



# MoDOT in *MOTION*

District 10

Fall 2010

## MoDOT's Five-Year Direction

The Missouri Department of Transportation's number one priority is making the best use of our existing resources. The department will save \$203 million over the next five years by cutting costs and eliminating 400 salaried positions without layoffs by June 30, 2013.

By making the best use of our existing resources, we will be able to honor our commitments, keep major roads in good condition, improve minor roads, hold our own on our bridges and continue to provide outstanding customer service. By freeing resources, we will be able to continue to put those funds on our roadways.

Since the announcement of our five-year direction nearly seven months ago, we have decreased our workforce by 177 employees without layoffs. MoDOT is now on target to eliminate 400 positions through attrition by June 30, 2013. Through cutting costs and budget savings, we have identified \$64 million to put toward fixing minor roads. That puts MoDOT on target to exceed its goal of reducing costs by more than \$200 million in the next five years.

Since implementing our five-year direction, MoDOT has also implemented practical operations. This new way of doing business is an extension of Practical Design and focuses on five core areas of business, including mowing, signing, striping, snow removal and pavement maintenance.

Practical Operations will help MoDOT realize a one-time savings of \$11 million and an annual savings of \$20 million. All of those funds will go toward improving our minor routes. At present, only 60 percent of minor roads are in good condition throughout Missouri.

For more information about the Five Year Direction, please visit [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org), or contact our Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

Dear friends:

During the construction season, the Southeast District has seen much progress on new and ongoing construction projects.

If you've been through a work zone, we want to hear from you. We are offering you the opportunity to provide us your thoughts on our work zones. Please see the back cover for more details.

In addition, MoDOT announced its new five-year direction in March, and after seven months is on target.

Our Battle of the Belt program recently wrapped up, with 32 participating schools. To learn more about this program, please see page 4.

I hope this newsletter will provide important information that you can use. If you have additional questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK MoDOT.



Thank you,

Mark Shelton, P.E.  
District Engineer

### [ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ]

MoDOT Assists With Unfunded Needs: Local Agencies to Receive \$2.3M [ page 2 ]

Clearing the Way for Winter Travel [ page 3 ]

D10 Teen Seatbelt Numbers are Up, but the Battle Continues... [ page 4 ]

D10's Safe & Sound Team Achieves Program Milestones [ page 5 ]

MoDOT Holds Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway Dedication [ page 5 ]

MoDOT Wants to Hear From You! [ back cover ]



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# MoDOT Assists With Unfunded Needs

## Local Agencies to Receive \$2.3M

In addition to maintaining and improving state right-of-way, MoDOT assists local communities with projects to improve their roads and bridges.

In 2010, 20 construction projects totaling approximately \$11 million were underway in Southeast Missouri communities through the help of MoDOT. The district receives approximately \$9.2 million yearly, which the district's planning department makes available to local agencies with unfunded needs.

"These funds are extremely important to cities and counties and help them maintain and upgrade their infrastructures," said District Construction Liaison Dave Luther.

Ten communities were recently selected to receive \$2.3 million in federal enhancement funds. Twenty-two applications were received this October totaling \$6.1 million in requests. The projects consisted of trails, sidewalks and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to existing sidewalks. A selection committee comprised of representatives from local regional planning commissions reviewed applications before making their recommendations.

The local agencies selected to receive enhancement funds include Cape Girardeau, Chaffee, Charleston, Desloge, East Prairie, Fredericktown, New Madrid, Park Hills, Piedmont and Puxico.

These funds, which are set aside by Congress to be used specifically for transportation enhancements, allow communities

Work is underway in Wayne County to replace the County Road 223 bridge over Bear Creek with the help of BRO funds. The project is expected to be completed early next year.



Bicyclists and walkers alike enjoy the North Park Trail located in Cape Girardeau from Route W to North County Park. The project was completed with the use of transportation enhancement funds.

to develop projects that improve the quality of a community and enhance the travel experience for people traveling by all modes.

Besides federal enhancement funds, MoDOT makes funding available through funds for off-system bridge replacements (BRO funds), Safe Routes to School and the Surface Transportation Program (STP).

For more information, contact Luther at (573) 472-5291, District Design Liaison Jay Lancaster at (573) 472-5264 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

### Watch MoDOT Southeast District on Youtube

Looking to learn more about MoDOT's Southeast District? Become a Youtube subscriber!

The latest postings include videos from special events such as the Route D ribbon cutting in Pemiscot County, the Interstate 55/Ramsey Creek groundbreaking and the Gene Curtis Memorial Highway.

Important project information, such as a simulation of the upcoming diverging diamond interchange in Farmington, is also available.

[www.youtube.com/MoDOTSoutheast](http://www.youtube.com/MoDOTSoutheast)

# Clearing the Way for Winter Travel

*Improved Winter Road Conditions Map Available at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)*

As Missouri nights get cooler and the days grow shorter, MoDOT crews are preparing for the upcoming winter by stocking buildings with salt and beet juice and ensuring plows are prepared for the first snowfall.

“This snow season, winter operations will run like a well-oiled machine,” said Don Hillis, director of System Management. “Crews will tackle each storm with a specific plan based on the storm type. We will focus on keeping Missouri’s roads safe and passable.”

If motorists are unsure about the condition of the roads, they can check the Traveler Information Map on MoDOT’s website -[www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)- that now includes weather radar imagery. Viewers can see what is happening and what is coming their way. New categories to better describe winter road conditions include the following: Closed, Covered, Partly Covered, Mostly Clear and Clear.

“Paying attention when driving and slowing down during bad weather should be common sense, but after a long season of warm weather we can all use a reminder,” Hillis said. “We also want to remind motorists that although we’re working hard to make roads safe and passable for motorists, drivers need to drive cautiously, pay extra attention and drive defensively.”

MoDOT will focus on getting roads drivable in bad weather by treating the highest-traveled major roads and regionally significant roads first until they are mostly clear. All the remaining less-traveled roads will be plowed to allow

for safe travel concentrating on hills, curves and intersections. MoDOT crews will be using plows that can cover more roads in a single pass like TowPlows, wing plows and 14-foot plows.

The department has also developed a new rating system for storms, ranging from a Type 1 being the most severe with more than 12 inches of snow or more than ¾ inch of ice, down to a Type 5 that includes frost, flurries, freezing fog, blowing snow and refreeze. Crews develop a specific plan based on the approaching storm type.

“We’ll keep a close eye on our response on every storm, we will do our best with our resources and evaluate how we can improve,” Hillis said. “The more efficiently we do our job this winter, the more funds we’ll have for resurfacing our pavements next summer.”

MoDOT has more than 3,000 employees and more than 1,600 pieces of equipment ready to fight the winter storms. “Remember to give snowplows plenty of room to work, don’t tailgate and try not to pass plows,” Hillis said. “We want everyone to get home safely. Buckle up, and remember, when driving in ice and snow, take it slow.”

For information on road conditions across the state, road condition pictures, safe traveling tips and a diagram on driveway clearing techniques, visit [www.modot.org/road\\_conditions/snow-plowingintro.htm](http://www.modot.org/road_conditions/snow-plowingintro.htm) or call 1-888-ASK MODOT. Recorded road-condition information is available at (800) 222-6400.



Covered: More than 50 percent of the road is covered with snow.



Partially Covered: Up to 50 percent of the road is covered with snow.



Mostly Clear: Driving lanes are clear but ribbons of snow remain on the center stripes and shoulders.



Minor Roads will be plowed of the loose snow to two-way passable conditions.

## Join Us on Facebook and Twitter

Another great way to stay up-to-date on road conditions across Southeast Missouri is to join us on facebook and twitter. Find us on facebook at MoDOT Southeast District or follow us on twitter at [twitter.com/MoDOTSoutheast](https://twitter.com/MoDOTSoutheast).

## D10 Teen Seatbelt Numbers are Up, but the Battle Continues...

Reaching our youth with the “Buckle-Up” message continues to be a top priority for the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety. And with the recent “Missouri High School Safety Belt Survey” results, we are excited to share that the teen seatbelt numbers have gone up! The survey, conducted by the Missouri Safety Center, show that teen seatbelt usage numbers went up across the state 5 percent. Statewide, 66 percent of teens are wearing their seatbelts. And although the Southeast teen seatbelt numbers are still lower than other Missouri districts, the good news is the Southeast teen seatbelt numbers also went up by 6 percent.

“We are making progress,” said Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety Coordinator Belinda McMurry. “I wish our teen seatbelt usage numbers were higher than they are, but we are making progress and that’s important. It’s always good to see our numbers go up. We have a lot of great coalition members that work really hard in our district to reduce fatalities and to encourage seatbelt usage—so a positive result is encouraging.”

Unfortunately, hundreds of Missouri teens are still being killed or injured every

year in traffic crashes, and a large majority of those killed are not wearing a seat belt. Young drivers are over represented in crashes both nationwide and in Missouri. Of all 2009 Missouri traffic crashes, 24 percent involved a young driver (under the age of 21). Of all fatal traffic crashes, 17 percent involved a young driver. And as many people know, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people 15-20 years old.

Although the teen seatbelt numbers have gone up across Missouri, 34 percent of teen drivers are still not buckling-up—and there are even more teens in the Southeast District choosing to not put on their seatbelts. This is why we continue to focus on educating teen drivers of the importance of safe driving and wearing their safety belts.

“We continue to have a huge challenge ahead of us in our district. We have been, and are continuing to reach out to the young people in our communities

about the importance of seatbelt use,” said McMurry. “We care about our teens, and we want to see them make good decisions when they get behind the wheel. Battle of the Belt is one of many avenues that our district and coalition are utilizing to reach our young people.”

Battle of the Belt is a high school seatbelt challenge where students develop their own creative and unique ways of reaching their student bodies and communities with the important life-saving message of “Buckling-Up to Arrive Alive.”

As part of the program, students perform surprise seatbelt checks at their high school and produce educational campaigns to reach their student bodies on the importance of seatbelts. This year, 32 Southeast schools

participated in the 2010 Battle of the Belt challenge—the highest number of schools to participate in D10 yet. The 2010 Southeast participating schools include: Advance, Bell City, Bernie, Bloomfield, Cape Central, Chaffee, Charleston, Clearwater, East Prairie, Farmington, Fredericktown, Greenville, Jackson, Kelly, Malden, Marquand-Zion, Meadow Heights, Neelyville, North St. Francois County, Notre Dame, Oran, Richland, Saxony Lutheran, Scott City, Sikeston, South Pemiscot, Southland, Ste. Genevieve, Twin Rivers, Valle Catholic, West St. Francois County and Woodland High Schools.

For more information on how to get involved, contact McMurry at 573-472-5882 or by email at [belinda.mcmurry@modot.mo.gov](mailto:belinda.mcmurry@modot.mo.gov).



Charleston High School students participated in an assembly and rode the seatbelt convincer as part of their educational campaign during the Battle of the Belt program.



# D10's Safe & Sound Team Achieves Program Milestones

This fall, the Southeast District's Safe & Sound team achieved two milestones while improving bridges across the state.

On Nov. 17, the Route 153 bridge over Drainage Ditch No. 7 in New Madrid County opened to traffic marking the halfway point of the Southeast District's bridge improvement program.

"The Route 153 bridge is the 43th bridge to receive improvements," said Southeast Regional Field Engineer Andy Meyer.



The opening of the Route 153 bridge over Drainage Ditch No. 7 in New Madrid County marks D10's halfway point in the Safe & Sound program.

He explained 86 Southeast District bridges are included in the Safe & Sound Program's plan to improve over 800 bridges statewide by the end of 2013.

"We are making great progress on the Safe & Sound program," said Meyer. "The statewide Safe & Sound team is currently opening an improved bridge almost every two days."

The team achieved its second program milestone when opening the Route Z bridge over Drainage Ditch No. 2 in Scott County. This project marked the 300th bridge in the state completed through the Safe & Sound program.

By the end of the year, the Safe & Sound team estimates a total of 325 to 330 bridges will be opened to traffic statewide. Next year, the program will pursue an even more aggressive schedule—tackling more than 330 bridge projects in 2011.

Plans are underway to wrap up the Southeast District's portion of the program by the end of 2011.

"We expect to have completed improvements on 50 Safe & Sound bridges in Southeast Missouri by the end of this year," said Meyer. "The 36 remaining bridges are currently scheduled to be completed next year."

For more information, please contact Meyer at (573) 472-5296, Assistant Resident Engineer David Wyman at (573) 840-9781 or 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636), or visit [www.modot.org/southeast/safeandsound.htm](http://www.modot.org/southeast/safeandsound.htm).

## MoDOT Holds Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway Dedication

Current and retired MoDOT employees, family and friends joined to celebrate the naming of the Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway in December.

Hays worked for MoDOT as a maintenance shed foreman. In 2001, he was injured in a work related accident. In 2003, he retired after 34 years of service. Hays is the first Southeast District MoDOT employee to receive a memorial highway in his honor.

Speakers at the ceremony included:

- Missouri Representative Terry Swinger, District 162
- Mr. Scott Meyer, Cape Girardeau City Manager (Former Southeast District Engineer)
- Mr. Don (Butch) Anderson, Retired MoDOT Employee
- Mrs. Charlotte Hays
- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton



Mr. Butch Anderson and Mrs. Charlotte Hays spoke at the Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway Dedication. To watch videos and view photos from the event, please visit: [http://www.modot.org/southeast/news\\_and\\_information/special\\_events/JohnnyLeeHays\\_Dec2010.htm](http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/JohnnyLeeHays_Dec2010.htm)

Senator Robert Mayer and Representative Tom Todd sponsored the legislation, naming the portion of Highway 53 in Butler County from the city limits of Qulin to one mile south of the city limits the Johnny Lee Hays Memorial Highway.

# MoDOT Wants to Hear From You!

*Work Zone Review Available Online*

MoDOT wants to ensure every work zone throughout the state is as safe as possible. In April, we celebrate Work Zone Awareness Week with Operation Orange ceremonies across Missouri. It's not enough to bring about awareness one time per year. MoDOT wants to hear from you!

Work zone deaths dropped 74 percent in 2007. This phenomenal drop in work zone deaths is due to a number of factors, including customer feedback. Please help us continue this trend.



Following your travels through a work zone, please visit [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast) and

fill out the Work Zone Customer Survey located under the

programs and links tab. Click on the icon and you will be taken to the survey.

MoDOT places a great emphasis on communicating the need to drive safely in work zones. Here are some helpful tips for driving in work zones:

- Buckle Up
- Stay Alert
- Follow Signs
- Be Patient
- Expect the Unexpected
- Don't Drink and Drive
- Don't Speed

**Thank you for driving smart.**

# MoDOT in MOTION

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