

econnections



June 2006

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

MEETINGS/TRAINING

Thursday, June 8

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

Wednesday, June 14

Missouri State Highways and Transportation
Commission, Jefferson City

Thursday, June 15

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

Tuesday, June 20

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

Wednesday, June 21, Room 236E

Job Status, District 1, 8-9:30 a.m.,
videoconference
Job Status, Group 1, 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 4, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 22

Management Team, 9-11 a.m. Boardroom
Route F Improvements Public Hearing, 4-7 p.m.,
Oak Grove Civic Center, 2100 S. Broadway

EVENTS

Thursday, June 8

TRIP News Conference, Kansas City Scout
Media Room, 2:30 p.m.

Friday, June 23

Interstate System 50th Anniversary Event,
10:45 a.m., Kansas Speedway

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

Materials Shana Blaylock, 6525

Right of Way Melbra Taylor, 6351

Traffic Dawn Phillips, 0401

Editor Jennifer Benefield, 6328

Montgomery, Kinder Lauded for Triangle Efforts

by Steve Porter

Resident Engineer Mark Montgomery suspected something was up when he was asked to come to the second consecutive monthly meeting of the Southern Communities Coalition in mid-May.

Turns out he was right. The coalition of neighborhoods adjacent to the Triangle interchange project cited Montgomery and consulting engineer Jim Kinder of HNTB Corp. for their ongoing efforts to untangle the Triangle interchange.

Carol McClure, co-chairman of the Coalition, presented each an engraved, gold-plated card-holder with a clock. Montgomery's inscription reads: "In appreciation for your friendship & partnering with the Hickman Mills Community SCC - 2006."

Montgomery has been the resident engineer in charge of three of the first four contracts to build the new Route 71, I-435 and I-470

interchange. Kinder led the consultant's design team from the outset, delivering plans on time at each step of the way since taking on the project in 1998.

Montgomery's and Kinder's willingness to talk with stakeholders any time and answer questions or resolve issues endeared them to Coalition members. The two gave Triangle project updates about twice each year to the Coalition.

The last update, in April, kept Montgomery and Kinder answering questions until late in the evening. Montgomery thought every topic had been covered. So when McClure asked that they return for the May meeting, the resident engineer was perplexed.

"I couldn't figure out what else they wanted to know," Montgomery said. "Jim (Kinder) suspected something, too."



Southern Communities Coalition Co-chairman Carol McClure (left) presents Jim Kinder and Mark Montgomery card-holders for their work with the community on the Triangle project. Hickman Mills School District Superintendent Marge Williams (right) looks on.

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News from Across the District

Welcome Addition: Barb and John Stegner welcomed daughter Heather Elizabeth into their family at 11:32 a.m. on May 6. Heather weighed in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches in length. Barb is a construction inspector in the Clinton office.

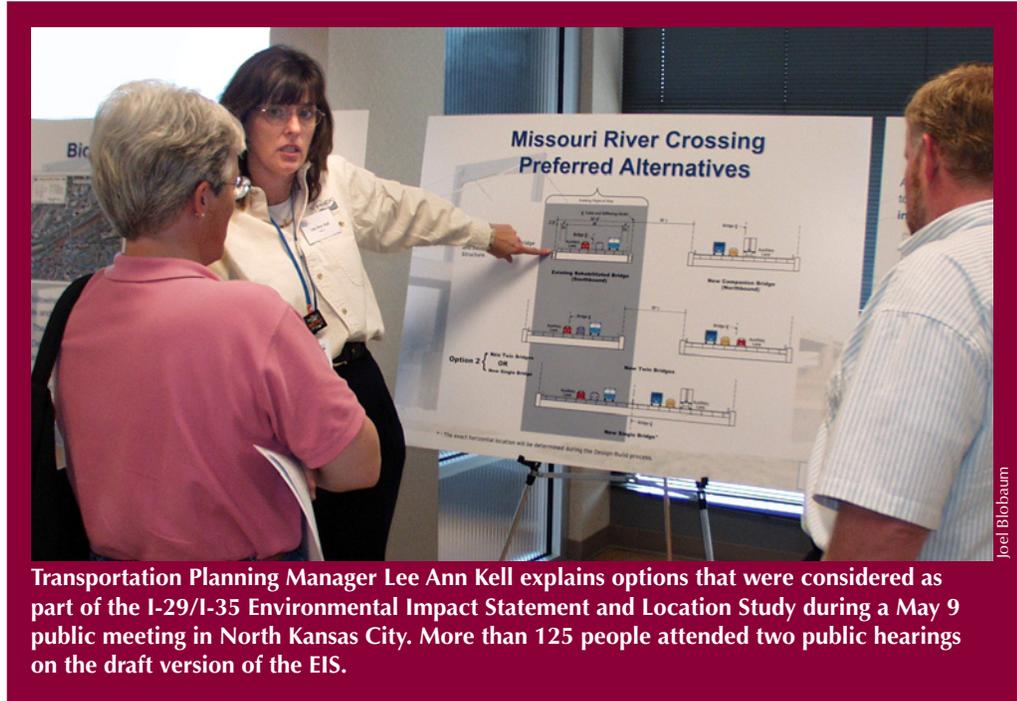
Congratulations: Randy Johnson has been certified as a traffic accident reconstructionist. He passed an eight-hour exam to achieve the designation, which is held by only 29 others in Missouri. Randy is the only MoDOT employee with this certification.

Condolences: Our prayers are with Danny Williams, senior crew worker at Dearborn; Chad Russell, a wage employee at the Liberty maintenance facility; Joe Donner, chief appraiser in the district Right of Way department; and Teresa Wright, crew worker at Oak Grove. Danny's brother, Charles Clifford Williams, passed away on May 12; funeral services were May 16 in Dearborn. Chad's brother, David Griffin, passed away May 21; funeral services were May 27 in Morristown, Tenn. Joe's father, Joseph G. Donner, died on May 30; his funeral mass was Saturday, June 3. Teresa's father, Norman Witherspoon, passed away May 30; funeral services were June 2.

Above and Beyond Update: The Roadmaster team, led by Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline, is now sharing the Above and Beyond Award. The team developed the district's Roadmaster pavement management program, which serves as the blueprint for D4's ongoing system maintenance. Team members were Area Engineers Jesse Skinner, Kirsten Munck and Darryl Lamson; Maintenance Superintendents Ron Faulkenberry and Pat Moseley; and Transportation Planning Coordinator Allan Zafft.

Recent winners of the District 4 traveling trophy include 2005-2006 Snow Team members: Bridge Maintenance Engineer Paul Russ; Maintenance superintendents Darrell Webb and Kelly Eaton (now retired), Survey Party Chief Derrick Taylor, Materials Inspector Charlie Harris, Senior Traffic Specialist James Bentley, Senior Construction Technician Tad Eddleman and Resident Engineer Shelie Tiszka. The group:

- Created and implemented a snow voting worksheet
- Ensured equitable staff distribution for buildings
- Defined primary and supplemental employee staffing roles
- Used employee questionnaire data to locate the closest facility for supplemental employees



Transportation Planning Manager Lee Ann Kell explains options that were considered as part of the I-29/I-35 Environmental Impact Statement and Location Study during a May 9 public meeting in North Kansas City. More than 125 people attended two public hearings on the draft version of the EIS.

- Reduced the time allowed for new employee supplemental help to obtain their CDL
- Reallocated resources to best maintain staffing levels using primary and supplemental employees

Prior to the Snow Team's recognition, Traffic Engineering Specialist Lindsay Hogan and Project Manager Randy Johnson were honored for leading District 4's regional Blueprint for Safety efforts. Randy organized the campaign and led the regional working group while working in Traffic; Lindsay took over those responsibilities when Randy became a project manager.

Cha-ching! Senior Design Technician Pam Nugent hit the jackpot May 12 in Warrensburg, when she won a local radio store's promotion. The KOKO 98.5 FM and Parker's Grocery contest challenged participants to fill a grocery cart with goods totaling as close to \$98.50 as possible – in two minutes. Pam's total was \$98.93. Her shopping savvy earned her a diamond pendant, a \$50 savings bond, gift certificates worth more than \$350, and other assorted goodies.

Kansas City Scout Wins Again: The National Association of Government Communicators awarded first-place honors in its annual Blue Pencil Awards to the Kansas City Scout brochure. The Scout publication received top honors in the competition's Brochures/Booklets category. A Scout promotional video took third-place honors in the Public Relations category for NAGC's annual Gold Screen Awards competition. Winners were announced May 25 in Baltimore.

District 4 blood donors contributed 29 pints during the American Red Cross visit to the Lee's Summit office on May 17.

Ceremony Honors MoDOT Worker's Cousin: David Eppright, a senior crew worker at the Warrensburg maintenance building, attended a memorial ceremony honoring his namesake and third cousin, Second Lieutenant David Eppright, who was a B-24 navigator in the Pacific Theater of World War II. 2nd Lt. Eppright, of Warrensburg, was presumed dead when his plane went missing during a bombing run over Japanese warships in November 1943.

The airplane and remains of 2nd Lt. Eppright and eight other crew members were found last year in a remote mountainous jungle of New Guinea. The May 23 ceremony honoring Eppright's cousin included flyovers by a squadron of F-15 Eagle fighters and a B-2 Spirit bomber, and full military honors: a U.S. Army Honor Guard, a 21-gun salute, and a bugler playing "Taps."

Eppright, who has been with MoDOT since 2001, said the ceremony deeply touched family members. "For someone I'd never met in any way, shape or form – never met his son, widow or immediate family (until the funeral) . . . it was a lot more emotional than I had expected," he said.



David Eppright

Interstate Convoy Rolling into Kansas City June 23

by Joel Blobaum

A June 23 “victory lap” around the Kansas Speedway track will help mark the 50th anniversary of the interstate system.

The 10:45 a.m. event is connected to one of the main activities planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Interstate system – the reenactment of the first Transcontinental Motor Convoy of 1919.

Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower participated in the 1919 expedition, which consisted of 81 motorized Army vehicles and about 300 people. The convoy set a world record pace for the time, traveling a total distance of 3,251 miles from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco, in 62 days. Its average speed was 6 mph and the average distance per day was a little more than 58 miles.

After participating in the convoy, and after seeing the autobahns of Germany during World War II, President Eisenhower advocated building an Interstate highway system in the United States. His dream became a reality when he signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act on June 29, 1956.

The reenactment of this historic journey will take place from June 15 to June 29, 2006. This time the convoy will travel from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. Although the original trip did not pass through Kansas, a part of the reenactment will swing through Kansas (including Eisenhower’s hometown of Abilene, Kan.) from June 21-23. Following the event at the Speedway, the Kansas segment of the reenactment will rejoin the main convoy by traveling north through Missouri on I-35.

A MoDOT Motorist Assist vehicle will join the convoy and take part in the victory lap around the Speedway oval.

The June 23 event will include a safety carnival and speeches by various dignitaries, including MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. Mary Peters, former Federal Highway Administrator, will be the keynote speaker.

June 22 Forum at Columbia

Peters will also appear at a June 22 public policy forum examining the plight of Missouri’s interstates. Titled “Our Interstates at 50: A Midlife Crisis,” the forum will be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia in conjunction with the nation’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of the interstate system. The event is co-sponsored by the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Institute of Public Policy, Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs.



Retired U.S. Gen., NBC News Analyst and HNTB Federal Services Chairman Barry McCaffrey will be the keynote speaker. A national infrastructure expert, McCaffrey will talk about the importance of a strong transportation infrastructure and the resources needed to maintain it. He will join other national and state leaders who will discuss the past, present and future of the nation’s interstates.

Registration for the forum will begin at 7:30 a.m., with three panel discussions running from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Reynolds Alumni Center, 704 Conley Ave., Columbia. To register, visit <http://truman.missouri.edu/ipp/conferences/trans2006.asp> or call (573) 884-3381.

“The creation of the interstate highway system has been one of the most significant developments in transportation history, but today we’re at a crossroads,” Rahn said.

“About 50 million miles a day are traveled on Missouri’s aging interstates, which keep growing more and more congested. We’ve lacked the funding needed to keep our interstates in good condition, and it shows.

“We need a frank discussion of what we’re going to do to address our needs and how we’re going to pay for them. That’s what this forum is about,” Rahn said.

Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

Senior office assistant

David Francis

Assistant construction technician

Brandon Hubbard

Crew workers

Charles Hurt and Matthew Kelley

Promoted

Intermediate crew workers

James Reavis, Daniel Schultz and Quentin Wuthnow

Senior crew worker

Jerry Vogel

Retired

Senior signal and lighting electrician

Ronnie Huff

Senior crew worker

Danny Williams

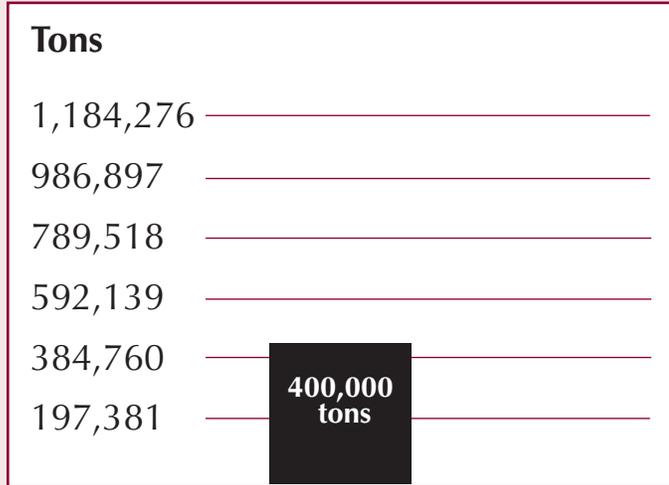
Smooth Roads Initiative

490 centerline miles of the Kansas City Area's busiest roadways in good condition by December 2006

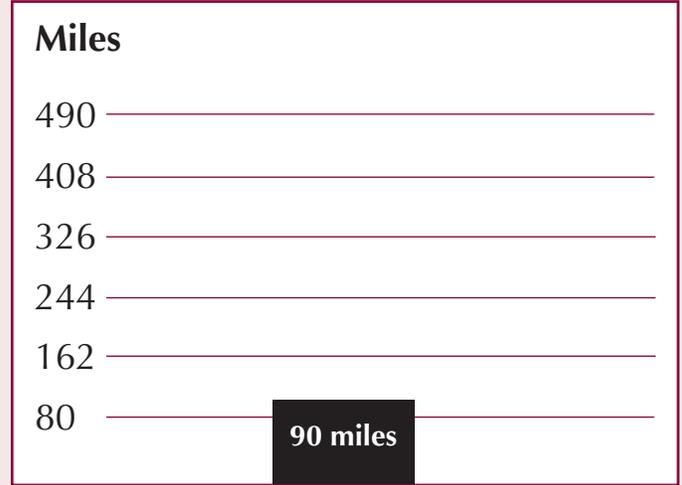
Progress to Date



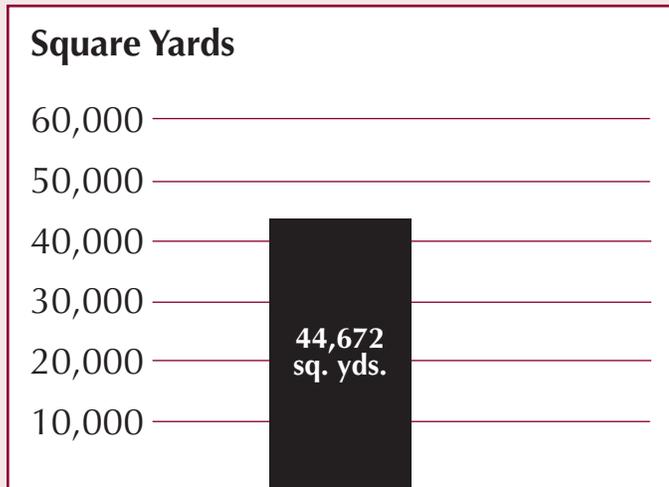
Smoother, Safer, Sooner
Amendment 3



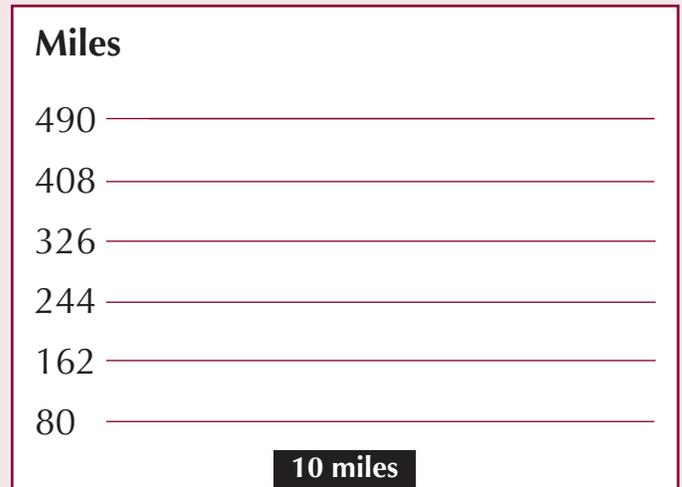
Tons of asphalt



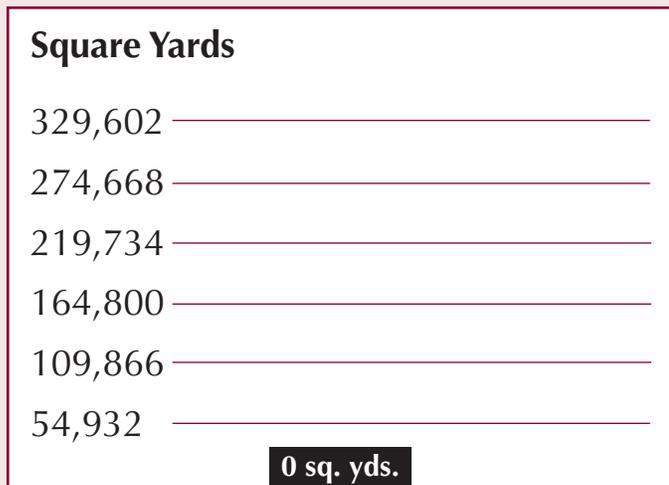
Striping



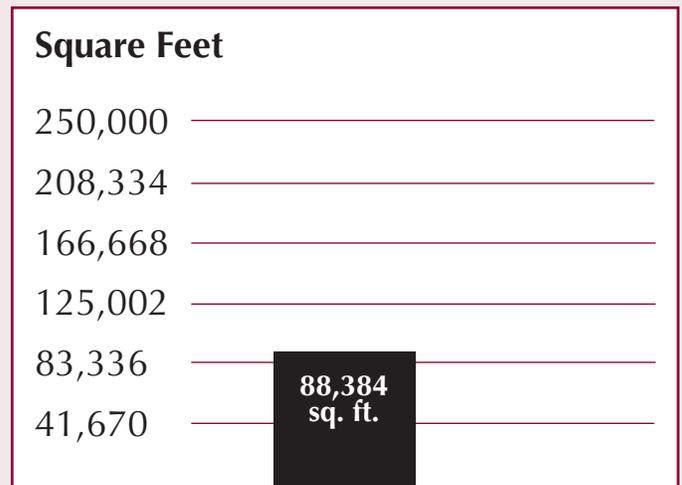
Pavement repair



Delineators



Ultrathin-bonded wearing surface



Signs

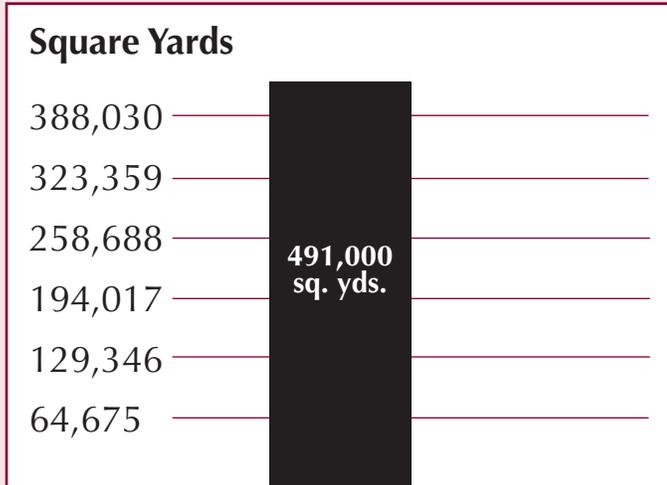
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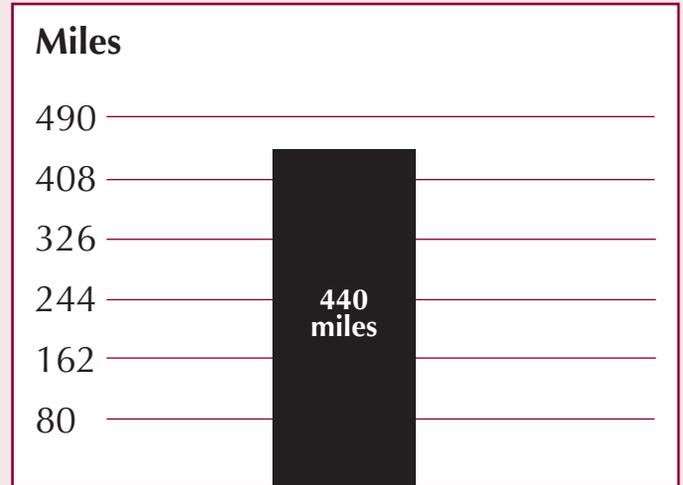
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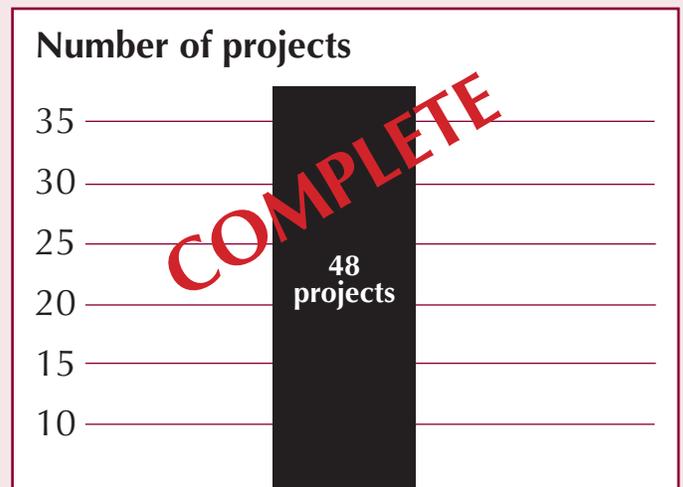
Smoother, Safer, Sooner
Amendment 3



Diamond grinding



Clear zones cleared



Projects designed