

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

August 13 - 17, 2012

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KC District Calendar:

August 13

Route 45 Farley Bridge Ribbon Cutting
9 a.m.

August 16

Monthly MS Planning meeting
9 - 10 a.m., KC Garage Conference Room

Bev Chrisco Retirement Reception
2 p.m., Break Room

August 17

KC Day at the State Fair

I-70 Second Tier EIS Mobile Meeting
The Museums at 18th and Vine, 1616 E.
18th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64108
10 a.m. to noon

Parkville River Days
MoDOT Booth
6 - 10 p.m.

August 18

Parkville River Days
MoDOT Booth
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Have a Great Week!

'Blue Ribbon' Committee Hears Public's Transportation Funding Ideas, Needs

The greater Kansas City area's transportation needs and possible ways to meet them were presented at a public forum held August 6 in Lee's Summit, Mo.

The meeting was sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri's Transportation Needs, a 22-member panel of business leaders, contractors and special interest groups from across the state. The committee was appointed by Missouri House Speaker Steven Tilley, R-Perryville, with the purpose of examining Missouri's current and future transportation needs and exploring possible solutions.

Members of the committee listened as 32 people from the greater Kansas City area explained their most pressing transportation needs, as well as their ideas for possible funding solutions. The speakers represented municipalities, businesses, civic, planning and non-profit organizations, multimodal advocacy groups, and others.

MoDOT Chief Engineer Dave Nichols kicked off the meeting by telling the Committee, "We have a problem." He said the primary source of funding for transportation, the fuel tax, hasn't been increased on the state level since 1992, and the federal fuel tax hasn't been

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Approximately 100 people filled the Lee's Summit Gamber Center August 6 to participate in a forum sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri's Transportation Needs. Members of the committee listened as 32 people from the greater Kansas City area explained their most pressing transportation needs, as well as their ideas for possible funding solutions. Photo: Jennifer Benefield

Blue Ribbon

Continued from first page

increased since 1993. In the meantime, the cost of asphalt has increased from \$21 a ton in 1992 to \$60 dollars a ton today. Likewise, a cubic yard of concrete in 1992 sold for \$51 and today a cubic yard of concrete sells at \$153. In addition, vehicles are becoming more fuel efficient.

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller discussed how we must “reconceive and reinvest.” Miller used his recent purchase of an electric car to underscore the need for a method of generating revenue for transportation that takes into account new technology. “I’m part of the problem,” said Miller. “I have yet to purchase a single gallon of fuel – charging my car does not contribute to financing highway improvements.”

Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec provided an overview of the state of transportation in the Kansas City District, including a list of unmet project needs. “We have identified a \$45 million yearly funding shortage for road, bridge and safety projects,” Niec told committee members. “And, we have \$1.7 billion worth of needed projects that would make our system safer, create jobs, ease congestion and promote economic

development – but no funding to tackle these projects.” To view Niec’s presentation, click [here](#).

The committee held hearings in each of MoDOT’s seven districts this spring and summer, and is expected to release its final report in November. Committee Co-chair Bill McKenna thanked the Committee members and audience for their

participation. In addition to collecting information that will be used to make final report recommendations, McKenna said, “What we have learned will also play an important role in educating the public about the future of transportation in Missouri.”



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller discussed how we must “reconceive and reinvest.” Miller used his recent purchase of an electric car to underscore the need for a method of generating revenue for transportation that takes into account new technology. Photo: Jennifer Benefield

KC KUDOS

I just want to say how pleased I am with the traffic management on the I-35 at Lightburne Bridge project. 12-15 people gather for coffee every morning at my business and are raving about the speed of work and how traffic has flowed so smoothly. I hope MoDOT will take what is learned from this job and apply it to others like it.

***Sincerely,
Billy with Clinton County Trailer Sales***

I just wanted to thank the folks at MoDOT for the outstanding job that is being done to improve our roads and bridges here in Henry and Cass counties. Keep up the good work and stay safe.

***Thanks Again,
John***

MoDOT/KC Scout Mapping a Safer Picture for KCPD Incident Management Program provides new mapping equipment

Kansas City Police will be able to clear serious accidents off roadways more quickly thanks to new equipment provided by MoDOT and Scout's Incident Management Program. In a news conference held August 9 at MoDOT's Kansas City District Office, the Kansas City Police Department demonstrated how the new equipment works and discussed their partnership with Scout's Incident Management Program.

The new mapping equipment, Sokkia Total Stations and Archer Bluetooth Evidence Recorders, are used to create forensic maps of accident scenes. The design of the apparatus allows officers to complete complicated investigations without exposing officers and MoDOT personnel who work incidents with police, unnecessarily to traffic. Not only does the technology provide safety benefits for on scene responders but it also reduces the amount of time traffic is backed up making the roadways safer for motorists as well.

"Everybody thinks that police officers are going to get shot or something bad is going to happen, the reality is more police officers die in traffic related incidents than anything else," said KCPD Maj. Rich Lockhart, Special Operations Division Commander. The courts recognize this technology as highly accurate, resulting in successful prosecutions as well. "KCPD is very happy to get the new mapping equipment it will make the streets and highways of Kansas City much safer, we also thank MoDOT for their generosity in making this equipment available to us without them it would not have been possible."

KCPD last updated its equipment in 2008 and technology has advanced so much since then that the new mapping devices allow much faster clearance times of fatal crashes. KCPD investigated

60 fatalities in 2011 and thus far in 2012 they have worked 41 fatal accidents. KCPD is putting the equipment to use already. The day before the news conference, police investigated a high-speed chase that led to a car crash— leaving one suspect dead and two others in custody. The officers investigating the crash used the new technology to help them map out the scene.

As an added bonus, the older technology used by KCPD will be used by smaller agencies who do not work as many serious traffic accidents. The 2008 equipment still works well and Scout's Incident Management Program will be redistributing the older mapping devices to other police departments who otherwise would not have an opportunity to use the crash documentation technology. The Liberty Police Department will be one of the first of the smaller agencies receiving the previously used equipment, and they were on hand at the news conference.

With the big wrecks the Incident Management Program has had to handle, about 114 minutes has been shaved off the average clearance time, this is a direct result of equipment and training provided



Left: KCPD Officer Bill Johnson demonstrates how the Sokkia Total Station works. Right: Scout Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James discusses the importance of the partnerships that make the Incident Management Program a success. Photos: Gina Myles



Kansas City Police Department Sgt. Bill Mahoney describes how new mapping equipment is used, while Scout Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James and other officers look on. Photo: Gina Myles

by Scout. "The Kansas City Metro Traffic Incident Management Program is being used as a model around the country, our example of what can be accomplished with these partnerships will be used in developing future programs nationwide," said Scout Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James.



I-70 Second Tier EIS Team Continues to Gather Public Input

The second of three Interstate 70 Second Tier Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Initial Alternatives public meetings, one stationary and two mobile, was held August 7 at the Wal-Mart located on US Highway 40. Despite the 102 degree heat, numerous shoppers stopped by to learn more about the 12 initial alternatives outlining about seven miles of proposed I-70 improvements from The Paseo interchange to the Blue Ridge Cutoff interchange.

The next mobile meeting will be held Friday, Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon at The Museums at 18th and Vine. An online virtual town hall conversation also continues at www.metroi70.com.

“Now through August 17 we’re talking to the community about the initial alternatives that could fix many of the transportation issues along this corridor,” said Transportation Planning Specialist Allan Zafft. “Taking MoDOT’s Voice Van on the road and setting up mobile meetings throughout the study corridor is one of the more effective ways we’re reaching out to the public to get their comments.”

The 12 initial improvement alternatives relate to the study’s Purpose and Need, respond to human and environmental resources, and address engineering issues. Some of the features include, but are not limited to:

- Rebuilding I-70 pavement and bridges
- Improving the Benton and Jackson Curves
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)
- Ramp metering

- Flexible work hours and telecommuting
- Park and ride locations
- Bus on shoulder
- Enhanced bicycled and pedestrian access
- Extending ramp lengths and weave areas
- Aesthetic enhancements
- Consolidating interchanges
- Construction a collector-distributor system
- Using the existing lanes as reversible lanes

The study began in December 2011, will last about 30 months, and con-

clude in spring 2014. It builds upon the broader work of the I-70 First Tier EIS to help devise a more detailed plan on how to best improve the safety and conditions of I-70.

“Although there is currently no funding for design and construction, completing this study is an important step in having the project ready to go should funding become available,” said Zafft.

To learn more, visit the project website: <http://www.modot.mo.gov/kansas-city/metroi70>.



Transportation Planning Specialist and I-70 Second Tier EIS Project Manager Allan Zafft talks to one of many curious Wal-Mart shoppers who stopped by MoDOT’s mobile meeting August 7 to learn more about the study’s 12 initial improvement alternatives. Photo: Jennifer Benefield



Medical Changes Approved for FY 2013

Team MoDOT:

Last year around this time our Director Kevin Keith announced that the Commission had approved some pretty significant changes to the state contribution to our medical plan funding. In May, the Commission rescinded the action they had taken, deciding to form a special committee to further review the issue. Earlier this summer Kevin announced those committee members who will be working to provide input to the commission.

Today I have very good news to report. The Commission approved funding for our medical plan in CY 2013. For most employees, out of pocket premium cost will remain the same as it is currently, as long as you remain in the same rate category.

The Commission approved the following during their meeting earlier today.

- 1) No change in overall rates for active employees and Medicare retirees.
- 2) For retirees who are not on Medicare, an increase in overall rates of 3%. This increase will be shared by the current percentages between the Commission and the subscribers in this rate category. The increase is necessary in order to get this rate category closer to the point where it is no longer subsidized by other rate categories.
- 3) An alternative Medicare Part-D drug program will be offered to Medicare subscribers. Participation in this plan will be optional, and the current plan will still be offered.

A rate chart for CY 2013 is available on the intranet at the following links -

<http://wwwi/intranet/eb/documents/2013MedicalRateChart.pdf>
<http://www.modot.mo.gov/newsand-info/documents/2013MedicalRateChart.pdf>

Our plan participants have made good choices in using generic drugs when available and network providers for their medical services. This has allowed our plan to see limited cost increases. Because of your diligence, I am happy to report we are able to reward plan subscribers with little or no increases in premiums for next year.

You will receive additional medical plan information at your home address later this year.

Jeff Padgett
Director of Risk & Benefits Management
MoDOT

Around the District

Happy Retirement to Earnest Charles Smith, Senior Maintenance Worker!

It's a bird, it's a plane, no, it's Ronnie!

Ronnie Smith, Maintenance Supervisor at Mulberry, zips many feet above ground during his recent Boy Scout getaway. Smith has worked with the Boy Scouts for more than 30 years and loves every minute of it. The group of 40 kids and leaders took to rural areas of Hickson, Wis. for a week of camping and zipping in the wilderness.



Do you have news to share? If so, let us know. We would love to share your fun, fabulous, and/or fantastic story or photo in upcoming issues of kcConnections. Contact your Customer Relations Team for more details!

Bolder Five-Year Direction Calendar 2012

- **December 31:** all facility, equipment and operational changes complete.

2013

- **March 31:** all employee reassignments, staff reductions complete.

Bolder 5-Year Direction Questions?

- Visit: wwwwi/intranet/hr/
- Contact your KC District HR representative

The Work Number

Buying a home or new car? Leasing an apartment? Applying for a loan? You will need your employment and/or income verified, and there's a number for that. The Work Number can be used anytime, anywhere- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To access, simply visit www.theworknumber.com or call 800-367-2884.

Obtain Employment Verification: Use your social security number and the State of Missouri employer code, 10106, the entity verifying your employment can contact The Work Number and follow a few, easy steps to receive instant verification.

Obtain Income Verification: Visit The Work Number to receive a one time Salary Key good for a one time use by a verifier to verify your income.

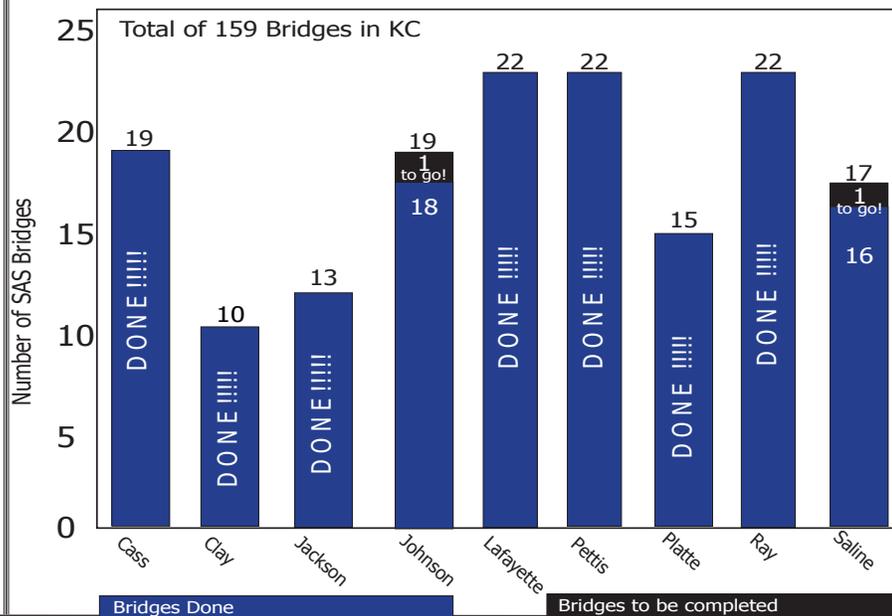
It's Festival Season!

The Kansas City District will be attending two festivals this year to highlight some major construction projects in the Northland. On August 17-18, MoDOT will host a booth at the Parkville Riverfest in Platte County and September 28-29, we will host a booth at the Liberty Fall Festival in Clay County. These festivals will enable district representatives to reach out to people impacted by these projects by providing information and answering questions.

Opportunities are available for those who would like to serve as an ambassador for the district at either event. We need two volunteers per shift, with most shifts lasting about four hours. Please contact Kerri Lewis at 607-2151 or via email if you would like to work a shift, with your supervisor's approval. To see the list of times available, please visit the intranet at wwwwi/intranet/d4/cr/ or on sharepoint.

For more information, please visit or call today.

KC Safe & Sound Bridges On the Rise to Completion



kcConnections sources

Construction/Materials Teresa Martin, 607-2100

Regional Counsel LeAnn Francis, 607-2082

Administration Sherri McGregor, 607-2184

General Services Jody Jordan, 347-4100

Human Resources Amy Gagne, 607-2141

Information Systems JoAnn MacKay, 607-2096

Right of Way Dana O'Maley, 607-2056

Traffic Laurel McKean, 607-2107

Editor Kerri Lewis, 607-2151

Find MoDOT KC on Twitter, Facebook and Youtube.

Save the DATE!!!!

The Missouri State Fair is almost here!

Stop by and enjoy the fair from August 9 - 19 in Sedalia.

Gates open from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Don't forget, the Kansas City District's day is Friday, August 17.