

econnections

Missouri Department
of Transportation



January 2008

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area



Meetings/Training

Tuesday, January 15
Stock Area Team Meeting
8-10 a.m., SCSC (87th Street)

Wednesday, January 16
Management Team
9-11 a.m., Boardroom

Directional Team
1-3 p.m., Boardroom

Thursday, January 17
Job Status Meetings Room 236
Job Status, District 1, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
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 – 2:30 p.m.



Events

Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King Holiday
State Offices Closed

Thursday, January 24
Annual Transportation Conference
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson city



Untangling Celebration Marks Opening of Interchange

by Steve Porter

It's Untangled! Two jubilant words marked the untangling of the old Triangle interchange in south Kansas City in December, and they also celebrated meeting a goal more than a year earlier than expected.

Cutting the ribbon turned out to be a challenge of its own. The ceremony was threatened by an ice storm that had descended on the state three days earlier. However, by the end of the week the ice had melted and the event – including burial of a ceremonial Triangle – went according to schedule.

Now known as 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway, the convergence of Route 71 and Interstates 435 and 470 presented several challenges to designers and

construction teams over the six years and eight months from groundbreaking to the Dec. 14 ribbon cutting.

First, MoDOT committed to keeping all mainline lanes open during peak periods during construction. Second was the commitment to untangle some segment each year so that benefits of reconstruction wouldn't be delayed. Finally, everyone on the project – consulting design firm HNTB Corp., and contractors Clarkson Construction Co. and APAC – Kansas, Inc. – were driven to open all mainline lanes well before the eight years projected to complete the project.

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The new 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway, formerly known as the Grandview Triangle.

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News from Across the District

Condolences:

Condolences to the family of retiree Gerald "Jerry" L. Moling, Intermediate Maintenance Worker in Liberty on his passing November 28, 2007.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Melvin Schroeder, Maintenance Crew Leader in Holden, and his family on the loss of his father, Melvin H Schroeder December 5, 2007.

Condolences to Mike Berry, Senior Maintenance Worker in Nashua, and his family on the loss of his brother, Donald Berry on December 24, 2007.

Our condolences also go to the family of MoDOT retiree, Marvin Petersen, Maintenance Crew Worker in Concordia on his passing December 13, 2007.

Our condolences go to David Tyrrell, Senior Maintenance Worker at Richmond, and his family on the passing of his father-in-law, C. Marvin Gill, December 8, 2007.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Chris West, Senior Highway Designer and his wife, Amanda, on the birth of their new baby boy on November 30th at 5:06 p.m. Andrew Ryan West weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces.

Congratulations also go to Brandon Daniel, Traffic Specialist, and Shelie Daniel, Resident Engineer in Riverside on the birth of Cameron James Daniel on December 27 at 7:56 a.m. Cameron weighed 7 pounds and 4.9 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Congratulations to Kerri Lewis, Intermediate Community Relations Specialist on the birth of her son Camden Tyler Martin, on January 4 at 12:53 p.m. Camden weighed 9 pounds and was 19 ½ inches long.

From the Director



Pete Rahn
MoDOT Director

The Human Resources Division has completed their analysis of results of the employee satisfaction survey you received and completed early last summer. You can find their report on the Intranet at <http://wwwi/intranet/documents/Employee%20Survey.pdf>.

Many of you had comments and suggestions about how we can make MoDOT a better place to work, and I want you to know that Kevin, Roberta, and I read all 1600 comments. This year, we also shared the comments with the District Engineers from their respective employees. You had a great deal to say, and we have heard you. As a matter of fact, we included the action plan for addressing your concern in the report this year. You will find Appendix 4 contains action items that will be taken statewide and at each location.

While the overall results show we have made some progress in all areas, we still have work to do. Therefore, we're going to continue to work at making improvements; and next year, we're going to ask you the same questions again to see how we're doing. Some of you commented that you're frustrated because we keep asking you the same questions, but that's the only way we can measure whether we're making any progress in addressing your concerns.

I hope you will take the time to read the full report. If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to EmpSatSur@modot.mo.gov. You'll receive a personal reply, plus the questions and answers will be posted on the Intranet so that other employees can have the same information.

We will have another busy year with Better Roads, Brighter Future. I'm confident that by working together we can meet that challenge. I'm also confident we can improve your overall satisfaction as a member of the MoDOT team. Thanks for all you do!

Pete

Awards Update: And the winner is...

The Above and Beyond Award was presented to Bill Glazier, Jim Beason, Dan Watkins and Joe McQuillan for Assisting Ms. Silvey with her stalled car so she could take care of her handicapped adult daughter that was very sick.

The Above and Beyond Award was also presented to Bill Glazier and Dan Watkins for helping the Williams family get propane to heat their home.

Craig Holdeman received the Above and Beyond Award for developing an access database for Design to enter their FMS data.

The One Team MoDOT Award was presented to Shelie Daniels for putting together the snow plow personnel list, to Dennis Francis for volunteering to help the pavement prioritization team, and to Jon Morgenroth for his training in the Geopak site.

High Performer Awards were presented to Brian Kidwell for bringing the kclCON to selection at the Commission Meeting, and Steve Porter for putting together the radio spots for Arrive Alive campaign.

Also receiving the High Performer Award was Sally Crump and Diane Taranto for consistently paying assigned invoices within 30 days and to Nancy Engelhart for consistent reliability, willingness to do whatever for whoever is in need, and for dedication to MoDOT.

Triangle

continued from first page

The \$260 million construction cost stayed close to the project's initial estimate, despite some changes in scope and fluctuations in the economy.

"The old interchange struggled to handle the 250,000 vehicles per day that passed through it," said District Engineer Beth Wright. "The new 3-Trails Crossing is designed to accommodate 400,000 vehicles per day, and can expand to handle traffic demands beyond that when

needed."

The new name, approved by the Missouri General Assembly in 2005, reflects the rich transportation heritage of the site of the interchange, which once was a convergence of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails.

As a state highway, elements of the Triangle's history go back to 1925, when 71 Highway was constructed as an 18-foot-wide, two-lane concrete highway on 30 feet of right of way. It was widened to 29 feet of concrete in 1934, then convert-

ed to a four-lane, divided highway in the early 1960s.

By the late 1960s, MoDOT added the I-435 interchange – and tens of thousands more vehicles. In the mid 1970s I-470 was built to join the interchange and soon it became known as the Triangle.

The new interchange was built in several phases, beginning with I-435. Westbound I-470 began in 2002, and eastbound I-435 and eastbound I-470 a year later.

Just a Note of Thanks

E-mailers appreciate the Improved Interchange

I just wanted to take time out and say what a wonderful job MoDOT did with this 7-year project. You have made South Kansas City a better place to commute and live as a Grandview resident. In the beginning it was a struggle getting around, but I knew in the end it was going to be all worth it. Your crew of hundreds on the project put a lot of sweat and tears and hard hours to make this project what some would call a waste of taxpayers' money. Well it was not! Anyway thanks for making our area now no longer called the Bermuda Triangle, and now a pleasant drive to and from work each day!

Thank You,
Clay Campbell
Grandview, MO

I would like to tell everyone who was involved with all the new Grandview Triangle how much I appreciate all the hard work. I live in Lee's Summit and work in North Kansas City. I have been driving that route for 30 years. First I had to work my way through the new 71 through the city and then the new triangle... It was well worth the wait. The entire project was so well organized with virtually no traffic interruption. It was an amazing project to watch develop over the past several years. It is such a pleasure for me to drive to work now thanks to everyone at MoDOT. It's the best Christmas present ever!
Thank you very much!

My wife and I live just southwest of the Triangle area and, although retired, use it several times a week. We were highly impressed with the planning which must have gone into the project, as evidenced with the fact that traffic was never seriously affected by the construction.

As efficiently as the project was handled, it was no surprise that it was completed a year early. In our opinion, MoDOT and its contractors did a fantastic job. Our only gripe is the new name for the area. Yuk! It will always be the Triangle to us.

Many thanks.
Frank and Maxine Iverson

Thank you for emailing me updates on the triangle construction. It really helped to know what and when lanes were going to shut down or be restricted. It was a great help to me for the last two years and I am glad it is finally finished.

Thanks again,
Harold Hammond



UNTANGLE the
TRIANGLE



Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

Maintenance Worker Dan Duncan

Maintenance Worker Robert Durkin

Maintenance Worker Monty Hilde

Maintenance Worker Donald Jackson

Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Anthony Landes

Maintenance Worker Michael Moore

Maintenance Worker John Velaer

Promoted

Senior Maintenance Worker
William Cretzmeyer

Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist
Lindsay Harris

Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Wayne Jolley

Senior Maintenance Worker
Darin McGinnis

Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Loren Moore

econnections sources

Construction Bev Chrisco, 6341

Design Flo Noear, 0455

Regional Counsel LeAnn Francis, 6382

Administration Judy Magruder, 6309

General Services Toni Terry, 0056

Human Resources Belinda Fite, 6321

Right of Way Melbra Taylor, 6351

Traffic Dawn Phillips, 0401

Editor Kerri Lewis, 6328

Good Food Means More Money for D4 Employees Fund

by Kerri Lewis

End of the year festivities brought together food, fun and fund-raising. Another spectacular effort made by District 4 employees raised more than \$1500 to benefit the D4 Employees Fund during the Second Annual Fall Harvest Chili Contest and the Annual Holiday Breakfast.

The D4 Employees' Committee assisted in organizing the Second Annual Fall Harvest Chili Contest held at the Nashua Maintenance Building on November 14 with the help of MoDOT employees from Nashua, Platte City, Dearborn, Northmoor, Riverside, Liberty Chouteau, Excelsior Springs, Kearney and General Services. In the midst of fall flowers and pumpkins, 90 people feasted on 22 crocks of chili, hot dogs, all the fixings and desserts.

MoDOT D4 Association once again donated the drink cups for the luncheon and employees from across the Platte County area chipped in with donations ranging from chili, cornbread, crackers, hot dogs, cheese, ketchup, onions, desserts, drinks, and paper products. Five local vendors donated prizes for the contest winners and served as judges for the contest.

Chili Contest Winners:

1st place: Ron Smith, Northmoor Maint.

2nd place: Wes Squire, Kearney Maint.

3rd place: Bill Glazier, Kearney Maint.

4th place: Daniel Schultz, Liberty Maint.

5th place: Jeff Taylor, Northmoor Maint.

The annual Holiday Breakfast kicked-off in early December. 175 employees, retirees and guests attended the all-you-can-eat breakfast, consisting of pancakes, sausage, and scrambled eggs prepared by Chris Cakes Inc. Attendees also enjoyed the opportunity to win raffle prizes, while helping out fellow employees through the D4 Employees Fund. The District 4 Employees' Fund benefits MoDOT D4 employees who find themselves in financial distress due to events that are no fault of their own. Committee members are Sally Crump, Tammy Wimmer, Robin Warren, Debi Skaggs, Amy Gagne, Terri Houck-Shannon, Heather Barrows, and Teresa Martin.



Judges get a taste of the 22 crocks of chili before deciding on the winners.

Mailbag



During the past several weeks, many of Missouri's motorists have had to endure driving through some trying winter weather. Thanks to the outstanding effort made by MoDOT crews' to make the highways safer during the wicked weather travel, these motorists have noticed and would like to say thanks for the long weekends, hours and efforts made by MoDOT. Here are some notes of appreciation:

OUTSTANDING JOB!!!!!! GOD Bless each and every person who contributed to keeping our highways safe and clean during this recent stretch of weather. Your time and sacrifice away from your families is GREATLY appreciated.

GOD bless
Wayne & Elizabeth Eagle
Kansas City

I just wanted to tell the snow removal crew THANKS!!!! I live right next to I-70 and they've done an AWESOME job of clearing this highway as well as old 40 HWY. My little city of Oak Grove looks better than some of the largest cities in the area. Thanks for all your hard work!!!!!!!!!!

Kim Ross
Bates City

Just want to thank you for the great job MoDOT did on keeping the highways safe and clear of any ice. We all know this could have been much worse than it was. I have 8 vehicles in my work fleet and the majority of those deliver in Missouri. Other than the side streets, my drivers reported no problems on the major interstates. Thanks for all that you do and continued success on the transportation committee.

Jeff McGhee
Branch Manager Mobile Med Care

I don't believe your staff and crews get thanked enough. I wanted to commend your staff and crews for getting out and getting our roads cleared and salted in a very timely manner during the past ice storm. In fact I just saw another of your trucks pass by my office. I am thankful for the roads being salted because when you do have to get out in the storm to go to work you need to know you can get there safely. So please forward this thank you on to all of your salt crews and those behind the scenes. I believe a thank-you goes a long way- So thanks from a thankful citizen.

Jil Spencer
Independence

I just wanted to commend all of the MoDOT employees for the superb job they did on the roads in the Kansas City Metro area during the recent ice storm. Thanks to all of you, people were able to travel around the area to reach all of their destinations safely. I applaud your efforts and hard work and thank you for a job well done!

Representative Ray Salva

The road crews did an awesome job in the Blue Springs/Grain Valley area during this recent ice storm. Please express my thanks. I know you probably mostly get complaints so I just wanted to say "WELL DONE!" I hope the crews can continue to keep up this excellent service for the rest of the season.