

econnections

Missouri Department
of Transportation



July 2009

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

Meetings/Training

Meetings/Training

Tuesday, July 14

Jackson and Cass Area Team Meeting
8 to 10 a.m., Room 255

Tuesday, July 14

Management Team
8 a.m. - 11 a.m., Room 136

Thursday, July 16, Room 236

Job Status

Cass/Jackson, 8:30 – 10 a.m.
Interstates, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Clay/Platte, Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Ray/Johnson/Lafayette/Henry,
1:30 – 3 p.m.

Thursday, July 30

Informed Consent Training
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Room 136

Events

Friday, July 17

Ribbon Cutting for SAS Route O over
Poney Creek in Cass County

Thursday, July 23

Informational Public Meeting for Side-
walk Improvements on Route 1 in
Gladstone, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the
Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
3015 NE Vivion road, Gladstone

Informational Public Meeting for Side-
walk Improvements on Route 169 in
Gladstone, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the
Smithville City Hall Council Chambers,
107 W Main, Smithville

A Ride for a Fallen Friend, A Ride for a Life, A Ride for Remembrance

by Kerri Lewis

A river of metal could be seen for miles as more than 47 motorcycles traveled from the Kansas City area to Jefferson City early on June 13 to honor MoDOT's fallen workers during the Ride for Remembrance. On a scenic route to help raise money for the Fallen Worker's Memorial, a statewide monument to be erected just to the west of MoDOT's Central Office, D4 employees and friends revved up the engines and took to the highways for fallen friends and coworkers. Since 1946, 128 MoDOT employees have been killed in the line of duty.

Sponsored by the Transportation Employee Association of Missouri, the Ride for Remembrance raised \$4256 for the memorial, with \$750 contributed by D4. 170 riders took to the roads that day to signify the importance of this event.



Respect Honor and Remember



MoDOT Fallen Workers Memorial

In D4, we have lost a total of 21 coworkers over the past 60 years, far too many. If you would like to help remember our fallen friends, you can make a contribution to the fund for the memorial, make your check payable to State Highway & Transportation Employees Association of Missouri and mail to: District 7 Highway Credit Union, Attn: Dave B. Taylor, 3901 East 32nd Street, Suite A, Joplin, Mo. 64804.



eConnections electronic newsletter is produced by MoDOT District 4 Public Information, is distributed to employees and retirees by e-mail, and is archived on the MoDOT intranet. We value your privacy. E-mail addresses will not be shared outside of the econnections newsletter. To receive econnections or submit news, please send e-mail to: kerri.lewis@modot.mo.gov.

A New and Improved Clear Creek Bridge on Route 92 in Kearney

A ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. on June 26 marked the completion of the new Clear Creek Bridge on Route 92 in Kearney. MoDOT, state and city officials were present to cut the ribbon to signify the importance of this project to the Kearney and Clay County area. MoDOT completed the bridge on time and under budget and had the road and new bridge ready for motorists on Monday, June 29.

Representative Doug Ervin was present to thank MoDOT for all the hard work done in the area to continue to provide a great transportation system. Mayor Dane of Kearney was also pleased, grateful that MoDOT was able to keep the old bridge open while construction was underway on the new structure.

In the summer of 2008, the Missouri Department of Transportation began replacing the Route 92 Bridge over Clear Creek in Kearney. The original bridge, built in 1933 has been completely replaced with a wider, safer structure to the south of the existing bridge. The replacement of the structurally deficient, functionally obsolete and substandard bridge over Clear Creek will create a safer route for those traveling through the area.



The old bridge can be seen to the left of the new structure. The new bridge is much wider and safer for all motorists.



Beth Wright, District Engineer explained the importance of building a safer, newer structure.



TOP: City, State and MoDOT officials make the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon.



The photo to the left is Route 92 east of Kearney when it was originally being built in the early 1900's. Photo courtesy of Tom Carey, Kearney Chief of Police.

Your Health Headquarters

You have been challenged! To stay fit that is. We all know the importance of a healthy lifestyle by maintaining a healthy balanced diet, exercise, rest and play. A priority it's true, but with our busy schedules making it all fit can be a challenge in itself.

This is why D4 has created the Health Headquarters, a resource for D4 employees to help keep you MOVing while learning about ways to stay fit, how to participate in healthy activities, and other tidbits of information geared toward maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Keep an eye on your Health Headquarters at http://wwwi/intranet/d4/Health_Headquarters.htm for upcoming events on the calendar and for new ways to participate in a healthy lifestyle.

One way to join in the health effort is to become a team member and participate with the MoDOT MOvers in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. This is a worthwhile event celebrating those fighting breast cancer, those who have won their battle, and honoring those who did not, while continuing to raise awareness about this disease and funds to help fight it. The Race for the Cure is the largest series of 5K run/fitness walks in the world and is celebrating its 26th year. Millions participate in this event each year to raise money for their local

breast health program.

The race consists of a 5K run/walk and a one mile Family Walk. The race begins at 7 a.m. on Sunday, August 9. You can register at <http://www.komenkansascity.org/>. The team name is the MoDOT MOvers. The deadline to register is July 23rd online or July 17th by mail. The cost is \$20 and all participants will receive a t-shirt. Feel free to visit http://wwwi/intranet/d4/Health_Headquarters.htm for more information on this event and others coming up.

Other FUN Health Conscious Events:

August 14: Softball game and cookout at Fleming Park for all employees

August 15: A family friendly bike ride at 10:00 am on the Mill Creek Streamway Trail.

August 28: Par 3 Golf Scramble at the Fred Arbanas Golf Course at Longview Lake

Health Headquarters Announcements:

Winners of the recent Biggest Loser Challenge:

Danielle Henderson with a total of 10.87 percent weight loss

Michelle Clevenger with 8.02 percent weight loss

Congratulations to all who participated in the recent MoDOT MOvers Challenge. This was a 12-week challenge that tracked the amount of movement each person did above and beyond regular daily activities. It encourages a fun and competitive environment in which participants can challenge themselves to do more healthy moving than they would on their own. We had a wide range of participants from marathon runners to casual walkers. With 44 participants, the minutes ranged from 17351 to 500 minutes in the 12 weeks. Here are the top 20 movers for the spring/summer 2009 MoDOT MOOver challenge. Each will receive a prize for their hard work.

Visit the web for a list of the top 20 in its entirety, but here are the top five:

Pam Nugent	17351
Randy Johnson	15930
Stacey McKinley	15000
Chris Spears	10635
Mary Miller	7875

Look for more from your Health Headquarters in upcoming issues of eConnections and by visiting http://wwwi/intranet/d4/Health_Headquarters.htm.

News from Across the District

Condolences:

Our condolences go to Warren Stalker, Electrician with the Signal Shop, and his family on the loss of his mother on June 8.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Joseph B. Jones, Motorist Assist Shift Supervisor, and his family on the loss of his brother, Phillip E. Jones, on Tuesday, June 23.

Our condolences also go to Gregory Copeland, Construction Technician, and his family on the loss of his sister, Marzella Jordan, in early July.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Marisela Ward, District Utilities Engineer, and her family on the birth of her new baby boy, Ethan Nicolas Ward. Ethan was born June 26 and weighed in at 6 lb. 11 oz. and 19.2 inches long. Best wishes to Marisela and her family.

Congratulations to Carol Ricks for being voted the CCO Statewide MVP at the Annual Assistant Counsel Meeting held in Jefferson City June 17-18, 2009.

Breathe Easier: MoDOT, MoDNR Collaborate to Improve Air Quality in Missouri Metros

The Missouri departments of Transportation and Natural Resources are joining forces to improve air quality and public health in the state's metropolitan areas. These efforts will reduce diesel emissions from MoDOT fleets in St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield by approximately 288 tons per year, or about enough to fill 427 Good-year blimps.

DNR received a \$726,227 grant through the Diesel Emission Reduction Act in September. This grant will help pay for MoDOT to retrofit a portion of its fleet with new technologies that will reduce the pollutants that lead to air quality compliance issues. These upgrades will also have an added bonus of increasing the fleet's fuel efficiency.

"Our agency is pleased to work with MoDOT in this important endeavor. It is our hope this project sets an example nationwide and promotes the development of much larger scale projects in the future," said Department of Natural Resources Director Mark Templeton. "Improving air quality is an important mission of this agency, and we diligently work to achieve air quality standards that are protective of public health and the environment."

The Department of Natural Resources will administer the grant over the next two years by reimbursing MoDOT for some of the costs to install emission control devices or idle reduction technology in dozens of fleet equipment, upgrade engines in 17 dump trucks and replace five dump trucks earlier than scheduled with models that meet current Environmental Protection

Agency standards. In all, this grant will impact 135 pieces of diesel equipment in the St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield districts.

"As we manage our transportation system, we are very conscientious about how our diesel engines affect air quality," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "That's why MoDOT researches and adopts new technologies that will allow us to better protect the environment and improve the air we breathe."

MoDOT will use a variety of methods to clean up its diesel fleets. Diesel oxidation catalysts, an emission control device, will be installed on some equipment to minimize the amount of emissions that are released into the air. Two forms of idle reduction technology will be used. Some equipment will be outfitted with

an automatic shutdown/startup device, which automatically turns off an idling engine without help from an operator and can turn the engine back on if the battery power gets low. Other equipment will receive an auxiliary power unit, which maintains a certain air temperature in the cab without the engine running.

"Installing emission control and idle reducing devices in our equipment will improve the quality of life, and it is a step in the right direction toward reducing the amount of fuel our fleet consumes. We will put the savings we generate right back into our roads and bridges," Rahn said.

MoDOT staff was instrumental in determining the scope of this project and will provide in-kind services to install the devices on its fleet.

MoDOT's Communications System Wins International Award

International recognition is being given to MoDOT emergency communications network, which helps people communicate during times of disaster. The system recently won the International Satellite Communications exchange Innovation and Technology Award. This is the first time in the award's seven-year history that it has been given to a government agency.

"This emergency communications system is changing the way communities recover from unforeseen events," said Don Hillis, MoDOT System Management director. "It gives relief agencies access to the resources they need to help people rebuild after emergencies."

MoDOT's emergency communications system was created in 2004 with Homeland Security funds. It is tied in to the existing infrastructure and helps provide critical communications during disasters using satellites and radio towers throughout the state to send radio transmissions and other data communications.

"MoDOT cares about keeping people safe on the transportation system at all times," Hillis said. "So if we can help get emergency services where they need to be faster and get people up and going more quickly during disasters – then we know

we're doing what we can do to make a positive difference."

Severe weather and other disasters often leave communities mired in the chaotic process of recovery. If flooding, severe storms, or earthquakes should disrupt land-based communication, MoDOT staff is dispatched to reestablish communications, allowing the community to get back on its feet as quickly as possible.

The MEROC trailers have been used several times in their history including during ice storms in Springfield and Dallas County and flash floods in Clarksville and Greenville.

"It is important for MoDOT to help provide fast and effective communications for public safety needs," Hillis said. "When disasters strike and our usual communication resources are unavailable, we now have an emergency response system to help Missourians."

The ISCe award originated in 2002 and is used to recognize innovation and advancement in the satellite and communications industry. MoDOT was presented with the award at a recent conference in California.

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

Five-Year Highway Construction Program Starts With a Bang, Ends With a Whimper

The first year of the state's five-year highway construction program approved today by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will be robust, largely due to recovery act funding, the Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program and the new Mississippi River Bridge in St. Louis.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the remaining years in the 2010-2014 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. After the first year, spending for Missouri's roads and bridges drops drastically, with little more than enough funding to take care of the existing state highway system.

"It's a lot like when someone comes to you and says, 'Do you want the good news or the bad news,'" said Missouri Department of Transportation Director Pete Rahn. "That always means the bad

news is going to put a damper on the good news. That's how it is with our construction program. We're going to be able to do a lot of great things at the beginning, but we won't be able to maintain that momentum."

By 2011, transportation funding drops by more than half and will continue falling to only one-third of the 2010 amount in subsequent years. At this point, Missourians will see very few new projects to expand the system and make it safer.

"While very much welcomed and needed, the recovery act funding we received is not a silver bullet," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "It has helped delay our grim transportation situation, but without additional funding for future transportation projects, our roads and bridges will once again begin to deteriorate."

The construction program for fiscal year

2010 totals \$1.3 billion. In fiscal year 2011, the program drops to just \$652 million and by fiscal year 2014, only \$421 million will be available for transportation projects.

The five-year transportation improvement program lists all transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2014. It includes transportation improvements identified by metropolitan planning organizations in St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia, Jefferson City, Joplin and St. Joseph.

The complete list of transportation projects, as well as maps showing all highway and bridge projects and corridors to be completed, can be found at www.modot.org.

kcICON Update

MoDOT's kcICON design-build project is on Facebook -- become a fan!

Check out the latest progress updates, photos & videos!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/kcICON-Project/111952296899?ref=ts>



TOP: kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell, Bridge Engineer Tom Skinner and 23 District 4 interns tour construction progress at Route 210 and Armour Road June 23, 2009.



LEFT: kcICON Project Bridge Engineer Tom Skinner talks with District 4 interns about career opportunities with MoDOT near the Interstate 29/35 south viaduct during a project tour June 23, 2009.



Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

Lori Bronson, Legal Secretary
David Bennett, Construction Inspector
Kyle Fitterer, Highway Designer
Christopher Fryer, Construction Inspector
Lee Holtman, Highway Designer
James Martin, Highway Designer
Alejandro Martinez, Pavement Specialist
James Pflum, Construction Inspector
Dolon Silimon, Construction Inspector
Erin Van Brooker, Construction Inspector

Promoted

John Arnold, Maintenance Crew Leader
Lisa Bain, Intermediate Maintenance worker
Toney Canady, Maintenance Crew Leader
Randall Easley, Maintenance Crew Leader
Anthony Gosse, Intermediate Construction Inspector
Edith Hancock, Maintenance Worker
Chris Heidbreder, Intermediate Design Technician
Taylor Hill, Intermediate Highway Designer
Ryan Horvatic, Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Michael Landvik, Intermediate Transportation Planner

Dustin McElhaney, Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Kevin Rhodes, Maintenance supervisor
Sherry Sipho, Maintenance Worker
Joshua Tinkey, Highway Designer
Virak Um, Maintenance Worker
Zachary Walker, Senior Construction Inspector
Jacob Wilson, Intermediate Highway Designer

Retirement

Charles Kidwiler, Senior Maintenance Worker

The Latest Safe & Sound Ribbon Cuttings



Top: Several stopped by the witness yet a second ribbon cutting for Platte County. The Route V Bridge over Jordan Branch was finished and open to traffic on time.

Below: The Route O Bridge over the Grand River in Cass County received its ceremonial cutting of the ribbon in June.

