



MoDOT in *MOTION*

District 10

Spring 2010

Dear friends:

This edition of MoDOT in Motion marks the one-year anniversary of this publication. As you read this issue, I hope you learn more about MoDOT and projects taking place on your roadways.

District 10 has recently gone social. With newly created Facebook and Twitter pages, I encourage everyone to become a fan. Learn more about following us on the back cover.

Construction season is also upon us, which means work zones will become a more common site. To learn more about our top work zones this year, see page 3.

Providing our travelers with good customer service is a top priority for MoDOT. You can learn more about our Customer Service Center on page 4.

This construction season will be busy for the Southeast District. I hope this newsletter will provide important information that you can use. If you have additional questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK MoDOT.

Thank you,

Mark Shelton, P.E.
District Engineer



MoDOT Implements Further Cost Saving Measures

MoDOT has announced dramatic cost savings measures and a plan to keep major highways in good condition and to improve minor highways as less funding is available for new construction. The department will save \$203 million over the next five years by cutting costs and eliminating 400 salaried positions without lay-offs by June 30, 2013.

The construction program is on a steep decline due to stagnant state revenues, uncertain federal funding, rising employee benefit costs and no more money coming from Amendment 3 mandated bonds.

This plan calls for a focus on keeping the existing transportation system in good condition and for meeting all commitments made in the five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

The department has made great strides in improving Missouri's transportation system and rebuilding trust with Missourians, but financial uncertainties are threatening the progress we've made over the past five years. Despite this challenge, MoDOT remains committed to providing a smooth and safe ride on our highways and delivering improvements on time and under budget.

Currently, highway fatalities are at their lowest level since 1950. Eighty-six percent of major roads are in good condition. Eighty-nine percent of Missourians say they trust MoDOT to meet its commitments and overall customer satisfaction is at 85 percent.

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D10 Markets Property to Bring In Extra Funds for Road Projects

Realty to Roads Blitz April 26-30

With the current state of transportation funding, finding ways to bring in extra funds for roadway and bridge projects is increasingly important. To help meet this challenge, the Missouri Department of Transportation launched the Realty to Roads Blitz last November—an all-out attempt to sell multiple properties across the state in a short period of time.

Last November's blitz generated more than \$675,000 that will be used to make Missouri's highways smoother and safer. Due to the effort's success, MoDOT will hold a second sales blitz from April 26-30. Thirty-two pieces of property, four of which are in

the Southeast District, will be offered to the public for sale at this time.

“The Southeast District properties included in the blitz are no longer needed to build, improve or maintain our roadways,” said Senior Right of Way Technician Michael Smith. “However, the four parcels could be of use to a buyer interested in property for commercial development or recreational use.”

Two of the Southeast District properties include the 3.76-acre Campbell maintenance facility located on Route 62 in Dunklin County and a 2.81-acre site located between Route 67 and the

East Outer Road (Old Route 67) south of Poplar Bluff in Butler County.

“The Campbell facility includes an eight-bay, concrete-block building and the Butler County site has excellent visibility from Route 67 and the East Outer Road,” said Smith. “These features make the properties ideal for commercial development.”

The Southeast District also has two parcels that may interest buyers searching for recreational use sites.

These properties include an 11.4-acre site located six miles northwest of Poplar Bluff in Butler County and

a 42.2-acre wetland site located on Route 67 in Madison County.

Smith added that the 11.4-acre site has the added benefit of being bordered by both Goose Creek and Cane Creek.

The Southeast District will sell the four properties by sealed bid with a separate minimum bid amount required for each of the properties.

For more information about the Southeast District properties, please contact Smith at (573) 472-5286 or visit www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm



The 3.76-acre Campbell maintenance facility, located in Dunklin County, includes an eight-bay, concrete block building.



Located in Butler County, the 2.81-acre site is visible from Route 67 and East Outer Road. This site has potential for commercial use.



This 11.4-acre parcel located in Butler County is bordered by both Goose Creek and Cane Creek, making it ideal for recreational use.



The 42.2-acre property is located on Route 67 in Madison County. This site has the potential for recreational use.

Construction Season Kicks-Off

District 10 welcomes spring and the start of another construction season. With this shift in seasons, motorists can expect to see many new improvements getting underway and the completion of several projects that were started last year. More improvements mean travelers will soon have a smoother, safer ride, but it also means more work zones.

Southeast District projects scheduled to begin this construction season include:

Route 53 in Butler and Dunklin Counties

Motorists should expect one-lane work zones as crews perform paving and shoulder work from Campbell to Holcomb and from Qulin to Poplar Bluff. Traffic will be controlled with a pilot car. Work began this March and is expected to be completed in June.

Route 67 in Wayne County

Traffic could begin using the new Route 67 near Greenville as early as this June. This move will involve two bypasses, one at the north edge of Greenville and another at Route A.

Route 34 in Wayne County

This is a D10 ARRA project that is underway, with shoulder work beginning on Route 34 in Wayne County in April. Asphalt paving is expected to begin this summer. Drivers should expect delays from Silva to Piedmont.

Route W in Cape Girardeau County

Route W resurfacing and shoulder improvements will extend from Lexington Ave. to LaSalle Ave. Drainage structures near County Road 618 and County Road 620 will also be improved. As drainage work is completed, the roadway will be closed for approximately two weeks per bridge. The closures will not occur at the same time.

Route B in Ste. Genevieve County

Work to replace the River Aux Vases bridge in Ste. Genevieve County began March 1, and is expected to be complet-

ed this June. The resurfacing and widening work, which will extend from Route 32 to Route F, began March 8. During this portion of the project, the route will be reduced to one lane with a 10-foot width restriction. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2010.

Interstate 57 in Mississippi and Scott Counties

Resurfacing and shoulder work on I-57 in Mississippi and Scott Counties could begin as early as this April. Improvements will extend from County Road 401 near Charleston to Route AA near Miner, as well as from east of Route B to Route AA. Lane closures will be necessary at times. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

Interstate 55 in Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties

Work to improve I-55 began this April. The project includes grading and paving in the northbound lanes from the Route 61 interchange at Fruitland to the Route B interchange near Biehle. The northbound on and off ramps at Route E will be closed as work is underway. Completion is expected fall 2010.

Safe and Sound 2010

With most of the quick-start bridges completed, D10 is beginning a rigorous design-build schedule. In 2010, the program will include 25 bridge improvements in the Southeast District. Most of these projects will involve a road closure. For more information about D10's Safe and Sound program, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/safeandsound.htm



Demolition of the Route 61 bridge over Buckeye Creek in Cape Girardeau County began April 12. The project is part of the Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program.

Route 25/77/AB Roundabout in Cape Girardeau County

Clearing work for the Blomeyer roundabout at the intersection of Routes 25, 77 and the future Route AB began March 3. Route 77 may be closed during certain stages of work. However, the closure cannot occur prior to May 2010, and the route cannot be closed for more than 45 days. Route 25 will remain open at all times. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

In addition to beginning these new projects, I-55 work in Pemiscot and New Madrid Counties will also wrap up this construction season.

I-55 asphalt resurfacing from Route 60 at Sikeston to the Arkansas state line began last year. With around 50 percent of the project finished, work to complete the remainder of the project is expected to begin this summer.

Contractors will begin the second half of the I-55 project in Pemiscot County this April. Concrete resurfacing work from Route 164 to Arkansas was completed last fall. This season, work will extend from Route U/J to Route 164.

For more information on Southeast District construction projects, please visit www.modot.org/southeast.

District 10 Focuses on Customer Service

Providing good customer service is an important part of our everyday work at MoDOT. Whether it is our Right-of-Way staff talking with property owners or our Project Managers explaining project details with communities and local officials, everyone at MoDOT strives to provide good customer service.

However, no one talks with more customers than our District 10 Customer Service Representatives, Connie Robinson, Mike Ross and Alberta Green. Robinson, Ross and Green

staff the District 10 Customer Service Center throughout the week.

The Center fields phone calls from our customers each day. Some of those customers have questions about upcoming projects, road conditions during inclement weather or just want to report an issue in their area.

“We average 65 to 70 calls each day,” says Robinson. “The majority of those calls center on customers reporting potholes or cracks in the pavement.”

Once an issue is called in, Customer Service Representatives complete a call report and notify the area superintendent. From there, crews will address the issue and contact the customer to let them know the issue has been taken care of.

Robinson says the best part of her job is knowing that she has helped customers find answers to their questions or concerns.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK MoDOT.

Customer Service Representative Alberta Green answers questions about an upcoming project and directs the customer to visit the Traveler Information Map to stay updated on any impacts to traffic.



MoDOT Director Pete Rahn Resigns Keith Named Interim Director

On March 24, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) announced the resignation of Pete Rahn as director of the Missouri Department of Transportation. Rahn's resignation was effective April 23, 2010.

Rahn served as director since September 2004. He will assume a position of Senior Vice President with HNTB, a Kansas City-based engineering firm.

“It's with a very heavy heart that we have accepted Pete's resignation,” said Rudy Farber, chairman of the MHTC. “We want to thank him for his outstanding service to Missouri and certainly wish him well in his new career and in having more quality time to spend with his family.

“His innovative and highly effective

leadership was exactly what was needed to handle the challenges MoDOT faced when he became director,” said Farber. “As a result, Missouri's transportation system is now in much better shape and MoDOT has reestablished a positive reputation with the public.”

The MHTC selected Chief Engineer Kevin Keith to serve as interim director of MoDOT effective April 23, 2010. Keith will serve until a permanent director is selected following a national search that could take several months.

“I am thrilled to accept this new responsibility,” Keith said. “I have been with MoDOT for more than 25 years and I know what great people work here. I am committed to the department's current direction and will hand the new director the reins of a great organization.”

Keith has been MoDOT's Chief Engineer since July 2001. In that role, he has been instrumental in turning around public perceptions of the department. He has been nationally recognized for his innovative efforts implementing “Practical Design” a no-frills approach to satisfying customer needs while saving money for additional transportation improvements. Practical Design has saved \$500 million and the concept has been implemented in other states.

“Kevin's vast knowledge and experience make him an excellent choice to lead the department,” said Farber. “His steady hand at the helm will allow us to conduct a comprehensive, national search for the next director of MoDOT.”

And the Winner Is...

D10 Announces BOTB Winners

With 32 Southeast District schools participating in the 2009 Battle of the Belt Challenge, 27 successfully completed the statewide competition.

“We were thrilled to have such an overwhelming response from our Southeast District schools,” said Southeast District Youth Coordinator Belinda McMurry. “This year, we had more schools complete the competition than ever before.”

With 99 percent of students buckling up, Saxony Lutheran High School was District 10’s winner for the highest overall percentage of seatbelt usage. Additionally, Saxony Lutheran High School tied for the highest usage in the state.

Hayti High School, winner for the most improved seatbelt usage, began the Battle of the Belt Challenge with only 21.6 percent of students wearing their seatbelts. But by the end of the challenge, the school’s usage rate had increased by 66.34 percent, making Hayti High School the most improved in the district and statewide.

Six D10 schools also won statewide recognition awards for completing the challenge with seatbelt usage rates of 91 percent or higher. These schools include: Saxony Lutheran, Oran, Malden, Notre Dame, Scott City and Bell City High Schools.

“The goal of BOTB is to help schools increase seatbelt usage among their students

and to hopefully maintain the improved rates—ultimately reducing fatalities and saving lives,” said McMurry.

In addition to the statewide awards, the Southeast District also presented schools with local awards for the best educational campaigns, “setting and meeting their own goal,” and producing a safety video/PSA.

Winners of the best educational campaign include: Oran High School, East Prairie High School, Advance High School and South Pemiscot High School.

Twin Rivers High School and Oran High School were recognized for “setting and meeting their goal.”

Four schools won awards for producing BOTB PSAs including: Scott City High School, South Pemiscot High School, Oran High School and Twin Rivers High School.

“Battle of the Belt is really a win-win situation for all of our participating schools,” said McMurry. “Their efforts can make a difference in the lives of Missouri’s youth—possibly even saving lives.”

For more information, contact McMurry at belinda.mcmurry@modot.mo.gov or 573-472-5882.

MoDOT Implements Further Cost Saving Measures

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To maintain the quality and safety of the transportation system and continue to build trust and confidence with the public, MoDOT will implement several strategies.

MoDOT will save \$81 million over the next five years by reducing the size of its workforce and work space. By June 30, 2013, there will be 400 fewer positions. This reduction will not be achieved through lay-offs, but rather by immediately instituting a hiring freeze on 75 percent of positions that become vacant and by making sure the right people are in the right jobs. The department will also reduce the number of offices and buildings it owns.

MoDOT will save another \$122 million over the next five years by cutting costs. The department will reduce spending on vehicles, buildings and other capital improvements, information technologies and materials inventory. Other reductions will be more visible to the public, such as less mowing, litter pickup and sign replacement. MoDOT will also find a less expensive way to do striping, reduce the use of consultants and use shorter-term pavement treatments.



Students at Woodland High School conduct seatbelt checks as their peers arrive for school. To successfully complete the BOTB challenge, schools conduct seatbelt checks at the beginning of the challenge, and then implement a four-week, educational campaign to improve usage rates. Finally, schools conduct a second check at the end of the campaign to gauge their progress in spreading the “buckle up” message.

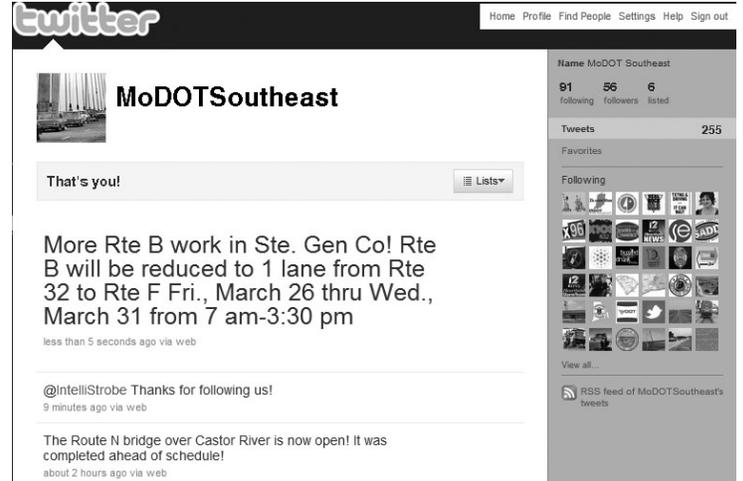
MoDOT Gets Social

If you would have mentioned Facebook or Twitter in a conversation five years ago, most likely no one would have known what you were talking about. However, that's not the case today. We use computers and cell phones as multi-purpose, interactive devices that enable us to connect with numerous people and organizations all at the same time, regardless of where we are.

District 10 has recently created pages for Facebook and Twitter. One of the best uses of these pages has been during the weather events over the winter. Updated information and posting of our traveler information map enabled individuals to view up-to-date road conditions.

One of the known benefits of using tools like FB and Twitter are that so many people regularly use the sites, and many have access via mobile phones. This provides a strong opportunity for MoDOT to reach customers quickly and directly. Another benefit is the opportunity for conversation. When we have the ability to interact with our customers, we learn so much more about how to best meet their needs. And in the past month, our conversations have centered on upcoming roadwork throughout the district.

Project information, roadwork notifications, videos and public service announcements will also be posted. To sign-up to be a Facebook fan, find us at: MoDOT Southeast District. To sign-up to follow us on Twitter, find us at: MoDOTSoutheast.



In addition to updating our accounts with travel information, D10 also accepts and responds to customer questions through Facebook and Twitter. Stay connected to D10 by becoming a fan and follower!

MoDOT in MOTION

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