



MoDOT in MOTION

District 10

Winter 2010

Dear friends:

With the winter months in full swing, District 10 MoDOT projects have not slowed. As you read this issue of MoDOT in Motion, I hope you learn more about District 10 and the projects ongoing across your roadways.

Through the Safe and Sound program, MoDOT will improve 802 bridges statewide, with 86 of those in District 10. To learn more about this project, see the back cover.

In addition, District 10 is using the Bluestar Roadway System™ on the northbound lane of Interstate 55 over the Diversion Channel in Cape Girardeau County. This system has been installed to tell drivers when conditions, which could result in ice on the bridge, are present. To learn more about this system, see the story below.

We have had a very successful year with the Coalition for

Roadway Safety and our Battle of the Belt program. To learn more about both, please see the article on page 4.

We hope to provide you with information on projects going on throughout the Southeast District. If you have additional questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK MoDOT or visit our website at www.modot.org/southeast

Thank you,

Mark Shelton, P.E.
District Engineer



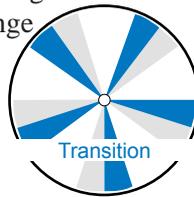
New Technology Helps Remind Motorists of Icy Conditions

Motorists traveling over the Diversion Channel bridge on Interstate 55 in Cape Girardeau County can expect to see new reflectors and signs this winter season. This is the first bridge in the state to have the Bluestar Roadway System™ installed.



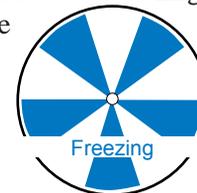
With the Bluestar Roadway System™, temperature-sensitive reflectors are mounted on guideposts and placed in front of the bridge.

The reflectors change from white to blue as temperatures approach freezing. Signs which read “blue



reflectors indicate freezing temperatures” have also been installed near the bridge.

“The reflectors and signs are installed in advance of the bridge approach to tell drivers that conditions which could result in ice on the road are present,”



said District Traffic Engineer Craig Compas.

Compas explained that motorists can easily overlook icy conditions on bridges if roads appear to be clear.

Even if ice is not present on the roadway, it may be present on bridges.

[continued on page 5]

[INSIDE THIS ISSUE]

- More Improvements In-Store for Route 53 [page 2]
- D10 Celebrates the Completion of First Route 67 Sections [page 2]
- New Median Crossovers on Route 67 [page 3]
- 32 Schools Participate in the Battle of the Belt Competition [page 4]
- Steele Rest Areas Converting to Truck Parking [page 4]
- Maintenance Forces Innovate MoDOT Processes [page 5]
- D10 Launches New Safe and Sound Website [back cover]



573-472-5333
1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636)
Fax: 573-472-5351
www.modot.org

More Improvements In-Store for Route 53

As promised, more improvements will be made to Route 53 in Butler and Dunklin Counties. The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission recently awarded a \$4,229,650 contract to Pace Construction Company, LLC, St. Louis, Mo.

The project includes resurfacing two disconnected sections from Business 67 in Poplar Bluff to Route 51 at Qulin and from Route 62 at Campbell to Route 25 near Holcomb.

“We appreciated the residents’ patience as the first phase of improvements were completed,” said Project Manager Eric Krapf. “Delays are an inconvenience, however they were necessary so that we could deliver a better, smoother ride for motorists.”

He explained that the traffic control for the newly awarded phase of the project will be

similar to what motorists experienced as work was completed from Qulin to Campbell last summer.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane as improvements are underway, and a pilot car will be used to guide traffic through the work zone.

“So far, we have received a great response from travelers regarding the first phase of improvements,” said Krapf. “We look forward to making further improvements to Route 53.”

Work is expected to begin in late



Improvements were made to this section of Route 53 during the first phase of the project. Similar work will be completed during the second phase.

spring 2010 and could be completed by fall 2010, weather permitting.

Work zones will be marked with signs as the improvements are being made. Drivers are urged to use extreme caution near the work zones and plan for possible delays. MoDOT will alert drivers prior to any change in traffic.

For more information, please contact Krapf at (573) 472-5261, Assistant Resident Engineer David Wyman at (573) 840-9781 or MoDOT’s Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).



Needed resurfacing work will begin in spring 2010 to improve Route 53 in Butler and Dunklin Counties.

D10 Celebrates the Completion of First Route 67 Sections

The first sections of the new four-lane Route 67 are now open to traffic. These improvements extend from the previously four-lane Route 67 in Butler County to two miles south of Route F in Wayne County.

Speakers at the ribbon cutting ceremony included: U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson, Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Senator Kit Bond, Dr. Tom Lawson of the Highway 67 Corporation, State Senator Rob Mayer,

State Rep. Gayle Kingery, Mayor of Poplar Bluff Loyd Matthews, MoDOT Southeast District Planning Manager Bill Robison and

MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton.

Cherokee Pass in Madison

County will be the next section to open. Work is expected to be completed by summer 2010.

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson cuts the ribbon at the Route 67 ribbon cutting ceremony. The ceremony was held to celebrate completion of sections A and B in Butler and Wayne Counties.





One of the reconfigured Route 67 median crossovers was recently installed at Route A in Madison County. To reconfigure the median crossover, additional striping was added and the existing islands were relocated.

New Median Crossovers on Route 67

In an effort to improve travel along Route 67, the Southeast District recently began reconfiguring existing median crossovers in Madison and Wayne counties.

“The new median crossover design has been installed at three locations and will be installed at more locations along Route 67 in the future,” said District Traffic Engineer Craig Compas.

Locations of the new Route 67 crossovers include Route A and Route C in Madison county and in Wayne county at the intersection of County Roads 404 and 543.

Compas explained that the new crossovers look different from their predecessors.

“Unlike typical crossovers, the new design has a center island,” he said. “In addition, the existing islands have been relocated and striping is in place.”

The reconfigured crossovers have been installed to accommodate the increasing number of u-turns as Route 67 is upgraded to four lanes.

“Typically, drivers enter the median crossover to the left side of the road when making a u-turn. With the new crossovers, drivers will enter the median crossover to the right side of the roadway,” said Compas.

District 10 hopes that by keeping drivers’ oriented to the right side of the road, median crossovers will be easier to navigate.

In addition, drivers turning in the same direction will no longer have to line up side-by-side when waiting to make a u-turn. The crossover will allow vehicles to line-up behind each other.

The new configuration should help simplify median crossover movement by clarifying

driver right-of-way,” he said. “This will help eliminate the possibility of two lanes of traffic competing to enter the same receiving lane.”

For more information about the newly configured median crossovers, please contact Compas at (573) 472-5310. To comment, please visit www.modot.org/southeast and click on contact us.

Below is a photo of the Route A median crossover in Madison County before the reconfiguration.



32 Area Schools Participate in Battle of the Belt Competition

With teen seat belt use rates below average in the Southeast District, reaching our youth with the “Buckle-Up” message continues to be a top priority for the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Unfortunately, hundreds of Missouri teens are killed or injured every year in traffic crashes. A large majority of those killed are not wearing a seat belt. In 2008, seven out of 10 young people (between the ages of 15-20) that were killed in Missouri vehicle crashes were not buckled-up. To add to this dismal fact, young drivers (15-20 year-olds) comprise only nine percent of Missouri’s licensed drivers and were involved in 23 percent of the fatal and disabling injury crashes in 2008. According to recent surveys, only about 40 percent of teens in District 10 are wearing their seat belts.

“We continue to have a huge challenge ahead of us in District 10. We have been, and are continuing to reach out to the young people in our communities about the importance of seat belt use,” said Regional Coalition Contact Jay Lancaster. “We care about our teens and want to see them make good decisions when they get behind the wheel. Battle of the Belt is one avenue that our District and Coalition are utilizing to reach our young people.”

Battle of the Belt is a high school seat belt challenge where students develop their own creative and unique ways of

reaching their peers and communities with the important life-saving message of “Buckling-Up to Arrive Alive.” Students perform surprise seat belt checks at their high school and produce educational campaigns to reach their student bodies on the importance of seat belt usage.

This year, 32 Southeast schools participated in the 2009 Battle of the Belt challenge—the highest number of schools in D10 to participate yet. The 2009 Southeast participating schools include: Advance R-IV, Bell City R-II, Bloomfield, R-XIV, Central R-III, Chaffee R-II, Charleston R-I, East Prairie R-II, Farmington R-VII, Greenville R-II, Hayti R-II, Jackson R-II, Malden R-I, Marquand-Zion R-VI, Meadow Heights R-II, Neelyville, R-IV, North St. Francois Co. R-I, Notre Dame Region High School, Oak Ridge R-VI, Oran R-III, Perry County District 32, Portageville, Richland R-I, Risco R-II, Saxony Lutheran High School, Scott City R-I, Sikeston R-6, South Pemiscot County R-V, Southland C-9, Ste. Genevieve County R-II, Twin Rivers R-X, West St. Francois County R-IV and Woodland R-IV.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Senior Community Relations Specialist/District 10 Youth Coordinator Belinda McMurry at belinda.mcmurry@modot.mo.gov.

“We care about our teens and want to see them make good decisions when they get behind the wheel.”

[Lancaster]

Steele Rest Areas Converting to Truck Parking

The Steele Rest Areas, located along Interstate 55 at mile marker 3 in Pemiscot County, have been closed since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) pavement rehabili-

tation started last summer. MoDOT plans to transition both locations into truck parking while construction of new Welcome Centers is started.

MoDOT plans to keep both the north and southbound facilities closed while the transition to truck parking is complete.

During this transition, bathroom facilities, lagoons and picnic shelters will be removed. As this project moves forward, MoDOT plans to open bids this year, with a potential fall opening for truck traffic.

In addition to offering truck parking, MoDOT has started

construction on two new Welcome Centers on Interstate 55. The Marston Welcome Center, located at mile marker 42.4, will be located on the southbound lane of Interstate 55. The Hayti Welcome Center, located at mile marker 20.4, will be located on the northbound lane of Interstate 55.

Construction of both Welcome Centers is expected to be complete by November 2010, weather permitting.

Work to convert the northbound Steele rest area to truck parking could be completed as early as fall 2010.



Maintenance Forces Innovate MoDOT Processes

This year's District 10 Tool and Equipment Challenge proved that necessity truly is the mother of invention. During the challenge, maintenance employees submitted and shared their ideas for innovations to help MoDOT perform jobs better, faster, cheaper and more safely.

"Our maintenance forces work on the front lines," said Assistant to the District Engineer Cheryl Ball. "They see and use the equipment and tools daily, making maintenance the right group to find ways to improve our roadwork processes."

This year, maintenance forces were tasked with sharing their innovations for tools and equipment to help improve snow/ice removal, drainage work and pavement repair.

"I was impressed by the creativity and ingenuity of the tools and equipment entered

Portageville Intermediate Maintenance Worker Joey Cummins uses the culvert flusher to clear debris from a culvert.



The hydraulic gate for the tailgate spreader is used as pavement repairs are made. The hydraulic gate allows the driver to control the amount of material released onto the roadway—saving time and money.

into this year's challenge," said Ball. "The challenge was very successful."

Ball added that the competition furthers MoDOT's values of being one team and seeking out and welcoming any idea that increases our options.

"The ultimate goal is for employees to share their ideas so that they can be implemented throughout the

district or even statewide," she said. "By sharing our best practices, we can make the best use of the taxpayers' dollars."

She said while innovative ideas have always been welcomed, finding ways to perform jobs more efficiently is becoming increasingly important.

"With the current decrease in funding, finding ways to utilize our limited resources is a necessity," said Ball. "Luckily, the District 10 team is willing to help develop new, innovative solutions."

Winners of the D10 Tool and Equipment Challenge include:

- Belly Plow Jacks
- Hydraulic Gate for Tailgate Spreader
- CMP Band Clamp
- Culvert Flusher
- Overhead Line Warning Cones

New Technology Helps Remind Motorists of Icy Conditions

[continued from page 1]

"The underside of a bridge is exposed to cold air, causing the bridge to freeze first," he said. "Unlike the roadway, bridges do not have insulation from the ground."

"We hope the system will serve as a reminder to drivers that icy conditions may be present," Compas said. "But there is no substitute for safe driving."

Drivers should avoid driving until roads are cleared and treated when possible, utilize the Traveler Information Map available at www.modot.org/southeast and refrain from passing other vehicles on or near bridges.

For more information, please contact Compas at (573) 472-5310 or Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist Seth Bolinger at (573) 472-5257.

Maintenance Crew Leader Danny Heuring and Senior Maintenance Worker Gary Glastetter worked to install the reflectors and explanatory signs in January.



D10 Launches New Safe and Sound Website

The Southeast District recently launched a new Safe and Sound website that includes specific information about the district's bridge projects. The Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program will improve over 800 bridges statewide. Eighty-six of these bridges are in the Southeast District.

A list of bridges, anticipated closure dates and maps of detour routes are included for the bridge projects in each county. Additionally, links to upcoming community briefings,

projects under construction and completed projects are available.

Visit www.modot.org/southeast/safeandsound.htm or www.modot.org/southeast and click on the Safe and Sound icon to learn more.



MoDOT in MOTION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Missouri Department of
Transportation
Southeast District
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801
573-472-5333
1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)
www.modot.org



PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Cape Girardeau, MO
Permit #355