

Hi, this is Sally Oxenhandler with your MoDOT Minute.

MoDOT has announced its top priority for 2009 is to strengthen Missouri's safety belt law to allow for primary enforcement. Currently drivers must break another law first before they can be cited for a safety belt violation. Safety officials say strengthening the law will save an estimated 90 lives a year and prevent 1,000 serious injuries at no cost to Missouri taxpayers.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has awarded a total of 50 bridge projects as part of the state's Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program. The initiative will repair or replace 802 of Missouri's worst bridges in five years. At least 50 more bridge projects will be put out for bid in the coming months, and MoDOT expects to award 554 bridge replacements this spring as part of a single design-build package. For more information, visit [modot.org/safeandsound](http://modot.org/safeandsound).

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