

MoDOT
in

W O T I O N

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Ozark | Pemiscot | Perry | Reynolds | Ripley | Scott | Shannon | Ste. Genevieve | St. Francois | Stoddard | Texas | Wayne | Wright

Dear Friends:

These are exciting and challenging times in the Southeast District. In June, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the Bolder Five-Year Direction, which increased the size of the district from 14 to 25 counties.

Following approval of the plan, we also have new district leadership in place. See the story below for more information.

Despite the changes, business as usual is still going strong. The Southeast District opened the 500th bridge with the Safe & Sound bridge program in August. Contractors are still working on many other bridges throughout the district. Learn more about that program on page four.

We hope to provide you with information on projects going on throughout the Southeast District.

You can learn more on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter or by contacting our Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK MODOT.

Travel safe and always buckle up.

Thank you.



Mark Shelton, P.E.
District Engineer



Bolder Five-Year Direction Update: New District Leadership

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the Bolder Five-Year Direction on June 8, which increased the size of the Southeast District by 11 counties and named Mark Shelton the district engineer over the 25-county region. Matt Seiler and Chris Rutledge have been named as the assistant district engineers.

Shelton has served as district engineer in the Southeast District since 2005. He has worked for MoDOT for almost 26 years, serving as the assistant state construction and materials engineer prior to becoming the district engineer for the Southeast District. Shelton has also worked in Materials for the Central District, St. Louis District and Central Office, operations engineer in Joplin, and field materials director for Central Office.

Seiler joins the new Southeast District as one of the assistant district engineers. Seiler began his career for MoDOT in

construction in Willow Springs. From there, he served as the district traffic engineer in Springfield and was promoted to assistant district engineer. He most recently served as the assistant district engineer in the Southwest District.

Rutledge has worked at MoDOT since 1990, beginning his career as a summer intern. Throughout his career, he has worked in design, planning, project management and maintenance.

Headquartered in Sikeston, MoDOT's Southeast District serves Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Shannon, Stoddard, Texas, Wayne and Wright counties.

To learn more about the Bolder Five Year Direction, visit: www.modot.org/bolderfiveyeardirection/index.htm.

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1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636)
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www.modot.org/southeast

Mid-America Express Celebrates Completion of Route 67 Upgrade

To celebrate completion of the Route 67 project, the Mid-America Express was held Friday, Aug. 26. The project included upgrading the route to four lanes from north of Poplar Bluff to Fredericktown in Madison County.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held in Fredericktown, Greenville and Poplar Bluff.

“We were pleased to open the route more than a year

ahead of schedule and under budget,” said District Engineer Mark Shelton. “We look forward to seeing the economic development opportunities the upgrade will bring to the area, in addition to the safety improvements.”

Improving Route 67 was made possible through the partnership of the Highway 67 Corporation, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Funding



MoDOT Director Kevin Keith and U.S. Representative Emerson speak with Mr. Harold Ellinghouse, member of the Highway 67 Corporation.



U.S. Representative Emerson and Mr. Jim Belknap, one of the founding members of the Highway 67 Corporation, prepare to cut the ribbon at the Poplar Bluff event.

was secured for the project after Poplar Bluff voters

passed a tax to pay for a portion of the construction, Missouri voters passed Amendment 3 and an agreement was reached with the Army Corps of Engineers.

ment I think we can make in the future of our state and citizens than infrastructure,” said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith.

Keith explained that although we are making progress statewide, there is still work to be done but not adequate funding.

To view videos and photos from the Mid-America Express event, please visit: http://www.modot.org/south-east/news_and_information/special_events/SSGDeason_Sept2011.htm.

“There is not a better invest-

MoDOT Gets Social

Facebook and Twitter have become an important part of everyday life for many people, businesses and organizations. MoDOT is no exception. Facebook and Twitter are the best ways for people to stay in touch, and we couldn't agree more!

The SE District has Facebook and Twitter pages that have gained wide audiences, especially during the flooding this past spring. Updated information and posting of our traveler information map enables individuals to view up-to-date roadwork, road closures and delays.

One of the known benefits of using tools like FB and Twitter is that so many people regularly use the sites and many have

access via mobile phones. This provides a great opportunity for MoDOT to reach customers quickly and directly. Another benefit is the opportunity for conversation.

When we have the ability to interact with our customers, we learn so much more about how to best meet their needs. In the past month, our conversations have centered on upcoming roadwork throughout the district.

Project information, roadwork notifications, videos and public service announcements are all posted. Find us on Facebook at: MoDOT Southeast District. Twitter fans can follow us at: MoDOTSoutheast.

DDI Coming to 221, W and 67 Intersection in Farmington

In August, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded a contract to construct a diverging diamond interchange (DDI) in Farmington. The \$3,344,748 contract was awarded to Emery Sapp & Sons Inc., Columbia, Mo.

The project includes constructing a DDI at the intersection of Routes 221, W and 67.



A video simulation of the DDI is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEEeDf9gQnc.

Additionally, the bridge will be re-decked and striped for four lanes of traffic and access changes will be made to Walker Drive.

“The DDI has the potential to increase safety and reduce delays in this area,” said Project Manager Tim Richmond.

He explained a DDI has fewer potential conflict points

than a traditional interchange and reduces the likelihood of rear-end crashes by allowing traffic to move more steadily.

The signalized intersections will have

two-phase signals with short cycle lengths.

Constructing a DDI is also more cost effective than traditional reconfiguration methods.

“With the current state of transportation funding, finding innovative solutions to meet demands and produce a cost savings is critical,” said Richmond.

A DDI requires fewer lanes to provide the same vehicle capacity as a traditional interchange, making it unnecessary to purchase as much right of way.

Utility relocation work will begin this fall. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2012, with completion anticipated in fall 2012.

As construction is underway, motorists should expect traffic shifts and width restrictions on Route 221 and Route W. Motorists should also watch for equipment crossings, which could cause delays periodically.

Route 67 travelers will encounter lane closures, reduced speeds and yield conditions at on-ramps during various phases of the project. These conditions will arise as work takes place on the bridge.

For more information, please contact Richmond at (573) 472-5290, Resident Engineer Jason Williams at (573) 431-4933 or MoDOT’s Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636).

Improvements to Route 63

Travelers along the Route 63 corridor will enjoy a number of improvements including alternate passing lanes, resurfacing and a complete bridge deck repair.

As part of MoDOT’s Better Roads, Brighter Future Program, work to resurface and add alternate passing lanes to over 11 miles of Route 63 from Cabool to Houston is now underway.

The goal of the Better Roads, Brighter Future program is to bring 85 percent of Missouri’s major highway system up to good condition by the end of 2011.

The completion of this project, expected in late November, will provide intermittent alternate passing lanes along Route 63. The lanes will allow travelers

to pass slow moving vehicles and improve safety along the corridor.

In addition, a project to resurface nearly three and one-half miles of Route 63, including bridge deck repairs was recently completed. Improvements on Route 63 extended from the Arkansas state line to the Route 19 intersection in Thayer.

Both projects were awarded to Leo Jorgan Construction Company of Springfield, Mo.



Motorists enjoy recent Route 63 improvements in Thayer.

SE Safe & Sound Team Reaches Program Milestones

As the Safe & Sound team works to complete more than 350 bridges this year, 2011 marks the biggest bridge-building year in Missouri history. This year, the Southeast District has not only reached statewide milestones within the program, but has paved the way by piloting new technology. August was a particularly monumental month for progress within the 25-county region.

bridge replacement that takes 60 to 90 days.

Route 76 in Douglas County

While pursuing the aggressive schedule to improve over 800 bridges by winter 2013, the Safe & Sound team is also utilizing new technology. On Aug. 15, MoDOT's contractors began work to construct the first bridge in the state replaced using hybrid composite beams.



(l to r) Local residents, Jim Blechle, Russell Schumer and Pat Schumer, expressed their enthusiasm for new Route 61 bridge by barbecuing for the contractor crews.

Route 61 in Perry County

When construction wrapped up on the Route 61 bridge over Apple Creek in Perry County on Aug. 9, it marked completion of the 500th Safe & Sound project statewide.

“The speed exemplified during the Route 61 project is one of the keys to the program’s success,” said Southeast Regional Field Engineer Andy Meyer. “Across the state, Safe & Sound closures are averaging 40 days.”

He explained this is significantly less than the typical

The beams are made of fiberglass and foam—materials that are also used to construct boats and sulfuric acid storage tanks. An archway within the beams gives the contractor flexibility to pre-fill the beams with concrete or fill in place.

“The innovative use of materials creates beams that are both durable and lightweight,” said MoDOT Structural Liaison Engineer Stacy McMillan.

He explained the beams will not corrode like traditional



To learn more about the benefits of hybrid composite beams and how they work, visit <http://youtu.be/uVNKaAT0Jhg>.

steel beams. Additionally, the lightweight beams save on shipping costs.

“It takes two trucks instead of the usual 15 to transport the beams,” said McMillan. “Even once the beams are filled with concrete, they weigh about half as much as typical concrete I-girders.”

Completion of the bridge is anticipated in late September. Projects in Reynolds and Dade Counties are also scheduled to use this new technology. The projects were made possible through a \$1 million Highways for Life grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

Route 34 in Cape Girardeau County

In time for the start of the school year and fall harvest, three bridges on Route 34 near Burfordville opened to traffic on Aug. 17.

To celebrate completion of the bridges over Whitewater Overflow, Whitewater River and Byrd Creek, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held.

Nearly 100 people

attended the ceremony to show their support for these projects.

“The projects replaced bridges that were constructed in the 1930s, and the local community was anxious to see the improvements,” said Meyer. “We appreciated the patience of Route 34 travelers as work was underway, and we completed the projects during the summer to minimize the impact as much as possible.”

The new structures will be beneficial to area travelers.

“The new bridges are 10 feet wider and feature a lower rail height, which will better serve the agricultural and truck traffic on Route 34,” he said.

Mr. Clyde Bridges, former MoDOT employee, and Mr. Tom Schulte cut the ribbon to celebrate completion of the three Route 34 bridges. Bridges has over 40 years of experience with MoDOT.



Curve Realignment on Routes 21 and 34 Complete

Improvements to Routes 21 and 34 in Carter and Ripley Counties, including resurfacing, added shoulders and roadway realignment, are now complete.

realigning curves near Van Buren. The first section of curve realignment was completed just south of the “21 Drive-In,” and the second was the curve at Route U. Center



Expanded shoulders and realignment of curves improve safety for motorists traveling along Routes 21 and 34.

“Thank you very much for doing this much needed project,” said Poplar Bluff resident David Silverberg. “My wife and I travel that road frequently going to visit our daughter.”

The project included resurfacing over three and one-half miles of roadway, adding four-foot paved shoulders and

and edge line rumble strips were added to improve safety along the route.

The project, awarded to H. R. Quadri Construction, LLC of Van Buren, Mo., was completed in late July.

Heroes Way Program Expands, Includes Numbered Routes

SSG Deason First Honored Under New Legislation

The Heroes Way Interstate Interchange Program has been expanded to include state numbered highways. Representative Linda Black sponsored the legislation, and Governor Jay Nixon signed the bill into law on Aug. 28.

The original legislation, passed in 2009, allows interstate interchanges to be designated for Missouri residents, who were in the armed forces, and were killed in action on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

A dedication ceremony honoring Staff Sgt. Michael L. Deason was held Saturday, Sept. 3, at the Desloge City Park. Deason was the first soldier honored under the new law, naming the interchange at US 67 at Desloge Drive in Desloge, Mo., the SSG Michael L. Deason interchange.

Deason, of the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky., was killed on Aug. 31, 2006, in Ad War, Iraq.

Speakers included:

- Ms. Heather Garner on behalf of U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson
- Linda Black, Missouri House of Representatives, District 107

- Ms. Ashley Deason, sister of SSG Michael L. Deason
- Mr. Philip Belmont, friend of SSG Michael L. Deason
- Reverend Bradley Dush, Libertyville United Methodist Church and Doe Run United Methodist Church
- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton



To view videos and photos from the dedication ceremony, please visit: http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/SSGDeason_Sept2011.htm.

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. 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 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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