

# econnections



October 2006

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

## MEETINGS/TRAINING

### Thursday, October 5

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

### Wednesday, October 11

Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission, Cape Girardeau

2007 Benefits Meetings, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Room 136E/W

### Tuesday, October 17, Room 236E

Job Status, District 1, 8-9:30 a.m., video conf.  
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.

Stock Area Team, 8-10 a.m., 87<sup>th</sup> Street project office

### Thursday, October 19

Management Team, 9-11 a.m. Boardroom

## EVENTS

### Monday, October 9

Columbus Day holiday - state offices closed

### Tuesday, October 17

Interstate 29 rehabilitation public hearing, 4-7 p.m., Riverside Community Center

### Monday, October 23

Route 13 east loop public hearing, 4-7 p.m., Warrensburg Community Center, 445 E. Gay St.

## 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

**Right of Way** Melbra Taylor, 6351

**Traffic** Dawn Phillips, 0401

**Editor** Jennifer Benefield, 6328

*Kearney ceremony draws about 200 guests*

## Highway Renamed for POW/MIAs

*by Joel Blobaum*

About 200 people attended a Sept. 16 ceremony at Kearney High School to rename a 65-mile stretch of Interstate 35 as the "POW/MIA Memorial Highway." The section is located one-half mile south of Bethany to one-half mile north of Kearney and encompasses Harrison, Daviess, DeKalb, Clinton and Clay Counties.

A second dedication ceremony will take place October 7, 2006, at the Missouri Veterans Home located at 1111 Euclid in Cameron, Mo. at 2 p.m.

Retired SFC Gary Reno, United States Army Reserve, who led efforts to rename the highway, served as master of ceremonies for the event.

The event honored the 408 Missourians still listed as prisoners of war or missing in action.



Retired Lt. Col. Barry Bridger, United States Air Force, unveils new signage for the POW/MIA Memorial Highway during a Sept. 16 ceremony in Kearney, Mo.

Shaun Schmitz

Retired Lt. Col. Barry Bridger, United States Air Force, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam from 1967 to 1973, was the guest speaker.

Kansas City District Engineer Beth Wright represented MoDOT at the ceremony.

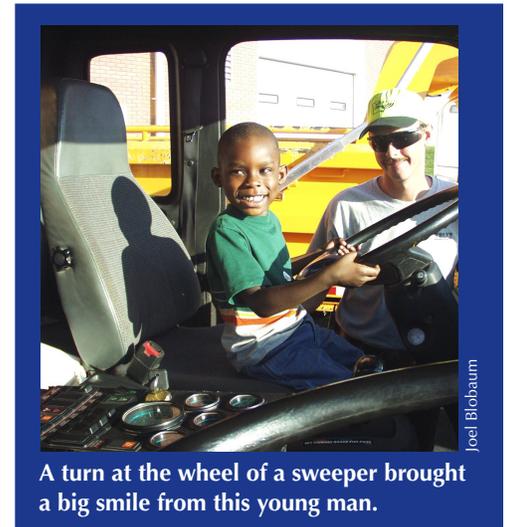
## More Than 300 Attend Big Truck Night

*by Joel Blobaum*

Combine several hundred kids, heavy equipment and parents with cameras.

Those are the ingredients for another successful Big Truck Night at District 4. Sponsored by the Lee's Summit Preschool PTA, the Sept. 14 event attracted 317 people to the Kansas City District's headquarters. This year's event marked the third time MoDOT crews have brought their work vehicles for an up-close inspection by parents and kids.

Preschool and early-elementary school students took full advantage of the opportunity to examine the equipment, honk the horns and take a turn sitting at the controls of a backhoe,



A turn at the wheel of a sweeper brought a big smile from this young man.

Joel Blobaum

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## News from Across the District

**Condolences:** our prayers are with the family of Intermediate Materials Inspector Michelle Clevenger. Michelle's brother, Scott Duffey, passed away Aug. 31.

**Kudos:** Congratulations to Brad Wise, Lori Wyrick and Karl Krauss on negotiating the City of Kansas City, Mo.'s takeover of Truman Road. They earned the Above and Beyond Award and will share the Employee Recognition Parking spot at the District Office Sept. 25 through Oct. 31.

Special thanks to the Northmoor maintenance crew and Motorist Assist for safely recovering an RV dust cover lodged against an Interstate 29 barrier. A St. Joseph couple traveling through the Kansas City area Sept. 21 appreciated the help.

**MSECC:** The Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign is under way. MoDOT Director Pete Rahn has challenged employees to increase their contributions to \$122,000 for the 2007 charitable campaign (\$117,000 was pledged in 2006). D4 employees have pledged \$5,299 to date. Pledge forms should be returned to Dana O'Maley in the district office by Monday, Oct. 16. For more information, call 816-622-6352 or e-mail Dana.O'Maley@modot.mo.gov.

**2007 Benefits Meetings:** district office and garage employees can learn more by attending one of the following meetings Wed., Oct. 11 in room 136E/W:

**8 – 9 a.m.:** Materials, Traffic, Permits, Community Relations

**9:30 – 10:30 a.m.:** Design, Project Managers, Customer Service

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.:** General Services, Maintenance, Risk Management, Regional Counsel

**2 – 3 p.m.:** Administration, Business & Benefits, Construction, Human Resources, Planning, Right of Way

**Blood Drive:** A blood drive benefitting the American Red Cross will be held on Thursday, Oct. 19 at the district office in room 136 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but please contact Karin Cummins to schedule a preferred time: 816-622-6307 or Karin.Cummins@modot.mo.gov.

**2006 Annual Roadsides Photo Contest:** MoDOT employees are invited to submit photos that show roadsides that protect

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## Route 23 Bridge Replaced in Lafayette County

by Steve Porter

The new Route 23 bridge over Salt Fork in northeast Lafayette County opened September 20. The \$925,369 bridge replacement project began May 15, and required closure of the bridge and highway for four months.

The 202-foot-long, 34-foot-wide concrete bridge replaces a 75-year-old bridge that had been closed briefly two years ago for emergency repairs. Route 23, a direct route between Concordia and Carrollton, handles about 1,500 vehicles per day. It connects Highways 24/65 and Route 20 in northeast Lafayette County. Columbia Curb and Gutter

was the general contractor for the project.

Elected officials, area residents and MoDOT personnel celebrated the opening September 22 with a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Steve Porter

The new Route 23 bridge over Salt Fork in northeast Lafayette County opened September 20. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held September 22.

## From the Director

Over the past year-and-a-half, I have been very impressed with the hard work and dedication all of you have contributed toward completing the Smooth Roads Initiative one year ahead of schedule. But, obviously our efforts to rebuild Missouri's transportation system can't end there.

On Sept. 7 MoDOT announced the next big thing by publicly unveiling our concept to try a new approach to systematically replace or rehabilitate 800 of Missouri's lowest-rated bridges. The Safe & Sound bridge improvement plan calls for the selection of a design-build team to find innovative, faster and cheaper ways to improve this package of bridges by the end of 2012.

We don't know how industry will respond to our solicitation for proposals, but we do know improving Missouri's bridges has been a vexing problem for MoDOT for many years.

The Safe & Sound bridge improvement plan is the strongest action MoDOT has ever taken to address condition problems with our bridges. Until now it has been extremely difficult for us to make a dent in the percentage of deficient bridges. But through this program,

we will improve nearly all bridges now considered in serious or poor condition on our major and minor highways. The winning contractor will also be responsible for maintaining these structures for a period, freeing up our maintenance forces for other tasks that will improve Missouri's highways and bridges.

We are still working on many of the details of this innovative undertaking, such as funding and selecting the bridges to be fixed. We plan to inform you about our progress as new information becomes available and have launched a Web page, [www.modot.org/safeandsound](http://www.modot.org/safeandsound), where you can learn more about the project as it unfolds.

Thanks for all you do for MoDOT and Missouri! I appreciate your commitment to providing a world-class transportation experience.



**Pete Rahn**  
MoDOT Director



Pete

# Corporate Ladder

## Welcome to District 4

**Signal and lighting electrician** Christopher Agee  
**Assistant construction technician** Lisa Raybourn, Jason Spangler, Cory Williams  
**Senior office assistant** Sharon Shoemaker

## Promoted

**Senior traffic specialist** Mike Sanders  
**Resident engineer** Paul Russ  
**Maintenance specialist** Darryl Frerking  
**Senior highway designer** Christopher West  
**Crew worker** Matthew Breshears, Kelly Cline, Christopher Coon, Brian Cummins, Michael Devero, Donald Dunn, Aaron Hutchins, John Joyce, Joe Kelsay, Shirley Landsman, Daniel Lynch, Terry McNutt, Kristopher Nabors, Daniel O'Daniel, Derrick Patton, Darling Payton, David Price, Steven Stegner, Mark Swafford  
**Senior crew worker** Clifford Everts, Eric Oakes, Alfred Payton, Milton Valentin, David Warmouth

## Retired

**Maintenance supervisor** Terry Bond  
**Local maintenance supervisor** Michael Gibson  
**Senior crew worker** Ronald Wheeler



*"It is mostly a timber country here, with farms scattered here and there at considerable intervals" ~ Obadiah Oakley, May 30, 1839*

# Big Truck Night

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dump truck or striper. Parents didn't miss the chance to take pictures of their little ones in and around the big trucks that hold a special fascination for youngsters.

# District News

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remnant native vegetation, use native wildflowers and grasses in landscaping, control invasive species and demonstrate overall good stewardship in managing highway rights of way. Please visit MoDOT's intranet for competition requirements and deadlines: <http://wwwwi/intranet/d4/cr/documents/2006AnnualRoadsidesPhotoContest.pdf>.



Bill Billings

WDAF-TV FOX 4 News meteorologist Don Harmon (right) describes how he prepares weather forecasts for about 100 MoDOT employees during the Sept. 19 Snow Expo.

# 3-Trails Crossing Signs Mark New Name for Historic Crossroads

by Steve Porter



Jennifer Benefield

Crew Worker John Joyce (left) and Special Maintenance Supervisor Darrell Daugherty set up the 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway sign for an October 3 unveiling ceremony in Kansas City's Hart Grove Park.



Steve Porter

Dignitaries unveil the new 3-Trails Memorial Highway signage.

New signs were unveiled October 3 recognizing one of Kansas City's historic crossroads by its new name: 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway.

The interchange of Route 71, Interstates 435 and 470 (commonly known as the Triangle) was officially named 3-Trails Crossing in March by an act of the Missouri General Assembly. A bill sponsored by State Senator Yvonne S. Wilson names the interchange in honor of the mid-19th Century pioneer routes that passed through the area: The Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails.

New highway signs recognizing the interchange as 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway soon can be seen on:

- Southbound Route 71 a half-mile south of Bannister Road
- Eastbound Interstate 435 a quarter-mile west of Grandview Road overpass
- Westbound Interstate 470 just east of Blue Ridge Boulevard
- Southbound I-435 just south of Bannister Road
- Eastbound I-470 at Hillcrest Road overpass



## FLU SHOTS

October 17th—Tuesday  
District Office 8 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
Nashua Maint. Facility 1 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

October 19th—Thursday  
Stadium Maint. Facility 9:30 a.m. —11:30 a.m.  
Higginville Maint. Facility 1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

October 24th —Tuesday  
Clinton Maint. Facility 9:30 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.  
Harrisonville Maint. Facility 1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

October 30th—Monday  
District Office 9 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Active Employees - Free  
Retirees - \$15.00  
Spouse - \$15.00

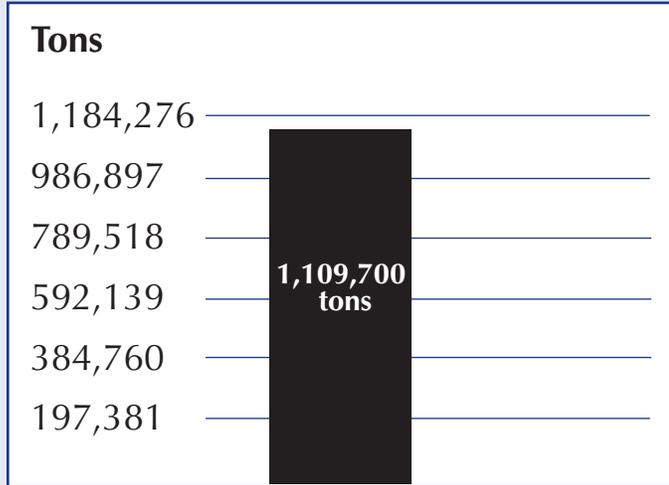
# Smooth Roads Initiative

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

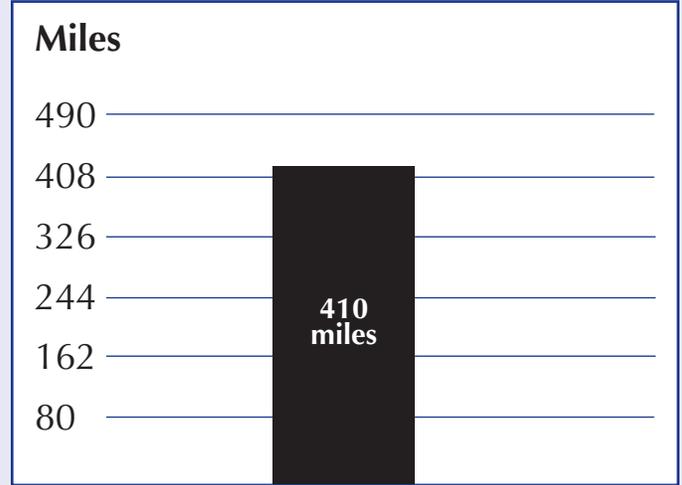
## Progress to Date



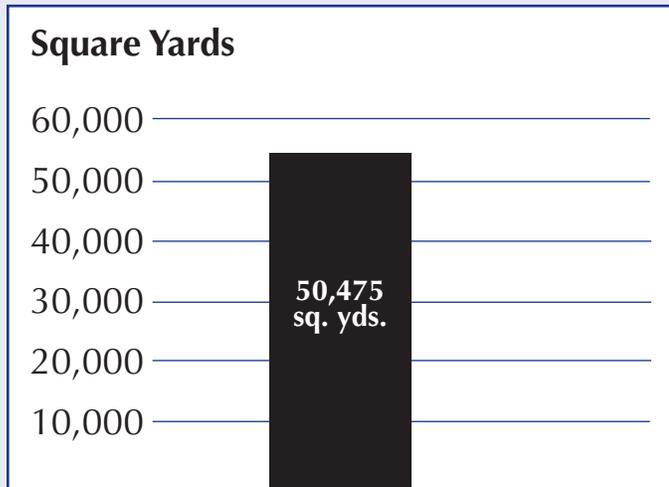
***Smoother, Safer, Sooner***  
***Amendment 3***



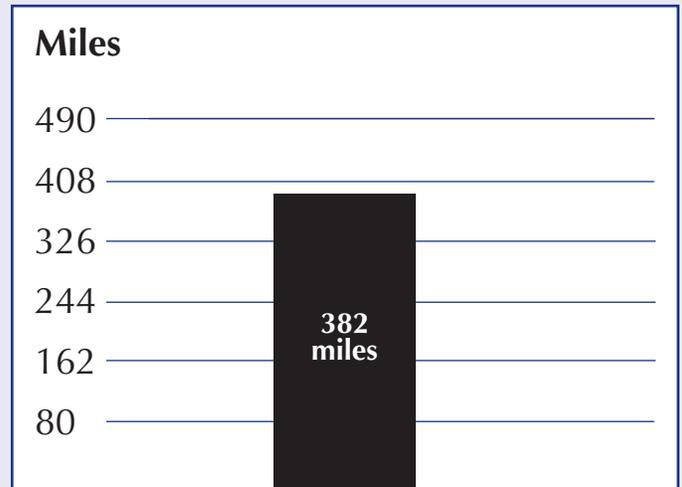
**Tons of asphalt**



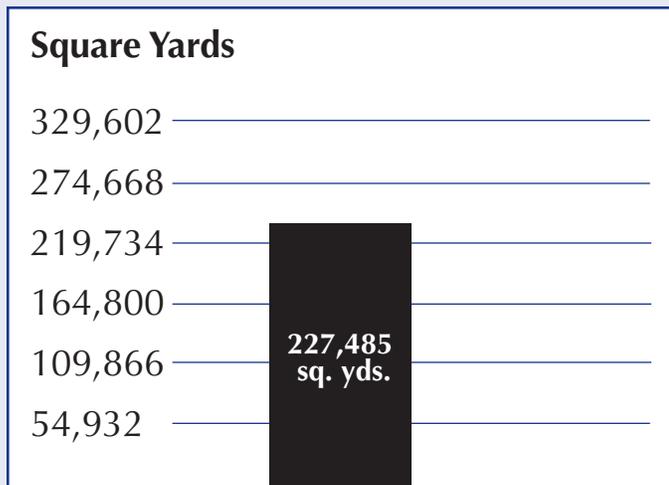
**Striping**



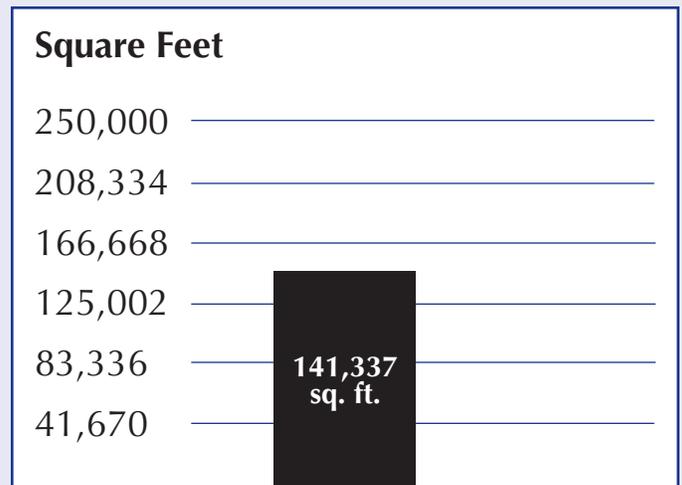
**Pavement repair**



**Delineators**



**Ultrathin-bonded wearing surface**



**Signs**

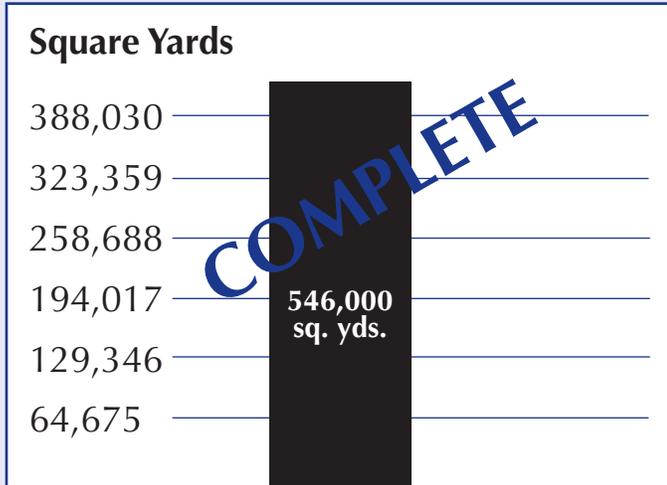
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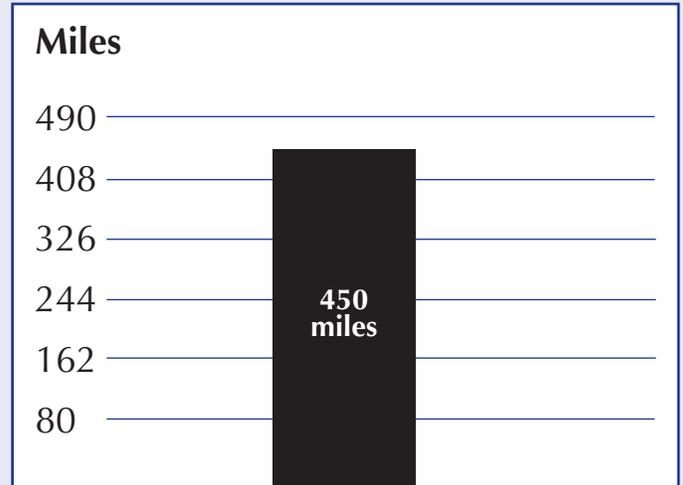
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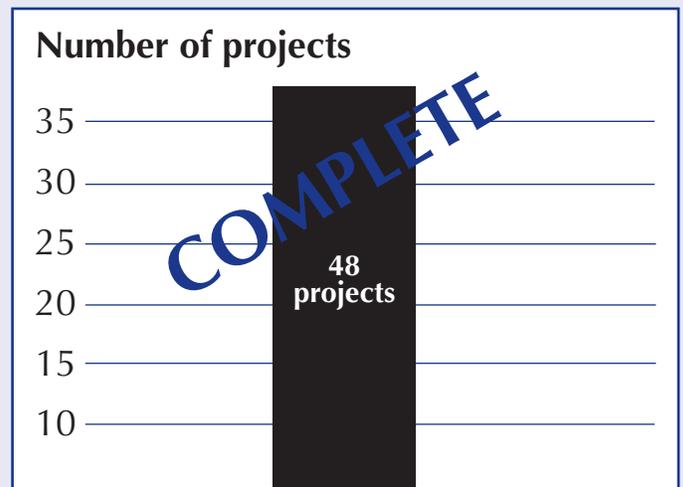
**Smoother, Safer, Sooner**  
*Amendment 3*



Diamond grinding



Clear zones cleared



Projects designed