

D4 WESTport

October 2007

Welcome to the October 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 Meeting October 9 in Smithville

The Missouri Department of Transportation will host an open-house public meeting Tuesday, October 9, to present conceptual plans to redesign the Route 92 and Commercial intersection in Smithville as a roundabout.

The public may come and go any time from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Smithville High School Cafeteria, 645 South Commercial in Smithville, to view the conceptual plans, discuss the project with Department representatives, and provide written comments at the meeting. No formal presentations will be made.

Tour of Missouri Ran Clean Through District 4

District 4 hosted the debut of the Tour of Missouri on Sept. 11, when 120 of the world's finest professional cyclists covered an 85-mile circuit course through the Kansas City region. And just like their counterparts across the state, MoDOT's D4 forces worked behind the scenes to ensure a safe and enjoyable event.

Large crowds gathered at the start/finish line on the Country Club Plaza for the 1 p.m. start and the mid-afternoon finish. An enthusiastic group in Parkville greeted the Tour twice as it rolled through the Platte County community on its way north and south. Missouri Highway Patrol estimates put the crowd at 40,000 for the entire route.

Platte County Maintenance Superintendent Ed Nichols and Area Engineer Kirsten Munck reported no major problems along the route through Clay and Platte counties, other than a quick cleanup of some spilled concrete in Platte City. On Wednesday, Sept. 12, the Tour departed Clinton in Henry County at 11 a.m. and quickly moved into St. Clair County via Route 13 and Route 58.

3-Trails Crossing One Step Closer to Completion

Route 71 traffic from Red Bridge Road to Blue Ridge Boulevard in the 3-Trails Crossing is switching to new through lanes the first week of October.

Shifting traffic onto the inside lanes and off the collector ramp system brings this seven-year project one step away to untangling the Triangle interchange. While the configuration will continue providing only two through lanes both north and south on Route 71 for now, the project is less than three months away from opening all three lanes in both directions.

The latest configuration will allow construction crews to work on outside lanes and ramps. The switchover should be completed by Sunday, Oct. 7. Motorists are urged to be cautious and prepared for delays as barriers are moved and striping crews finish near the transitions.

Downtown Bridge Completion Ceremony October 3

MoDOT, the city of Kansas City, Mo., and the Downtown Council will celebrate the completion of new bridges at Truman Road, Oak and Locust Streets in Downtown Kansas City at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the north end of the Oak Street structure.

These new bridges are just southeast of the new Sprint Arena; MoDOT fulfilled its obligation to open them in time for the arena's mid-October opening.

Winter Storm Training Completed

Kansas City-area MoDOT workers completed an extended training exercise for operating snowplows and other equipment used during winter storms.

A written test and hands-on driving skills assessment were administered to about 265 workers assigned to the Kansas City District's eight counties. Each worker also completed a vehicle pre-trip inspection during the September training.

When their colleagues were at the training sessions, other MoDOT workers were on the road to perform scheduled duties and handle emergencies. Statewide, MoDOT put about 3,000 workers through the winter skills training sessions.

The training emphasized safety as well as quick response in operating plow-equipped dump trucks that clear snow and ice from the roads, as well as equipment for storing and loading materials on MoDOT lots. Simulations required plowing in a straight line and methods to clear interchanges and curbs.

MoDOT invests about \$27.5 million each winter to plow and salt roads. The training was designed to make the most of that investment.

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