

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

July 2-6, 2012

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KC District Calendar:

July 4

Independence Day
State Offices Closed

July 10

Vision Team
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Boardroom

Major League All-Star Game
Kauffman Stadium

July 11

North Area Team Meeting
8 - 10 a.m., Room 236

MHTC Meeting
10 a.m. to noon, Washington City Hall
405 Jefferson Street, Washington MO

Have a Great Week!

Team MoDOT Prepares for All-Star Week

With the All-Star Game coming to Kauffman Stadium on July 10, the world will be viewing Kansas City from every angle. So Team MoDOT is making sure that the public sees our best side, concentrating on sprucing up all the state routes in the area surrounding the Truman Sports Complex, Downtown and Midtown and all the urban area expected to be in the spotlight, and ensuring that visitors can move effortlessly through the region. This means temporarily eliminating work zones during the week's events.

"We will be staying off the roads in terms of maintenance and construction," said District Engineer Dan Niec. "We will be keeping traffic moving."

In addition to construction and maintenance work prep work, MoDOT's Kansas City District's incident response team will be standing by to assist travelers, and we will be staffing our Customer Service Center until midnight July 8, 9 and 10.

Ordinarily, maintenance crews concen-

trate on their own counties and areas, but the intense effort needed to cover every detail in Jackson County has drawn in team members from other counties and areas to add a shock wave of manpower and equipment at just the right time.

"We're bringing an all-star effort to bear in the weeks leading up to the big game so that the world sees our highway system is major league," said Jesse Skinner, Kansas City District Maintenance Engineer. In the past year or so, the I-70 and I-435 interchange and associated bridge redecking on I-70 and resurfacing work on many of the interstates and highways leading to Kauffman Stadium have received all the attention.

Now, 30 maintenance workers from Cass and Johnson counties are pitching in with Jackson County's crews, and 20 from Pettis, Lafayette and Saline are supplementing Clay and Platte crews in

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All-Star Week

Continued from first page

the final drive to cut brush, trim back weeds and shrubs and pick up litter and debris in the three urban counties. In addition, 20 temporary laborers in Jackson and another 20 in Platte and Clay counties are weeding and picking up along roadsides.

Teams from outside Jackson, Platte and Clay counties also are bringing their equipment – chippers, bucket trucks and boom mowers – to the big sweep. The heavy hitting by these maintenance crews began in mid-June and will continue up to the Independence Day holiday, Skinner said.

“Our team is doing an extraordinary job, and they are showing everybody how well they come through in the clutch,” he said.

“Show Me?” We certainly will!



Recognize These Faces?

A few MoDOT Kansas City District retirees gathered recently at the Corner Café in Liberty. “We just wanted to catch up and talk a little about the old days,” said Sam Love, retired Platte City Maintenance Supervisor. Love organized the event for this group of familiar faces. From the head of the table to the right is Kenny Tackett, Rich Johns, Jack Smith, Jim Beason, Randy George, Ed Struab, Sam Love, Bill Shenkner, Larry Boashen, Gary McClannahan, Bill Glazier, Tom Flemming and Kelly Eaton.



kcConnections sources

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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: wwwi/intranet/hr/
- Contact your KC District HR representative

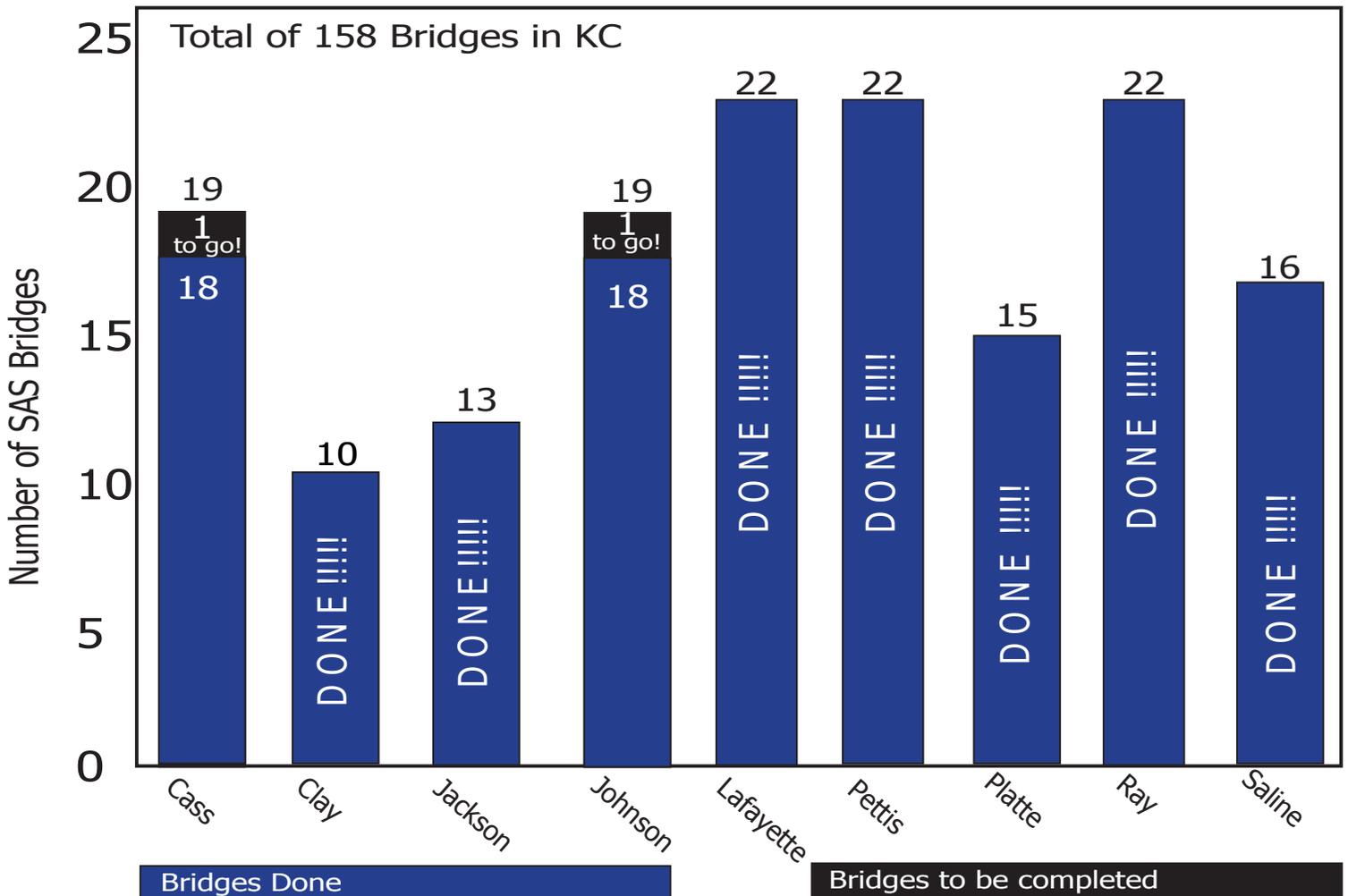
Calling All Volunteers

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 17-19, 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 wwwi/intranet/d4/cr/ or on sharepoint.

KC Safe & Sound Bridges On the Rise to Completion



Safety News

Beat the Heat!

Warmer summer temperatures are beginning to cause heat advisories and warnings. Failure to respect these warnings could result in injuries such as a heat exhaustion and/or even a life threatening injury, such as heat stroke. Here are some basic tips to help survive those 100 degree days:

- Stay hydrated, drink lots of water! The amount of water someone drinks varies depending on a person's weight and activity level. As a rule, during heavy exercise or physical exertion, such as weedeating or clearing brush, drink two to four glasses (16-32 ounces) of cool fluids each hour.
- Drink plenty of water; even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Wear loosely fitted clothing. This helps allow air to circulate throughout the body.
- Avoid extreme temperature changes. Try to acclimate yourself to changes gradually.
- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun. Try to get the most strenuous work done in the early morning or late evening hours.
- Wear sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor. SPF 15 sunscreen for minimum protection and SPF 30 for double protection. Apply often.
- Eat well-balanced, light and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages. Avoid coffee and tea or other caffeinated drinks.
- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Avoid dark colors because they absorb heat.
- Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat and take frequent breaks.
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Check on your animals frequently to ensure they are not suffering from the heat.



New Hard Hat and Eye Protection Policy

All MoDOT employees shall wear appropriate head and eye/face protection when engaged in work activities occurring on or near the right-of-way and MoDOT grounds and facilities with the following exceptions:

- Common areas where hazards or activities do not exist
- General and public parking areas when hazards do not exist
- While conducting ceremonies including ribbon cuttings and road and bridge openings where hazards do not exist
- While operating or riding in enclosed cab equipment and vehicles
- In facilities and buildings where the area is not marked head/eye/face protection is required or otherwise has been deemed a safe zone or area

Who has to wear head and eye/face protection and when does it start?

All employees on the road, roadside, right of way or at MoDOT facilities must wear head protection (hardhat/bump cap as appropriate) and safety eyewear (glasses/goggles/face shield as appropriate) unless he/she is in an enclosed cab. This also includes all employees as they perform work beyond the right of way if they are exposed to hazards. The policy will be fully implemented by July 1, 2012, there will be no grace period.

What is a common area? Common areas are spaces used by employees and the public which are considered reasonably free of hazards and do not require special protective equipment. Examples generally include parking areas, break rooms, office spaces, fueling stations, rest areas and private property.

Do we have to wear head and eye/face protection at a MoDOT maintenance facility? There are many hazards involved with the work activities and equipment operation around a maintenance facility. Employees must wear head/eye protection anytime you are beyond common areas or outside marked "Safe Zones" while inside and at maintenance facilities. Facilities will be able to determine "safe zones" that are unique to each building that do not require hard hat usage.

Am I supposed to wear head and eye/face protection every time I exit my vehicle on state right-of-way? Yes.

Are head and eye/face protection required if I am outside of the right of way performing work? Head and eye protection is not required when off the right of way and/or in a common area, unless there are hazards or work activity in the vicinity.

What do we plan to offer as MoDOT provided head protection? Hard hat, hi-vis hard hat, bump caps, liners, chin straps, replacement sweat bands, etc. We plan to offer hi-vis lime/yellow hard hats as currently available through the Distribution Center. We also currently offer winter liners (and plan to upgrade from our current offering) and replacement sweatbands and will continue to do so. Other offerings will be available through district/division.

Will we be expanding the eligibility for prescription safety eye wear? Current policy states that prescription safety eyewear is available to all full time, safety sensitive employees with routine exposure. The only issue here appears to be how we will handle this for seasonal employees. Prescription safety eyewear will be made available to seasonal that require prescription eyewear that are routinely exposed to flying debris or other eye hazards.

How can I find out all the details about the new policy? The detailed FAQ can be found on Sharepoint <http://sharepoint/smt/default.aspx>, or talk to your supervisor or call Joe Jarboe if you have questions.

More New Drivers get the Message



MoDOT designers Melissa Neff (left) and Jacob Wilson (right) explain to Belton Driver's Education students how the four roundabouts on Route 58 in Belton help move traffic more safely and quickly. The two, accompanied on Tuesday by Transportation Project Manager Randy Johnson and Steve Porter from Customer Relations, wrapped up more than nine weeks of roundabout and traffic safety presentations that reached nearly 900 high school students this season. Other topics discussed included navigating Diverging Diamond Interchanges and the dangers of distracted and impaired driving.

KC KUDOS

"I just wanted to say how pleased I was traveling on Interstate 70 on my way back from St. Louis to Kansas City. The roadways were kept up and plenty of warning before road construction had to be entered."

D. Akey