

# econnections



February 2006

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

## MEETINGS/TRAINING

### Tuesday, Feb. 7

Public Meeting - Route 269 (Chouteau Tfwy.), 5-7 p.m., Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3800 NE Parvin Road, KCMO

Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission, Jefferson City

### Thursday, Feb. 9

Maintenance Team, 9-11:30 a.m., Room 136E

### Wednesday, Feb. 15, Room 236E

Job Status, District 1, 8-9:30 a.m., videoconf.  
Job Status, Group 4, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Job Status, Group 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Job Status, Group 3, 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Job Status, Group 1, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

### Thursday, Feb. 16

Management Team, 9-11 a.m., boardroom

### Tuesday, Feb. 21

Stock Area Team, 8-10 a.m., 87th Street Facility

### Thursday, Feb. 23

Munck Area Team, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Nashua

### Monday, Feb. 27

Lamson Area Team, 9-11:30 a.m., Room 236

### Wednesday, March 1

Directional Team, 9-11:30 a.m., boardroom

### Thursday, March 2

Resident Engineers, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Room 255

## EVENTS

### Tuesday, Feb. 7

Director Pete Rahn's State of Transportation Address to Missouri General Assembly, 10:30 a.m.

### Monday, Feb. 13

President Lincoln's Birthday - state offices closed

### Monday, Feb. 20

Presidents' Day - state offices closed

## Emergency Response Marks Fifth Anniversary

by Joel Blobaum

Five years and more than 10,000 calls later, District 4's Emergency Response unit knows how to handle roadway issues ranging from basic traffic control to true emergencies like accidents that can shut down an interstate highway.

And the learning curve never stops, according to Senior Supervisor Randall Freeman.

"We're always in a learning process to

determine best practices, whether we're working with law enforcement agencies or our own maintenance crews," Freeman said. "We're a good first responder, but we rely on all of MoDOT's other assets as a situation might require."

Emergency Response began operations in 2001 to provide 24-hour service throughout District 4. Because the unit operates overnight and on weekends and holidays, it often acts as a conduit between law enforcement, other emergency responders and MoDOT's traffic and maintenance operations.

"When we first started operations, we had to work on our communication skills so we could properly describe a situation and help our maintenance supervisors and others determine the proper response," Freeman said. "That was one of the biggest parts of our initial learning curve."

Freeman said Emergency Response tries to respond – or initiate a local MoDOT response – to any incident in the eight-county district within 30 minutes.

(Editor's note: MoDOT is also establishing statewide incident management teams to minimize disruptions to Interstate 70 traffic. The Higginsville and Odessa maintenance buildings will serve as District 4 points of



Randall Freeman

Emergency Response Operators Clifton Scott and Dale McFerrin check out Fitch Barrel damage at Interstate 435 and Route 71 Jan. 27.

contact for the effort, which will help control or even detour I-70 traffic when an accident or other incident occurs on the heavily traveled roadway. Maintenance Superintendent Wess Murray said D4 is outfitting an incident management trailer that will contain signage, hand tools, flares, absorbent materials and other items that will help responders fulfill their mission.)

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## News from Across the District

**It's a boy x 2!:** congratulations to Resident Engineer Matt Killion and his wife, Jamie, and Transportation Project Designer Will Barrows and Senior Highway Designer Heather Barrows.

Andrew Parker Killion was born Dec. 31. He weighed 8 lbs., 7 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

Ian Nicholas Barrows was born Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 inches long.

**Condolences:** our prayers are with the families of Liberty Maintenance Crew Worker Rick Oakes, retiree Elton Charles Cook, Motorist Assist Operator Derike Pitchford, Richmond Maintenance Senior Crew Worker Keith Brown, Stadium Maintenance Crew Worker John Appleberry, retiree Ron Bergschneider, Chilhowee Maintenance Senior Crew Worker Rodney Norman and Building Utilities Service Specialist Joe Caldarella.

Rick's father, Stanley "Fred" Oakes, passed away Dec. 28. Memorials may be made to the Salvation Army in care of Barnett Funeral Home, P.O. Box 416, Oskaloosa, Ks. 66066.

Retiree Elton Charles Cook passed away Jan. 2. He retired as a traffic engineer with 23 years of service. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Patricia: 5409 Ridgeway, Kansas City, Mo. 64133. Memorial contributions can be made to Lewy Body Dementia Association, Inc., P.O. Box 11390, Tempe, Ariz. 85284-0024 or St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 9020 E. 51st Ter., Kansas City, Mo. 64133.

Derike's uncle, Charles Lewis, passed away Jan. 3.

Keith's grandmother, Mildred Prichard, passed away Jan. 5.

John's father, Billy Ray Appleberry, passed away Jan. 7.

Retiree Ron Bergschneider passed away Jan. 12. He retired as a traffic specialist with 29

years of service.

Rodney's mother, Oleta Faye Norman, passed away Jan. 18.

Joe's father, Anthony S. Caldarella, passed away Jan. 27. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 601 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

**Young Family:** Shop Mechanic Steve Young's home suffered extensive smoke and water damage during a Jan. 9 fire. Steve, his wife, and 15-year-old twin sons will be displaced for several months. The family is accepting cash or gift cards for food and personal items, or donations of new or gently used small appliances and kitchenware. To help, contact Amy Gagne: 816-622-6302

**Holiday Committee:** the December mitten/glove drive for St. Vincent's Operation Breakthrough yielded 94 pairs of new mittens, gloves, hats & scarves along with two gently used coats and pairs of boots for children in need of warm winter clothing.

**Proposed pay increase:** in his State of the State Address and in a recent letter to state employees, Gov. Matt Blunt announced plans to request a 4 percent pay increase for all state employees excluding elected officials, the General Assembly and judges. He thanked state employees for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of Missouri.

**Job Study:** results from the latest round of job studies may be accessed on MoDOT's intranet at [www.wi/intranet/hr/job\\_study.htm](http://www.wi/intranet/hr/job_study.htm). Questions about the study should be e-mailed to [jobstudy@modot.mo.gov](mailto:jobstudy@modot.mo.gov).

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## From the Director

Governor Blunt recognized MoDOT's work during his State of the State address, saying he's proud of our accomplishments, our hard work, and the great new initiatives we have under way.

It's gratifying to see your efforts being appreciated at the highest levels. I've known ever since I got here that you're an outstanding group of hardworking professionals, and now others are recognizing your efforts and giving you the credit you deserve. High-profile recognition like this will really help us do our jobs better, and makes me very proud to be associated with you.

The governor also challenged us to complete our Smooth Roads Initiative a year early. That means delivering 2,200 miles of smooth pavement by the end of 2006 instead of 2007. We'll make every effort to accomplish this, and I know I can count on your best efforts to make it happen.

Thanks for your great work!

Pete

**Editor's note:** Pete Rahn will deliver his State of Transportation Address to the members of the 93rd General Assembly Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m.



**Pete Rahn**  
MoDOT Director

Because we value safety among our employees, we've revised our safety award program to make it more meaningful. We're now offering time off as one of the rewards for staying safe on the job. That's one of the incentives those of you who are in safety sensitive jobs said you'd like to have.

So, beginning this year, employees who qualify for an individual safety award – which means their actions

or inactions did not contribute to a lost time or medical injury, vehicle or equipment damage, a general liability claim or a safety-related disciplinary action – can choose to receive four hours of administrative leave. Safety award recipients will still have the option to select items such as a safety knife or MoDOT attire for their reward, but the value of those prizes will increase to be more comparable to the value of four hours of paid leave.

Another change to the safety award program deals with the group awards. In addition to going without a lost-time or medical injury, crews must now avoid vehicle or equipment damage, general liability claims or safety-related disciplinary actions to earn the group safety award certificate.

Safety is serious business, and you should be rewarded for staying safe on the job. Thanks for all you do and for making 2006 a safe and productive year for MoDOT.

Pete



**Senior Right of Way Specialist Dan Hastings presents Lafayette County Recorder of Deeds Patsy Olvera and her staff with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to MoDOT in Lexington, Mo. Jan. 10.**

Jennifer Benefield

## News

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**Deferred Compensation Program:** CitiStreet will replace PEBSICO, the current plan administrator effective June 1, 2006.

**Retirement System Board of Trustees:** Col. Roger Stottlemire was elected chairman Jan. 19. He replaces Commissioner Jim Anderson whose term as chairman expired. Anderson will remain on the board as a member. Commissioner Duane Michie was elected



Wess Murray

**Maintenance Superintendent Wess Murray spotted this active honeybee hive under the Route M/O bridge over I-70 in Lafayette County. The dark area is all that remains of a hive located in this same spot approximately eight years ago.**

as the board's vice-chairman, replacing Col. Stottlemire. The retirement system provides retirement benefits for approximately 17,000 employees and retirees of MoDOT and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A 10-member Board of Trustees governs the system.

### **Transportation Safety Bills introduced:**

Primary seat belt legislation (HB 1377), a Safety for Workers on Missouri's Right of Way bill (HB 1379 and SB 754), and a bill that allows the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to revoke motor carriers privileges on Missouri highways (HB 1340 and SB 761) were introduced this year. These bills could save lives and prevent injuries on Missouri roadways – the primary seat belt law alone would save about 90 lives a year, as well as bring \$16 million in federal incentive funds to Missouri.

**Click It or Ticket:** this campaign will be extended by two weeks to focus on safety belt use among pickup truck drivers with ads airing statewide April 30 – May 13. The traditional campaign will air May 14–May 27. Law enforcement will increase focus on Missouri's safety belt law between May 7 and June 4.

**Old Web site address eliminated:** If you have trouble logging on to MoDOT's Web site, you might be using the old Web address ([www.modot.state.mo.us](http://www.modot.state.mo.us)), which recently stopped forwarding users to the new site. Anyone trying to access this site will get an error page. Visitors should go to [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org) and

## Corporate Ladder

### Welcome to District 4

**Community liaison** A.J. Byrd

**Crew worker** Rodney Galloway, Alvin Richardson

**Highway designer** Jonathan Morgenroth, Nichole Noah

**Senior office assistant** Melanie Noel

### Promoted

**Intermediate crew worker** David Hemme  
Senior crew worker Robert Livesay, Steven Mummert

### Retired

**Intermediate crew worker** Raymond Gorley, Michael Westpfahl

bookmark this address.

**Show-Me Shape Up:** this weight loss and physical fitness competition runs Jan. 9 through June 12. Each team will have a support network that will help members achieve a healthier lifestyle. It's \$10 per person to sign up and every team who participates in the competition to the finish will receive Shape Up t-shirts for its members. Log on to [www.msg.org](http://www.msg.org) for entries and details or call Gretchen Carlisle at 573-882-7326.

**MoDOT's 44th Annual Bowling Tournament:** is set for April 1 at Westgate Lanes, 2017 Christy Lane, Jefferson City. The event is open to all MoDOT employees, spouses and retirees. Teams must have five bowlers. The cost is \$10 per person, and entries are due to Doris Kunze, 5005 Westport Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109 by March 27. For an entry form or more information, contact Doris at 573-751-4677.



Steve Porter

**Jerome Turner maneuvers a plow truck through the Route 58 and Westover Road roundabout in Belton Jan. 10. Although the early January snowfall was minimal, a 10-inch snowstorm in early December gave plow operators and motorists a challenging first shot at the four new roundabouts. Both MoDOT plow operators – a first-time driver and a 15-year veteran of snowfights – had no problems with the new intersections.**

## Transportation-Related Proposals Filed for 2006 Session

Dec. 1 was the first day members of the Missouri General Assembly started filing legislation for the 2006 session.

To date, some of the more important transportation-related proposals that have been filed for legislative consideration include:

- HB 980, sponsored by Rep. Patricia Yaeger (D-St. Louis) - Requires trucks traveling on Missouri highways to drive in the right-hand lane.
  - HB 1040, sponsored by Rep. Ed Robb (R-Columbia) - Increases the fine for work zone and construction zone traffic violations from \$250 to \$1000.
  - HB 1073, sponsored by Rep. Maynard Wallace (R-Thornfield) - Exempts motor fuel used in school buses from motor fuel tax when driven to transport students for educational purposes.
  - HJR 29, sponsored by Rep. Gary Dusenberg (R-Lee's Summit) - Proposes a constitutional amendment removing the authority of the Highways and Transportation Commission.
  - SB 611, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Engler (RFarmington) - Modifies the laws relating to eminent domain and condemnation proceedings.
  - SB 635, sponsored by Sen. John Cauthorn (R-Mexico) - Exempts motorcyclists age 21 and older from wearing a helmet when operating a motorcycle or motortricycle.
  - SB 723, sponsored by Sen. John Cauthorn (R-Mexico) - Directs the Department of Conservation to reimburse MoDOT for every deer carcass it removes from state highways.
- A more comprehensive list of the bills filed may be found on Governmental Relations' intranet site at [wwwi](http://wwwi).

### econnections sources

**Construction** Bev Chrisco, 6341

**Design** Flo Noear, 0455

**Regional Counsel** LeAnn Francis, 6382

**Administration** Judy Magruder, 6309

**General Services** Toni Terry, 0050

**Human Resources** Belinda Fite, 6321

**Maintenance** Pat Rath, 0420

**Materials** Shana Blaylock, 6525

**Right of Way** Melbra Taylor, 6351

**Traffic** Dawn Phillips, 0401

**Editor** Jennifer Benefield, 6328

# Destination: Safe Targets Unbuckled Drivers

by Steve Porter

Young cowboys may be considered cool, but a cowboy attitude on Missouri highways is driving up the serious injury and fatality collision rates.

The statewide Arrive Alive and local Destination: Safe campaigns have launched a media drive to reduce the trend, targeting young, male, pickup-truck-drivers who often fail to buckle their seat belts. If you've heard the message on a country, rock or sports formatted radio station lately, or have seen a billboard, you know the word is getting out.

Destination: Safe in the Kansas City region is among eight area coalitions across the state that are working to reduce Missouri traffic fatalities to 1,000 or fewer by 2008.

Statewide, we haven't turned the corner. Preliminary data indicate Missouri had 1,215 fatalities in 2005 compared to 1,130 fatalities the year earlier. Missouri has not had fewer

than 1,000 traffic fatalities since 1993, when 949 people were killed.

In the Kansas City region, the trend appears better. Preliminary numbers indicate fatalities are down nearly 10 percent in the Mid-America Regional Council area, and down nearly 9 percent in the Kansas City region over the past five years, with declines in each of the past four years.

The statewide campaign, launched last fall, includes billboards throughout Missouri showing a pickup that has rolled on its top, with the phrase, "Pickups Rock. They Also Roll. Buckle Up!"

The billboard can be found on the southeast side of the Downtown Loop in District 4, but anyone who's traveled a Missouri interstate highway within the past three months will have seen the billboard at many other locations, too.

The statewide campaign also aired 30-sec-

ond radio spots on a wide variety of District 4 stations, including WDAF-FM (country), KPRS AM and FM (urban), KOKO-AM KDKD-AM and FM and KMMO-AM and FM in the Warrensburg, Clinton and Marshall markets. The spots aired through Dec. 31, 2005.

Destination: Safe, the Kansas City regional campaign, is focusing sharply on young males who listen to country, rock or sports stations, extending the ad campaign into early April on: KXXK-FM (Sedalia/Warrensburg country format); KCFX-FM (Harrisonville/Kansas City classic rock and sports); KFKF-KBEQ 104 (Kansas City country format) and WHB-AM (sports talk and Royals radio flag station).

The intense media buy – targeted to end just as Work Zone Safety campaigns are to begin – also includes indoor advertising, the 8-by-12-inch billboards seen in the bathrooms of restaurants and bars.

## Emergency Response

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Sheer repetition has helped the Emergency Response unit become more proficient. More than 2,700 signal calls and another 800 calls involving signs comprise well over a third of the unit's responses during their five-year history. Debris and dead-animal reports account for another 2,700 calls in that time frame. The unit also responds to an average of more than 125 vehicle crashes per year; those numbers have been fairly steady over the years.

But pothole calls have dropped from 226 in 2001 to 92 in 2005.

"The Smooth Roads Initiative and our other resurfacing and road construction in the district is showing up in the lower number of pothole complaints," Freeman said.

And now that Kansas City Scout is operating around the clock, Emergency Response has another asset to work with – and another set of responsibilities.

"We may provide information to post on the message boards, and then help relay clearance times to keep the information on the message boards current," Freeman said. "Those incidents are probably our main interface with Scout and the Traffic Operations Center."

## Alexis McDonald Invited to Serve as Student Ambassador

by Jennifer Benefield

When she returns to West Rock Creek Elementary School this fall, Alexis McDonald will excitedly share with her teachers and peers what she will have accomplished over her summer vacation.

Alexis, 11, the daughter of Independence Maintenance Senior Crew Worker Patty

McDonald, was invited to serve as a student ambassador. She will spend two weeks in England and France this June as part of the People to People Student Ambassador Programs. Established in 1956 by President Eisenhower, People to People Student Ambassador Programs

are invitation-only international education programs for grade school, junior high, and high school students. Student ambassadors not only represent their countries through personal and peaceful communication, but also return home with a greater sense of what it means to be a good neighbor and global citizen.



**Alexis McDonald will serve two weeks in England and France as a student ambassador this June.**

Patty said she's excited for her daughter and her opportunity to travel abroad. "Less than one percent of American children are invited to participate in this program," said Patty. "We are really proud of her."

Since learning of Alexis' acceptance in October 2005, the McDonald family has been working to raise \$5,000 to cover expenses. They're now halfway to their goal. "We held a bowling tournament and raised about \$1,000," said Patty. "And Alexis has been selling candy to help fund her own trip, too." Alexis said she and her family are also planning a Mexican dinner fund-raiser at her school. "My dad is a really good cook, and my Hispanic teachers are going to help donate food."

Alexis said she hadn't given much thought to traveling overseas at such an early age, but when she received the nomination she decided it was something she wanted to pursue. "This is my first trip overseas and I'm really excited about it" said Alexis. "We've already had a meeting and I got to meet a few of the kids I'll be going with."

A second bowling tournament is scheduled March 26 at AMF Independence Lanes from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$10 and includes rentals. "I'll be really glad if people will come and help support my fund-raiser," said Alexis. To learn more about People to People, visit [www.studentambassadors.org](http://www.studentambassadors.org).

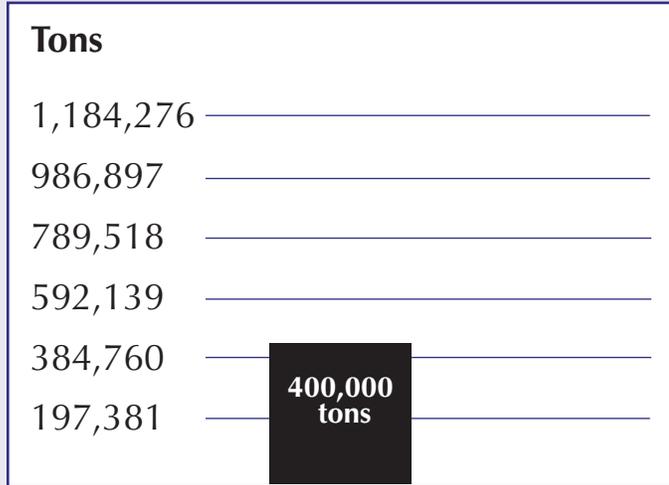
# Smooth Roads Initiative

490 centerline miles of the Kansas City Area's busiest roadways in good condition by December 2007

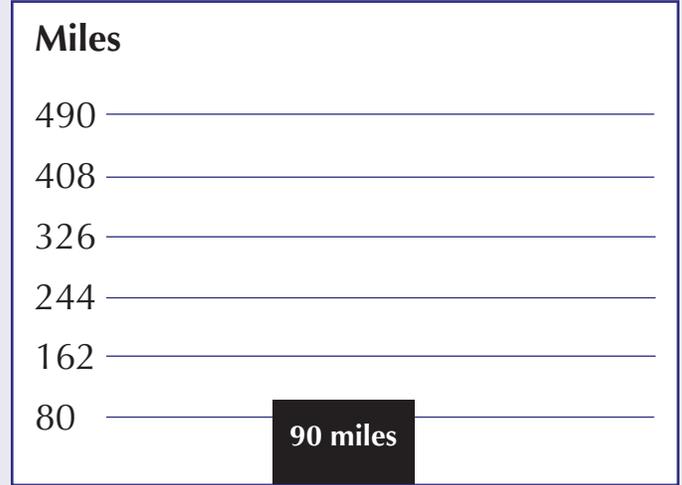
## Progress to Date



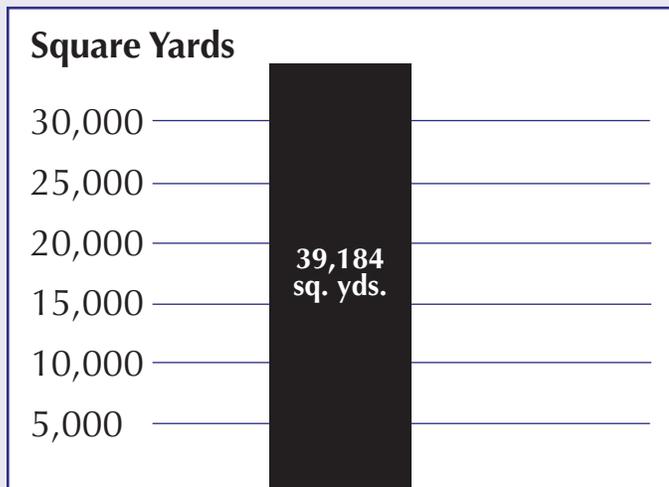
***Smoother, Safer, Sooner***  
***Amendment 3***



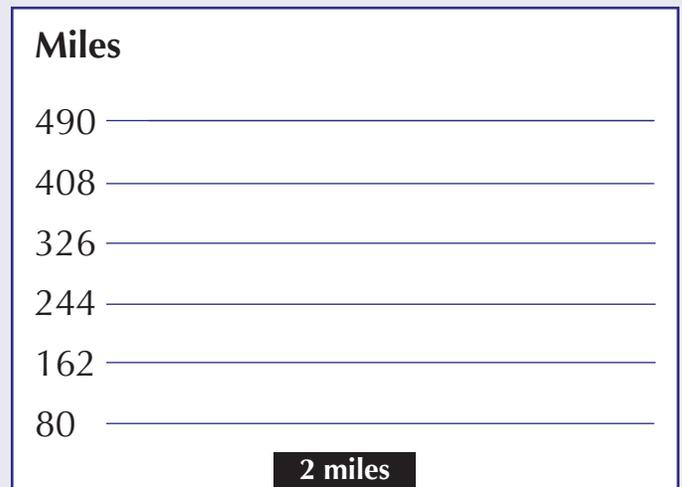
**Tons of asphalt**



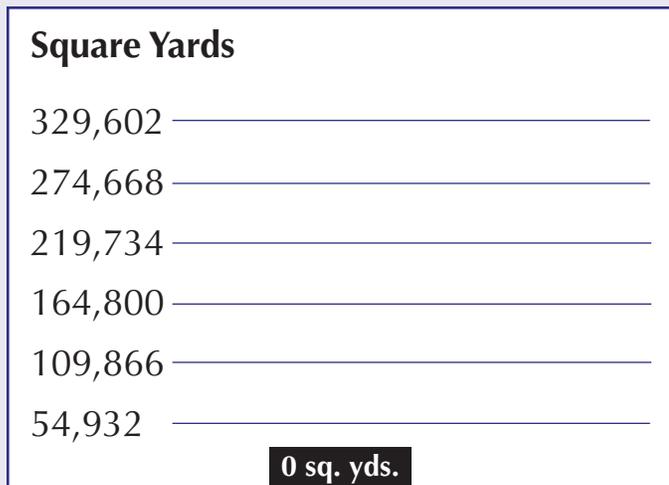
**Striping**



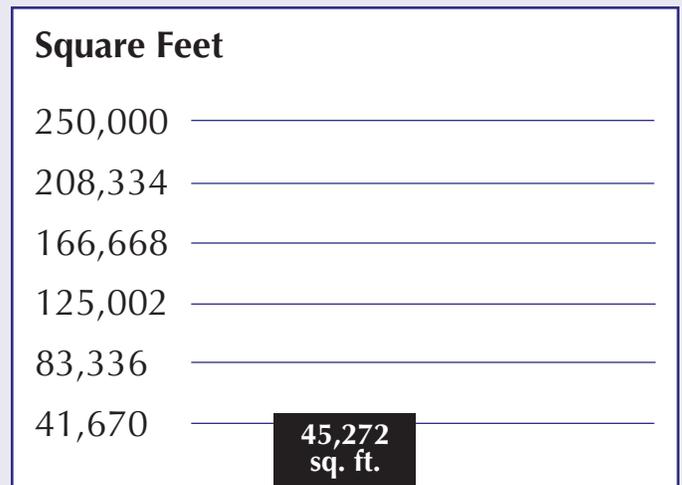
**Pavement repair**



**Reflectors**



**Ultrathin-bonded wearing surface**



**Signs**

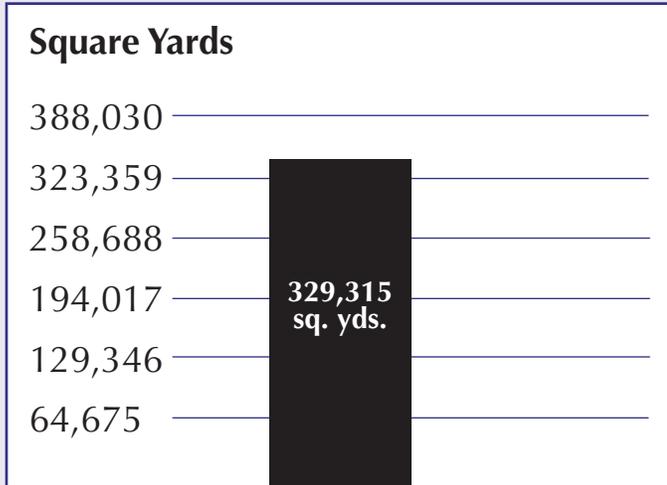
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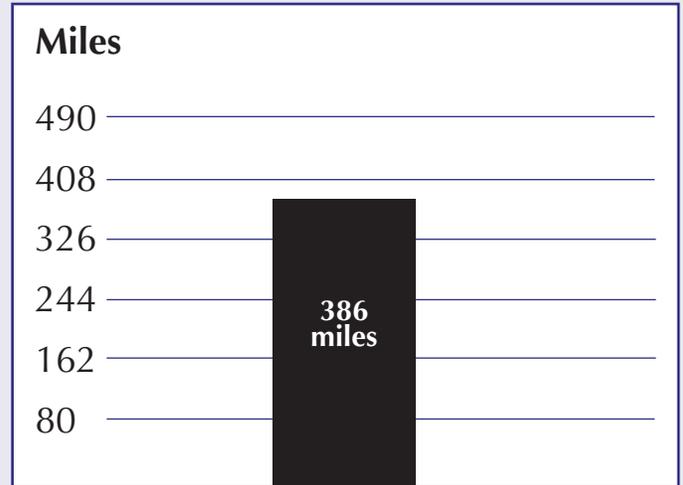
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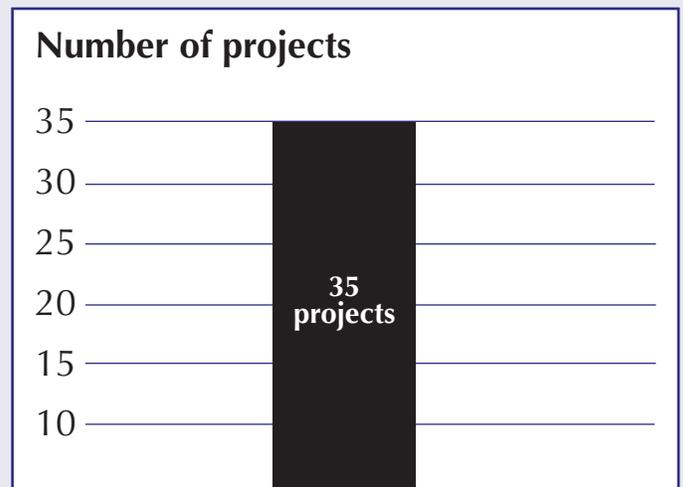
**Smoother, Safer, Sooner**  
*Amendment 3*



**Diamond grinding**



**Clear zones cleared**



**Projects designed**

# DISTRICT 4 CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT

Statewide MoDOT Employees Invited

Saturday, May 13, 2006

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Harry S. Truman Lake

MoDOT Clinton State Maintenance Lot

## Tournament Rules and Entry Form

1. **Rules:** The following rules for the tournament will be used. These rules will be interpreted solely by the tournament committee and all decisions are final.
2. **Eligibility:** Two fishermen per boat. One individual of each boat entry being an employee of MoDOT (MoDOT I.D.'s upon request). No buddies of the Professional or Licensed Guides Association may participate in this tournament. No person affiliated with any Crappie organization may participate. This tournament is for any MHTD employee, family, or friend. RETIREE'S WELCOME!
3. **Entry Fee:** \$40.00 per boat on the day of the tournament. \$35.00 per boat if pre-registered. Deadline for pre-registration is April 21, 2006. \$2.00 from each entry fee will go toward big fish.
4. **Pre-Fish Meeting:** Meeting will be held at headquarters (Clinton State Maintenance Lot) up to 6:30 a.m. on tournament day. Participants must attend to receive an entry number. Participants may trailer to any location on Truman Lake after the Pre-Fish Meeting. Mandatory check-in with poker chip is required on tournament day by **3:30 p.m. SHARP.**
5. **Safety and Sportsmanship:** All boat operators must be at least 18 years of age. Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed. Life jackets must be worn during take-off.
6. **Limits and Procedures:** Ten (10) crappie per person, or twenty (20) per boat. Fish to be taken on rod and reel.
7. **Scoring:** Each angler's stringer presented will be weighed with the largest fish being presented by the angler. The place of finish will be determined by the total weight of that boat entry. Big fish will break any ties. Fish under the minimum lake length presented for weigh-in will cause two (2) pounds to be subtracted from the total weight of the boat. Frozen or mangled fish presented at weigh-in will not be accepted. All State minimum lake length limits apply.
8. **Trailers:** Boats may be trailered during tournament hours.
9. **Payout: 100% Payback in Cash.** First, second, third places and big fish.

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## ENTRY FORM

We have read and understood the rules and have enclosed the completed Entry Form and entry fee, payable to Steve Hanson. Check or money order must accompany this form to qualify for tournament entry. In signing this Entry Form, we hereby waive and release all other contestants, sponsors, and tournament officials from all claims for injury and/or damages incurred in connection with the tournament. Tournament headquarters will be located at the MoDOT Clinton State Maintenance Lot, 1057 E. Gaines Drive, Clinton, MO 64735.

Boater's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Buddy's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Boat No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail completed form and entry fee to:

Steve Hanson  
600 W. South Street  
Harrisonville, MO 64701  
816-380-3994

OR

Randy Ashley  
203 S. Jackson  
Freeman, MO 64746  
816-820-7788