

Connections

May 2009

83 Percent of Missouri's Most Traveled Roads in Good Condition

by Sally Oxenhandler

The hard work of MoDOT employees statewide is evident in the most current road conditions we recently released. More than 83 percent of Missouri's major roads are in good condition compared to 2004 when only 47 percent were in good condition. That's more than a 36 percent jump in the past five years.

"We have been hard at work making the state's roads better and safer, and it's showing," Director Pete Rahn said. "Missourians made a conscious decision to invest in their road system when they passed

Amendment 3 in 2004. Now they're reaping the benefits."

Major roads include the interstates and heavily traveled U.S. routes such as 63, 50, 71 and 60. More than 100 million miles a day are driven on the 5,573 miles of major roads in Missouri. They carry 80 percent of all traffic, and 95 percent of Missourians live within 10 miles of one of these roads.

The jump can largely be attributed to our Smooth Roads Initiative and Better Roads, Brighter Future program. The Amend-

ment 3-funded Smooth Roads Initiative improved 2,200 miles of the state's busiest highways in 2005 and 2006. Under the Better Roads program, the remainder of the state's major highways are getting smoother surfaces, wider stripes, brighter signs and paved shoulders.

Additional transportation improvements are under way with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In addition, our Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program is in full swing. That effort will fix 802 of Missouri's worst bridges by Oct. 31, 2014.

"We've made a lot of progress in bringing our roads up to good condition, but now the challenge is keeping them there," Rahn said. "The economic recovery funding will help, but it's not the answer. In fact, the money we received from the recovery act for transportation infrastructure amounts to only about a third of our annual highway construction budget."

However, the good news is about \$60 million of the ARRA funding will go toward improving the declining condition of minor roads.



Cathy Morrison

State Employees Celebrated in May

photos by Cathy Morrison

Give yourself a pat on the back. You deserve it! In fact, a whole week in the month of May has been singled out to celebrate you – a state employee.

"I can't express my appreciation enough for the excellent work TEAM MoDOT

continues to produce for Missourians," said Director Pete Rahn. "You are by far the most talented, innovative, generous and caring employees the state has to offer. Your efforts continue to exceed my expectations and move us forward in fulfilling our mission to provide a

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"I can't express my appreciation enough for the excellent work TEAM MoDOT continues to produce for Missourians."

— Director Pete Rahn



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MoDOT Earns Chief Engineer's Award, Awards for Excellence in Practical Design

MoDOT's first effort to broaden its public involvement efforts through online public meetings received top honors in the recent practical design awards competition at the 99th Annual TEAM Conference on March 16 in Branson.

HNTB and MoDOT's Central Office received the Chief Engineer's Award for the online public meeting created for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that is evaluating the impacts of truck-only lanes to any future reconstruction and expansion of Interstate 70 across the state. Chief Engineer Kevin Keith presented the award to I-70 Project Manager Bob Brendel and HNTB representatives Steve Wells, Gretchen Ivy and Mark Pierson.

Since MoDOT's initial electronic meeting, believed to be just the second such online meeting in the country, a number of other projects have successfully used the technique to enhance their efforts and to meaningfully and cost-effectively engage motorists, travelers and other stakeholders.

In all, six MoDOT projects that saved \$137 million through 'Practical Design' were recognized with awards for excellence.

Projects cited were:

Chief Engineer's Award – Central Office, HNTB
I-70 online public meeting

Large Project – District 9
Route 60 upgrade to expressway

Small Project – District 2
Route 136 bridge replacements

Off-System Project – District 5, Environmental Section
Camden County low-water crossing retrofits

Process Improvement – Bridge Division

Plans production for re-decking projects

Post Design Solution – District 8, Bridge Division, Emery Sapp & Sons

Glenstone Ave. overpass



Chief Engineer Kevin Keith, left, presented the Chief Engineer's Award to members of the I-70 Project Team including MoDOT's Bob Brendel and HNTB representatives Gretchen Ivy, Mark Pierson and Steve Wells. The team was recognized for their innovative use of technology to develop online public meetings regarding potential impacts of truck-only lanes on Interstate 70.

Cathy Morrison

Watch Out for Motorcyclists – Even Jayhawk Fans

by Reeve White

Warmer weather brings the roar of motorcycles to Missouri highways. Missouri Tigers' head football coach and avid motorcycle rider, Gary Pinkel, will once again be working with the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety to promote motorcycle safety.

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and the "Look. Learn. Arrive Alive." Campaign will remind all drivers to watch out for motorcyclists.

Motorcycles have a smaller profile on the road and may be more difficult for passenger vehicles to see.

"It's important that motorists and motorcycles are looking out for each other," said Leanna Depue, chair of the Coalition's executive committee. "With an increasing number of motorcyclists, we encourage drivers to share the road to make sure everyone Arrives Alive."

In addition to motorists looking out for those on motorcycles, motorcyclists are encouraged to do their part, making sure to ride with a DOT-approved helmet and wear protective clothing.

An astonishing 80 percent of Missouri motorcycle crashes result in injury or death, and 99 percent of the people who die in crashes involving a motorcycle on Missouri roads are the motorcyclist.

Paid radio advertising begins April 27 and runs into July. One radio spot features Coach Pinkel asking drivers to take another look and keep Missouri roads safe for everyone, "including Jayhawk fans."

Coach Pinkel is also featured on his motorcycle on posters and billboards throughout the state.

For more information on the Look. Learn. Arrive Alive. campaign, visit www.saveMOLives.com.



University of Missouri-Columbia Head Football Coach Gary Pinkel and his motorcycle will once again be featured on Motorcycle Safety Awareness materials used to urge drivers to watch out for motorcyclists.

Praise for a Job Well Done

The recent ice storm that blanketed our area was unlike anything our county has experienced during the past half century. The forest canopy, due to the weight of the ice, will take 25 plus years to recover and much will never recover and return to its natural beauty that is so prevalent in the Ozark region.

I write to praise and commend our local highway department for their incredible performance during this trying time here in Ripley County.

The removal of snow, for the most part, can be done with standard equipment, but the removal of ice is impossible and as I watched our local crew work, I realized how incredibly dangerous the job was that they were doing.

I know most of our local crew and their families personally, as well as the Naylor crew. Their dedication to their job is apparent and appreciated. They place themselves in harm's way, maintaining our roads, so that we can drive in safety.

Please convey my appreciation to these outstanding crews for a JOB WELL DONE and if I can ever help or assist your department in any way, please don't hesitate to call me at any time.

Yours truly,

Dennis L. Smith
Doniphan, MO

Click It or Ticket! Coming Soon to a Town Near You

by Sean Madden

No matter where you are, city street or country road, seat belts save lives.

Missouri's Click It or Ticket campaign begins in May with stepped up education and enforcement efforts to add emphasis to the importance of wearing a seat belt.

"It's a campaign we run every year to really try to get the message to Missourians," said Leanna Depue, MoDOT



Highway Safety Director. "If you don't buckle up, we will find you. We want you to Arrive Alive."

Missouri's seat belt use rate is at 76 percent, well below the national average of 83 percent. The statistics are clear: an unbuckled driver faces a 1 in 32 chance of being killed in a car crash, while a buckled driver only faces a 1 in 1,294 chance of being killed in a car crash.

Increase your chances of surviving a crash ... Buckle Up! Starting May 18 law enforcement everywhere will be watching, so Click It or Ticket.

Show Us Your Seat Belt Dance

Get Your Buckle On

by Reveal White

It's not just Soulja Boy teens have been dancing to this spring. Check out the new song and dance sensation: Get Your Buckle On.

Sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, the Get Your Buckle On educational campaign reminds Missouri youth to wear their seat belt.

"Spring is an ideal time to reach teens as they prepare for milestones in their

ARRIVE ALIVE

life, such as prom and graduation," said Leanna Depue, chair of the executive committee of the Coalition. "The campaign takes the simple act of buckling up and makes it interactive."

The campaign includes a seat belt dance contest. Videos submitted to

getyourbuckleon.com before Aug. 31, 2009 will have a chance to win prizes.

Visit getyourbuckleon.com to hear and download the original song, upload videos of your dance, view additional videos or find out more.

Get your buckle on and ARRIVE ALIVE.

Five Things To Tell Your Neighbors About the Recovery Act

There has been a lot of talk about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, especially concerning the investments in Missouri's transportation system. While MoDOT continues to make progress that will aid Missouri's economy and support jobs, there are some misconceptions about just how far these funds will stretch to address infrastructure needs. Furthermore, it is important to understand what MoDOT had to take into account when selecting projects. Here are five things you can tell your neighbors about ARRA:

- The ARRA Act provides \$787 billion to jumpstart the American economy and create or save millions of jobs. Of that amount, \$48 billion – or only about 6 percent – will be used to address the nation's transportation infrastructure needs.

- Of the \$48 billion of transportation-related ARRA funds, Missouri will receive \$788 million for transportation projects. Of those funds \$525 million will go to various highway and bridge projects across Missouri as determined by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. Additionally, \$151 million will go to multimodal projects, \$19 million will go to transportation enhancements, and \$93 million will go to sub-allocation areas (Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield).

- Missouri has \$31.3 billion in transportation needs over the next 20 years. While MoDOT is grateful to receive ARRA funding, the \$525 million will only help us meet 1.67 percent of those needs.

- The final list of ARRA transportation projects had to meet specific

requirements set forth in the bill, including 50 percent of the funds must be obligated by June 30 and all money must be obligated by March 2, 2010. Consideration also had to be given to projects that can be completed within three years, will maximize job creation and economic benefit, and/or are located in economically distressed areas.

- The project list also had to meet the normal tangle of federal regulations, like environmental clearances, contracting requirements and air quality rules. In addition, projects had to comply with the Commission's funding formula, which means a certain amount of money had to go to taking care of the state's existing highway system and the rest to major projects.

Employee Recognition

continued from page 1

world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri. Thank you for all the great things you do."

State Employee Recognition Week will take place May 25-29 to celebrate thousands of state employees for their dedication to meeting each agency's mission and their commitment to public service. Special activities are planned statewide throughout the week by individual state agencies.

A special day of events is planned for May 29 in Jefferson City, which will include special speakers, entertainment, exhibits, free food, giveaways and prize drawings. This event is sponsored by the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to <http://serd.mo.gov>.

At MoDOT, divisions and districts have been encouraged to participate in various activities throughout the week in their respective location or plan their own special event.



Shaun Schmitz



Commission Approves Final Recovery Act Project List

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the final list of transportation projects to be funded by economic recovery funds at a special meeting in March. The transportation improvements are expected to directly or indirectly support 22,000 jobs.

"This final list of economic stimulus projects is all about putting Missourians to work fast," Director Pete Rahn said. "The process for choosing these projects was very complex, and it took a great deal of effort to meet all of the legislative and federal provisions, plus the MHTC funding distribution policies. The end result is a fair and balanced distribution of projects throughout the state that will support jobs and boost our economy."

The project package totals \$577 million, slightly more than the \$525 million MoDOT has left to spend. That's because the department built in additional money to ensure it will qualify for re-

distribution of funds from other states if they become available.

"Our project bids have been coming in 10 percent to 15 percent under budget," Rahn said. "We built an extra 10 percent into the project list to make sure we could go after funds that other states don't spend. Even if those funds don't become available, we're committed to delivering every project on the list."

The agency held public briefings around the state on March 10 to share project information with citizens.

The next step will be for MoDOT to put the projects out for bid. The department already has 37 economic stimulus projects totaling about \$91 million under way. The list of projects and a map showing their location can be found at www.modot.org.

Next Generation Desktop Will Change How You Do Your Job

This fall, the operating system on your computer will be upgraded to the latest version of Windows Vista. This will bring many changes to the software you are currently using.

Called Next Generation Desktop or NGD, the upgrade will affect EVERY computer on MoDOT's network.

If you use Microsoft Office products, including: Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, or Powerpoint, you need to visit wwwwi for information on training opportunities so you can be ready for the transition.

MoDOT computers are still using Microsoft Windows 2000, a nine-year-old operating system. It is outdated. The upgrade is necessary to keep the organization current with software and support. Newer software simply won't run on the old operating system.

The new Microsoft Offices products are very different than previous versions. Toolbars are arranged differently and some administrative functions in the operating system have changed.

MoDOT will be offering many options for training. One of the best avenues is to receive a free version of Microsoft Office for your home use. If an employee pays shipping, Microsoft will give them a free, complete version of Office 2007 so they can learn to use the upgraded products at their own pace, on their own time.

In the near future, online courses in the various products will be announced at <http://ngdwiki>. Check that site frequently and take as many of these courses as you can. Being prepared for the change will save you a lot of frustration and stress while saving MoDOT a lot of time and money.



Spotlight on Diversity

New light was shed on the topic of diversity for nearly 100 MoDOT employees attending the seventh annual Diversity Conference in March. This year's theme was "Destination Diversity: A Roadmap for Winning."

This year's presenters took attendees on a journey, discussing the eras of slavery, racial segregation, civil rights and integration/interaction; identifying ways to develop effective working relationships in a diverse work place; improving customer relations to people with disabilities; and making leadership style changes.

Of the many great tips on embracing and managing diversity given during the conference, two important lessons in particular stood out as great ways to help us along the way to our destination of a diverse and inclusive work place:

We're Different, We're the Same

It is true that our organization is made stronger because we believe in the power of our differences. But, when people of different races, nationalities, sexes, ages, religions and experiential backgrounds are encouraged to discover the ways in which they are alike, it's interesting to find out just how much we all have in common. And it's in that common ground where good working relationships can begin to take root and grow.

The Platinum Rule: Do Unto Others as They Want Done Unto Them

This twist on the Golden Rule, "Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You," takes into consideration how others feel. It shifts the focus of a relationship from being "I" centered – this is what I want, so I'll treat others

continued on back page

May Service Anniversaries

40 Years

Roy W. Simcoe D3

35 Years

Larry J. Grither D6

Larry G. Colson D8

30 Years

Robby D. Blair D1

Paul E. Angle D1

James P. Muehlbach D1

Larry M. Holmes D2

Vernon W. Leonard D3

Gary R. Carson D4

Kenneth J. Mosley D6

Donald R. Jackson D6

Jacqueline A. Stone CO

25 Years

Charles R. Roach D1

Danny E. Gramenz D2

Norma L. Wood D2

Arthur E. Failor D2

Tammy A. Menefee D3

Alvin L. Johnson D3

Anthony W. Morrall D3

Earnest C. Smith D4

Vincent T. Coleman D6

Edward W. Warhol D6

Peter W. Selle D6

Gregory J. Horn D6

Theodore H. Lessman D7

Michael D. Copley D7

Mark A. Throener D7

Kenneth R. Layman D7

Timothy J. Williams D8

Lisa L. Mattocks D8

Dale H. Kinneman D10

April L. Brock D10

David S. Blalock D10

Randall D. Dawdy CO

Jeffrey L. Huffman CO

James L. Kelley CO

David B. Nichols CO

Steven L. Stacey CO

20 Years

Jeffery S. Pittman D1

William A. Gimse D1

Troy D. Slagle D1

Jason A. Miller D2

Terry L. Hancock D3

John W. Casey D4

Allen J. Frank D5

Coleen R. Welter D5

Preston V. Drace D5

John L. Kuhlman D5

Ralph L. Mullen D6

Dennis R. Roethemeier D7

Harold J. Buttram D8

James V. McMillian D9

Jackie D. Vermillion D9

Clarence J. Klapmeyer D9

Curtis L. Dowden D9

Charles Robinson D10

Jeffery A. Wachter D10

Timothy M. Chojnacki CO

Melissa R. Lackman CO

Kevin J. Raithel CO

15 Years

Michael J. Lewis D1

Martin W. Liles D1

Karen M. Huber D1

Dana B. Robinson D2

Darren E. Condron D2

Stephen D. Miller D2

Cherie L. Brocaille D3

Robert J. Manzke D3

Holly B. Thronson D3

Rhonda L. Marsden D3

Timothy A. Hays D3

Jeffery J. Kiser D3

Todd E. Miller D4

Dennis K. Buckley D4

William B. Barrows D4

Michael W. Debrot D4

Daniel J. Hastings D4

Glen D. Cary D5

Gary E. Jones D5

Robert H. Filkins D5

Aaron J. Cate D5

Christopher J. Feeler D5

Wayne H. Henderson D5

Betty L. Howell D6

Karen D. Yeomans D6

Kevin Durbin D7

Glenn D. Haines D7

Robert G. Blevins D7

Randy D. Smith D7

Curt R. Sill D7

Timothy R. Bundgard D7

Tommy J. Tate D7

Scott A. McKee D7

Kerry W. Hodgson D7

Archie D. Daily D8

Chad E. Zickefoose D8

Jodi C. Paulsen D9

Kimberly D. Hilburn D9

Randall E. Sutton D9

Donald L. Boulware D9

Christian B. Rutledge D9

Gary R. Copeland D9

Richard E. Powell D10

Todd L. Bennett CO

Curtis D. Evers CO

Herman L. Harris CO

John P. Miller CO

Lisa A. Vieth CO

10 Years

Lynnette K. Strough D1

Nicole L. Steele D1

Brian C. O'Neal D1

Leonard J. Wilmes D1

Donald B. Medsker D1

Scott J. Nett D1

Randy E. Hardin D2

Robert J. Hargrave D2

Carroll D. Hoffman D3

Clint B. Briscoe D3

Stacey A. Byrn D3

Gloria J. Gillespie D4

Christopher L. Williams D4

Jesse J. Skinner D4

Matthew D. Killion D4

Scott R. Banes D4

Joe L. Vollmer D5

Justin L. Anderson D5

Ralph M. Johnson D5

Cindy L. Martin D6

Richard W. Stewart D6

Justin A. Wolf D6

Julianne E. Dorenkamp D6

David R. Bauer D6

Wesley J. Akins D6

Donald B. Gripka D7

Larry J. Nanneman D8

Leslie P. Snorgrass D8

Gregory D. Van Horn D9

Brian M. Adams D9

Roger L. McCallister D9

Brian H. Wooten D9

Akera L. Nelson D10

Warren D. Rainey D10

Austin D. Emory D10

Gary D. Guess D10

Lawrence Diaz CO

Chad D. Green CO

Darren L. Kempker CO

Alexa B. Mitchell CO

5 Years

Johnathan A. Riley D1

Cody R. Moyers D1

Loyde D. Anderson D1

Terry R. Stiens D1

Clark E. Thomas D2

Jordan T. Delameter D2

John E. Campbell D2

Brian J. Untiedt D2

Michael M. Hagerty D3

Ronald D. Reynolds D4

Brady M. Watson D4

Jeremiah J. Werdehausen D5

Allison K. Kuebler D5

Nikolas E. Schaffner D5

Jeffery P. Lappe D6

Herberto F. Garcia D6

Steve A. Cole D6

Aaron J. Groff D6

Perry D. Bruckerhoff D6

Shane A. Dunham D7

Caleb M. Harris D7

Gregory R. Chapman D7

Scott D. Miller D8

Donald R. Howlett D9

Scot A. Shockley D9

Paul M. Kincaid D9

Terry R. Shanks D9

Bruce E. Bales D9

Angelia Y. Brawner D9

Richard A. Vangennip D10

Richard D. Kern D10

Jennifer L. Jorgensen CO

Scott M. Nichols CO

In Memoriam

Active

Sidney C. Stewart D6 Feb.28

Retirees

Charles L. Barnes D8 Feb. 10

Henry P. Perry D10 Mar. 1

Charles R. Wagy D4 Mar. 6

Joe R. Vanness D8 Mar. 7

Kenneth E. Scott D5 Mar. 10

Orbra H. Griffin D9 Mar. 16

Winford W. Bibbs D6 Mar. 19

Edwin R. Peck, Jr. D6 Mar. 20

David L. Ford D1 Mar. 22

James P. Wilson D6 Mar. 23

Harold C. Todd D3 Mar. 23

Lowell Pettigrew D10 Mar. 24

Henry "Laverne" L. Wilson D2 Mar. 25

Morris Bethurem D8 Mar. 25

Ronald "Ron" G. Rhoades D1 Mar. 27

James "Jim" R. Hill D5 Mar. 29

Delvie E. Daniels D8 Mar. 31

Alfred E. Spurgeon D6 Mar. 31

March Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Doris Moore	D10	23
Larry Dixon	D2	24
Paul Green	D2	35
James Jones	D3	7
John Sullivan	D3	19
Stephen Boone	D4	8
Roy Bockenholt	D6	35
Robert Emily	D6	31
Robert Zahner	D6	15
Randall Branham	D7	36
Mike Sheets	D7	31
Daryl Weinkein	D7	31
Ronald Melby	D9	24
Zachary Cartwright	CO	21
Randall Gregory	CO	34
Nancy Jordan	CO	28
Benjamin Goodin	CO	6
Carl Sandbothe	CO	33
Roberta Endsley	CO	17



Central Office

Work Zone Awareness Kick-off Event Pays Tribute to Fallen Workers

by Sally Oxenhandler

Mike York. Johnny Hays. Josh Slatten.

These MoDOT workers, who died in 2008, were recognized for their service at a ceremony April 6 at the Central Office to kick off Work Zone Awareness Week. Luminaries with the names of the 125 other MoDOT workers killed since 1946 offered a solemn reminder of what can happen when motorists don't pay attention in work zones.

Chief Engineer Kevin Keith kicked off the ceremony, which was held at the proposed location for a memorial to our fallen workers, on the west side of the Central Office building.

"Tonight we honor heroes, but these heroes don't wear capes," Keith said. "Some wear orange, some sport badges and others fly helicopters, all in an effort to keep our roads safe and ensure motorists arrive alive."

Andy Schmidt, an emergency medical services helicopter pilot from Springfield, told the crowd about his family's experience as victims of a work zone accident, as well as his first-hand knowledge of transporting those injured in work zone accidents.

"To me, the decision just seems so simple," Schmidt said. "Buckle up or be strapped down. Slow down or lose

time. Look ahead or regret looking back. Pay attention or pay others. Put away your distractions before they put you away."

Mike York's daughter, Amanda Spohr, and her husband, David, attended the ceremony, as did Josh Slatten's mom and dad, John and Monica, and his sister, Stella.

"My father was very aware of the dangers that existed on Missouri roads every day," Spohr said. "He made safety his first priority. If the work he and his co-workers were performing could not be done in a safe manner, then adjustments would be made in order for them to perform their duties safely."

The Spohrs and Slattens joined Keith in unveiling the sign for the fallen workers' memorial.

Topping off the event was a moment of silence while the Central Office building was lit orange as part of Operation Orange, our signature event designed to raise awareness for work zone safety. Almost 100 sites participated in



Chief Engineer Kevin Keith honors MoDOT's fallen heroes at the Work Zone Awareness Week event in Jefferson City. The sign, west of the Central Office building, marks the spot of the future Fallen Workers' Memorial.

Operation Orange this year, including such noted locations as the Six Flags marquee, Busch Stadium, the Boone County Courthouse, Shelter Insurance Gardens in Columbia, Hammonds Field

in Springfield, the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge and the Branson Landing.

For more information on work zone awareness and Operation Orange, visit www.modot.org/workzones.



128 luminaries glowed along the walkway outside of MoDOT's Central Office building April 6 to honor fallen workers.

for more info

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Job Point Honors MoDOT Employee as Volunteer of the Year

Lois Fairchild is making a difference for job seekers in Missouri.

Fairchild received the 2008 Volunteer of the Year award from Job Point, an organization working to promote the abilities of individuals seeking employment and greater participation in community life.

Fairchild embraces this mission in her work, with genuine concern for others and encouraging words that offer strong motivation for job seekers.

Fairchild has served for two years as a member of the organization's Jefferson City Business Advisory Council. Part of the duties includes arranging on-site job assessments, critiquing resumes and conducting mock interviews. She was part of a team organizing a clothing drive in her office for Job Point participants, where more than 100 articles of clothing were collected.

As a representative of MoDOT, she has had the opportunity to bring more diverse applicants to MoDOT, arranging for those needing career guidance to speak with supervisors and job shadow to learn more about a new career.

Fairchild says serving on the council is a great opportunity to connect applicants with MoDOT openings. It is

rewarding to help someone whose life circumstances, such as an injury or accident, forced his or her career path to change.

"I really enjoy helping people with a chance to start over," she said.

Find more information about Job Point at www.jobpointmo.org.



Lois Fairchild accepts her Volunteer of the Year award from Mike Fester, president and CEO of Job Point.

D1

Northwest

Last Month in the Northwest District

by M. Elaine Justus



Shaun Schmitz

We got things off to a roaring start in April when we found out that our Northwest District folks had taken first place in the Roadside Equipment Innovation division of the Tool & Equipment Challenge. The check for \$10,000 was a welcomed prize. We featured their design in last month's issue. It's a bar they designed from metal scraps that slides over the forks of a skid loader and allows you to push vegetation out from under guard rails.

April 22 may be the official "Earth Day" on calendars, but in the Northwest District we celebrate No MORE Trash the entire month. Connie Hale,

who retired from MoDOT's Customer Service in January, 2008, still works as a 1,000 hour employee for Community Relations. She invented a learning opportunity for second grade students to teach them the importance of not littering, but also what it costs to litter. Her characters included The Litter Bug (who wears a sweatshirt covered in garbage); Tidy Tom (the MoDOT worker who picks up the litter); Tina and Tim Taxpayer (who have to pay money every time Tidy Tom picks up trash); and Deputy Dan/Danielle (who writes tickets to people who litter). Connie's presentation was seen in 64 different

schools in the month of April. The children have been mailing her love letters that say things like, "I hope I'm a worker like you, Connie. Do you get a lot of money?" and "I want you to come back to school to visit us, you are so super, super awesome."



6



Shelly Aebersold

for more info

Community Relations Manager Elaine Justus
 Phone 816.387.2353
 E-mail margaret.justus@modot.mo.gov

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

A public meeting was held on March 26th with the people of Brownville, Nebraska and Rock Port, Missouri. Thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President



M. Elaine Justus

Obama on February 17th, the bridge over the Missouri River at Brownville on Route 136 will receive a much needed re-deck and rehabilitation. Although surprised to hear the work could take as long as a year, they were thrilled that the bridge will remain open for the majority of the work. Construction on the bridge is planned to begin in the 2009 construction season.

On a sadder note, Lori Dake, the Northwest District's Safety & Health

Manager for the last 15 years, turned in her resignation to MoDOT, and will be accepting a Safety position with the Kellogg Company. A going away party was held for her on Wednesday, April 8th, and it is fair to say it was the largest turnout of personnel for a farewell that anyone remembers. Lori presented a number of her co-workers with caricatures of themselves as a memento. In this photograph, a seated Administrative Technician Dee Culver (aka Wonder Woman) and a standing Senior Office Assistant Lisa Kellison (aka Super Girl) accept their gift on behalf of the entire Emergency Operations Command Center. You'll notice a stack of Cheez-It crackers on the table. Lori provided several boxes of the snack for the party. They are just one of many products produced by Kelloggs, the leading producer of cereal and convenience foods in the world. Sales for 2007 totalled \$11 billion for the company.



Holly L. Murphy

The View From the Road



Ed Angle

A "Cattle Crossing" sign might be in order for U.S. 136 in Gentry County. These big, beautiful bovines were made of old fuel barrels and milk cans by the very creative folks of Jensen Manufacturing north of Stanberry. Thanks to Regional Maintenance Supervisor Ed Angle for providing this documentation.

D2

North Central

Celebrating Another Excellence Award

by Anthony Zuccarini

March was a very good month as District Two received an Award for Excellence for Practical Design at the TEAM Conference March 18.

“We are very excited to receive this award and take great pride in our accomplishments,” said Project Manager Preston Kramer.

This wasn’t the first time the district received this distinction. Last year the district won three awards for Practical Design. This year’s award was one of only six given at the conference.

The award was received because of the efficiency used to replace three bridges located on Route 136 in Schuyler County. The three structurally deficient

bridges were put through a rigorous hydraulic analysis. One bridge was removed entirely and one bridge was replaced with a smaller box culvert structure. The Chariton River Bridge was the only structure replaced with a similar structure. All this took place within three months.

In the application for the award, Preston cited many reasons why the bridges needed improvements.

“There is a long history of near misses on these bridges and significant anecdotal history of trucks exchanging mirrors and of cars having to wait for farm equipment to pass over,” according to the report. “It is therefore no surprise that replacing these three bridges has long been an area priority supported by

the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission.”

The positive effects of practical design on this project were:

- 73% decrease in project cost
- 87% decrease in construction time
- No new right of way required
- No utility relocations required
- Completed two years ahead of schedule

Those involved in the project included: Preston Kramer, James Gillespie, Dennis Brucks, Phil Sandifer, Erin Gruber,

Dan Skouby, Anousone Araunpradith, David Gipson and Larry Dixon.

Although a heavily traveled route had to be closed during the project, Kramer said it was well accepted by the public.

“Our revised proposal to close the road was received favorably by Schuyler County citizens,” added Kramer. “It was an extensive project and we were able to accomplish our goal with great success. It is an honor to receive this award.”



Project Manager Preston Kramer shows off the district’s new Excellence Award after receiving from Chief Engineer Kevin Keith.

April is a Busy Month at MoDOT

by Tammy Wallace

Not only is the month of April Work Zone Awareness and No More Trash! Bash, it’s also employee spring meeting time. Eight meetings were held across the district giving every employee the opportunity to discuss topics, ask questions and share information.

The morning sessions were the same for all the meetings and were presented by the district engineer, assistant district engineer, human resource manager and EAEC members.

Discussion topics included:

- Employee Recognition
- Work Zone Safety
- Employee Satisfaction Survey
- HR Issues
- Performance Based Pay
- D2EAEC

The afternoon sessions were varied to give employees information specific to their areas. Area engineers, resident

engineers, maintenance superintendents and others presented information on:

- Minor Roads – Overview, Details and Bridge Details
- Cold-in-Place Recycling
- Construction Updates
- Miscellaneous Area Topics

To wrap up the day District Engineer Dan Niec discussed the district’s priori-

ties and showed a video by Director Pete Rahn. In the video Pete discussed some of the department’s accomplishments over the last few months as well as some of the upcoming challenges. He thanked employees for everything they do for the citizens of Missouri and how they make MoDOT such a great place to work.



The Trenton maintenance facility had the best backdrop for photos with their recently painted MoDOT logo on the back wall. District Engineer Dan Niec discusses the district priorities with the group.

for more info

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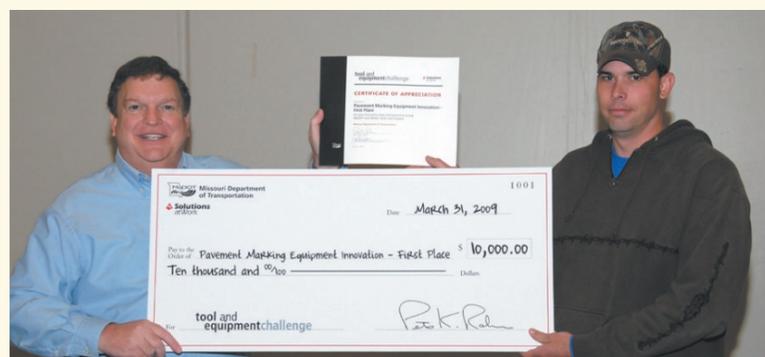
Go Orange!



The district office was wrapped in an orange glow during Work Zone Awareness Week. Work zone channelizers with vests and hard hats placed next to the district’s memorial symbolized and honored our district’s eight fallen workers.

7

More Awards Tool & Equipment Challenge Winner



Intermediate Maintenance Worker Clint Tillit accepts the \$10,000 check from Director Pete Rahn for winning the statewide Tool & Equipment Challenge in the Pavement Marking Tool division for his Tape Cart invention.

D3

Northeast

Bridges, Culverts, and Pipes ... OH MY!

From Safe and Sound bridges to oversized pipes and culverts stuffed with debris...since the end of February Northeast District crews have been diligently working to get our water passages in good shape.

The first Safe and Sound bridge rehabilitation in the district began in March on Route M just south of Elsberry. According to Kevin McGartland, senior construction inspector, the contractor "tore into it quickly," anxious to get the job going. Several other bridges followed suit within just a few weeks. All roads are closed during these Safe and Sound bridge projects, and the first one is expected to be completed later this month.



Elsberry Democrat

The Lost Creek Diversion bridge on Route M in Lincoln County is the first Safe and Sound bridge in the district to be demolished. It may even be finished by the time you read this!

Nearly two thirds of the culverts in the Northeast District had some sort of maintenance performed on them since the end of February. These include removal of drift, cutting brush, spraying vines, installing rock, and flushing, among many other actions necessary to keep our bridges in good condition.

"By coordinating efforts on our bridges with central office, our district bridge crews and our maintenance crews, we utilize the 'one



More than two-thirds of the culverts in the Northeast District had some sort of maintenance performed on them including debris removal.

team' approach to getting the jobs done," said NE District Engineer Paula Gough.

Mark Knickerbocker, the district's bridge crew supervisor, said this year he has seen improvements in the efforts to coordinate bridge work at all levels.

"The coordination makes it easier to schedule our work, plus keeps the lines of communication open with other staff who are working on the same issues," he added.

To contribute to the coordination effort, each maintenance building received the work list following bridge inspections. "We are tracking the progress as work is completed, which will help us

stay focused on the most needed work and help us make better decisions about where to place our emphasis in the future," said MoDOT Maintenance Superintendent II Butch Mundle.

Several crews got together to install an oversized pipe on Route H in Ralls County. The pipe measures 55 ft. long and 10 ft. wide. According to Junior Muehring, this is the largest pipe he's helped install. "We like these kind of challenges," Junior said. Crews had the pipe installed within six hours.



It's been tough to keep up with Mother Nature in light of last year's flooding and the spring rains. However, no job is too big for Northeast District maintenance crews! This culvert pipe measured 55 ft. long by 10 ft. wide and was installed under Route H in Ralls County.

Crews Measure Up

Sign and striping crews were recently honored for their performances as noted

in the statewide Tracker. One hundred percent of stripes met customer's ex-



Sign/Striping Supervisor Darrel Britt and his crews were recognized by NE District Engineer Paula Gough, for their exceptional Tracker performance of 100% customer satisfaction in striping.

pectations, and the signs rated highest in the state for customer satisfaction. The crews were honored to have State Traffic Engineer Eileen Rackers and Assistant State Traffic Engineer Mike Curtit join them for the recognition event.

Work Zone Safety Partners



Businesses all over the region got into the 'Slow Down in Work Zone' message: (top l - r) Mike Spurgeon and Bob Greenlee with the Missouri Welcome Center; district office bulletin board; Palmyra maintenance; south area spring meeting; Ayerco (and Abel's) gas stations displayed the message on all their reader boards.

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D4

Kansas City Area

Major Interchange Making Progress

by Kerri Lewis

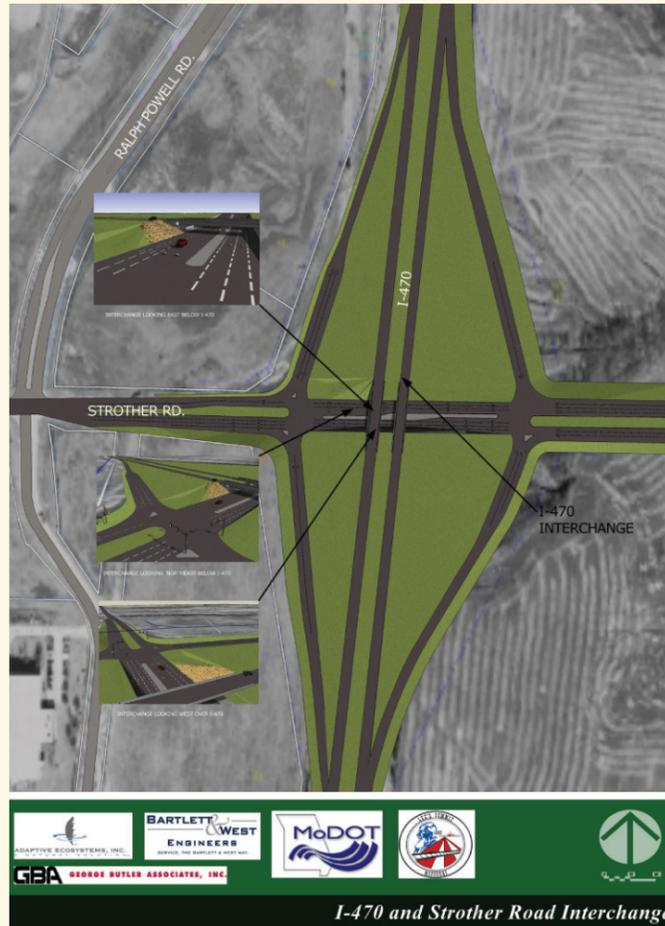
Construction for a new interchange at Interstate 470 and Strother Road in Lee's Summit is progressing as scheduled and motorists have seen a shift in the normal traffic pattern. The more than 82,000 vehicles using I-470 daily have been diverted to a newly constructed temporary bypass west of existing lanes of southbound I-470 between Woods Chapel Road and Colbern Road, allowing crews to begin construction of the Strother Road interchange.

Now that traffic has been moved to the bypass, crews will begin excavating approximately 125,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock prior to beginning the construction of the two new bridges. Also, during this phase, the two east ramps for the Strother Road interchange and the auxiliary lane for northbound I-470 from the Route

291 on ramp to the Strother Road off ramp will be constructed. Traffic is expected to return to the mainline I-470 once the bridge construction is completed.

Phase three will begin once all work on the bridges has been completed and traffic is shifted back onto I-470. During this phase, the two west ramps for Strother Road interchange and the auxiliary lane on southbound I-470 from the Strother Road on ramp to the Colbern Road off ramp will be constructed. Additionally, the temporary bypass will be removed and Strother Road will be constructed. The interchange is scheduled to be open to traffic on Aug. 1, 2010.

The Strother Road Interchange is being built in a cooperative effort between the City of Lee's Summit and the Missouri Department of Transportation.



The future Strother Road Interchange will improve traffic flow and provide better access to local businesses, encouraging economic growth in the Lee's Summit area.

tation. This project is included on the list of Regionally Significant projects maintained by the Mid-America Regional Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Kansas City region. This proposed interchange and local access is vital to the

successful growth of the area. It will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, provide better access to local businesses, improve emergency response time, and encourage economic growth in this part of Lee's Summit.

D4 Wins First Place at the Tool and Equipment Innovation Showcase

by Kerri Lewis

District 4 takes home first place for the Bridge Maintenance Equipment division of the Tool and Equipment Challenge in Springfield. Jeff Bailey and Matt Elsea, both Special Operations Maintenance Crew Leaders in D4, won for the Steel Plate Transporter, an innovative way to safely place a steel plate over a damaged bridge deck.

The STP won as it completes critical field operations faster, better and cheaper. Judged on cost vs. benefit; convenience and ease of use; versatility and adaptability; and implementation, the STP proved to be the best process

in the area of bridge maintenance. Originally, to load a steel plate, at least two people were needed, one dump truck and one loader. Now, with the STP, the plate is secured to the loader with a winch system. This requires only one person to hook it and

hoist it into place. Only one truck is needed to pull the transporter behind it until it is ready to be placed.

The new way also saves time. A loader is limited on the routes it can take to reach the final destination. The SPT is pulled behind a truck, minimizing the time to reach the bridge as it is not limited on the routes it can take. The SPT does most of the work, keeping the crew out of harms way when the plate is dropped. No need to watch the toes when doing it this way.

On top of the great recognition received, the district was also honored with an additional \$10,000 for the maintenance department as a result of winning this challenge.



Matt Elsea (left) and Jeff Bailey stand in front of the winning Steel Plate Transporter with the winning check in hand.



Pete Rahn looks over the STP during the Showcase.



Pete Rahn presents the check for \$10,000 to Jeff Bailey and Matt Elsea for D4's Maintenance.

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D5

Central

Congressman Skelton Tours Sunrise Beach



Kristin Gerber

District Engineer Roger Schwartze, Village Chairman Curt Mooney, and Congressman Ike Skelton listen as Project Manager Nicole Hood discusses plans for widening Route 5.

United States Congressman Ike Skelton visited the Village of Sunrise Beach last month to see how economic stimulus funding will be spent in the community.

MoDOT will use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to widen Route 5 to three lanes through town, for approximately one mile. The improve-

ment is a cooperative effort between MoDOT and Sunrise Beach.

The same day Congressman Skelton visited, MoDOT held a public meeting to gather public input on the proposed improvements. Work is scheduled to begin in summer 2009 and be completed by summer 2010.

Three Mid-MO Bridges Become 'Safe & Sound'

Three bridge deck replacement projects are now underway in the central district as part of the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program. Route BB, Harlan Branch Bridge in Cooper County, Route 179 over Interstate 70 in Cooper County, and Route J/DD over I-70 in Callaway County closed at the first of April so work could begin.



Allen Trampe

The old Route J/DD bridge deck is gone, leaving a view of Interstate 70 below.



Allen Trampe

This worker is building the formwork for the Route J/DD bridge overhang.

Route BB and Route J/DD bridges are scheduled for completion in May, and Route 179 should reopen in early June. All three bridges will receive a completely new deck.

“Work has been going well so far,” said Area Engineer Alan Trampe. “People adjusted to detours with no problems and construction is on schedule.”

Ninety bridges will be repaired or replaced in mid-Missouri as part of the Safe & Sound Program.

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Harrisburg Bulldogs Rewarded for Battle of the Belt

by Holly Dentner

Several members of the Central Region Coalition for Roadway Safety recognized the Harrisburg Bulldogs on April 8 for taking control of their safety and improving their seat belt usage.

Harrisburg High School students participated in the 2008 Battle of the Belt competition, where they conducted observational safety belt surveys before and after an educational campaign at the school.

The Harrisburg Bulldogs improved their seat belt usage rate by more than 50 percent, the highest reported increase among 16 central Missouri high schools that participated in the program. Their increase raised their total usage rate to 69 percent.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Sergeant Bruce Reinkemeyer, Boone County School Resource Officer Derek Dodson, and Central Region Coalition Coordinator Matt Myers met with students at Harrisburg to recognize their achievement and encourage them to do more.

“Many of you now understand that buckling your seat belt is one of the most important things you can do to prevent serious injury or death if involved in a crash,” said Myers at the school assembly. “This is a critical lesson for all of you, and I hope you will share it with your friends and families.”

Myers told students that as of April 5, 32 people have lost their lives in traffic crashes in mid-Missouri, a 60 percent increase from this time last year. Of those 32 people, 76 percent were unbuckled. With programs like Battle of the Belt, Myers hopes those numbers will drop.



Carol Pleus

Boone County School Resource Officer Derek Dodson and Missouri State Highway Patrol Sergeant Bruce Reinkemeyer present a check for \$250 to the Harrisburg High School students who organized their Battle of the Belt campaign.

District Promotes Work Zone Safety

You can't find ten foot traffic cones in a catalog or on Amazon, but for the second year in a row, the Central District displayed the larger-than-life, “home-made” structures on the district office lawn for Work Zone Awareness Week. The office building was also lit in orange lights as part of Operation Orange.



A screen shot of Area Engineer Mike Schupp's appearance on the KOMU-TV's long-running talk show, “Pepper and Friends.”

Mike Schupp even appeared on a local talk show, “Pepper and Friends,” to talk about work zone safety, the upcoming construction season, and the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement program.



The super-size work zone at the Central District Office.

The display wasn't the district's only effort to encourage safety in work zones. Five local radio stations interviewed various employees about the upcoming construction season. Area Engineer



Television host Paul Pepper asked about resurfacing projects beginning soon in the Columbia area.

D6

St. Louis Area

Bellefontaine Maintenance Worker Wins Tool and Equipment Challenge

by Nathan Allen

District 6 is proud to announce its winner of the Tool and Equipment Challenge. Raul Olea, Bellefontaine maintenance worker, is MoDOT's statewide and district winner for his invention of the Weed Eater Head Saver. Olea and his "solutions at work" was featured at the statewide competition held in Springfield in March.

During the past grass cutting season, wear on the outer cap of weed eaters caused MoDOT to purchase anywhere between three and six heads per weed eater for the entire season. Because the outer head cap cannot be purchased

heads numerous times. While the price of the weed eater head saver is 19 cents and approximately two minutes of work, replacing the whole head would cost \$28.



Assuming that the 273 maintenance buildings around the state had an average of five weed eaters per building and each one cost about \$28 to repair each year, the implementation of this practice statewide would result in

saving approximately \$182,568.75 (or one tandem axle dump truck with spreader and plow) per year.

District 6 thanks all participants helping find better, faster or cheaper

ways to get work done and for helping make MoDOT the best it can be. Look forward to the 2009 Tool and Equipment Challenge where your best practice may qualify for an award and be used throughout the state.



Raul Olea, Bellefontaine Maintenance Worker, receives a statewide award for District 6 from Pete Rahn, Director of the Missouri Department of Transportation.

separately, MoDOT was spending more money to purchase the full assembly. Using a bolt, tow washers and a nut, Olea was able to reinforce an existing cap, increasing the life span of each head.

"I drilled out the center cap to allow a bolt and washer to be used instead of the plastic cap," Olea explained regarding his submission for Solutions at Work. "The bolt head sticks out further than the cap allowing more space between ground and the outer cap. The bolt head will also outlast the plastic center cap saving MoDOT a considerable amount of money."

The weed eater that had the reinforced head was used for the rest of the season without having to change the head. The other weed eaters had to change



Weed Eater Head Saver wins 2008 Tool and Equipment Challenge.

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Women's History Month Celebration Recognizes MoDOT Employee

by Linda Wilson

Many women have inspired April Hendricks-Brown, but she was honored to find herself amongst an elite group of women in St. Louis. As a Senior Civil Rights Specialist for MoDOT, April works on diversity efforts for the Interstate 64 reconstruction project and the plans for the new Mississippi River Bridge. On Thursday, March 26, her efforts were recognized at the annual Women's History Month celebration.

Over 300 women were honored for their contribution to affect positive changes across St. Louis. The event was hosted by the KWAME Foundation, St. Louis Regional Business Council, the University of Missouri-St Louis, St. Louis Community College, St. Louis Argus Foundation, Build-A-Bear Workshop and Mike Shannon's.



April Hendricks-Brown, Senior Civil Rights Specialist

April also monitors the MoDOT sponsored pre-apprentice training centers to make sure they are providing quality class work. The courses have to include enough OSHA training, CPR and other items to make sure they will meet the apprentice program requirements. The training programs also teach interview techniques, good work ethics and life skills such as managing a home budget.

Recently, April began working with the Mississippi River Bridge on the workforce roundtables to establish the goals and agreements for that project. When I-64 construction is complete, her role will transition to the compliance and monitoring role during the MRB construction.



April Hendricks-Brown asks journey-level laborer Donna Finn to sign documents completing her labor compliance interview along the I-64 project.

"The celebration was very inspiring to me because there were so many women that have encouraged me and mentored me," April said. "I was sitting among them and thought it was very humbling as a woman to be honored with all these amazing women."

April's role on the I-64 project team is to assure the contractors are following Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) requirements and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations. She conducts workforce field interviews to make sure the staff are being paid prevailing wages, provided all EEO information, aware of their rights and know who they can go to if they need information.

"We want to ensure all members of the community are represented in all areas of the project, including the people and the firms," said April. "We want them to know MoDOT is watching out for them and will help them if they have any EEO problems."

"The ultimate goal is to level the playing field for all people," said April.

"There are many barriers that must be knocked down in order for doors to open and I have left a few of my own foot prints on these doors along with many others. It's inspiring to follow our trainees to journeyman status. With each one, I can say there is one more person that can be a success in the community."

April has a juris doctorate from Saint Louis University School of Law. Previously, she has worked on the new Busch Stadium project and the Lambert Airport expansion. She began working on the I-64 project in 2007 as a consultant from KWAME assisting the MoDOT staff in DBE and Workforce Diversity compliance issues. In January 2009, MoDOT hired her full time.

"April's work with MoDOT and the community involvement for this project has fostered multiple relationships to increase diversity in the highway construction industry, which is reflected in the receipt of her award," said Lester Woods external civil rights director. "We are extremely excited to have April on the MoDOT team!"

D7

Southwest

Fallen Workers Honored in the District and Across the State

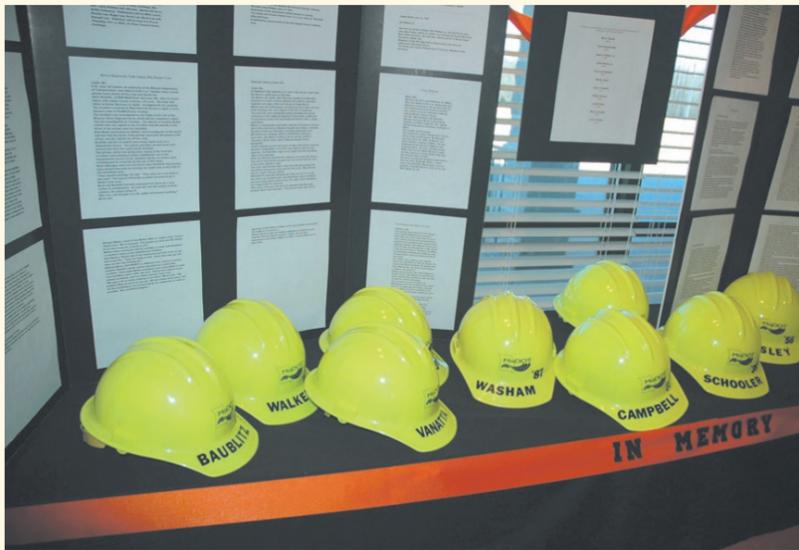
by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

As part of Work Zone Awareness Week in April, District 7 Customer Service created a memorial for the district's 11 employees killed in the line of duty. The memorial was on display at the Joplin I-44 Welcome Center during April and will possibly become a permanent display in the district office soon. It might be housed near the district's memorial plaque in the lobby.

The display featured hard hats with the employees' last names on each hat and the year they died. Behind the hard hats was a display board with the employees' obituaries and/or accident information.

The plaque and the display include the following names:

- John Allman. He died in July 1932 after falling from a moving truck in Dade County. He was trying to catch the windblown hat of a coworker.
- The next name belongs to Milo Schooler. He was working north of Carthage on the Spring River bridge on Route 71 in 1939. A passing truck crushed him.
- February 1946: Cal Mumy was spreading gravel on Route 66 between Joplin and the Kansas state line. He fell underneath a department truck and was run over.
- September 1958. 21-year-old Bill Passley, an engineering intern who



The temporary memorial was displayed at the Joplin I-44 Welcome Center.

just graduated from the University of Missouri, was working on Route 60 east of Neosho. He was hand painting numbers on the pavement when a car struck him.

- October 1965. An asphalt truck ran over Jim Campbell on Route 65 south of Ozark. He was on loan to District 8.
- July 1975. Wesley Jones was mowing the shoulder on Route 37 near Sarcoxie when his tractor rolled over and crushed him.
- October 1987. A tour bus slammed into a parked MoDOT truck on I-44 in Lawrence County and then ran over Terry Washam.

■ February 1991. Engineer Jim Minton died from burns received in a propane gas explosion at Lodge of the Four Seasons in Osage Beach. Minton, along with 600 other people, was attending a conference. Twenty people were injured in the explosion.

■ July 1997. Art Walker was installing signs on Route 39 in Lawrence County. A truck hauling a backhoe flew around a curve going 60 mph in a 30 mph work zone, killing Walker.

■ September 2003. Crews prepared to mow on west 7th Street in Joplin. A driver fell asleep at the wheel and hit

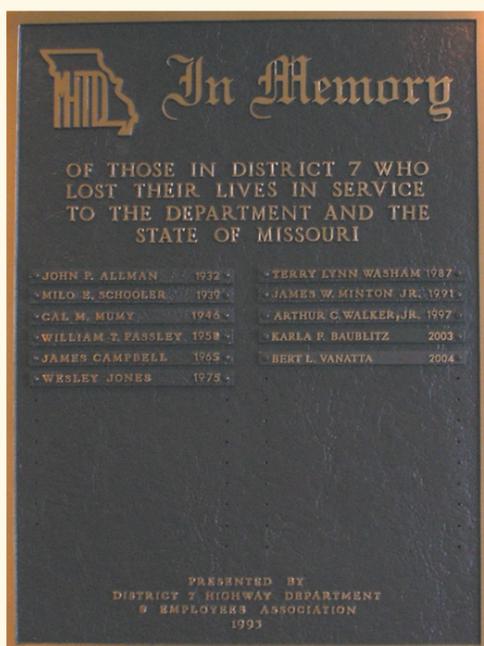
Karla Baublitz. She died at the scene. ■ November 2004. Bert Vanatta was installing mile marker signs on I-44 in Jasper County when a van veered into a work zone and struck Vanatta.

Employees and retirees can help "Honor Our Own" in two ways:

- By raising money to erect a permanent fallen worker memorial next to the General Headquarters building in Jefferson City. To contribute, make checks payable to State Highway & Transportation Employees Association of Missouri and mail to District 7 Highway Credit Union, Attn: Dave B. Taylor, 3901 E. 32nd St., Ste A, Joplin, MO 64804.
- By serving on the District 7 Fallen Workers Memorial committee. The committee will research employees' interest in building a memorial in the district, and design and fundraising options. Suggestions for a district memorial include a bench near the pond at the district office with the fallen employees' names inscribed on it or paving stones in the district office sidewalk with the employees' names inscribed on them.

Submit your ideas or serve on the committee by contacting Nick Correnti at 417-629-3450.

12



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District 7 Presented with Diversity Award



Andy Ellsworth accepts the Director's Diversity Award from Pete Rahn.

District 7 recently received the 2009 Director's Diversity Award for the highest percentage increase in employment of minorities between 2007 and 2008. Director Pete Rahn presented the award at the Diversity Conference this spring. Right of Way Manager Andy Ellsworth accepted on behalf of the district.

This is the second diversity award for District 7. In 2008, Anderson Regional Maintenance Supervisor David Holloway was presented the District Diversity Pioneer Award for using new

approaches to promote diversity and increase diversity in the applicant pool.

Holloway went door to door in Anderson-area neighborhoods, handing out job opportunity fliers he made with the help of an employee's wife who works as a Spanish language interpreter. In addition, he posted fliers at local stores, banks and businesses known to serve area populations of Hispanic customers. Human Resources soon received several minority employment applications and employed two Hispanic employees.

D8

Springfield Area



Bob Edwards

D8 at Work

Preparing to dump dirt to build shoulders along Polk County Route H south of Halfway (top photo) are, from left, Preston Senior Maintenance Worker Randy Garrison, Bolivar Regional Maintenance Supervisor Scott Noblitt and Bolivar Maintenance Crew Leader Rick Bays.

MoDOT Director Pete Rahn (middle photo) greets, from left, Signal Shop Electrician Assistant Joe Horned, Building Crew Senior Facility Operations Specialist Charles Armstrong, Signal Shop Electrician Billy Adams and Signal Shop Traffic Supervisor Joe Dotson. Rahn toured the district in late March to meet with employees, community leaders and news media, with stops in Lebanon, Springfield and Branson.

Taking an asphalt sample at a plant near Hollister (bottom photo) is Branson Senior Construction Technician Cody Stice, working on the resurfacing of Route 265 in Stone and Taney counties. This is a federal economic recovery act project.

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60/65 Reconstruction: 3-1/2 Years, \$57 Million

by Bob Edwards

The Route 60/65 interchange in Springfield, the busiest freeway-to-freeway interchange in Missouri outside of the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas, gets a \$57.1-million remake starting this month that is intended to make travel easier and safer.

When completed in the Fall of 2012, the interchange will have two directional, “flyover” ramps to eliminate a tight conflict point on the existing northbound Route 65 bridge over Route 60.

It also will feature new bridges over the railroad tracks, eliminating the need to stop high-speed traffic several times a week for slow-moving coal trains serving the James River Power Plant.

The project will be a complex one that touches on all legs of the interchange.

“Lots of stuff going on” was the way District Design Engineer Ron Effland put it.

Project components include replacing five existing bridges, building an additional three bridges and reconstructing two existing bridges.

The work must take place in a confined, environmentally-sensitive area bordered by the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Nature Center, Ozark Greenways walking/bicycling trails, a set of railroad tracks, a creek, a river, a lake and marshland and a cemetery.

“The biggest challenge ... was designing it around traffic during construction,” said Project Manager Linda Bokel, who worked closely on the design and construction timetable with engineers from HNTB of Kansas City.

Bokel said the need to keep vehicular traffic moving – more than 125,000 cars and trucks a day enter the interchange – governed everything from

the placement of flyover ramp bridge columns to the timing of ramp and lane closings, lane shifts and temporary roadway closings.

The Route 60/65 interchange is a hub for many of the Springfield region’s daily commuters and a gateway for recreation seekers from outside the area heading to and from the Branson-Tri-Lakes area.

MoDOT and prime contractor, Archer, Western of Illinois, also will cooperate with Ozark Greenways, the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and Missouri Department of Conservation to open trail access whenever possible during construction without putting users in harm’s way.

An extensive public communication plan will provide Route 60/65 construction updates, alerting people using the roads and trails what travel disruptions they can expect. Information will be emailed directly to people, provided to the news media and posted on the MoDOT/Springfield web site. Signs and electronic message boards will be placed along the roads and trails.

The Route 60/65 reconstruction, an Amendment 3 project, will greatly benefit the region, said District Engineer Kirk Juranas. So will the soon-to-begin six-laning of Route 65 between Route 60 and I-44, being paid for mostly with federal economic recovery funds pooled by MoDOT, the city of Springfield and Greene County.

Cooperation among local agencies in the Springfield area, through the Ozarks Transportation Organization metropolitan planning group, has become routine, Juranas said.

“That’s a great place to be,” he said. “It’s just the way we do business now.”

Maintenance Veteran Retires

by Angela Eden

Branson Regional Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Clayton

Service: 31 years
 (Hired June 5, 1978)

Career: Seasonal worker, Branson Maint., 1978; crew worker, Walnut Shade Maint., 1978-1991; crew worker to assistant maintenance supervisor, Branson Maint., 1991-2000;



Clayton

local maintenance supervisor, Lampe, 2000-2002; special maintenance supervisor, Bridge and Concrete Crew, 2002-2004; regional maintenance supervisor, Branson Maint., 2004-2009

Memorable Accomplishments: Working with a lot of good employees on proj-

ects to provide traffic control for the Tour of Missouri bicycle race; cleaning up after floods, ice storms and wind storms; preparing roads for paving, doing chip seals and cleaning up after the “great squirrel migration” across Route 65 in the late 1990s.

Quote: “MoDOT is not just a job, it is a career.”

Post-MoDOT Plans: Spending more time with family

“Talkin’ Transportation”
 Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

D9

South Central

Spotlight on Work Zone Awareness

by Christi Turkleson

District 9 should not have any shortage of work this construction season. With multiple Safe & Sound bridges under construction and additional projects for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this is shaping up to be a particularly active construction period.

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 6-10, reminded motorists to take care when traveling through work zones. Several organizations helped put work zone awareness in the spotlight this year by participating in Operation Orange including:

- Decorations For Celebrations
- Missouri Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)
- City of Rolla
- City of Saint Robert
- Howell-Oregon Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Phelps County Courthouse
- West Plains Civic Center
- Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop I
- Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop G
- Neuwaukum Industries, Inc.

The Work Zone Summit, held April 7 for District 9 employees, also helped emphasize work zone awareness. Those attending reviewed how to properly set up a work zone and learned of new tools designed to increase work zone safety such as improved signage and work zone customer surveys. Employees discussed the

importance of speaking up when they recognize unsafe practices or behaviors and to help new employees develop safe working habits during this busy season.

Employees were reminded that MoDOT must use care and consideration when setting up work zones. Although driver inattention, excessive speed, and improper lane changes are some of the main causes of work zone crashes, proper use of signage and safety guidelines can help reduce the risk.



City of Saint Robert



West Plains Civic Center



Howell-Oregon Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Rahn Spreads the Word on Primary Seat Belt Legislation

by Christi Turkleson

MoDOT Director Pete Rahn visited the South Central District on March 24 to discuss the critical need for passage of a primary seat belt law. Rahn spoke at the Phelps County Courthouse in Rolla, and the Ozarks Medical Center in West Plains to urge city and county leaders to contact their state representative in support of its passage. Under the bill, law enforcement officers would be able to cite motorists for failing to wear seat belts without having to observe another traffic violation first.

Rahns' dedication to the cause was evident as he stressed the lives which could be saved and reinforced the message that passage of a primary seat belt law in Missouri is the top legislative priority of MoDOT. "This is a list of 2,183 people who have died on Missouri's highways and roads, unbelted, in the last four years. Of those 2,183 people who have died, if we had a primary belt law in 2005, 360 of these people would not be on that list," Rahn said. Emphasizing the need for individuals to take action, Rahn said, "We can do it this year. The House needs to hear you care about this. Please, make that call to your representative."

Rahn told officials that recent MoDOT initiatives such as rumble strips, rumble-strip striping, median guard cables

and better signage have succeeded in reducing accident statistics, but that reductions have reached a plateau. "The next step has got to be the primary belt law", Rahn said.

In response to audience questions, Rahn briefly discussed the continuing need for the Conversation to Move Missouri Forward initiative, telling those attending that the previous projection of falling off a cliff could now be better described as going off a very steep slope. "The stimulus dollars that Missouri will receive are about 60 percent of what we receive annually, it is not a tidal wave of funds, but it is a boost", Rahn said. During his visit, Rahn also met with employees at the Salem and Willow Springs maintenance buildings to discuss the importance of the primary seat belt law and answer questions.



MoDOT Director Pete Rahn greeted Ellington Maintenance Worker Kate Holloway before talking to District 9 employees.

D9 Students Take 21 Days to Create a Habit

by Christi Turkleson

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Habits can be hard to break. That's the concept behind the "21 Days to Create a Habit – Buckle Up and Arrive Alive" program developed by the South Central Regional Coalition of the Blueprint for Safer Roadways. The program is focused on creating safe driving behaviors in teens before they have the opportunity to develop unsafe habits.

The campaign is targeted towards young drivers in rural areas who have been shown to be among the least likely to wear their safety belts according to South Central Regional Coordinator, Kelly Martin. "Statewide, only 62 percent of our teens are buckling up. This is a staggering statistic when you

consider the fact that this is our young, inexperienced driving population" Martin said. In the past this program has proven to increase seat belt usage among teens by using the peer pressure factor as an advantage, and turning around the excuse of wearing seat belts as not being cool.

The students are first observed in a surprise safety belt check to determine their current usage. This is followed by a school assembly informing students of their current seat belt usage, the importance of buckling up, and explaining the 21 Days program. The next 21 days are spent growing safety belt usage as the high school students

and faculty participate in safety belt education. Faculty members share tips and statistics focusing on seat belt usage daily, and students get visual reminders from posters, window clings and banners. Students from each school are also selected to star in radio ads reinforcing the safety belt message on their favorite stations. At the end of the educational campaign, students are again monitored for seat belt usage and

those spotted wearing their belts are rewarded with a T-shirt featuring the 21 Days logo.

Schools that completed their participation in "21 Days" program in April include Summersville High School, Southern Reynolds County High School, Van Buren High School and Couch High School. Each school demonstrated increased seat belt usage for both drivers and passengers. "The

goal is to provide both a fun and educational program for high schools who are interested in reducing roadway fatalities among young drivers through safety belt education", said MoDOT Senior Right of Way Specialist and Program Administrator Tamara Gregory. The campaign has succeeded in improving teen knowledge of the benefits of safety belt usage, and increasing seat belt usage among teens.



Couch High School students participated in the "Top 10 Excuses," during the 21 Days to Create a Habit assemblies lead by MoDOT District Planning Manager Chris Rutledge.

for more info

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D10

Southeast

Workers Honored During Operation Orange Ceremony

Area Locations ‘Go Orange’: D10 Increases Number of Operation Orange Partners



Operation Orange was in full swing this year as D10 asked cities, businesses and organizations to partner in raising awareness of work zone safety. The Southeast District had 14 locations participating this year, by turning their landmarks and outside building lights orange. Area partners included: New Madrid Welcome Center; Missouri State Highway Patrol, Sikeston and

Poplar Bluff offices; Jackson City Hall; Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce; Farmington City water tower; Buchheit Trucking Services; Sikeston Department of Public Safety, four locations; Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission; D10 MoDOT Office; and the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge in Cape Girardeau.

In addition to the area businesses and organizations that “went orange” this year, a special Operation Orange Ceremony was also held at the Southeast Missouri State University River Campus. Not only were MoDOT workers in attendance, but other public servants that may also be affected by work zones — area law enforcement, first responders, city and county workers.

Guest speakers honored the men and women who serve the public in work zones and reminded everyone of the importance of slowing down in work zones. The ceremony honored employees who currently serve and those who have passed on.

Wayne County Roadways Remain Clean

‘No MOre Trash Bash’ Brochure Features Local Southeast Missourian

Known to some as “The Southeast’s Super Adopter,” Richard McAllister is no stranger to the phrase *No MOre Trash*. In Wayne County, McAllister makes the *No MOre Trash* phrase a reality, by picking up trash along over 100 miles in Southeast Missouri.

McAllister first adopted a 2-mile stretch of highway along Route 49 in Wayne County in 2002.

Since then, the retired McAllister has continued to adopt, and now cleans almost

of all northwest Wayne County. McAllister picks up approximately 100 miles of roadway every two weeks—that’s

roughly eight miles a day.

Along his journey to clean-up the roadways in Wayne County, McAllister also founded “Citizens Against Trash,” a non-profit group, to raise money and

help clean up Missouri. A sign was recently erected along Route 34 near Piedmont in honor of the work done by McAllister and “Citizens Against Trash.”



Richard McAllister helps to keep 100 miles of roadway in Wayne County clean. McAllister is also the founder of “Citizens Against Trash” and was highlighted on the cover of the 2009 No MOre Trash Bash brochure (at left).

Around the District



Many District 10 employees have been actively involved with “Arrive Alive Wednesdays.” Pictured above is the Sikeston Bridge Crew, showing their support of buckling up.

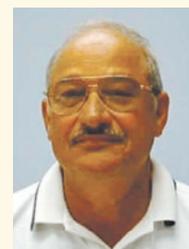


Due to the efforts of D10 employees, along with additional help from other districts, the winter storm clean-up deadline was met early.

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Recent Retiree



Joe Jackson retired April 1 after 25 years with MoDOT. Jackson was the Support Services Manager.

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.

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



Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



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Work Zone Awareness Event Gets Oranger Every Year

photos by Cathy Morrison

Landmarks and other buildings across Missouri were illuminated in orange during Work Zone Awareness Week from April 6-10. This was the third and orangest year for Operation Orange, MoDOT's signature event to remind drivers to be safe and aware in work zones.

At least 100 locations across the state participated in Operation Orange this year by displaying orange lights, signs, banners or other forms of advertisement.

Educating people about paying attention in work zones is critical to the safety of our employees and the traveling public. In 2008, 12 people were killed in work zones, an increase from 2007 when five people were killed. However, fewer people were injured with approximately 600 serious injuries in work zones in 2008, compared to 792 in 2007. Three MoDOT employees lost their lives in 2008, including Mike York, District 4; Johnny Hays, District 7; and Josh Slatten, District 8.

For a list of cities, agencies and businesses that participated in Operation Orange 2009, go to www.modot.org/operationorange.



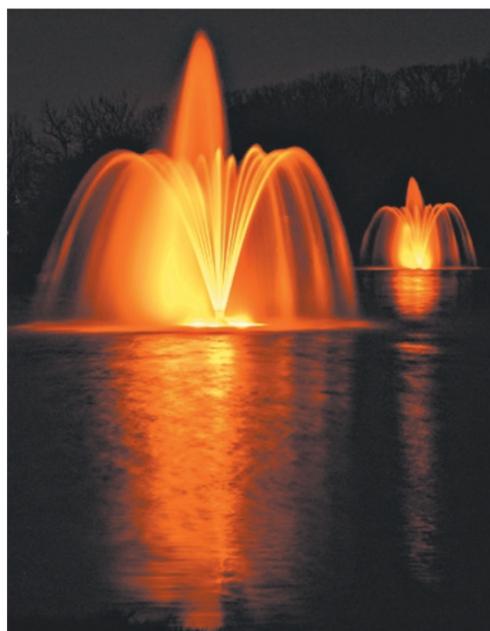
Farm Bureau Headquarters, Jefferson City



Residence Inn by Marriott, St. Louis



Bill Emerson Bridge, Cape Girardeau



Logan College, St. Louis

Diversity

continued from page 4

according to how I feel – to being “We” focused – I want to understand what you want and will try to accommodate that first before my own desires.

In addition, awards were once again presented in recognition of diversity in new hires, overall employment and promotions; mentoring; TRAC volunteer efforts; cooperative education; advocacy; and recruiting efforts. See the sidebar for the 2009 Recognition Award winners.

2009 Recognition Awards

Diversity in Hiring

Organizational Support Team

Career Builder Award

Organizational Support Team

Mentor of the Year Award

Beth Ring, Central Office

Excellence in TRAC Award

Bridge Division TRAC volunteers

Co-op Educator of the Year Award

Susan Marshall, District 8

EAC Diversity Advocate of the Year Award

Cheryl Bonner, Central Office

District Diversity Pioneer Award

District 4

Director's Diversity Award

District 7

Organizational Support Team