

kcConnections



A publication of MoDOT Kansas City District

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New Ramp at Route 224 and Route 13

MoDOT, state, county and city officials celebrated the completion of the Route 224 ramp to southbound Route 13.

“MoDOT has done a lot for this area and this is just one more example,” stated Mo. State Representative Joe Aull. “We appreciate everything MoDOT has done.”

“This is another example of collaboration at work. It took the help from our design staff, traffic, signing and striping crews to make this job a reality, and safe for the many motorists using it daily,” said Mike McGrath, Area Engineer.



From left to right: Sr. Designer Jim Templer, Lafayette County Commissioner Tracy Dyer; Area Engineer Mike McGrath, Highway 13 Corridor Coalition Vice-Chair Jerry Deardorff, Lafayette County Presiding Commissioner Harold Hoflander, Councilman Randy Small, Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Johnston, Missouri State Representative Joe Aull, Lexington Mayor Jerry Brown, and Transportation Project Designer Susan Barry.

KC District Calendar:

July 24

Management Team Meeting
9 -11:30 a.m., Board Room

July 25

North Area Team Meeting
9 -11:30 a.m., Room 136

July 26

I-70 Second Tier EIS Listening Post
4 to 6 p.m., Pioneer Community College (Auditorium), 2700 E. 18th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64127

August 1

Route B SAS Bridge Ribbon Cutting
10 a.m., Archie, Mo.

Have a Great Week!

Advanced Work Zone Awareness Training Pays Off in Safety Dividends

Kansas City District employees are receiving Advanced Work Zone Awareness Training to update their knowledge of work zones. Day one of training on July 18 kicked off safety education delivered to each person whose actions affect temporary traffic control zone safety, from upper level management to field personnel. Statewide, all affected employees will receive training appropriate to the job

decisions each individual must make on a daily basis. Class instructor, Central Office Employee Development Specialist Kevin Arthaud, said, “The training is very important to aid in providing consistent

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Central Office Employee Development Specialist Kevin Arthaud conducts advanced work zone training for KC District employees.



Advanced Work Zone Awareness Training Pays Off in Safety Dividends

work zones throughout the state. It also gives the trainees the opportunity to use a valuable course towards career ladder promotion credit." It provides MoDOT employees the knowledge to make it home safely each day while permitting motorists who use our transportation system with the same capability. The class covered a myriad of topics including work zone standards, plan reading, public information, highway types and capacity, special considerations, nighttime work zones, speed limits, temporary traffic control zones, work zone operations and more. One goal of the class is to provide an environment conducive to the roadway user and worker safety, while striving toward zero work zone fatalities and the reduction of crashes in all types of work zones. Another goal is to minimize impact of work zones on motorist by limiting traffic delays to 15 minutes or less and to provide customers real-time work zone information. Motorist Assist Supervisor Percy Houston said the class is very beneficial. "It provides good guidelines for traffic control which is important for the safety of everyone who works in or travels through a work zone or incident requiring traffic control."

Within the first hour of the class, many of the trainees learned things about work zones they did not know. Inde-

pendence Intermediate Maintenance Specialist Rick Herrera was enthusiastic about receiving the training. "So much has changed in traffic control, I have learned very important information on things I thought were being done right that have changed over the years, so it's good to find out how to do things the right way."

MoDOT is committed to providing safe and efficient movement of motorized and non-motorized traffic through and around temporary traffic control zones

and to protecting workers and equipment located in those areas. When MoDOT partners and staff focus their attention on improving work zone visibility and mobility, from preliminary planning stages through the end of all work, the result is safer work zones with minimal impact on the motorist, a benefit to all. The Advanced Work Zone Awareness Training puts MoDOT, its employees, partners and motorists on the right road to safety.



KC District employees attending the Advanced Work Zone Awareness Training learned about work zone standards, nighttime work zones, operations and more.

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.

Bolder Five-Year Direction Calendar

2012

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

2013

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

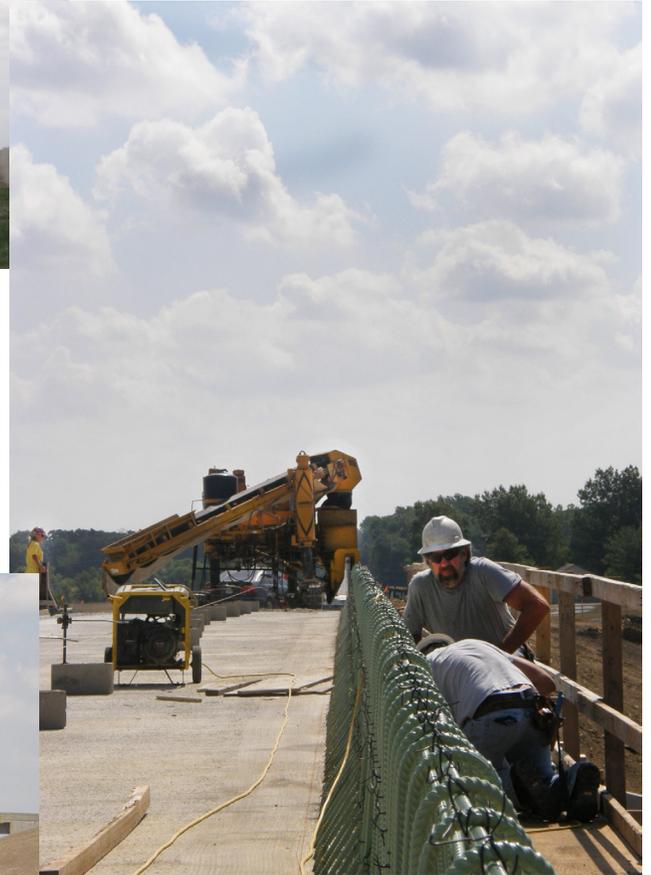
Bolder 5-Year Direction Questions?

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

Work on Route 71 Improves Several Interchanges



Three bridges under construction on Route 71 south of Harrisonville are in place and work continues on facets of each structure as MoDOT moves toward changing the highway to I-49 by the end of the year. Above, at 283rd Street, work on approaches and bridge walls kept workers busy Monday, July 16. On the left, two workers were preparing forms for bridge walls at the new 307th interchange. Below, much of the work is done, and outer road tie-ins are among a dwindling list of tasks to complete at 327th Street overpass.



KC KUDOS

Thank you so much for the new overpass at 283rd Street just south of Route 7 near Harrisonville. Traffic is getting so thick it is hard to get out on the highway now, especially from a complete stop. You guys are doing a terrific job and it seems like it will be done quickly too. We look forward to using the bridge to get into Harrisonville without jumping on the highway.

Sincerely,
Karen P., Harrisonville



Routes C and J Over Route 71 Moving Forward



On Monday, July 16, electricians were removing the old signals on the west side of the Routes C & J bridge over Route 71 in Peculiar. Meanwhile, on the deck of the bridge, a swarm of workers were quickly tying out reinforcing steel in preparation for the concrete pour scheduled for later that evening. However, by early Monday afternoon, plans changed when a truck pulling a trailer with a track hoe slammed into the south beam above the northbound lanes. The collision bent the beam, which canceled the deck pour and triggered a swift evaluation and repair of the damaged steel. Flame On Inc., a team of specialists from Monroe, WA, were brought in to straighten the beam so that the bridge deck pour could resume.

Bridge Rehabilitation Under Way on I-35 at Lightburne Road *MoDOT Using Intelligent Transportation System through Work Zone*

MoDOT is conducting extensive bridge rehabilitation to the north and southbound I-35 bridges over Lightburne Road near Liberty. This work will require head-to-head traffic at Lightburne through September 5.

This \$1.5 million project awarded to L.G. Barcus and Sons, Inc. will provide new bridge decks on I-35 creating a smoother, safer drive for the thousands of motorists traveling through the area.

Crossovers are in place to move traffic into a head-to-head configuration. Northbound traffic will remain in a two-lane configuration and southbound traffic reduced to one lane. Motorists are currently using northbound I-35 while crews rehabilitate the southbound I-35 bridge.

By early August, crews will switch traffic onto southbound I-35 as bridge improvements are done on the northbound bridge. The traffic configuration will remain the same, with two lanes for northbound I-35 and southbound reduced to one lane. All work is expected to be complete by September 5 and is weather dependent.

Intelligent Transportation System Implementation:

To minimize traffic delay and improve safety through the work zone, MoDOT is using an Intelligent Transportation System, implementing a dynamic lane merge. The purpose is to improve traffic flow and minimize aggressive driving behavior. This work zone setup will be

provided for southbound traffic as motorists approach the lane restrictions and head-to-head traffic.

This system will use a series of changeable message boards to encourage motorists to merge early and not cut in line. As traffic volume increases, the messages will change and encourage drivers to do a late merge, using both lanes and taking turns at the merge point. Travel times will also be provided to give motorists an idea of the time it will take them to drive through the work zone. Motorists are encouraged to slow down and follow the instructions on the message boards to allow all to drive through the work zone quicker and safer.

Two MoDOT Projects Cited as “Best in Mid-America”

MoDOT has won top honors in the Mid America Regional “America’s Transportation Awards” competition for two projects that were completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

Chief Engineer Dave Nichols received the awards at the annual meeting of the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials. MoDOT’s winning entries were the kclCON project in Kansas City and the I-270 Dorsett-Page Project in suburban St. Louis.

Now in its fifth year, the America’s Transportation Awards competition – sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – recognizes the very best of America’s transportation projects in three main categories: Ahead of Schedule, Under Budget and Best Use of Innovation. The categories are then split up by size: small (less than \$25 million), medium (between \$25 million and \$199 million) and large (\$200 million and more).

kclCON won as the large project in the “Ahead of Schedule” category. The \$245 million design-build project improved driver safety and greatly reduced congestion in Kansas City by building the new signature cable-stayed Christopher S. Bond Bridge across the Missouri River, widening 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35, and rebuilding five interchanges. Construction began in April 2008 and was completed in December 2010, more than six months ahead of schedule.

The I-270 Dorsett-Page Project won as the medium project in the Under Budget category. This project combined three roadway projects under one contract in St. Louis, reducing congestion. The project, which began in July 2009, was finished a month ahead of schedule in August 2011 and about \$2.4 million under the project’s \$34.8 million budget. MoDOT attributes the success of the project to strong attention to detail, partnerships through the design and construction phases and community involvement.

“All of the projects entered into the competition deserve recognition for their creativity, innovation, and management,” said Kirk Steudle, Michigan Department of Transportation director and president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. “The America’s Transportation Award competition is a great way to highlight tremendous transportation projects that demonstrate how state DOTs continue to deliver value with limited transportation dollars. Our state DOTs should be proud of the projects they complete to keep our communities safe, make our commutes easier and become more efficient.”

MoDOT’s two winning projects are now eligible to compete for national honors that will be announced at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh in November.



EAEC Corner: Profiles

The KC Employee Advisory Extension Council (EAEC) has been active for more than three years and serves KC District employees. The council's goal is to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all employees by assisting management and employees with cultural diversity, policy review, and communication issues.

Take advantage of this avenue to stay informed about our district. You can contact the various members or submit a concern or question through the intranet or through a paper form that can be located in each work unit. All concerns are anonymous and confidential throughout the process.

The EAEC Corner introduces you to the members of the council.

Name, title and position on the EAEC.
Molly Schuber, Senior Maintenance Worker, Representative

What areas of the district do you represent on the council? *I represent Pettis County maintenance.*

Why did you volunteer and what do you hope to accomplish while serving on the EAEC? *I was asked if I would like to be a part of this team and said yes. I want to help solve people's questions and get them answers.*

What's the best part of serving on the team? *Putting our heads together to come up with answers.*

What is one employee issue you hold near and dear to your heart? *The one issue I think is extremely important is being safe on the job.*

To learn more about the KC District EAEC on the intranet, click on Employee Advisory Council on the left-hand links.



*Molly Schuber
Senior Maintenance Worker*

MoDOT's Fallen Workers Memorial



MoDOT Director of Operations Don Hills (far right) gathers with family members of MoDOT workers killed in the line of duty to dedicate the Fallen Workers Memorial in Jefferson City July 16. The new memorial is located just west of MoDOT's Central Office on the grounds of the Capitol.

Cass County's Final SAS Bridge



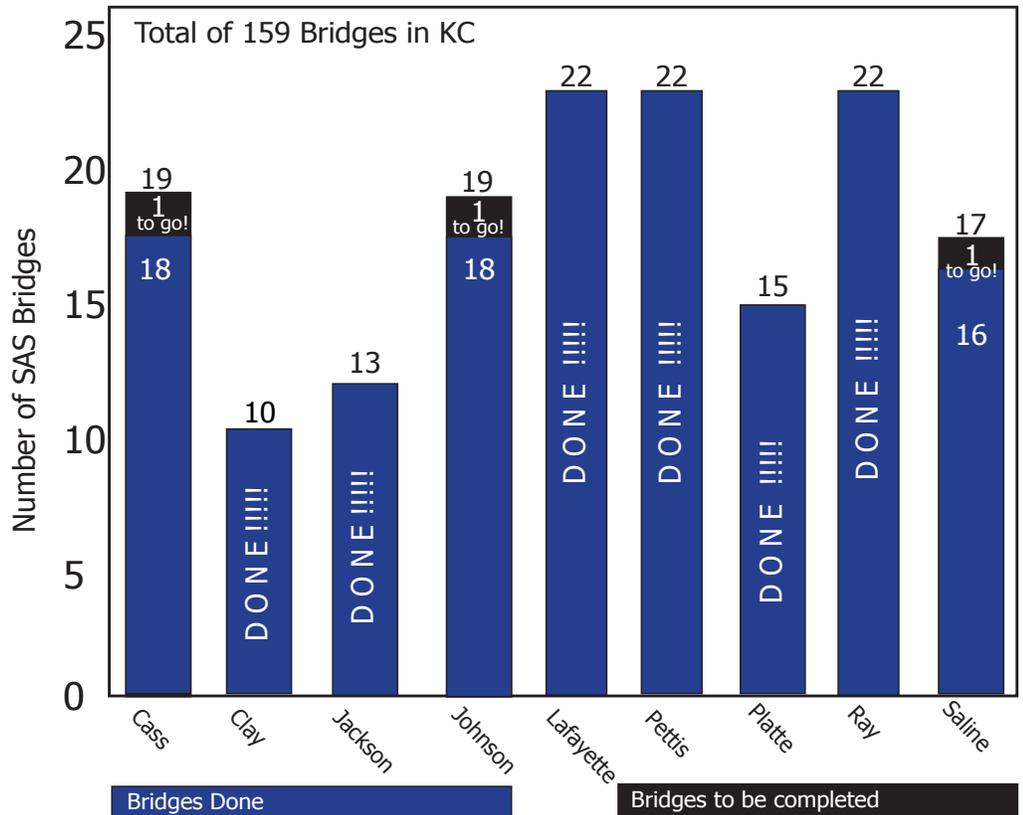
The final steel beams for the Cass County Route B Bridge over the Grand River east of Archie were placed Monday, July 16, the latest milestone in what will be the last of 19 Safe & Sound bridges to be completed in Cass County. The Route B bridge is on schedule to open at about the time the ribbon cutting ceremony will take place the morning of August 1.

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: Protecting Your Eyes

Seeing clearly can have a huge impact on your ability to perform your job safely. Experts recommend you should have your eyes checked at least every other year to determine whether you need corrective lenses or if your prescription needs adjusting. In addition to an eye exam, here are some safety tips to help protect your eyes from injury.

- **Wear your basic eye protection.** The new head, eye and face policy, effective July 1, 2012, requires all employees to wear a minimum of safety glasses while outside a defined safe zone. MoDOT provides a variety of safety glasses, including Rx safety glasses.
- **Know the safety dangers at work.** Safety glasses are the minimum standard of protection and often should be used in combination with other protective equipment. So be aware and identify potential eye hazards on the job.
- **Choose the right eye protection.** Do they involve flying particles; are you grinding, chipping or using chemicals that could come into contact with your eyes? Once you've assessed the hazards, be sure to choose safety eyewear that is designed specifically to protect your eyes or face from them. This could include face shields, impact or chemical goggles, cutting goggles or welding shields.
- **Clean off before removing eyewear.** Particles thrown up toward your eyes can be deflected keeping your eyes safe from impact, only to be injured when you remove your protection. Brush off body areas that could be holding chips or particles before removing your PPE. Also, wash your hands and resist rubbing your eyes or clean the lenses until you are clear of hazards.
- **Check your eyewear often for damage.** Check for scratches and possible breakage on the lens that may affect vision. Replace your eyewear if it shows any signs of wear or damage.



- **Chemical splashes.** Irrigate the eye(s) with water for at least 20 minutes. It is important that you keep your eyelids open during the irrigation process. Although saline solution is best, use whatever clean water source that is available. Regular tap water or water from a garden hose is an acceptable alternative.
- **Do not let run off from the affected eye travel into an unaffected eye.** Tilt the head back and away so you the affected eye is on the bottom. If you injure your eyes, contact your supervisor and/or seek medical help immediately. If you would like more information on protecting your eyes or face from injury, contact your Kansas City District risk management office.

Prevent Heat Related Illness

We have posted about heat safety many times before, but given the high temperatures and the forecast showing no relief in sight, it's worth bringing to everyone's attention again. As temperatures rise, so do concerns about heat-related illnesses. High temperatures, high humidity, sunlight, and heavy workloads increase the likelihood of heat stress. Too much heat can also make us lose our concentration or become fatigued or irritable and thus increases the chance of accidents and injuries. Understanding how to deal with heat stress can help to prevent or reduce accidents and is important to workers' health and well-being.

Heat disorders generally arise when the body's ability to shed heat is reduced, and can range from sunburn,

heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat-stroke. Treatment for all heat disorders includes removing the affected person from the heat and providing treatment immediately. Many heat disorders can be prevented if proper precautions are followed.

Everyone should have a working knowledge of heat stress and heat related illnesses in order to protect each other. To dissipate heat, the human body varies the rate and depth of blood circulation. Blood is circulated closer to the skin's surface to allow water to be lost as sweat. Evaporation of the sweat allows the body to dissipate heat. Clothing, such as personal protective equipment, coveralls, etc., may prevent an individual from sweating thus interfering with evaporation and cooling of the body.

Prevention of heat disorders includes acclimating to the heat. Someone who is not accustomed to working in the heat may take a week or two to get used to doing so. Even experienced workers should acclimate to the hot conditions by limiting their time in hot working conditions. Tips include increasing break frequency and encouraging employees to use the buddy system to watch for symptoms of heat disorders in coworkers.

Supervisors, remind employees how to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat stress. A worker who becomes irrational or confused or collapses on the job should be considered a heat stroke victim, and medical help should be sought immediately.