

D4 WESTport

July 2006

Welcome to the July 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/

Public Meetings Scheduled for Two Projects

Two project-related public meetings are scheduled in July. Both are open-house format and are scheduled from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. No formal presentations are planned, so interested parties can attend at their convenience.

- **I-470/Route 50:** Tuesday, July 18, Arnold Hall at 123 SE 3rd Street in Lee's Summit. The project includes geometric changes to the Interstate 470/Route 50 interchange. The first phase of the committed improvements would add a half-diamond interchange at Pryor Road. A split-diamond configuration for the interchange, including another half-diamond interchange at Blue Parkway along with connector roads joining the two new interchanges, would complete most of the current improvements. The split-diamond interchange would provide access to local street systems at Colbern Road to the north, Chipman Road to the south, Blue Parkway to the east, and Pryor Road to the west.
- **Flintlock Overpass:** Thursday, July 27, Liberty Community Center at 1600 S. Withers Road in Liberty. The study area for this Environmental Assessment (EA) is in Clay County, situated in the cities of Liberty, northern Kansas City, and Pleasant Valley between the Route 152 interchange at I-35; and the Pleasant Valley interchange at I-35, Route 69, Pleasant Valley Road, and West Liberty Drive. The proposed action is comprised of an overpass of I-35 that will connect Flintlock Road north of I-35 at NE 76th Street to Flintlock Road (formerly Hughes Road) south of I-35 at West Liberty Drive. Currently no connection exists between these two segments of Flintlock Road. Flintlock Road north of I-35 falls in the City of Kansas City. South of I-35, Flintlock Road falls in the cities of Liberty and Pleasant Valley.

Construction Zones Abound in District 4

As promised, the Missouri Department of Transportation is working on a record number of road-improvement projects this summer. Upcoming projects and work recently begun include:

- **Route 13 in Higginsville:** Traffic on Route 13 in Higginsville was restricted to one lane on June 21 as crews repave from Cypress Street to the junction of Route 70/Route 13. The 4.7-mile resurfacing project was expected to take about three weeks. Traffic will be reduced to one lane from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays during the work.
- **I-70 South Outer Road Bridge over Horseshoe Creek:** Crews closed the bridge, located one-half mile east of the Jackson County line between Oak Grove and Bates City, at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 5. While the bridge is being replaced, through traffic will be detoured off the South Outer Road between Bates City and Oak Grove. The new bridge should be completed by mid-October. The existing truss bridge, built in 1922, is restricted to carry no more than 12 tons. The new, wider bridge with shoulders will carry about 1,500 vehicles per day with no weight restrictions.
- **Route 50 in Johnson County:** Pavement and bridge rehabilitation will restrict lanes on Route 50 between Routes HH and FF for the next several months. Beginning at 6 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, traffic on westbound Route 50 was reduced to one lane to allow for deck rehabilitation on bridges at Bear Creek, Clear Fork Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad overpass. Beginning at 7 a.m. Thursday, July 6, all traffic will shift to the westbound lanes and be restricted to head-to-head lanes from Bear Creek to Johnson County Road 115 to allow grading and curve realignment on the eastbound segment of Route 50 just east of Montserrat. Traffic restrictions may continue through September.
- **Downtown Kansas City:** The Oak Street, Locust Street and Truman Road bridges over Interstate 670 will be closed beginning at 9 p.m. Friday, July 7, in conjunction with downtown improvements. The bridges will remain closed until new construction and realignment are completed in September 2007. Two weekend closures of I-670 (July 14-17 and July 21-24) will be required for demolition and removal. Grand Avenue will be open to traffic on July 6.
- **Route 7 in Blue Springs:** Construction begins July 10 on Route 7 improvements from Wyatt Road to a location approximately 600 feet north of the Colbern Road intersection. The project, divided into two phases, is a collaborative effort of the City of Blue Springs and the Missouri Department of Transportation. The project's first phase will cost approximately \$6.3 million to construct and is expected to be complete in late 2007. Phase I improvements involve widening Route 7 from two lanes to four, and include sufficient right-of-way to install sidewalks and traffic signals as future commercial and residential development occurs. Route 7 will remain open to traffic during construction with minimal disruptions.

Community Coffee July 17 to Discuss Route 150 Project

Residents of Grandview, Lee's Summit and Kansas City who are interested in the widening of Route 150 between Route 71 and Route 291 are invited to learn more about the project at an informational community coffee from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 17.

The coffee will be at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Building Board Room, 13015 10th Street (the corner of 10th and High Grove), in Grandview, Missouri.

An eight-mile section of Route 150 is scheduled for widening to four lanes between Route 71 and Route 291. The project is expected to begin in 2008 and be completed by 2010. It will be funded through money made available by the passage of Amendment 3 to accelerate the completion of the state's priority highway projects.

This latest in a series of informal open-house gatherings will bring together community stakeholders to discuss specific project issues with MoDOT and the design team.

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