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Dear Friends,

With summer 2012 wrapping up, the Southeast District has recently seen a great deal of progress on both new and ongoing construction projects.

The completion of the diverging diamond interchange is quickly approaching, and we also met our commitment to improve 116 bridges through the Safe & Sound program. Learn more about these improvements on pages 3 and 4, respectively.

As far as new projects, the Commission recently awarded a contract for improvements to Route 34 in Bollinger County. Updates on this project are included on page 2.

In addition to construction projects, there are also several events planned in Southeast Missouri in the upcoming months. We are currently working to register schools for the Ninth Annual Bridge Building Competition. The Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce is also planning a Regional Transportation Summit this September. For details on these upcoming events, please read page 5.

As always, please buckle up and slow down when you near a work zone. Travel safe.

Thank you,



Mark Shelton, P.E.
District Engineer



Move Over Law Protects MoDOT Employees

For MoDOT employees who spend their days on state highways, work just got a little safer.

Governor Jay Nixon signed Senate Bill 611 into law on July 9, which expands the 2002 “Slow Down and Move Over” law that protects law enforcement and emergency response vehicles parked on the side of the road.

The new law, which took effect Aug. 28, requires motorists to slow down or change lanes when approaching these vehicles, and now includes MoDOT vehicles parked with amber and white lights flashing.

“We are committed to the safety of all Missourians and our MoDOT workforce,” said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. “I am grateful to the Governor and Missouri Legislature for recognizing the importance of protecting MoDOT workers in the same way as the Highway



Patrol and other emergency responders.”

According to Keith, with the drastic drop in MoDOT’s construction budget, the department is virtually in a maintenance only mode.

The new law also includes certain MoDOT vehicles in the legal definition of emergency vehicles. Now, when responding to an emergency, MoDOT Motorist Assist or Emergency Response vehicle operators can display red lights and use a siren. They will do so only to alert motorists stopped in an emergency traffic queue to yield the right-of-way.

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Contract Awarded to Improve Route 34 in Bollinger County

Work to improve Route 34 in Bollinger County will begin in early September.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission recently awarded a \$8,388,191 contract to H.R. Quadri Contractors, LLC, Van Buren, Mo., for the project.

The improvements will include grading, paving and realigning several curves along Route 34 from east of Route DD to west of Route 51 near Marble Hill. Additionally, the bridge over Gimlet Creek will be replaced with a box culvert, and shoulders will be installed from east of Route DD to west of Route ZZ near Glenallen.

As work is underway, travelers should expect lane closures, short bypasses, short-term road closures as cross road culverts are replaced and delays as the

relocated portions of the roadway are tied into the existing pavement. In addition, staged construction will be underway adjacent to the existing roadway. Drivers are urged to use caution when driving in these areas as there could be pavement edge drop-offs during construction.

Completion is anticipated in summer 2014, weather permitting.

The work zone will be marked with signs as work is underway. Motorists are urged to use caution when traveling in this area and plan for possible delays.



Improvements to Route 34 in Bollinger County will begin in early September.

MoDOT will alert drivers prior to any changes in traffic.

For more information, please contact Project Manager Eric Krapf at (573) 472-5261, Resident Engineer Brian Holt at (573) 243-0899 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

MoDOT Holds Briefing to Discuss Proposed Scott City Interchange

Although funding is not yet available, the Southeast District is completing preliminary work on a proposed interchange at Scott City.

The interchange would

provide access to south Scott City, as well as a connection from Interstate 55 to Kelso. Additionally, the project would relieve congestion at the Route 61/I-55 interchange.

“The project is currently in the scoping phase, and we are working to gain the necessary environmental clearances,” said Project Manager Eric Krapf.

Krapf explained environmental work could take up to two years, so beginning this process now will allow the department to move forward once funding becomes available.

MoDOT is examining three

options for constructing the interchange. The three options include constructing the interchange near the Route PP crossing. The design alternatives were shared with the public at a community briefing held in early August.

To view the meeting handout or comment on the project, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/scottcityinterchange_aug2012.htm.

The proposed interchange would provide access to south Scott City, as well as a connection from Interstate 55 to Kelso. Additionally, the project would relieve congestion at the Route 61/I-55 interchange. For more information, please contact Project Manager Eric Krapf at (573) 472-5261 or Transportation Project Designer David Blalock at (573) 472-5295.



DDI in Farmington Nears Completion

Route 221 to Close for Interchange Conversion

The diverging diamond interchange (DDI) in Farmington will be ready for its first Southeast Missouri travelers this September.

To prepare the area for the interchange conversion, the Missouri Department of Transportation's contractor will close Route 221 at the Route 67 overpass. The closure is expected to begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4, with Route 221 reopening at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5, weather permitting.

U-turns will be prohibited as work is underway, and motorists are encouraged to use the marked detour routes. To view the suggested detour routes, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/projects/counties/st.francois.htm.

When Route 221 reopens, traffic will utilize the DDI. However, motorists should expect additional impacts to traffic in the area as contractors work to complete the project. Remaining work after traffic is shifted to utilize the DDI will include

installing permanent signage, completing interchange lighting, seeding and mulching the right-of-way, and installing permanent pavement markings on Walker Drive and Progress Drive. Completion is anticipated this fall.

For more information, please contact Resident Engineer Jason Williams at (573) 431-4933. To learn more about navigating the DDI, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/projects/counties/st.francois.htm.

Contractors are working to prepare the DDI for its first Southeast Missouri travelers this September. As part of the preparation, Route 221 will close at 7 p.m. Sept. 4, with the route reopening at 9 a.m. Sept. 5.



MoDOT's Willow Springs Regional Office Relocates

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) relocated its Willow Springs Regional Office on Aug. 27. The office at 910 Old Springfield Road is now relocated to the MoDOT complex located at 3956 East Main in Willow Springs.

"The public is still able to come in and obtain permits, get maps and speak with personnel about any concerns they may have," said Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge.

The regional office is open to the public Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A memorial dedicated to MoDOT workers from the area who have lost their lives in the line of duty will also be moved to the new location in the coming weeks.

How to Drive the DDI

1. As you approach the traffic signal, Route 221 will widen and curve slightly to the left. You will see oncoming Route 221 traffic to your right at a 25-degree angle.

2. As you travel through the signal, you will cross in front of oncoming traffic that is stopped on your right. Then you will be driving on the left side of the bridge, with the opposing lanes on your right separated by concrete barriers.

3. To get to Route 67, you will use the left-hand lane. The turn onto the Route 67 on-ramp will be a "free left" turn—meaning no need to stop. Through-traffic behind left-turning drivers will also be able to keep moving.

4. If you drive all the way across the bridge and pass through the next signal, you will shift back to the right and oncoming traffic will be on your left—the usual pattern.

5. If you exit southbound Route 67 to go east on Route 221, you will merge into the left lane of eastbound Route 221 on the bridge. Likewise, driving northbound Route 67 to westbound Route 221, you will merge into the left lane of westbound Route 221 on the bridge.

6. Making a right turn from Route 221 to the Route 67 on-ramp in either direction will remain the same. You will have to yield to traffic turning left from the bridge.

Heroes Way Memorial Sign Dedication Ceremony Honors SGT Beckerman

Nearly 100 attendees joined at the Ste. Genevieve Community Center on July 28 to honor Sgt. Michael J. Beckerman. Sgt. Beckerman of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), was killed on Dec. 31, 2010 from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

The ceremony celebrated naming Exit 143 on Interstate 55 the Sgt. Michael J. Beckerman interchange.

The Heroes Way Interstate Interchange Program 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. In 2011, Representative Linda Black sponsored legislation, which expands the original law to include state numbered highways. Signed by Governor Jay Nixon, the law became effective on Aug. 28, 2011.

“When I was thinking about what I was going to say, if I could pick one thing out of 1,000, I thought about how Michael socially stated that his heroes were those who paid the



To view videos or photos from the ceremony, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/sgtbeckerman_july2012.htm.

ultimate price for you and I,” said Lisa Beckerman McGregor, Sgt. Beckerman’s mother. “I am sure when he said that, he wasn’t counting on being one of them.”

For more information, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events.

MoDOT’s Southeast District Wraps Up Region’s Safe & Sound Program

Southeast Missouri now has 116 improved bridges thanks to MoDOT’s Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program.

“With the opening of the Route 142 bridge over Main

Ditch in Butler County on Aug. 15, we concluded the Southeast District’s portion of the statewide Safe & Sound program,” said District Construction and Materials Engineer Andy Meyer.

The Route 142 bridge over Main Ditch in Butler County opened to traffic on Aug. 15—concluding the SE District’s portion of the Safe & Sound program.



The program’s mission is to improve over 800 of the state’s worst bridges in five years. Completion is anticipated by the end of 2012—more than a year ahead of schedule.

Meyer stated that road closures have been one of the keys to the program’s success.

“Road closures help speed construction and control costs,” he said. “However, we realize that closures are an inconvenience and have appreciated the public’s patience throughout the program.”

He explained some residents were initially skeptical when

MoDOT shared its plan for road closures.

“The Safe & Sound team and our subcontractors made it a priority to honor our commitments, and residents soon saw firsthand that we planned to meet or exceed their expectations by delivering results quickly,” said Meyer.

The average closure across the state has been about 40 days, or half the time a typical bridge replacement requires.

“The projects completed have exemplified the speed, flexibility and quality we can achieve when funding is available,” he said.

Southeast Schools Encouraged to Participate in Bridge Building Competition

Registration Deadline: Sept. 10

What can you build with 15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue? MoDOT's Southeast District is challenging area high school juniors and seniors to construct the most efficient bridge for this year's Ninth Annual Bridge Building Competition.

The schools must register by Sept. 10 to compete in the competition. Contest information and registration forms have been mailed to area high schools. Additionally, an online registration form is available at: www.modot.org/southeast/BridgeBuildingCompetition.htm.

The bridge kits will be delivered to the participating

schools on Oct. 3 and 4. Completed bridges will be picked up from participating schools on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Bridges entered in the competition will be tested Nov. 15 at Cape West 14 Cine in Cape Girardeau.

The lightest bridge to carry the greatest load will ultimately be declared the winner. Prizes will also be awarded for the most aesthetic bridge and to the winner of the electronic bridge competition.

Prizes donated by area businesses and organizations will be awarded to the top bridge building winners.



Ste. Genevieve High School received first place for best overall performance during last year's Eighth Annual Bridge Building Competition.

In addition, MoDOT has partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia and Southern Illinois University to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to \$10,000 in scholarships.

For more information about the bridge competition, please contact Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark at (573) 472-5292 or Senior Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks at (573) 472-5294. Videos and photos from last year's competition are available at www.modot.org/southeast/talkin_transportation/BridgeCompetition.htm.

Regional Transportation Summit to be Held in Cape Girardeau



The Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Regional Transportation Summit, which will

include presentations and updates from state and federal transportation officials. The summit will be held Sept. 26 and 27 at the Plaza by Ray's in Cape Girardeau.

On Sept. 26, the summit is scheduled to begin at noon and conclude at 6 p.m., with MoDOT Director Kevin Keith speaking at 1:15 p.m. On Sept. 27, breakfast will begin at 8:15 a.m. with Keynote Speaker Kevin Ward from the Federal Highway Administration and

conclude following closing comments at 5 p.m. Various speakers will present throughout the two-day summit.

"We have assembled informative sessions from key transportation officials," said Tracey Glenn, Vice President of Organization and Leadership Development for the Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce. "Summit participants will have an opportunity to be part of a discussion regarding Missouri's transportation needs and challenges."

She added that regional priorities will be revisited during the summit and attendees will assist in brainstorming to find strategic and innovative solutions for transportation funding issues.

"With the variety of transportation-

related topics that will be discussed, anyone interested in any facet of transportation would benefit from attending," said Glenn. "I hope economic developers, port authorities, construction firms, trucking companies, airport officials, citizen groups, transportation providers and government officials can share their perspectives on Missouri's transportation needs during the summit."

To access the event brochure or registration form, please visit www.capechamber.com/Seminars.aspx. For more information about registration, sponsorship investment levels or retaining an exhibitor booth, please contact Glenn at tglenn@capechamber.com or (573) 335-3312.

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