

# eConnections

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area



November 2010

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More Blue Ribbon

From the Director

Wetlands

Around the District

...and more!

### econnections sources

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**Design** Flo Noear, 607-2200

**Regional Counsel** LeAnn Francis, 607-2082

**Administration** Judy Magruder, 607-2294

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**Right of Way** Melbra Taylor, 607-2058

**Traffic** Melanie Lanigan, 607-2171

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## No Business Like Snow Business

### D4 Gears up for another Winter Wonderland

by Kerri Lewis

Rumor has it that it is almost time for, dare I say it, SNOW! Well, D4 is no stranger to this concept, in fact, as a district we are prepared for the first event and others that follow. But with this winter season comes a few changes, or minor tweaks in how we plan to tackle the wrath of Mother Nature.

So, are we going to plow snow? Well, yes, of course. We will plow snow around the clock until the roads are restored to a mostly clear condition, and our other roads are safe and passable.

When your neighbor, brother, sister or grocery store clerk (or whoever the case may be) asks you what MoDOT plans to do to keep their road clear, here are some things you can share:

- Snow routes are the roads with the highest volume of traffic, generally over 2,500 cars a day. The higher traffic volumes are the higher priority.

- Other routes will be treated with salt or other material applied to hills, curves, and intersections. As temperatures allow MoDOT to make progress on the routes, plows will continue to clear the road surfaces during normal work hours.

- You may not see MoDOT trucks out on other roads 24 hours a day. It will depend on the winter conditions and progress that can be made. If MoDOT cannot make good progress in clearing roads or if snow routes need treatment, you may not see MoDOT trucks out on other roads as often.

## 5 Things to Know About Snow

**1. MoDOT is committed to keeping our roads safe and passable during winter weather.**

- MoDOT has a detailed plan to address different types of winter weather.

- MoDOT will continue to do a good job clearing roads.

- Motorists always need to exercise caution driving in winter conditions. We recommend motorists slow down, allow more time, and drive carefully.

- We will focus on snow routes first, and then other roads in the MoDOT system.

**2. MoDOT will work around the clock until snow routes are near normal and all other routes are plowed and passable.**

- As the winter weather allows, MoDOT will attempt to provide some level of attention to roads prior to morning and evening rush hour.

**3. Motorists and the public can keep up-to-date on weather conditions by using the MoDOT website or calling our customer service center.**

- Traveler Information Map on the website provides a map with current condition of all MoDOT roads during winter weather. Read the definitions associated with the road conditions so that you know what to expect when driving.

- KC Scout provides a real time look at major interstates and highways in the

Continued on the next page

KC metro with maps, photos, and video. It also provides updates about accidents and delays on the roadway.

- The public can reach MoDOT 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 888-ASK-MoDOT. Customer service representatives can answer questions, complete requests for assistance, and additional information.

**4. MoDOT's top priority over the next five years is to keep its roads smooth and safe for Missourians.**

- To direct more funds to keeping roads smooth and safe, MoDOT will save money in its winter operations to put on the road.

- Did you know one ton of asphalt cost the same as one ton of salt? MoDOT will manage its winter operation resources to do a good job while becoming more efficient. This will allow MoDOT to put those

funds to improving the driving surface of Missouri highways.

- Currently 86% of the most travelled MoDOT roads are in good condition, and we want to keep them in this condition. Currently only about 51% of other state routes, normally defined as two-lane lettered or numbered routes, are in good condition. MoDOT is committed to improving these routes so that at least 70% are in good condition.

**5. MoDOT will continue to provide outstanding customer service to Missourians.**

- MoDOT will do a good job with winter operations, and is focused on meeting customer needs.

- MoDOT will plow snow and treat roads so they are safe and passable. However, they may not be completely clean and dry. Drivers will need to use

caution, as always, in winter conditions. It is not possible for MoDOT to keep all roads clean and dry.

- MoDOT will provide service to all state-maintained roads.

Please keep in mind that the last thing we want to do is make our customers feel that we are doing less than in the past. MoDOT is committed to keeping our roads safe and passable during winter weather. We have a detailed winter operations plan that allows us to work efficiently while managing our resources. MoDOT expects to save more than \$10 million a year by becoming more efficient in winter operations. This money will stay in the district and go toward improving pavement conditions.

Here are the ways we describe our road conditions.

**Closed:** The road is impassible due to winter conditions.

**Covered:** The road may have received some treatment and is passable with caution.

**Partly covered:** The road has received some treatment but still has snow or ice on significant portions of the road. The road is passable with caution.

**Mostly clear/Near normal:** The lanes of traffic are mostly clear with a small ribbon of snow on the road. The shoulders may not be clear.

So, MoDOT knows Snow Business and will continue the effort of keeping our roads safe. Check out the intranet site [www.intranet/d4/](http://www.intranet/d4/) to see MoDOT's snow operation in its entirety.

Covered



Partly Covered



Near Normal/Mostly Clear



## Highways and Transportation Commission, MoDOT Present I-64 Award Donation to Operation Food Search

The MHTC and MoDOT Director Kevin Keith presented a \$10,000 donation to Operation Food Search. The donation stemmed from national recognition received by the I-64 project in St. Louis.

In October, I-64 received the America's Transportation Award Grand Prize from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The project was recognized for rebuilding 10 miles of interstate ahead of schedule and under budget. The work required two full years of highway closures. Along with the national recognition, the award provides a \$10,000 donation to be given to a charity of the recipient's choice.

"The citizens of St. Louis had to be flexible for two years while I-64 was closed for reconstruction," said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. "This donation is just a small thank you to St. Louis for its cooperation and support for this project. We have shown the country how a community can work together when faced with a major infrastructure project."

During the I-64 opening ceremony in December 2009, MoDOT teamed with Operation Food Search to collect food and money to feed the hungry in St. Louis. Keith said it was fitting for MoDOT to continue its partnership with Operation Food Search through the \$10,000 donation.

Operation Food Search supplies food and necessities to 265 member agencies in 31 counties of Missouri and Illinois. Each month, Operation Food Search distributes more than two million pounds of food and household items to feed more than 120,000 people every single month. Nearly half of the recipients are children.

For more information on the America's Transportation Award, visit [www.americastransportationaward.org](http://www.americastransportationaward.org), and for details on the I-64 project, visit [www.thenewi64.org](http://www.thenewi64.org). Additional information on Operation Food Search can be found at [www.operationfoodsearch.org](http://www.operationfoodsearch.org).

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## kcICON Connection

The Clay County Economic Development Council will honor the kcICON Project with a Keystone Award Dec. 9 for its significant contribution to Clay County's economy and quality of life. These awards recognize new and existing companies that make a substantial impact in the Clay County community through significant capital investment, jobs creation, the improvement of neighborhoods and business districts, and for technological innovation.

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## Mailbag



On behalf of the Collins & Davis families we would like to extend our gratitude for the arrangements, cards, and expressions of condolence received from MoDOT District 4 during our time of bereavement.

Sincerely,  
Troy & Trish Collins



Lighting on the Christopher S. Bond Bridge is installed. Crews tested the lighting in late November. The decorative LED lighting on the edge girders is also installed and will be tested at a later date.

# Corporate Ladder Retirees

**Larry Boeschen**  
Maintenance Crew Leader

**Jackie Davis**  
Traffic Systems Supervisor

**Michael Devero**  
Maintenance Worker

**Everett Jewett**  
Resional Maintenance Supervisor

**Michael Jones**  
Highway Designer

**Charles Potter**  
Intermediate Maintenance Worker

**Ed Nichols**  
Maintenance Superintendent

## Welcome to D4

**Joshua Chapman**, Maintenance Worker

**Richard Dreher**, Maintenance Worker

**Randall Ewing**, Maintenance Worker

**Robert Gaiser**, Maintenance Worker

**Justin Gartman**, Maintenance Worker

**Gregory Giedinghagen**, Maint. Worker

**William Lutgen Jr.**, Maint. Worker

**Delores Taylor**, Maintenance Worker

**Willie Watkins**, Maintenance Worker

## Promotion

**Steven Allerson**, Maint. Crew Leader

**Jerome Burgett**, Inter. Maint. Worker

**Stephen Butler**, Maint. Crew Leader

**Clinton Calhoun**, Maint. Worker

**Roy Davis**, Maintenance Worker

**Dan Duncan**, Sr. Maintenance Worker

**Jeffery Harrison**, Maintenance Worker

**Francisco Hernandez**, Inter. Maint. Worker

**Jeena John**, Senior Highway Designer

**Nathan Juliana**, Senior Traffic Specialist

**Gregory McDowell**, Maint. Worker

**Lisa Raybourn**, Sr. Construction Tech.

# News from Across the District Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of MoDOT Retiree, John Durbin on his passing on Nov. 6. John worked for MoDOT 22 years and retired as a maintenance specialist in Oak Grove in 2001.

Our condolences go to David Price, Maintenance Worker in Platte City, and his family on the loss of his mother Carolyn Price on Nov. 5.

Our thoughts and prayers also go to Joe Caldarella, Senior Facility Operations Specialist and his family on the loss of his mother, Santina Caldarella on Nov. 4.

Our condolences to Richard McKown, Maintenance Crew Leader in Northmoor and his family on the loss of his brother, Ronald McKown on Oct. 30.

Thoughts and prayers go to Troy Collins, Construction Technician and his family on the loss of his mother Sarah Annabelle Davis on Nov. 3.

Our condolences also go to Jack Stoner, Construction Inspector for Richmond Project Office and his family on the loss of his mother, Isabel Stoner on Oct. 23.



Ed Nichols says goodbye after more than 30 years with MoDOT. Several people stopped by to wish Ed well.

Jackie Davis, surrounded by her friends and family, gave a tearful farewell to her MoDOT family after 31 years. The ladies of Customer Service gave her memories to take with her.



**Nicole Roberts**, Senior Highway Designer

**Russell Sandford**, Maintenance Worker

**Dwayne Severs**, Sr Construction Tech

**Chris Sholl**, Reg. Maint. Supervisor

**T. Michael Singleton**, Regional Maint. Supervisor

**Jeffrey Still**, Traffic Systems Supervisor

**Shawn Stuetzger**, Senior Maintenance Worker

**Debra Walter**, Intermediate Maintenance Worker



Kevin L. Keith, P.E.  
MoDOT Director

## From the Director

Team MoDOT:

I am honored that the Highways and Transportation Commission has appointed me MoDOT Director.

I have been a proud member of Team MoDOT for more than 25 years. During this time I have worked in numerous districts and at the Central Office. Everywhere I have been, I have been impressed by the dedication, hard work and ingenuity of MoDOT employees.

Serving as Interim Director since April has allowed me to again see what high-quality folks work for MoDOT. I have visited with employees throughout the state. It is clear to me that our current work force is the best we have ever had and we are a top-notch organization.

As most of you know, I am not one to sugar-coat things. You know the reality of our situation because you have felt the effects in several different ways. But, I strongly believe we are fortunate to work for MoDOT particularly in these difficult times. This is a great department with great people.

We face big challenges. Our combined talents, commitment and knowledge, however, are bigger than those challenges. I have already seen this as we have worked hard to implement our five-year direction and save money to put back into improving transportation in Missouri. We are saving that money and putting it back into roads and bridges.

I look forward to the many great things we are going to accomplish together in the coming years. Thank you for your commitment to MoDOT.

Sincerely,  
Kevin

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## What does a Purple Gallinule and a Missouri highway have in common?

by Michelle Compton

A lot more than you might think! In fact, most people don't realize that ecological conservation is an important, if unseen, part of running a major state highway system.

With almost every Missouri Department of Transportation project, ecological factors are researched, studied and considered during the decision-making process of a highway project's design.

In fact, MoDOT is required by law to consider the potential impacts of its federally-funded or permitted projects on the natural environment, such as a wetland. Generally MoDOT's direction is to avoid wetlands whenever possible and replace those that are impacted from highway construction.

Recently, the department – in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – created a 30-acre wetland within a Jackson County Park on the east fork of the Little Blue River, downstream of the Blue Springs Lake dam.



The USACE built the dam in the 1980's with the intention of developing this section of land into a fish hatchery for the Missouri Department of Conservation. When that project failed to move forward, they approached MoDOT for help.

MoDOT has built numerous wetlands on USACE-owned land in the past, including at the Truman Reservoir and Smithville Lake.

Currently open to the public, this rich oasis includes a handicapped-accessible wildlife viewing area and a parking lot. The site has become an area where bird watchers like to stop.

For complete details, including snap shots of the wetlands, visit [www.modot.org/kc](http://www.modot.org/kc)

# Orange Cones Compete with Blue Ribbon

D4 continues the celebration at a record pace. Recently, more blue ribbons have replaced orange cones, showering the district. The message is clear, more major projects are now complete as the construction season winds down.

## Warrensburg East Loop



Two years of construction culminated on Nov. 10 with the opening of the Route 13 East Loop. The new seven-mile-long two-lane highway moves through-traffic away from stop-and-go congestion in downtown Warrensburg.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the south portion of the East Loop, from Veterans Road one-half mile north of Route 50 south to existing Route 13 near Route Y. The roadway establishes a new corridor for the community, shifting highway traffic away from schools and the University of Central Missouri campus. Ideker Inc. of St. Joseph was general contractor for the \$27,153,932 project.

MoDOT continues to design the north leg of the Route 13 East Loop, which will extend north from the Route 50 interchange to connect with existing Route 13 three miles north of Warrensburg. Construction on that portion will begin in 2012.

## I-35 in Kearney

Not very often do people have an opportunity to gather along a busy interstate to hold a celebration, but this was the case late October. More than 20 people stopped by to cut the ribbon, signify-

ing near completion for rebuilding eight miles of north and southbound I-35 in Clay County. This major project not only rehabbed the interstate but also fixed ten bridges along the way.

Federal, state and Kearney city officials took the opportunity to thank MoDOT for the aggressive schedule, completing the project in one construction season instead of two. MoDOT, with the help of contractor Ideker, Inc., was able to complete the job in nine short months, compared to the original plan to finish all work by the end of 2011. Head-to-head traffic ceased by the first week of November, plenty of time before the first signs of winter weather.

## Route 7

Nov. 10 marked another day to celebrate. Federal, state and local officials joined D4 to cut the blue ribbon for completed safety enhancements and roadway improvements along a busy section of Route 7.

The six mile stretch of Route 7 between Independence and Blue Springs was identified as an area needing safety



Added safety features including turn lanes and lighting at intersections along Route 7 helps minimize the accident rate. Right, Bundschu before turn lanes added, above is the intersection after.

improvements. Studies show that this area has a higher than average accident rate. A partnership with the City of Independence and the Fort Osage School District allowed MoDOT to attribute more than \$800,000 in safety funds to help minimize the number of accidents along this stretch of roadway.

Work in the area included an asphalt overlay with four-foot-wide paved shoulders. Edge-line and centerline rumble stripes were also added to improve safety. These grooved patterns in the road notify drivers in the event that the vehicle leaves the driving lane.

Several busy intersections have received wider lanes with the addition of new turn lanes, and additional lighting.

These improvements have provided a smoother, safer drive for the more than 4000 vehicles driving through the area. All work was completed by Ideker, Inc. for \$2.4 million.

## Lone Jack

Citizens in Lone Jack joined state and local elected officials on Tuesday, Nov. 9 to celebrate the opening of a full-diamond interchange at Route 50 and Bynum Road.

The \$5.1 million project replaced the bridge over Route 50 and added ramps and two new lanes of westbound Route 50, eliminating the old westbound at-grade intersection. The bridge, lanes and ramp bring the crossroads to modern interchange

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standards and provide for safer local access in all directions. Existing at-grade intersections within the project limits were removed to enhance safety for both eastbound and westbound Route 50 motorists.

Up until now, westbound Route 50 traffic in Lone Jack was routed through a congested commercial and residential area, with an at-grade intersection with Route 150. Several severe accidents and fatalities have occurred at or near this intersection. Separating the westbound traffic by building a Route 150 bridge and ramps improves safety and moves Route 50 traffic more quickly.

Lone Jack city officials, residents and stakeholders urged MoDOT to consider a separated-grade interchange to improve safety. This project within the Mid-America Regional Council's boundaries drew strong support from other communities who recognize the value of this project. Federal officials provided ARRA funds to pay for these improvements.

### Route 71

On Nov. 22, officials gathered to celebrate the completion for another great addition to D4's system. The Route 71 single-point urban interchange at Route 150 officially opened following a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the east outer road bridge over Route 150.

The interchange is the third to open in a five-mile stretch of Route 71 in less than 12 months. The 163rd Street interchange opened in Belton last December, and a new North Cass Parkway interchange opened at about 187th Street in July. The three interchanges, now complete, will provide smooth-flowing access to the rapidly developing Route 71 corridor in south Jackson County and north Cass County.

The Route 71 interchange at Route 150 is a nearly \$27 million investment, of which the city of Grandview generously provided some funding. The project will soon be joined by a wider, four-lane Route 150 between Route 71 and Route 291. Work on that project continues.

George Butler Associates was the design consultant for the project, and Clarkson Construction Co. the general contractor. Work began in September 2008.



**Congressman Cleaver applauded MoDOT for completing the work in Lone Jack, making a safer way for all driving through the area. Above, Beth welcome's the more than 40 people to the ribbon cutting celebration.**



**Several help cut the ribbon on the new lanes of I-35 just outside of Kearney.**



**Right, Mayor Funkhouser joins many elected officials in thanking MoDOT for the added enhancements through the area. Below, federal, state and city officials cut the ribbon to signify the completion for the Route 71 single-point urban interchange at Route 150.**



D4 EAC is here to serve YOU! Check us out on the intranet , read the latest concerns, see our newest members and submit a concern. We are your voice in D4.

QUICK LINKS

- [Administrative Office](#)
- [Administration Blog](#)
- [Divisions & Committees](#)
- [Health Headquarters](#)
- [MoDOT Matters](#)
- [Operations Blog](#)
- [kcICON](#)
- [KC Scout](#)
- [Solutions At Work](#)
- [D4 Tracker](#)
- [Performance Plus](#)
- [Policy & Guidelines](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Microsoft Office 2007](#)
- [Green Scene](#)
- [Employee Photo Gallery](#)
- [Employee Advisory Comm.](#)
- [Work Life Center](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [D4 Phone Book](#)

### District 4 Employee Advisory Council



The District 4 Advisory Council is your forum for questions, comments or concerns. The committee has representatives from a variety of work units, as well as members from the field and district office. The EAC has implemented by-laws, term limits and elected officers.

The EAC will review questions or concerns submitted and will work to get an answer as soon as possible. In addition, the minutes of the meetings are posted online, as well as distributed and posted.

We encourage you to take advantage of this avenue to stay informed about our district. You can contact the various members or submit a Concern or Question using the link below.

#### Officers

- November 2010-March 2011**
- Kerri Lewis - Chair**
- Melissa Neff - Vice Chair**
- Tammy Wimmer - Secretary**
- Jeanette Gillespie- Assistant Secretary**

#### EAC Links

Hot Topics:  
[Click to learn the latest Q&A on Snow Removal](#)



# WELCOME TO YOUR VERY OWN PRO HOCKEY NIGHT.



## MODOT

Group Night at the Mavericks - Independence Events Center

Date/Time: Friday, January 21<sup>th</sup> @ 7:05pm

SAVE \$6 Off REGULAR PRICE!!

Special ticket price: **\$12 TERRACE & FREE PARKING!**

*(Discounted tickets not available at Box Office)*

Contact: .. Michele Compton

Phone: 816-607-2150

### MODOT BENEVOLENT FUND

\$2 from every ticket sold  
will go directly to the  
MODOT Benevolent Fund



SHOW ME HOCKEY!