the Traveler Information Map page.

Also, MoDOT's toll-free customer service line is available 24/7 at 1-888-ASK-MODOT.

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