

econnections

Missouri Department
of Transportation



October 2007

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

Meetings/Training

Tuesday, October 9 Room 236

Job Status, District 1, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 1, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 2, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 3, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Job Status, Group 4, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Fall Maintenance Supervisors Mtg.
8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Room 136

Wednesday, October 10

Munck Area Team Meeting
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 16

Management Team
1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Boardroom

Tuesday, November 6

Maintenance Supervisors
12:30 p.m.- 3 p.m. room 136

Events

Monday, October 8

Columbus Day, State Offices Closed

Tuesday, October 9

Route 92 and Commercial Roundabout
Public Hearing, Smithville High School
Cafeteria, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday

October 22-26

Share the Ride statewide promotion
for carpooling. Provided by MARC and
MoDOT and other partners.

Sunday, November 4

Daylight Savings Time
Set clocks back one hour



Tour of Missouri Makes Kansas City Debut

by Joel Blobaum

District 4 hosted the debut of the Tour of Missouri on Sept. 11, when 120 of the world's finest professional cyclists covered an 85-mile circuit course through the Kansas City region. And just like their counterparts across the state, MoDOT's D4 forces worked behind the scenes to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for participants, motorists and spectators.

Large crowds gathered at the start/finish line on the Country Club Plaza for the 1 p.m. start and the mid-afternoon finish. An enthusiastic group in Parkville greeted the Tour twice as it rolled through the Platte County community on its way north and south. Missouri Highway Patrol estimates

put the crowd at 40,000 for the entire route.

Platte County Maintenance Superintendent Ed Nichols and Area Engineer Kirsten Munck reported no major problems along the route through Clay and Platte counties, other than a quick cleanup of some spilled concrete in Platte City.

On Wednesday, Sept. 12, the Tour departed Clinton in Henry County at 11 a.m. and quickly moved into St. Clair County via Route 13 and Route 58. As one of the local MoDOT workers observed at 1 p.m. that day, "You can't even tell the Tour was here. Everything went off without any trouble at all."



And they're off...

120 of the world's finest cyclists started the race on the Plaza.

News from Across the District

Condolences:

Our condolences go to Rick Oakes, Senior Maintenance Worker in Liberty, and his family on the passing of his mother Jo Anne Oakes, passed away on Wednesday, September 12th.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Barbara Orrison, Senior Financial Services Specialist at the district office, and her family on the passing of her mother, June Jenniel Stoll, Sunday, September 16.

Condolences to Bob Gillaspie, Senior Traffic Specialist, and his family on the loss of his mother, Helen Gillaspie on September 28.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of Shelie, Resident Engineer at Riverside, and Brandon Daniel, Permit Inspector on the loss of Shelie's father, and Brandon's father-in-law, James "Gordon" Musick on September 30.

Awards Update: And the winner is...

The One Team Award was presented to Marty Poffenbaugh, D4 Maintenance, in recognition of achieving 100 percent customer satisfaction for the rest areas of D4.

Also receiving the One Team Award was Brad Wise, Right of Way, for relocating a property owner at no cost.

Mark O'Dowd, Regional Maintenance Supervisor for Chouteau, received the Above and Beyond Noteworthy Achievement Award for continued support of MoDOT employees.



Mailbag

To Whom It May Concern:

I never would have expected to be writing a thank-you letter to the Missouri Department of Transportation, but I wanted to tell someone how very much I appreciate the widening of I-35 south to two lanes looping southward around Kansas City (if I am coming from Highway 169 south over the Broadway Bridge).

The addition of a second lane and the adjustment of continuing the left lane onto I-35 south (rather than it being "exit only" to Interstate 70 east) have made a world of difference in my morning commute. I don't even dread the drive to work anymore. Once you get the bridges in shape and my commute home eases up, I will be on Cloud 9. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Rivard



From the Director



Pete Rahn
MoDOT Director

I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who helped make the Missouri Quality Award examiners feel welcome. They ended up talking with MoDOT employees in every district and division. I am proud of what we do and I'm confident they were impressed. I think we did a great job of giving the examiners a taste of how we do business at MoDOT in just a few short days.

The examiners have completed their work at our offices and now are diligently working on evaluating what they experienced. By the end of October, we will get a report on how we did. The report will tell us what our strengths are and where we can improve. Regardless of the outcome, I believe MoDOT is a winner!

As always, thanks for all you do.

Pete

More MoDOT News

The Missouri Mentor Initiative is a pilot program coordinated by the Lieutenant Governor's office. With the help of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program, up to 200 full-time state employees will be eligible to mentor in a Missouri public primary or secondary school for up to 40 hours annually. The one-hour per week that an employee mentors will be considered paid approved leave.

For more information, please visit www.ltgov.mo.gov and clicking on the Missouri Mentor Initiative link.

The Driving Edge initiative offers motorists three new tools to utilize while traveling. Electronic message boards, an online traveler information map, and around-the-clock customer service are brought to you by MoDOT.



MoDOT Celebrates Years of Service

On Sept. 27, District 4 honored more than 65 employees during a luncheon to celebrate those with more than 20 years of service to MoDOT. Awards were presented by Beth Wright, District Engineer; Linda Clark, Assistant District Engineer; Chris Redline, Assistant District Engineer; and Sharon Taegel, Assistant to the District Engineer. Joe Jarboe, District Safety & Health Manager, presented long-term safety awards to 29 recipients.

More than 55 employees were honored during an October 2 breakfast celebrating 5, 10 and 15 years of service to MoDOT.

Those honored during the luncheon were:

20 Years

Bradley Brunk	Louise Carroll	Kim Gordon	Norman Henson	Lee Jordan
Vernon Koch	Judith Magruder	Christine Ruby	Debra Skaggs	Lisa Stupps
Chris Teel	John Van Winkle	Warren Zeller		

25 Years

Steven Courtney	Theodore Dewolf	Lary Duffey	Mark Durham	Robert Gillaspie
Steven Hackett	Roger Hoover	Kevin Shannon	William Shenkner	Ralph Tull
William Weitkamp				

30 Years

Curtis Dean Francy	David Manking	Susan McCubbins	Ray Meeks	William Mingee
Isaac Roberts	Stephen Saale	Wallace Shelton	Kenneth Waters	

35 Years

Herbert Byrum

40 Years

Dean Bolin

Long-term Safety Awards

15 Years

Loren Dickmeier
 Michael Frizzell
 Stephen Hanson
 Charles Harris
 Orville Martin Johnson
 Vernon Koch
 Ernest Mahan
 Galen Patrick Moseley
 Isaac Roberts
 Susan Scantlin
 William Shenkner
 Brandford Williams

20 Years

Jerry Bell
 Herbert Byrum
 Norman Henson
 Johnnie Johnston
 Randall Newkirk
 Michael Price
 Robert Ralston
 Warren Zeller

25 Years

Kim Branson
 Gary Carson
 Gregory Chapman
 Mark Durham
 Robert Gillaspie
 Billy Glazier
 Steven Hackett
 Everett Jewett
 William Weitkamp

30 Years

Curtis Dean Francy
 David Manking
 Ray Meeks
 Stephen Saale



Continued on next page

Dean Bolin (left) and Herbert Byrum (right) receive special recognition for their many years of service to MoDOT.





Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

Maintenance Worker, Stephen Butler
Maintenance Worker, Scot Cockrum
Assistant Construction Technician, Cole Read
Maintenance Worker, Austin Weaver

Promoted

Maintenance Worker, Michael Atteberry
Intermediate Maintenance Worker, Michael Burson
Intermediate Maintenance Worker, Gary Dooley
Senior Maintenance Worker, Randall Easley
Maintenance Worker, Lisa Gray
Intermediate Construction Inspector, Lucas Kaspar
Senior Electrician, Gary Loveless
Maintenance Crew Leader, Ernest Mahan
Resident Engineer, Thomas Markway
Senior Maintenance Worker, Daniel Schultz



econnections sources

Construction Bev Chrisco, 6341

Design Flo Noear, 0455

Regional Counsel LeAnn Francis, 6382

Administration Judy Magruder, 6309

General Services Toni Terry, 0056

Human Resources Belinda Fite, 6321

Right of Way Melbra Taylor, 6351

Traffic Dawn Phillips, 0401

Editor Kerri Lewis, 6328

Service Awards

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Those honored during the breakfast were:

5 Years

Brandon Block	Marcus Boulton
Alan Cadwallader	Robert Carter
Timmy Flowers	Robert Foster
William Gray	Jesse Green
Nancy Lancaster	Nevin Lees
Dawn Phillips	Lahoma Sardeson
Quentin Wuthnow	

Michael Briggs	Gary Burke
Troy Collins	Ernest Durham
Donald Gentry	Diana Gough
Wade Heldenbrand	Brian Hof
Raymond Marley	George Parker
TJ Williams	Clara Winkler

10 Years

Joel Blobaum	Elmer Gillespie
Robert Johnson	Rocky Johnson
Jerrett Pence	Derike Pitchford
Jeffrey Taylor	Frances Whiteaker

Deborah Huffman	Charlotte Johnson
Regina Kogen	Rick Moore
Patricia Rath	Clifton Scott

15 Years

Donald Bunch	Joseph Donner
Richard Garcia	Amy Garnett
Stephen Hanson	Charles Harris
Connie Phipps	Eric Reents
Eric Slaughter	Willie Stennis

Ernest Fickle	Michael Frizzell
Aydogan Girgin	Arturo Gonzalez
William Harris	Timothy Holman
Fredrico Reliford	Glenda Saunders
Rick Wyrick	



5 Years



10 Years



15 Years



20 Years



25 Years



30 Years

Flu Shots Coming Soon

It's hard to believe that it is that time of year again. Flu season is upon us, so MoDOT is strengthening its defenses by offering employees flu shots for the upcoming season.

The flu vaccine is recommended for anyone who wishes to avoid the flu. Those who are 65 or older, or are considered high-risk are strongly encouraged to receive the vaccine. These include children 6 months to 5 years and people with diabetes, immunosuppression, severe forms of anemia and chronic diseases of the heart, lung or kidneys, including asthma. The vaccine is also recommended for women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during flu season, health care personnel, residents of nursing homes or other chronic-care facilities, children and teenagers who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy, and people who are in close contact with someone in a high-risk category.

Although most people do not suffer from any side effects caused by the flu shot, five to ten percent have reported a mild headache or low-grade fever for about a day after vaccination. Rarely, an allergic reaction may occur among people who have severe allergies to eggs. Since the vaccine is not a live vaccine, it is not possible to get influenza from it. Less than one-third of those receiving the shot reported soreness at the injection site.

The flu vaccine can be rather effective in preventing the flu. It varies from year to year as the influenza strain changes. The effectiveness depends on the degree of similarity between the virus strains included in the vaccine and those circulating during the flu season. The vaccine can prevent flu symptoms up to 90 percent in healthy young adults, but can reach as low as 30 percent among the elderly.

Studies show that the best time to receive the vaccination or flu shot is September to mid-November. Once the vaccination is received, it takes an average of two weeks before the body develops antibodies to fight against the flu bug. Flu season runs from November until April, but the peak time usually occurs between late December and early March.

Take a look at the schedule below, and pick a time and place that will work best for you.

Wednesday, October 24

District Office: 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Nashua Maintenance Facility: 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, November 2

District Office: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Thursday, October 25

Stadium Maintenance Facility: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Higginsville Maintenance Facility: 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesday, November 6

Clinton Maintenance Facility: 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Harrisonville Maintenance Facility: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cost is free for active employees and a \$15 fee for retirees and spouses.

Downtown Bridges Open

MoDOT, Kansas City, and the Downtown Council celebrated the completion of the Truman Road, Oak, and Locust Street bridges during a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 3.

These bridges and the realignment of Truman Road are a \$13 million portion of more than \$26 million MoDOT has invested in highway improvements in the Downtown Loop in the past two years. Most of this work is funded through Amendment 3, and is the first to be completed of MoDOT's Amendment 3 commitment. These three bridges earned MoDOT's Practical Design Award for cost-effective, innovative transportation design.



Wayne Cauthen, City Manager, Kansas City, spoke about the cooperative effort between Kansas City and MoDOT to complete these three bridges.

Representatives from MoDOT, Kansas City, and the Downtown Council cut the blue ribbon to signify the opening of the downtown bridges.



I-70 Show Me You Care Series

Mo State Employees Charitable Campaign

Monday, October 1 started the 2007 Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign for all districts, including D4. The campaign will run through October 15. This year, MoDOT is trying something new. A friendly competition between districts has been implemented and all employees are encouraged to participate.

This year's "friendly" competition will be based on the percentage of participation, and is being referred to as the Missouri Roadway Show Me You Care Series.

Here is a listing of competitors for the competition between districts.

- District 1 vs. District 3
U.S. 36 Show Me You Care Series
- **District 4 vs. District 6**
I-70 Show Me You Care Series
- District 2 vs. District 5
U.S. 63 Show Me You Care Series

- District 7 vs. District 8
I-44 Show Me You Care Series
- District 9 vs. District 10
U.S. 60 Show Me You Care Series

Each winning district will be awarded a road sign depicting this honor for display, and a dollar sign will be affixed to the sign if the district who has the greatest participation also has the largest cash contributions.

D4 has come up with some fun contests to encourage as many participants as possible. Monday, D4 hosted an ice cream social kick-off party, raising more than \$90. So far, D4 has raised a total of \$2013 for the campaign.

Here are some other ways to participate:

Wednesday, October 10th: M&M GUESSING GAME... visit the district

office at the security desk. Guess how many M&M's are in the jar and you win it. Guesses can be "bought" by turning in a pledge card and/or a monetary donation.

Monday, October 15th: BABY PICTURE GUESSING GAME... stop by the district office at the security desk. Correctly guess which cute little baby face goes with each of the management team. Forms can be "bought" by turning in a pledge card and/or a monetary donation. The winner will receive a leather style notebook. All participants will be entered in a drawing for a little gift.

All employees are encouraged to turn a pledge card in with or without a donation. Please remember that all donations are strictly voluntary. All donations can be accepted via check or payroll deduction.

Crews Saddled-Up For the Snow Rodeo

As much as we may hate to think about it, snow season is approaching – and MoDOT crews are preparing for winter's worst.

In September, the Kansas City region's snow-removal forces participated in a district-wide Winter Skills Rodeo, a competition that focused on training and refreshing winter driving skills.

This competition hones the skills needed to safely operate snowplows, loaders and other equipment. Tests simulate backing into narrow spaces for loading, plowing in a straight line and through obstacles, and clearing curbs and interchanges.

MoDOT annually invests more than \$27 million to clear snow and ice from Missouri highways. The Rodeo helps ensure that crews are trained to use that money efficiently as they keep the state's highways safe and clear during winter months.

Several employees participated in the District 4 competition. The top two move on to the statewide competition in Sedalia, beginning 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 18.

D4's representatives at Sedalia will be:

Joey Edwards, Higginsville Maintenance Building with a total of 4940 out of 5000 points.

-AND-

Eric Nold, Clinton Maintenance Building with a total of 4854 out of 5000 points.



Johnnie Johnston, Regional Maintenance Manager, inspects a dumptruck as **Jimmie McBee**, Senior Maintenance Worker, keeps score.



Danny Everts, Maintenance Crew Leader, maneuvers a loader between cones, racing against the clock.