

Connections

January 2008

MoDOT Employees are Top Givers in Charitable Campaign

by Kristi Jamison

When the final tallies were taken in the 2008 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign, MoDOT came out on top, taking first place in giving over all state agencies.

“MoDOT is the four largest state agency, yet through the generosity of our employees we raised more money for charity than any of the other state agencies,” said Director Pete Rahn. “I couldn’t be more proud.”

Together, MoDOT employees raised \$165,729, a 21 percent increase from last year! There was also an outstanding 7 percent rise in the number of MoDOT employees that participated in the campaign compared to last year.

“We thoroughly enjoyed our first MSECC experience and look forward to next year,” said Chief Counsel Office staffers Stacy



Roberta Broeker hand delivered cookies to Cathy Scribner in Governmental Relations – a part of the winning team in the Whitton Expressway Series.

Kaiser and Heather Arens, coordinators for MoDOT’s 2008 Charitable Campaign. “Thank you to everyone, especially the division and district coordinators, who made this year a successful one.”

Each winning district engineer was presented with a road sign “trophy” at

the Tracker meeting in November.

The winning Organizational Support Team members, led by Director Pete Rahn, received their reward on Dec. 18 – cookies hand delivered by Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker and Chief Engineer Kevin Keith.

over D5 with 11 percent participation (\$7,309)

Interstate 70 Series
D6 with 22 percent participation (\$19,983) over D4 with 13 percent participation (\$11,958)

Interstate 44 Series
D7 with 87 percent participation (\$5,069) over D8 with 18 percent participation (\$10,467)

U.S. 60 Series
D10 with 19 percent participation (\$6,825) over D9 with 17 percent participation (\$7,757)

Whitton Expressway Series
Organizational Support Team with 73 percent participation (\$10,511) over the System Delivery Team with 47 percent participation (\$16,192) and the System Facilitation Team with 39 percent participation (\$35,258)

Respect, Honor, Remember Tell Us How You See It

by Melissa Black

Hundreds and thousands of memorials across the country, from the simplest roadside cross to elaborate granite fountains, urge us to respect, honor and remember those whose lives have been lost. They are a way to help individuals deal with grief and reflect pride for sacrifices made for the greater good.

Since 1946, 124 MoDOT employees have been killed in the line of duty and plans are under way to create a statewide memorial in Missouri’s capital city to honor all of these men and women.

“Most districts have something to remember their fallen workers, but we really want some sort of statewide memorial to honor their lives and contributions,” said Don Hillis, director of System Management. “Whether lost in a work zone or doing some

other task, these employees gave their lives to make Missouri transportation safer and they deserve to be remembered.”

A committee of Central Office and district staff has begun to put together plans for the memorial. Although costs aren’t known yet, state funding won’t be used to create the memorial. Private donations will be requested, and details are still being worked out.

“We want to know from employees what concepts and materials they would like to see in the memorial – what feeling they think it should convey,” Hillis said. After employee suggestions, the committee will request and review some professional design options.

“Each of us contributes part of our lives to make transportation in Missouri safer for



Memorials like the traveling National Work Zone Memorial developed by ATSSA, pictured above, play an important two-fold role in helping families cope with the loss of a loved one and raising public awareness for highway safety. A MoDOT committee is developing a unique memorial to honor our co-workers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

all,” Hillis said. “But those who give their lives deserve to be honored – there is no bigger sacrifice.”

Please Send Your Suggestions
Employees can mail or e-mail their suggestions through March 1, 2008 to System

Management Outreach Coordinators Melissa Black or Sandra Hentges, at the Central Office in Jefferson City, or e-mail to Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov or Sandra.Hentges@modot.mo.gov.

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Helping Others Help Themselves

by Kristi Jamison

Are you new to MoDOT and feeling a little overwhelmed? Maybe you've recently taken a promotion with more leadership responsibilities. Or have you ever felt like your career was going nowhere? Or, perhaps you've climbed the career ladder at MoDOT and now have a desire to help someone else succeed.

Whatever the case may be, why don't you do something about it? There's a simple, no cost solution right here at work designed to help you either develop personally and professionally or share your knowledge and expertise with others. It's called the Mentoring Program.

Implemented in 2005, the Mentoring Program is a tool that helps support and develop employees, increase productiv-

particular issues more freely with your mentor," he said.

Mara has found the program to be rewarding as well. In a mentoring partnership, learning tends to go both ways.

"Brian has been a great help to me, as he opens my eyes to several issues and concerns that are not on my radar," Mara said. "He has taught me a thing or two about how to balance work and home as well as what he expects from a boss. And ... I've learned a lot about median guard cable too!!"

When asked why she decided to become a mentor, Mara said "I wanted the opportunity to learn from other employees and to be able to share with them the 'bumps and bruises' I've learned throughout my career. I've had



Organizational Results Manager Mara Campbell and Traffic Safety Engineer Brian Chandler meet for a mentoring session.

ity, improve our ability to recruit and retain good employees and encourage leadership succession within MoDOT.

One of the first employees to take advantage of the program was Traffic Safety Engineer Brian Chandler. He had just begun a new supervisory position and felt the program would help him become an effective leader. For the past two years, Organizational Results Director Mara Campbell has been his mentor.

Both Mara and Brian maintain very busy schedules. However, they have found that they only have to commit a minimal amount of time for both of them to reap the benefits from their mentoring partnership.

"Partnering with Mara has given me a broad understanding of the larger issues of MoDOT," Brian said. "By mentoring with a non-engineer, I've been able to learn about the strategic issues senior management deals with that touch all divisions and districts."

His advise to those seeking a mentor is to consider choosing one from outside of your current reporting line. "It will broaden your understanding of the department, and will allow you to discuss

some awesome mentors in my life and it's a privilege to be able to 'give back.'"

In fact, she urges others to consider becoming a mentor. "It's a win, win for everyone. It's time we all think about giving back to develop the next generation of MoDOT leadership."

The Mentoring Program is available to everyone, whether you work in a Central Office division or in any of the districts across the state. What are you waiting for? If you want to help a coworker succeed or if you're ready to take the first step toward boosting your career at MoDOT, join the Mentoring Program today.

For more information, contact the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division at 573-526-5611, by e-mail at EqualOpportunity@modot.mo.gov or on the Intranet at www.wwwi.intranet/eo/.

What is a Mentorship?

A mentorship is a nurturing relationship between two employees, where one person invests time, energy and personal knowledge in assisting the growth and development of another person.

Legislative Update

by Kristi Jamison

The 2008 legislative session is fast approaching, and with the "perfect storm" still forming over the funding of Missouri's critical highways, MoDOT plans to continue its efforts to educate our elected officials on the need for additional transportation revenues.

In addition to that very important work, Governmental Relations is also hard at work preparing three legislative proposals and one appropriations request the department plans to pursue during the upcoming session:

- **Automated Speed Enforcement in Work Zones** – seeks a revision to Missouri law that would allow photos generated by an automated speed control device to serve as evidence to issue speeding tickets in work zones.

- **Increased Criminal Penalties to Protect Highway Workers** – seeks to amend Missouri law to add highway workers working in a construction zone or work zone on the state highway sys-

tem as public service workers that are protected by the same criminal assault laws that apply specifically to law enforcement officials, emergency personnel and probation and parole officers.

- **Improvements in Multimodal Transportation Services** – seeks appropriations that will create a funding source, through general revenue, for multimodal programs that would improve passenger rail service, ports and rural and specialized public transportation services.

- **Unified Carrier Registration** – would put into place statutory authorization to implement a new interstate motor carrier registration program referred to as the Unified Carrier Registration Program. The authorization is necessary to allow Missouri to collect \$2.3 million in interstate motor carrier registration fees that it was previously authorized to collect under the former Single State Registration System.

Five Things You Can Tell Your Neighbors About the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

by Jeff Briggs

MoDOT is governed by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, a six-member board that meets monthly to review and approve projects and policies that guide our daily operations. Here are some quick facts on where the commission came from, who they are and how they operate.

1. The State Highway Commission (as it was called at the time) was created in 1921 as part of the 100th anniversary of Missouri statehood. Its charge was to create a state highway system – road building had been the responsibility of local governments up until that time.
2. Earlier in the 1900s, the state's limited highway work was part of the Department of Agriculture. Its earliest offices were in the basement of the State Capitol.

3. The commission is bi-partisan, meaning that, by state law, no more than three members can be from the same political party. The intent is to make road building a non-political process.

4. Commissioners are appointed by the governor and approved by the state senate. They serve a six-year term.

5. Commissioners can't afford to quit their day jobs. Their pay is \$25 per month, plus travel expenses.

For more history on the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, as well as some interesting background on our agency's early days, visit MoDOT's Web site at www.modot.org/about/commission/CommissionGeneralInfo.htm.



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission members from left: David Gach, St. Joseph; Bill McKenna, Crystal City; Rudolph E. Farber, Neosho; Duane Michie, Hayti - vice chairman (seated); Mike Kehoe, Jefferson City; and James Anderson, Springfield - chairman.

Cathy Morrison

National Recognition for Safer Roads

by Laura Holloway

The one hundredth anniversary of Henry Ford's automobile came and went in 2003. Traffic safety advocates have been around almost as long.

In November, people living in the here and now who are working to save lives on Missouri roads received national recognition for installation of median cable barriers on major highways across the state and for the efforts of the Destination: Safe regional safety coalition in Kansas City.

The Roadway Safety Foundation and the Federal Highway Administration recognized the Missouri programs reducing fatalities and injuries on our nation's highways.

Driving down Missouri's major interstates you can see evidence of the effectiveness of three-strand guard cable in narrow medians on these high traffic roads – there are a lot of hits. Beginning in 2003, MoDOT began installing median cable barriers designed to “catch” a vehicle before it crosses into the opposing traffic lanes, bringing it to a stop before it collides with other vehicles.

The cable barriers have virtually eliminated crossover crashes by catching more than 95 percent of vehicles entering the median. In 2002, there were 24 cross-median fatalities on Interstate 70 in Missouri. In 2006, that number decreased to two.

Destination: Safe is a coalition of local, regional, state and federal stakeholders in Missouri and Kansas and has improved transportation safety specifically in the greater Kansas City



Cathy Morrison

Crews installed median guard cable along Interstate 70, completing the project in 2006. The cables have virtually eliminated crossover crashes. As a result, there has only been one cross-median fatality on I-70 so far in 2007.

region. The coalition has put together the Kansas City Regional Transportation Safety Blueprint which outlines six high priority safety areas including unbelted motorists, aggressive drivers, youth and young adults, impaired drivers, pedestrians and transportation safety data.

Activities of Destination: Safe have included funding overtime enforcement of aggressive driving laws in the region, developing a safety comic book targeted to minority children, sponsorship of radio traffic reports providing specific messages aimed at aggressive and impaired driving and assisting

in conducting additional Think First programs in local high schools. The coalition monitors the progress of reducing fatalities in the region. There were 216 fatalities and 1,626 disabling injuries in the Kansas City region in 2006, compared to 238 deaths and 1,841 disabling injuries in 2005.

“We're thrilled that we're making an impact. The combined efforts of so many partners throughout the state are keeping Missouri motorists alive and that's what it is all about,” said Leanna Depue, director of MoDOT's Highway Safety Division.

Missouri had the largest drop in traffic-related fatalities in 2006 of any state

in the nation, down by 161 compared to 2005.

In 2004, one hundred and one years after The Ford Motor Company was established, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety was created to help safety advocates work together to reach the goal of 1,000 or fewer traffic-related fatalities by 2008. Henry Ford would be proud.

Speaker Jetton Hits the Road to Learn More About Transportation Needs

by Jay Wunderlich

Traveling through rain, fog, snow and ice, Speaker of the House Rod Jetton toured nine of MoDOT's 10 districts in December to get a better understanding of the transportation needs of the state of Missouri.

The Speaker got a firsthand look at some of the transportation projects that had been built with Amendment 3 funds and learned what additional projects remained in each regional area that could be constructed if additional transportation revenues were available.

In a news release issued by the Speaker, Jetton said, “This tour is an excellent opportunity to see the state of Missouri's roads and bridges firsthand. Transportation will be a focal point of the upcoming session and the information we learn on this tour will help in crafting legislative policy that

will improve roadways for the people of Missouri.”

Jetton explained to those attending each briefing that the reason for the decline in transportation dollars is due to a reduction in state and federal revenues and that unless additional revenues are identified by the year 2010, MoDOT would go into a maintenance and bond payback mode.

He said it would probably be left up to a citizens' group to pass an initiative petition to earmark more monies for transportation, unless a Governor would take the lead on supporting some sort of revenue increase.

Jetton drove nearly 2,007 miles and met with nearly 475 persons during his two-week funding tour. His tour to Joplin had to be postponed due to inclement weather, but will be rescheduled at a later time.



Speaker of the House Rod Jetton takes some time to talk to members of the Springfield media about his transportation funding tour. On his drive across Missouri, Jetton got a better understanding of what transportation projects have been completed and what projects citizens in each MoDOT district hope to have addressed in the future.



Spotlight on Diversity

Exercise. Lose weight. Quit smoking. Get out of debt. Go back to school.

Believe it or not, it's time for that long-standing tradition of making a New Year's Resolution.

Whether we choose to make one or not, or whether or not we can keep it, resolutions are a popular tradition that usually involve a commitment to some type of lifestyle change.

One of the most important changes we can consider is in our own attitudes. In

fact, one of the best ways we can have and maintain an enjoyable workplace is by possessing a positive attitude.

Prominent businessman and philanthropist Clement W. Stone once said, "There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. This little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative."

If you want to make a fresh start this year, why not also consider ways you can make a positive difference every day at work. Here are a few simple rules for a happy day:

- Today I Will Not Strike Back:** If someone is rude, impatient, or unkind, I will not respond in a like manner.
- Today I Will Be Careful About What I Say**
I will carefully choose and guard my words being certain that I do not spread gossip.
- Today I Will Go The Extra Mile**
I will find ways to help share the burden of another person.
- Today I Will Forgive**
I will forgive any hurts or injuries that come my way.
- Today I Will Secretly Do Something Nice For Someone**
I will reach out anonymously and bless the life of another.
- Today I Will Treat Others The Way I Wish To Be Treated**
I will practice the golden rule - "Do unto others as I would have them do unto me."
- Today I Will Raise The Spirits Of Someone Who's Discouraged**
My smile, words and expression of support can make a difference to someone.

Transportation Leaders Discuss Future Funding Options

Santa Leaves a Bill, Rahn Tells Group

by Sally Oxenhandler

If Missourians want to continue to see road and bridge improvements, they'll need to work with state leaders to find ways to finance them. Otherwise, it will be difficult to maintain Missouri's highway system in its current condition.

That was the message that came out of two recent conferences hosted to examine ways to deal with the pending drop in state transportation funding. MoDOT partnered with the University of Missouri-Columbia's Truman School of Public Affairs to host a Nov. 30 funding forum that drew about 110 industry leaders to Columbia. The Missouri Transportation Development Council hosted an event called "Investing in Transportation" on Dec. 13 in Jefferson City.

"We've delivered a lot of highway improvements in the past few years because of the additional revenue we received from Amendment 3," said Director Pete Rahn. "This construction boom might suggest all is well, but un-

fortunately that's not the case. In a few years, our funding will fall off a cliff, and we'll only be able to maintain our roads and bridges, not build anything new."

Rahn said we have used the extra money we received from Amendment 3 wisely, providing a lot of bang for the buck. The funding has been used to smooth 2,200 miles of the state's busiest highways, speed up 53 critical projects and tackle more than \$1.3 billion in new construction.

However, our construction program will drop from \$1.23 billion in 2008 to an annual program of \$569 million in 2010, putting the state below where it was before Amendment 3. We also estimate it will take somewhere between \$300 million and \$500 million over the next 10 years to repair or replace 203 of the state's aging, major bridges.

"How do we convince the public that dramatically more funding is needed

when for two years they have seen miles of orange construction cones everywhere they look?" said C.K. "Chip" Casteel, senior vice president for public policy, St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association, who spoke at the Nov. 30 funding conference. "I believe if we are looking for the people of Missouri to support transportation funding in an unprecedented way, then we must present them with an unprecedented value proposition."

Rahn likened the state's situation to the time he was nine years old and asked for an expensive present for Christmas. When his mother told him the gift was too costly, Rahn said he would ask Santa for it. To which his mother replied, "Santa leaves a bill."

"When it comes to transportation in Missouri, Santa leaves a bill," Rahn said.

Missouri ranks 44th in the nation in revenue per mile. Federal and state fuel

taxes are the primary source of Missouri's transportation funding. The state fuel tax was last raised in 1996 to its current rate of 17 cents. The 18.4-cent-a-gallon federal fuel tax has not increased in 14 years. These taxes are assessed per gallon, not per dollar, so revenue stays flat even though prices rise.

"One of MoDOT's major funding sources is a fixed tax, and it isn't rising along with prices," said Jim Moody, president of James R. Moody & Associates and a former state budget director.

Relying on existing revenue will only take the state so far, said Tom Barta of Fred Weber, Inc.

"Is there a solution? Yes. It's money," said Barta. "The only answer is new money."

Rahn challenged industry and legislative leaders to take charge in developing funding solutions the public will accept.

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January Service Anniversaries

35 Years	
Randy L. Bronestine	D3
John M. Statler	D10
30 Years	
Raymond L. Davis	D1
Larry D. Martin	D3
Robert E. Racherbaumer	D5
Daryl R. Weinkein	D7
Terry J. Kelley	D8
Allen D. Barton	D9
Dwight D. Spencer	CO
25 Years	
Martin C. Poffenbaugh	D4
Floyd N. Reynolds	D6
Roy G. Scurlock	D6
Paul G. Richardson	D7
Mable L. Powers	CO
William R. Whitfield	CO
20 Years	
Dennis H. Brucks	D2
Daniel T. Arnold	D6
Roxanna R. Baldridge	D9
Clyde D. Brower	D9
James D. Counts	D9
Cheryl R. Ball	D10
Debra L. Couch	D10

Stanley C. Johnson	D10
Richard E. Bennett	CO
James R. Dickson	CO
Robert B. Green	CO
Paula R. Lambrecht	CO
Roseanna M. Ridnour	CO
15 Years	
Travis M. Wombwell	D2
Terry L. Burris	D3
Randy W. Inlow	D3
Becky L. Novinger	D3
Cristi L. Polen	D4
Franklin L. Earl	D5
Larry W. Renick	D6
Natalie K. Ward-Lyn	D6
Steven J. Thorpe	D7
Dawne M. Gardner	D8
Harley J. Green	D10
Kevin W. Onstott	CO
Yvonne M. Wilbers	CO
Julie C. Stotlemeyer	CO
10 Years	
Cheryl A. Ballentine	D1
Marisela Ward	D4
Donna J. Gerke	D5
Travis J. Layne	D5
Laura S. Ellen	D6
George M. Gilyard	D6

Kevin A. Jines	D6
Kristi A. Bachman	D7
Justin C. Presson	D8
Stacy M. Reese	D8
Larry W. Lizenbee	D10
Donald W. Tinkle	D10
5 Years	
Stacey G. Mollus	D1
Andy W. Thurman	D1
Jon W. Brewer	D2
Charles R. Hubbard	D3
Robert J. Hunolt	D3
Tom W. Shrum	D3
Keith P. Dawson	D4
David R. Price	D4
Jodie L. Puhr	D4

Teresa J. Wright	D4
Joshua D. Kincaid	D5
Robert W. Long	D5
James D. Kelley	D6
Christopher K. Mogan	D6
William J. Rau	D6
Cassandra J. Taylor	D6
Kimberly J. Vincent	D7
Jody R. White	D7
Jeannie Patti-Woodall	D9
Jose A. Albarran-Garcia	CO
Patrick J. Hake	CO
Adrian C. Hendricks	CO

November Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Larry Vance	D1	27
John Bales	D2	16
Marc Meador	D4	31
Mark Embrey	D5	30
Roger Markle	D8	33
Carlis Callahan	CO	33
Ursaline Mengwasser	CO	14

In Memoriam

Active Employee		
Randy E. Williams	D4	Nov. 18
Retirees		
Stevens "Steve" L. Walker	D3	Nov. 1
Michael "Mike" C. Rose	CO	Nov. 3
Clifford C. Miller	D6	Nov. 5
Larry Prince	D10	Nov. 12
Julian Nail	D6	Nov. 23
Gerald L. Moling	D4	Nov. 28
Ray J. Robbins	D7	Nov. 30
Robert "Bob" D. Smith	D2	Nov. 30
John W. Agnew	D5	Nov. 30



Central Office

Samaritan Center and Others Receive Offerings from MoDOT Personnel

by Matt Hiebert

We all know the holiday season is a chance to be thankful for what life has given us. It is a time to spend with family and friends – a time to let celebration eclipse the daily grind.

It is also a time for sharing our good fortune. For those who are blessed with plenty, the season offers a special opportunity to give to those of lesser bounty.

Across the organizational chart, you'll find MoDOT doing just that for the Samaritan Center and other charitable organizations in the area.

The Samaritan Center is an interfaith organization that helps mid Missouri families struck by disaster. Several

MoDOT business units have organized drives to collect food and money to support the center.

"Audits and Investigations adopted a family of four this season," said Amy Blankenship, senior auditor. "We collected nonperishable foods, purchased gifts from their wish list and collected money for a grocery store gift card."

Human Resources also collected food and gifts for the Samaritan Center. For



Bryan Ross

Transportation Planning's Holiday Luncheon Committee engineered a holiday drive to collect winter wear for local students. Front row: RexRoy Scott, Kesha Henderson and Kathy Knudsen Back row: Joni Adamson, Mary Kladiva and Carol Wieberg



Cathy Morrison

Left to right: Amie Peters, Devon Christensen, Mike Miller, Mark Schmidt and Ray Kinard show the amazing results of the IS toy drive.

the past two years the unit has collected a variety of gifts, food and gift cards and given them to the Center to fill in the gaps between families who were specifically adopted.

"In HR we believe it is very important to show our appreciation for all the blessings we receive," said Mollie LeBlanc, HR special projects coordinator. "This time each year, we share fellowship with our co-workers, as well as share our blessings with those less fortunate."

Information System cranked out the giving with three events benefiting the Samaritan Center. In addition to a school supply drive in August and a chili cook off in October, IS launched a toy drive which produced two full truck loads of toys.

"IS has a tradition of contributing to those in need through collections and some fun contests," said Mike Miller, IS director. "As we near Christmas, those efforts are heightened as we remember that we've also been the recipient of a great gift."

The Controller's Division collected 400 pounds of food for the Samaritan Center. In addition, accounts payable staff adopted four gentlemen from an

assisted living group home for the mentally disabled. The group assembled a gift box for the men that included handmade blankets, cologne, house slippers and other miscellaneous items.

"The four gentlemen range in age from their late 20s to mid 80s," said Karen Miller, senior financial services specialist. "They always greet you with a smile and a big hug."

The Bridge Division also donated a large amount of nonperishable food to the center. "Several boxes of food were delivered on December 12," said Cheryl Hollis, executive assistant for Bridge.

Transportation Planning collected and donated earmuffs, gloves and winter hats for the students at East Elementary School in Jefferson City.

Although the above-mentioned donors represent just a portion of Central Office's holiday giving efforts, it is truly reflective of the generous and caring nature of MoDOT employees in general. Many other divisions not mentioned in this article also contributed to charities across central Missouri, and because they did, someone else's holiday was a little brighter.

MoDOT Recognized for Recycling Efforts

by Sally Oxenhandler

The Missouri State Recycling Program recently recognized MoDOT's environmental contributions with its annual state Recycling Award.

Gov. Matt Blunt presented the award to Dave Ahlvers, the director of MoDOT's Construction and Materials Division, on Dec. 12. Several members of MoDOT's Environmental Unit also participated in the ceremony.

In the past four years, MoDOT has used more than 20,000 cars worth of rubber tires in its construction projects and enough recycled shingles to roof 305 houses. Altogether over that time, the agency has recycled more than 3.6 billion pounds of waste material that otherwise would have wound up in landfills.

for more info

Connections Editor
Phone
E-mail

105 W. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Kristi Jamison
573.526.2482
kristine.jamison@modot.mo.gov



Shaun Schmitz

Gov. Matt Blunt congratulated Design's Environmental Unit on winning the state Recycling Award. From left: Joe Schroer, Dave Ahlvers, Gov. Matt Blunt, Kevin Wideman and Gayle Unruh.

D1

Northwest

Route AC Completed!

by M. Elaine Justus / photos by Holly Lea Murphy



Sam Panettiere, a staff assistant in the office of Sen. Christopher (Kit) Bond, wields the scissors on the left while Congressman Sam Graves also does his part for the celebration.

“A year early and on budget,” was the phrase heard most often on Monday, Dec. 10. Representatives from MoDOT, the city of St. Joseph, and even folks from Jefferson City and Washington D.C. stopped by to be a part of this “once in a lifetime” event.

The new extension is 1.8 miles in length and provides an important new area for economic development in addition to easier access to Heartland

Hospital, Missouri Western University, American Family Insurance and the areas newest business park.

Representatives of the city and the chamber of commerce came up with the Beatles theme of “You’ve Got a Ticket to Ride” and issued invitations in the form of a bus ticket. That ticket gave guests the opportunity to be the very first to ride this new section of pavement in comfort (an important factor



Invitations to the ribbon cutting ceremony were in the form of a bus ticket with the theme of “You’ve Got a Ticket to Ride.”

for a winter ribbon cutting). As they rode along, they were entertained with stories about future economic development possibilities and what they could mean to St. Joseph, not only in terms of income potential, but also in terms of growth in the areas of employment and the city’s future.

Earmarked federal funding sponsored by both Sen. Bond and Congressman Graves made the \$9.6 million project possible. It’s fitting that both of them were in attendance at the groundbreaking in October 2006, and also represented at the ribbon cutting in December.



Maintenance Crew Leader David Yarnell (left) and Senior Maintenance Worker Corey Worthine of St. Joseph removed the barricades on the new Route AC immediately following the ceremony.

Missouri Department of Transportation’s Northwest District is honored to have provided supervisory guidance and engineering expertise to this important community project.

Big Buck Contest Winners

story and photos by M. Elaine Justus

6



Cameron Seasonal Worker Jonathan Gust shot a 15-point buck in Gentry County this season which entitled him to the first place prize.

An anonymous donor provides a \$50 Cabela’s gift certificate and a special hat to the employee who harvests the deer with the most antler points.

There were only two criteria to be eligible: contestants must work for



MoDOT, and they must take the deer in the Northwest District.

Besides the 15-point monster taken by Jonathan (pictured at the left), second and third places were tied between Barnard Maintenance Worker Danny Willson (seen at the right) and Maryville Senior Maintenance Worker Jim Defreese who both took 12-pointers. Second and third place winners receive special hats.

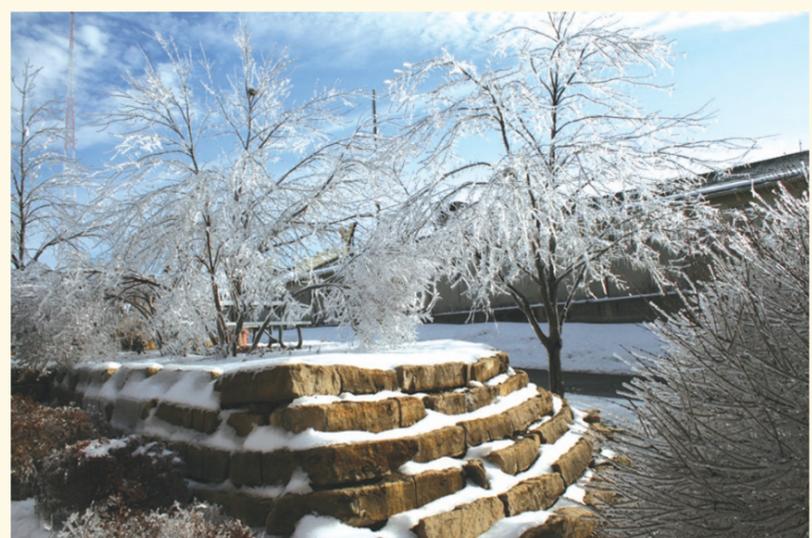


for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

M. Elaine Justus
816.387.2353
margaret.justus@modot.mo.gov

3602 North Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399



December 2007 will become known in the Northwest District as the month the trees died. Overnight, two inches of ice coated everything, destroying power lines and trees and leaving 80 percent of homes and businesses without light, heat and, in some cases, even water.

D2

North Central

Lucky Seven

by Tammy Wallace

It wasn't luck, but rather a lot of hard work that allowed District 2 to successfully complete all planned projects this construction season either on time or ahead of schedule; and seven



Sen. Bill Stouffer joins the celebration on Route 63 in Macon.

of those were celebrated with ribbon cutting ceremonies.

"We've made some great improvements to the north central district this year and these communities were very excited about the projects we delivered," said District Engineer Dan Niec.

Route 36 in Macon, Linn and Livingston Counties. Four projects to rehabilitate Route 36 across these three counties included 21 bridge



Rep. Tom Shively, Sen. Brad Lager and Rep. John Quinn share a laugh at the Route 36 event.

rehabilitations, 18 lane miles widened to standard 12-foot lane width, all shoulders upgraded to hard surface, and many other safety improvements such as signing, striping, guardrail and guard cable. All of this work was completed in one construction season and the district spent over \$31 million to bring this section of the corridor into good shape.

Route 63 in Adair County. This \$5.1 million project constructed 4.4 miles of four lane from Route KK near Millard to Route 11 south of Kirksville.

Route 63 in Macon County. Another 3.9 miles of undivided four lane and three lanes with two-way left turn from the Route 36 junction in Macon



The ribbon is cut on Route 63 in Macon.

for more info

Community Relations Manager Tammy Wallace
660.385.8209
E-mail Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov
Route 63
P.O. Box 8
Macon, MO 63552



Rep. Rebecca McClanahan appreciates driving on four lanes from Kirksville to Jefferson City.



Rep. Joe Aull congratulates the city of Marshall on their new project.

north to Route DD was a second project on Route 63 that also cost \$5.1 million.

The completion of the Adair and Macon projects made Route 63 a four-lane facility from Kirksville to Jefferson City, with the exception of the city of Macon.

Route 136 in Mercer County. Replacing two bridges, rebuilding and realigning a section of roadway from just east of Route 65 in Princeton, as well as resurfacing portions of Route 136 from the Harrison County line to Ravanna, were improvements included in this

\$3.8 million upgrade.

Route 65 and College Avenue in Marshall. A \$328,000 cost share project between MoDOT and the city of Marshall constructed additional turn lanes and added traffic signals at this busy intersection to improve traffic flow and safety.

Route 65 (Clyde's Corner) in Saline County. A sharp curve at this location won't be causing problems any longer, as \$855,385 was money well spent to construct nearly 1,050 feet of new roadway, improve the intersection at Route N and County Road 421, and soften the sharp curve.

Route 5 in Chariton County. \$915,267 constructed a new bridge over Shannon Creek on a new alignment and straightened another nasty curve.

A big thank you to all of the contractors and MoDOT personnel who worked hard this construction season to complete these projects; to the communities for their support and patience; and to the state and local dignitaries who joined in the celebrations.



Sen. Wes Shoemyer notes a job well done on Route 63 in Adair County.

Speaker Jetton Tour

by Tammy Wallace



Speaker Jetton discusses MoDOT funding.

Speaker of the House Rod Jetton's tour of Missouri stopped in District 2 at the Department of Conservation in Kirksville. Speaking to a group of 55 citizens to discuss MoDOT's upcoming funding shortfall, the Speaker asked the group to be aware of the situation, educate their friends and neighbors and generate ideas that will keep our transportation system moving forward.

District Engineer Dan Niec also gave a presentation to the group noting the

many construction projects that have been completed in our district since 2005, thanks largely in part to the addition of Amendment 3 funding. He further discussed future transportation needs in our area and how the funding outlook will affect this part of the state.

The group of citizens who represented economic development, chamber of commerce, regional planning commissions and other businesses and organizations generated good discussion on possible tax increases, cost share initiatives, the use of other modes of transportation to move goods and other ideas to improve the funding outlook.

Rep. Rebecca McClanahan and former Representatives Don Summers, Phil Tate and Nate Walker, along with Speaker Jetton, gave their views from the legislative perspective.

D3

Northeast

The Heroes in the Plow

“You never know what you’re going to encounter in a winter storm,” is what Kurt Blacklock, Williamsburg maintenance crew member, said of his experience in maintaining Interstate 70 during inclement weather. The first storm of the year has left Kurt a hero, at least in the eyes of Doug and Jackie Bunting of Lake St. Louis.

“Jackie was going east on I-70 when she hit a patch of ice and lost control, spinning around and stopping to face head on traffic,” explained her husband. “My car was stalled, and I thought for sure I would be killed with all that traffic coming toward me,” Jackie said. Kurt was plowing on I-70 when he saw what happened. With all his lights flashing,



According to Jackie Bunting, Williamsburg maintenance team member Kurt Blacklock saved her life.

he quickly parked the MoDOT snow plow in front of Jackie’s car, so traffic would go around. “All of a sudden, he was there, and I am so thankful for his quick response,” Jackie said. “He was reassuring and stayed until the highway patrol arrived. He was saving many people, not just me.”

A truck hauling part of a mobile home jackknifed on an uphill slope across Highway 61 in Hannibal during rush hour. Because of the accident, several semi’s had followed suit, contributing to a two-mile backup. Hannibal maintenance crew member Junior Muehring and his supervisor, Birney Herrick, went out to help. “We had to go past the accident, turn around and back up two-tenths of a mile through stalled traffic to get in a position to help,” Junior said.

Birney guided Junior around all the stalled vehicles as he put down enough salt to get the oversized load and tractor trailers straightened up so they could move on down the road.

“I think all MoDOT employees respond this way in light of a crisis,” said District Engineer Paula Gough. “Kurt’s responsiveness and respectfulness toward Ms. Bunting is a perfect display of our values.”

Opposite Corners Attract

Jennifer Hinson moved from the southwest corner of the state to the northeast corner to become the new north area engineer. She is responsible for overseeing all maintenance activities in Marion, Lewis, Clark, Ralls, Scotland, Knox, Shelby and a portion of Pike and Monroe counties in northeast Missouri.

“There are similarities between the Joplin area and northeast Missouri including the terrain and rural environment,” she said. She moved to the area to be closer to her family in St. Louis. Another similarity is the people. “Our customers just want us to be responsive and honest, and it’s the same across the state.”

She has already gotten her feet “wet” by meeting with concerned citizens both one-on-one and in meetings, including one with farmers and a legisla-

tor. Jennifer has also had the opportunity to meet with several city and county representatives and will continue to do so to maintain and develop the relationships already established.



Jennifer Hinson visits with two of her supervisors, Rodney Osbourne and Kent Bohon. She brings experience from all over the state to northeast Missouri as the new north area engineer.

for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Route 61 South
P.O. Box 1067
Hannibal, MO 63401

Marisa Brown
573.248.2502
marisa.brown@modot.mo.gov

Values Practiced Here

Northeast District employees are satisfied is the result of the most recent survey. To find out why, employees were asked to share best practices and give their thoughts about the outcome. The statements during these interviews reflect that Northeast District employees are practicing the values of MoDOT.

Wayne Simcoe, maintenance supervisor in Williamsburg, touted inclusion in decision making and seeking out and welcoming new ideas as two that stand out with him. “The differences from years’ past to today are significant,” he said.

Lynda Long, a maintenance clerk in Palmyra said it’s an enjoyable workplace where everyone helps one another. Randall Galloway, maintenance supervisor at Paris notes that MoDOT empowers its employees, and that they work as a team. Debbie Malone said that MoDOT supports and develops employees. “Our division has even sponsored continuing education courses that are tailored to our jobs,” she said.

Every value statement was reflected during these interviews. From diversity to safety, Northeast District employees are practicing MoDOT values.



Right of Way employee Debbie Malone (in foreground) visits with a property owner during a public meeting in Warrenton. Even though challenging at times, it is a rewarding part of her job.

Ice, Ice Baby

Like much of Missouri, MoDOT crews kept busy in December with the winter weather. A major challenge involved ice covering many parts of the Northeast District, leaving MoDOT facilities and some employees’ homes without power.

Fred Bolton, maintenance supervisor in Louisiana, said they were without power for three days, forcing them to use truck batteries as the energy source to fuel vehicles. Several other facilities also lost power.



Louisiana was one of the hardest hit areas during the first ice storm in December. The storm downed power lines, left many tree branches broken and left area residents and MoDOT maintenance facilities without power.

Beverley Palmer Retires

Congratulations to Beverley Palmer for 10 memorable years of service to MoDOT.



“Bev was a model employee, demonstrating every one of our values and

always going above and beyond to get the job done,” said her supervisor, Tom Batenhorst.

Beverley was the design clerk her entire career, and while the job was interesting, she is looking forward to tackling some home projects, spending time with her grandchildren and helping her husband, Ed, on their farm in Center.

D4

Kansas City Area

Untangling Celebration Marks Opening of Interchange

by Steve Porter

It's Untangled! Two jubilant words marked the untangling of the old Triangle interchange in south Kansas City in December, and they also celebrated meeting a goal more than a year earlier than expected.

Cutting the ribbon turned out to be a challenge of its own. The ceremony was threatened by an ice storm that had descended on the state three days earlier. However, by the end of the week the ice had melted and the event – including burial of a ceremonial Triangle – went according to schedule.

Now known as 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway, the convergence of Route 71 and Interstates 435 and 470 presented several challenges to designers and construction teams over the six years and eight months from groundbreaking to the Dec. 14 ribbon cutting.

First, MoDOT committed to keeping all mainline lanes open during peak periods during construction. Second was the commitment to untangle some segment each year so that benefits of reconstruction wouldn't be delayed. Finally, everyone on the project

– consulting design firm HNTB Corp., and contractors Clarkson Construction Co. and APAC – Kansas, Inc. – were driven to open all mainline lanes well before the eight years projected to complete the project.

The \$260 million construction cost stayed close to the project's initial es-

imate, despite some changes in scope and fluctuations in the economy.

modate 400,000 vehicles per day, and can expand to handle traffic demands beyond that when needed.”

The new name, approved by the Missouri General Assembly in 2005, reflects the rich transportation heritage of the site of the interchange, which once was a convergence of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails.

As a state highway, elements of the Triangle's history go back to 1925, when 71 Highway was constructed as an 18-foot-wide, two-lane concrete highway on 30 feet of right of way. It was widened to 29 feet of concrete in 1934, then converted to a four-lane, divided highway in the early 1960s.

By the late 1960s, MoDOT added the I-435 interchange – and tens of thousands more vehicles. In the mid 1970s I-470 was built to join the interchange and soon it became known as the Triangle.

The new interchange was built in several phases, beginning with I-435. Westbound I-470 began in 2002, and eastbound I-435 and eastbound I-470 a year later.



The 3-Trails Crossing Memorial Highway, formerly known as the Triangle, is now complete.

Changes on the Horizon

by Kerri Lewis

As winter weather settles in, District 4 hasn't faltered. Another grand celebration signified the completion of yet another project in the Kansas City area.

Freezing temperatures didn't stop more than 30 guests from attending a ribbon cutting ceremony Dec. 13, celebrating the completion of a \$20 million interchange at Interstate 635 and Horizons Parkway in Riverside.

MoDOT administered funds for the interchange, which was a cost-share project with the city of Riverside.

Funds secured by Sen. Kit Bond also helped ensure its completion.

The new interchange includes improvements along the interstate mainlines, and the resurfacing of shoulders and ramps. The improvements are designed to increase the efficiency of traffic throughout the growing and developing area.

An \$80 million levee project has resulted in 900 acres ready for development between Highway 9 and Interstate 635.



Representatives from the city of Riverside, MoDOT and TranSystems Inc. gather to mark the official completion of the New Horizon's Interchange project.

Linda Clark, assistant district engineer, shares MoDOT's appreciation for the effort put forth by all those involved in this \$20 million project.



for more info

Community Relations Manager Joel Blobaum
Phone 816.622.6327
E-mail joel.blobaum@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

D5 Central

Route 54 Overpass Replaced in Emergency Contract

by Holly Dentner

Motorists who traveled on Route 54 through Jefferson City over the past few weeks encountered something unusual for this time of year – major construction.

MoDOT issued an emergency contract on Dec. 5 to Pace Construction Company to demolish and rebuild the Jefferson Street overpass on U.S. Route 54 in Jefferson City. The bridge was damaged after a tanker truck crashed and exploded on Route 54 on Nov. 27.

The Jefferson Street overpass primarily serves local Jefferson City traffic, but the highway underneath it functions as a major artery with nearly 27,000 vehicles passing through every day.

Immediately after emergency responders dealt with the explosion, MoDOT was at the scene to monitor the condition of the roadway. The crash damaged guard rail and pavement on Route 54. The damage to the Jefferson Street overpass included aluminum railings that had warped from the heat and chunks of concrete that had separated from the bridge structure. The bridge was still standing, but maintenance crews had to carefully remove all the loose concrete before the highway could reopen.

MoDOT inspectors determined the concrete could deteriorate even



Shaun Schmitz

Work continued on the new bridge despite icy weather.

more if the overpass reopened to traffic, so the district design team quickly put plans together to demolish the bridge and replace it.

An accelerated emergency schedule meant the bridge was coming down quickly, and demolition was scheduled for Dec. 7. MoDOT closed a small section of Route 54 for an entire weekend so the bridge could be demolished.

The highway reopened to traffic by 5 a.m. on Dec. 10 and despite the cold temperatures and freezing rain, construction on the new bridge began. The new bridge is scheduled to be complete by Jan. 7, 2008.



Shaun Schmitz

The Jefferson Street overpass was torn down overnight on Dec. 7 and crews worked quickly to remove debris.

for more info

Community Relations Manager Kristin Gerber
 Phone 573.522.3375
 E-mail kristin.gerber@modot.mo.gov
 1511 Missouri Boulevard
 P.O. Box 718
 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Progress Across the District



Assistant District Engineer Eric Schoeter joined Rep. Rodney Schad and other dignitaries to celebrate the opening of two new bridges on Route 17. The Barren Fork Creek and Brushy Fork Creek bridges were completed in November and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 15. The new bridges were relocated to eliminate curves and improve safety.



Wes Farris

Project partners and dignitaries joined District Engineer Roger Schwartz and Commissioner Mike Kehoe on Nov. 19 to break ground for the new Route 63 Gans Road Interchange in Columbia. The interchange will increase safety and accommodate increased traffic generated by the new development area in south Columbia along Route 63.

Our First Winter Storm of the Season

by Holly Dentner

We were ready for it, but it didn't make it any less demanding. Like much of the state, District 5 was hit with an ice storm on Dec. 7 that caused power outages, downed tree branches and slick roads. Accumulations in the mid-Missouri area were estimated as up to an inch or more by Dec. 10.

"Our crews started spreading salt on Friday, and they worked through the following week as the freezing rain fell," said Mike Teel, district maintenance engineer. "Fortunately, our routes stayed manageable and most were in pretty good shape."

Power outages caused the biggest problems in the district, including our maintenance buildings at Eldon, Osage Beach, Vienna and Jefferson City. No electricity also meant busy days for the district's signal shop.

"We had at least 17 or 18 signals that were dark on Sunday and Monday," said Kevin Eggemeyer, traffic supervisor. "We spent several long days making those repairs, putting up temporary stop signs, hooking up generators and adjusting message boards as needed."

Customer service also experienced their first road conditions marathon of the season, and once again we had them covering the phones 24 hours a day while the trucks were out.

"Phone calls were constant most of the day, especially on Monday," said Jennifer Ranabargar, customer service representative. "Several people told me they were grateful to talk to a live person after getting automated systems when they called for other weather-related services."

Motorists depend on us during winter weather, and we worked hard to make sure the state routes were clear and safe for travel. This year's first big storm of the season proved we were ready for the challenge.



Holly Dentner

Tree branches at the District 5 office hang low after an ice storm on Dec. 8.

D6

St. Louis Area



Both Directions of I-64 Are Closed

Construction and Demolition for the New I-64 is in Full Force

by Melissa Harris and Kara Price

Before morning rush hour on January 2, all lanes of Interstate 64 closed in both directions between Ballas Road and Interstate 170 and will remain closed the entire year. The I-64 project extends from east of Interstate 270 to the Kingshighway interchange. Ten miles of highway, twelve interchanges and six overpasses will be rebuilt as well as adding one lane in each direction.



This photo of the Interstate 170 interchange was taken by one of three cameras located throughout the project that is refreshed every 15 seconds. Log onto www.thenewi64.org to view photos of Kingshighway, Interstate 64/170 Interchange and the Clayton/Warson bridge.



Work continues on The New I-64 Project, especially at the I-64/I-170 Interchange. The new flyover ramp for westbound I-64 to northbound I-170 opened in October and the new southbound I-170 to eastbound I-64 flyover ramp opened January 2.

MoDOT, METRO, St. Louis City, St. Louis County and many other municipalities have been working together for more than a year to prepare alternate roads for the traffic detoured off I-64 during the closures. There have been several upgrades to help certain roads handle more traffic, including I-270, Interstate 44, Interstate 70, Clayton Road and Olive Boulevard.

For more information on the project, visit www.thenewi64.org.



Workers make progress on the construction of the Interstate 170 flyover ramp.

for more info

Community Relations	Marie Elliott
Phone	314.340.4524
E-mail	yvonne.elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Plan Your Trip

Visit www.modot.org

Before You Drive

- Click on The New I-64 for daily traffic impacts.
- Click on Gateway Guide for current traffic conditions.
- Click on Map My Trip to get street-to-street directions to route you around road closures.
- Call 511 for current traffic information.

On the Road

- Read message boards with current travel times and lane closures.

Questions About MoDOT Work

- Call Customer Service at 1-888-ASK-MODOT.
- Call I-64 info-line for project questions at 314-524-9191.

For E-mail Updates

- Sign up at www.modot.org for all St. Louis information.
- Sign up at www.thenewi64.org for I-64 weekly updates.



Community Relations Welcomes Jack Wang

by Kara Price

Jack Wang recently joined MoDOT as community relations specialist for District 6. He has more than 13 years experience in broadcast journalism as a television news reporter, including three years at KYTV, the NBC affiliate in Springfield, and three years at KSDK, the NBC affiliate in St. Louis.

He has embarked upon his newest challenge at MoDOT in December as a community relations specialist for the St. Louis metropolitan area. At MoDOT, Jack's daily tasks include, coordinating the weekly road construction report for St. Louis and engaging the public, media and elected officials for North County, South St. Louis County and North Jefferson County.

Jack earned his bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Missouri in St. Louis and resides in St. Louis County.



"Jack's former positions with the television news stations adds value to his responsibilities in assisting MoDOT to provide a world-class transportation experience for Missouri motorists," said Marie Elliott, community relations manager. "We are pleased to welcome Jack Wang to our Community Relations staff."

D7

Southwest

Winter Weather Hammers District Again

by Lori Marble

The first ice storm of the snow season pelted the Southwest District the weekend of Dec. 8. Close to 60,000 residents were without power across most of the district, following two days of freezing rain.

Treating the roads and fielding customer calls throughout the weekend prepared many of the district's staff members to the "joy" of a chilly Monday morning commute, but all

were surprised by the destruction of the many trees surrounding the district office.

The now destroyed and split open trees flanking the employee entrance had to be pushed aside before anyone could enter the building. Many of the smaller trees that once graced the office's front lawn may need to be removed due to extensive damage.



Almost all the trees around the district office suffered damage during December's ice storm.

12



The new Welcome Center is an impressive facility for travellers entering Missouri on Interstate 44 from Oklahoma.

for more info

Community Relations Manager	Lori Marble
Phone	417.629.3329
E-mail	lori.marble@modot.mo.gov
3901 E. 32nd Street	
Joplin, MO 64804	

Time Capsule Filled for 2027 Management Team

by Lori Marble

In an effort to foster an enjoyable workplace, District Engineer Becky Baltz is always looking for ways to make management team meetings fun. At the December meeting, Baltz led the group in creating a time capsule to be opened by the management team in the year 2027. Items included:

- Listing of fleet costs for the 2007 year
- Safety regulations manual with stats on District 7's recordables for the year
- Pictures from the traffic department
- Incandescent signal head bulb
- List of computer software used by the Design department and a picture of their workstations
- Pictures from this summer's floods
- Job application letter that the post office delivered in November, after it had been mailed 18 years ago! The letter, obviously was lost somewhere en route, created a quandary for Hu-

man Resources Manager Paul Today. "I've included a note in the time capsule with this letter that I wasn't quite sure what to do...thank the person for applying or give them a call and ask them why they haven't been on the job for the last 18 years?"

- Four cents taped to the back of a business card. The money was found on Earth Day when the management team picked up trash at the Welcome Center location. Since the money was found on MoDOT right of way, the time capsule contributor felt it rightfully belonged to the state. Hopefully in 20 years, the four cents may grow in value.
- Construction spec book
- Metric scale (maybe it will come back around to being in favor by then)
- District Tracker
- Highway 71 opening commemorative plaque

Welcome Center Opens in Time for Holiday Traveling

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

The Welcome Center on eastbound Interstate 44 just west of the Oklahoma state line was finished Nov. 1, but Thanksgiving travelers were treated to grand opening refreshments the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Staff from MoDOT and the Division of Tourism handed out bottled water,

Arrive Alive t-shirts, snacks and maps to travelers who stopped for a break and travel information.

"People from Dallas, Chicago and other large cities stopped in and told us how impressed they were with the new facility," said Community Relations Manager Lori Marble. The old facility was built in the 1960s and needed serious refurbishing.

The new Welcome Center houses television screens with weather information, a playground for children and access to Tourism employees eight hours a day, seven days a week.

"We're proud of the new center and how it showcases District 7's hospitality," said District Engineer Becky Baltz.

The old westbound rest area was turned into truck-only parking, and restroom facilities similar to what you'd find at a conservation area or a park will soon be installed.



Becky Baltz hands goodies to a traveler at the Welcome Center.



Debbie Hopper, with the Division of Tourism, Sen. Gary Nodler and Director of Tourism Blaine Luetkemeyer helped open the new Welcome Center.

D8

Springfield Area

Maintenance, Signal Veterans Retire Jan. 1

by Angela Eden

Walnut Grove Maintenance Supervisor Earl Cameron

Service: 30 years (Hired July 1, 1978)



Cameron

Career: Maintenance worker to senior maintenance worker, Republic, 1978-2002; local maintenance supervisor, Walnut Grove, 2002

Biggest Change: Better equipment, more traffic and more safety rules

Memorable Work: Running a motorgrader to resurface, traveling the district sealing bridge decks

Quote: "It was interesting. There are lots of good people out there."

Post-MoDOT Plans: Fishing and wood-working; part-time work

Bolivar Regional Maintenance Supervisor Sam Stephens

Service: 35 years (Hired Sept. 1, 1972)



Stephens

Career: Maintenance worker to senior maintenance worker, Bolivar, 1972-1989; local maintenance supervisor, Halfway, 1989; regional maintenance supervisor, Bolivar, 2004

Biggest Change: Going from No. 2 shovels to an edge-rutting machine to repair roadway edges; improved safety equipment

Memorable Work: Patching roads with a motorgrader and plowing snow

Quote: "I liked to plow snow. I loved the nights. You didn't have to mess with traffic."

Post-MoDOT Plans: Working his farm, riding his horse, spending more time with grandkids and wife, Barbara

Also retiring on Jan. 1: Buffalo Maintenance Crew Leader Joe Abercrombie, Buffalo Regional Maintenance Supervisor Jimmie Haines and Manes Senior Maintenance Worker Elmer Lowery.

for more info

Community Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Ozark Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Tom Taylor

Service: 37 years (Hired Aug. 1, 1970)



Taylor

Career: Maintenance worker, Sparta, 1970-1979; senior maintenance worker to assistant maintenance supervisor, Ozark, 1979-2007

Biggest Change: Better equipment, safer operations

Memorable Work: Resurfacing 200 miles of road a year; using new spreader to make quick work of chip seals

Quote: "We were the first (shop) to try the chip spreader. We were wasting gravel using the tailgates on the trucks."

Post-MoDOT Plans: More grandkids' ballgames; more time with wife, Sue

Senior Signal and Lighting Electrician Kenny Weatherford

Service: 34 years (Hired Oct. 23, 1973)



Weatherford

Career: Maintenance worker, Springfield, 1973-1975; maintenance worker, Striping/Signing, 1975-1983; senior maintenance worker to senior signal and lighting electrician, Signal, 1983-2007

Biggest Change: Going to computer-operated signals from pre-timed

Memorable Work: Installing a new traffic signal at the Route 13/Polk County Route T intersection in three days to meet a quick need prior to the four-laning of Route 13

Quote: "It (the new Route 13/T signal) was a need. It was a safety issue."

Post-MoDOT Plans: Spend more time with his granddaughter, Taylor; work part time for a local signal contractor



D8 at Work

Buffalo Senior Maintenance Worker Judy Richardson (top photo) picks up bags of trash along Route 65 south of Buffalo.

Cutting a ribbon (middle photo) on completion of the Interstate 44/65 reconstruction were, from left, state Rep. Don Ruzicka, U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt, U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond, Springfield Mayor Pro Tem Gary Deaver, Highway Commission Chairman Jim Anderson, state Rep. Charlie Denison, state Rep. Shane Schoeller, District Engineer Kirk Juranas, Senior Construction Inspector Adam Humphrey, Highway Patrol Lt. Terry Moore and Incident Response Coordinator Earl Wallace.



District Planning Manager Frank Miller, left, talks with visitors (photo on right) at a public meeting in Rogersville on the future of Route 60 east of Springfield.

60/Glenstone Reconstruction To Ease Backups on Bridge

by Bob Edwards

Exploding commercial growth along Glenstone Avenue south of Battlefield Road and related heavy traffic prompted District 8, the city of Springfield and Greene County to join forces on a project to rebuild part of the Route 60/Glenstone Avenue interchange.

The main goal is to help relieve backups on the bridge over Route 60 by eliminating two southbound left-turn lanes on top of the bridge.

A new ramp will be built for southbound Glenstone Avenue (Business 65) traffic to eastbound Route 60 (James River Freeway). The new southbound-to-eastbound ramp will start on the right-hand side of the Glenstone Avenue bridge. It will carry traffic on a free-flowing, sweeping right-hand turn to the west, looping back to the east underneath the bridge onto the freeway.

Starting in mid-January the work will close for several months a 2,700-foot

long section of Republic Road south of Route 60. That low-lying stretch of Republic Road will be five-laned and brought up to a higher elevation to a new signalized intersection.

A new four-legged intersection on Republic Road will include a realigned Harvard Avenue and a realigned eastbound Route 60 off-ramp, which will bend south to Republic Road a little west of the Glenstone Avenue bridge.

Later in 2008, nighttime lane closings will be needed on Route 60.

MoDOT has met with emergency agencies to provide information to help responders get through or around the Republic Road closing and other areas in the work zone when needed.

Prime contractor is Journagan Construction of Springfield, doing the work for a low-bid amount of \$5.2 million. Scheduled completion: Fall 2008.

D9

South Central

Transportation Funding Tour Stops in District 9

Speaker of the House Rod Jetton made two stops in the South Central District on Dec. 10, as part of his statewide tour focusing on the need for a transportation funding solution. He shared his message in the communities of Mountain View and Rolla.

A large turnout at the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce meeting included Sen. Chuck Purgason, Representatives Ward Franz, Don Wells and Tim Meadows and several county and

city officials. The Rolla event was well attended by regional planning partners, city and county elected officials and Sen. Bob May.

Media coverage following the tour stops indicated the message for a transportation funding solution was received. Comments from the crowd at both events centered on the improved performance of the department in recent years and how well staff works with partners within the district.



While in Rolla, Speaker Rod Jetton addressed the group regarding the need for a transportation funding initiative and credited MoDOT for multiple improvements including the addition of edge- and centerline rumble stripes.

Mark Twain R.E.A.C.T. Recognized by District 9 and Highway Patrol

MoDOT District Engineer Tom Stehn recently traveled to Pulaski County to present a certificate of appreciation to the Mark Twain Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT) for their

volunteer efforts. This group responds to roadway incidents to assist with traffic control and provide a safer work environment for those who are working to manage the situation.



Front row from left: REACT members Don Wood, Dixie Banks and Lawson "Smitty" Smith. Back row, from left: District Engineer Tom Stehn, St. Robert Regional Maintenance Supervisor Frank Baker, Superintendent Roger Owens, Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. Mike Jones, Richland Maintenance Supervisor Bo Roam and Trooper Kenneth Baldwin.

for more info

Community Relations Manager Ann Marie Newberry
 Phone 417.469.6203
 E-mail ann.newberry@modot.mo.gov
 910 Old Springfield Road
 P.O. Box 220
 Willow Springs, MO 65793

Long-Term Service Celebrated Recently

The value of experience is difficult to measure. At the recent long-term service celebration, District Engineer Tom Stehn opened with a question. He asked individuals in the group with 20 years or more experience with the department to offer examples of how things have changed at MoDOT. This led the discussion in the direction of improvement.

The group offered comments such as greater emphasis on safety, better equipment, greater efficiency and more. Having experienced the benefits of change and improvement, these individuals were quick to point out how all of this adds up to a better department and overall transportation system.

Stehn also reviewed the history of MoDOT, offering details of how the department has taken Missouri "out of the mud" and onto paved roads. Working chronologically through the years, he described how we have progressed from the early days to planning five years out with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

Honorees were joined by spouses or other family members and enjoyed a meal together prior to the service award presentations. District Engineer Tom Stehn concluded by thanking the group for their commitment to helping MoDOT achieve its goals.



20 Years- From left, Maintenance Superintendent Bryan Fortner, St. James Senior Equipment Technician Ronald Laney, General Services Manager Jacky Traw, Alton Maintenance Supervisor Jesse Williams and Van Buren Regional Maintenance Supervisor Dewayne Ligons. Not pictured: Senior Maintenance Worker Richard Helvey.



25 Years- From left, West Plains Senior Equipment Technician Michael Corl, Cherryville Maintenance Supervisor Lonny Halbert and Maintenance Superintendent Joe Housewright.



30 Years- From left, Houston Regional Maintenance Supervisor David Silveus, Maintenance Superintendent Mark Simpson, Licking Maintenance Supervisor Travis Cross, District Maintenance Engineer Henry Haggard and Senior Maintenance Worker Winston Boyer.

D10

Southeast

Fourth Annual Bridge Competition Held

Twenty-five Southeast Schools Compete for Cash and College Scholarships

by Belinda McMurry

From its first year in 2005 with 30 students participating to this year's astonishing 200 students, the district's annual bridge competition keeps growing from year to year. And the number of high school juniors and seniors that are participating is not the only number growing—so is the number of dollars available for students and schools to win from creating the most efficient bridge.

This year, Southeast Missouri's engineering organizations donated over \$500 for the students that built the first, second, third and fourth place bridges—the ones with the lightest bridge that carries the greatest load. Out of 200 students, Ste. Genevieve High School dominated the competition by winning all four individual cash awards. In addition, an award was also given to Ste. Genevieve for the most aesthetic bridge.

With Sen. Jason Crowell's donation of \$1,000, a new category was added this year for the best overall schools. Any school that had three or more entries was able to compete for the top three "best school" awards. Of the 25 southeastern schools that participated this year, Ste. Genevieve High School took the overall best school award and a check for \$500. Chaffee High School came in second for \$300 and Saxony Lutheran High School took third for \$200.

In addition to the individual and school awards, Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, University of Missouri-Rolla, University of Missouri-Columbia and Southern Illinois University offered over \$10,000 in college scholarships for seniors interested in civil engineering. All competing seniors were eligible for scholarships.



Ste. Genevieve High School, left, won best overall school, along with numerous individual cash awards.



After each bridge was weighed, above, every bridge was tested to see how much weight it was able to hold before breaking. Approximately 200 students entered their hand-crafted bridges, left, during the competition.

D10 Shows They Care

To help increase participation in the 2008 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign, a friendly competition was held between districts. This year, thanks in part to Senior Financial Services Specialist Kristy Pettit and Senior Risk Management Technician Sue Sifford, participation increased in District 10 by 19 percent. That was enough to top District 9's 17 percent increase in the U.S. 60 Show Me You Care Series. As a result, District 10 was awarded the Show Me You Care MSECC sign to display in front of the district office.



Senior Financial Services Specialist Kristy Pettit and Senior Risk Management Technician Sue Sifford display the MSECC sign.

Retiree in D10



Harlan Adams retired Dec. 1 after 26 years with MoDOT. Adams was an Intermediate Construction Inspector in Park Hills.

for more info

Community Relations Manager Angie Wilson
 Phone 573.472.6632
 E-mail angela.wilson@modot.mo.gov
 2675 N. Main Street
 P.O. Box 160
 Sikeston, MO 63801

Christmas Angels: Huge Success

by Belinda McMurry



How many cans of beans and tomato sauce does it take to make 1,300 bowls of chili? A lot!



MoDOT employees recently used their personal vacation leave to make and deliver over 1,300 bowls of chili to help raise money for area children in need. Proceeds from the event were used to buy gifts for more than 115 children through the Christmas Angels program sponsored by US Bank and the Division of Family Services.



This is an event that many MoDOT employees and retirees look forward to every year—and there's a job for everyone that wants to help. From contacting local businesses to making and stirring the chili, packaging it and delivering it, then collecting and counting the proceeds. And the best part ... purchasing the children's gifts. It takes an organized team of dedicated employees to pull off the annual event every year.



"This is the district's 21st year for Christmas Angels," said Customer Service Representative Connie Robinson. "Due to everyone's hard work, we sold more chili this year than ever before, making this year our biggest year ever. By volunteering their time, District 10 has made the holidays a little brighter for young boys and girls in Southeast Missouri this year."

Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

Community Relations
Missouri Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840
www.modot.org
1-888 ASK MODOT

Editor
Kristi Jamison

Design Coordinator
Dennis Forbis

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Kristi Jamison, editor
573.526.2482
Kristine.Jamison@modot.mo.gov

Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



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Missouri Department of Transportation
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Jefferson City, MO 65102

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A Look Back: Top 10 Accomplishments of 2007

by Sally Oxenhandler

As the familiar refrain of the song "Auld Lang Syne" brings in a new year, it also makes one reflect on things past. 2007 was a remarkable year for highway and safety improvements on Missouri's roads and our continued ability to deliver projects on time and within budget. And capping it all off was MoDOT's receipt of the Missouri Quality Award - the official state recognition for excellence in quality leadership.

And so, in the popular format of the Top 10 list, let's take a look back at some of the key achievements that helped make 2007 such a quality year for Missouri transportation:

1. Leading the Nation in Saving Lives

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced in July that Missouri had the largest drop in traffic-related fatalities of any state in the nation in 2006. Of the 868 fewer traffic deaths nationwide, the Show Me State accounted for 161 of them or 19 percent.



This goal was accomplished through partnerships with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety and highway safety advocacy groups statewide.

2. Better Roads, Brighter Future

In January, we launched a key effort to improve the remainder of the state's 5,600 miles of major highways. The Better



Roads, Brighter Future Program will bring 85 percent of Missouri's major highway system up to good condition by the end of 2011.

3. Improving Performance

The Reason Foundation had good news for Missouri in August: the state jumped from 28th to 17th in overall performance of its highway system from 2004 to 2005 and from 39th to 17th in overall performance from 2000 to 2005. The report also showed Missouri had the third lowest administrative costs per mile.

4. Ensuring Bridge Safety

Following the tragic Minnesota bridge collapse in August, we immediately began inspecting the 14 state bridges



similar in design and deemed all safe to cross within just two months. In addition, legislation passed in August enabled us to move forward with our Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program, which will repair or replace 802 of our worst bridges in five years.

5. Radical Cost Control

Thanks to radical cost controls, the construction contracts awarded in fiscal year 2007 came in 7.4 percent under budget - a \$90 million savings.

We also saved \$7 million in worker's compensation costs by cutting lost workdays by 69 percent. Providing electronic project plans will allow us to save about \$200,000 a year.



6. The New I-64

We broke ground in March on the largest, single highway construction project in MoDOT history: the half-billion-dollar

overhaul of 10 miles of Interstate 64 in St. Louis, one of the state's busiest corridors.



7. Driving Edge

Driving Edge, a new traveler information program launched in September,



includes electronic message boards along Interstates 70 and 44, an online traveler information map and 24/7 customer service.

8. kcICON

A new quarter-billion dollar road and bridge project - kcICON - awarded in November will improve four miles of



"The Show Me State is showing America how to deliver highway projects on budget and on schedule, and even ahead of schedule."

interstate highway north of downtown Kansas City, including a landmark Paseo Bridge.

9. Getting Greener

We continued to work hard in 2007 to protect and preserve our environ-



ment. We became one of the first state agencies to use recycled roof shingles in highway projects, began testing soy paint, used beet juice as a de-icing agent and joined with the Missouri Department of Conservation to give half a million trees a year to youth groups to plant.

10. Corridors of the Future

The U.S. Department of Transportation in September announced the Interstate



70 corridor through Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio as among six interstates nationwide in its "Corridors Of The Future" program that will look at innovative ways, such as dedicated truck lanes, to reduce congestion and improve freight delivery.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.modot.org.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation
Mary Peters