

MoDOT Minute – July 12, 2011

Hi. This is Sally Oxenhandler with your MoDOT Minute.

Ridership for Amtrak *Missouri River Runner* trains was up by 16 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30. Higher gas prices and an 89 percent on-time performance rate are two reasons more people are choosing the train. The Missouri service has also been noted for its overall customer satisfaction. In May, it received a 97 percent satisfaction rate.

MoDOT is using a new tool to keep flood waters off the roads and motorists safe. They're large sand bags - called Big Bags - that unfold like an accordion to create a 15-foot long, 3-foot high by 3-foot wide storage compartment for sand. The Big Bags work much like Lego toys - a chain of dumpster-sized bags can be attached, filled with sand and built upon to create floodwalls quickly and easily. One system of Big Bags takes the place of 500 sand bags. You can view pictures and video of the Big Bags at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org). Click on the Flickr and YouTube icons.

That's been your MoDOT Minute. Remember to check back every week for new information.