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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2012 construction season! The Southeast District kicked off the season with Work Zone Awareness Week from April 23–27. Along with showcasing Barrel Bob, we also erected new work zone signs to remind motorists to tell us what they think of our work zones. Learn more about that on page 5.

Coming up later this month, the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee will be hosting a meeting in Cape Girardeau on June 29. This is your chance to hear about the future of transportation in Missouri. Please read the story below to learn more about the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Of course, we also have several projects going on throughout

the district. Updates on Route 67 South in Butler County (page 3), new signals along Route 14 in Ava (page 4) and Route T in Wayne County (page 5) are featured in this issue.

Finally, we are also selling excess pieces of property through our Realty to Roads program. To find out more about the Realty to Roads program, please read the back cover.

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



Thank you.

Mark Shelton, P.E.  
District Engineer

## Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri Transportation Needs



Community Relations Specialist Travis Ellis, Customer Service Representative Shelly Aebersold and Information Systems Technologist Cindy Gamache greet attendees of the Blue Ribbon meeting on May 21 in St. Joseph.

The future needs and challenges facing Missouri's transportation system are the subject of a series of public forums across the state this summer. The Committee will meet on June 29 at 10 a.m. at the Show-Me Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo. The meeting is open to the public.

The meetings are sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri Transportation Needs appointed by Missouri House Speaker Steven Tilley, R-Perryville, in early March. The Blue Ribbon Committee is a 21-member panel of business leaders, contractors and special interest groups from across the state.

“The purpose of the committee is to examine

Missouri's current and future transportation needs and explore possible solutions,” said Speaker Tilley. “We need to start a conversation with all Missouri citizens to make sure our transportation system can function at a level that will foster economic growth and handle growing traffic safely and efficiently.”

Working with the Missouri Department of

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## DDI in Farmington Takes Shape

In August 2011, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., a contract to construct a diverging diamond interchange in Farmington at the intersection of Route 221/W/67.

MoDOT's contractor is currently paving Walker Drive and working to finish the final stage of the bridge re-deck.

The second stage of the bridge deck pour is expected to be completed in early June. During the deck pour, Route 67 will close overnight

under the bridge from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. During this time, traffic will be routed over the ramps at the Route 221/W interchange. The bridge is expected to reopen to traffic in mid-June.

Additionally, Progress Drive is closed at Route 221 for intersection improvements. Progress Drive is expected to reopen the second week of June, weather permitting.

Construction of the DDI is expected to be completed this fall.

The DDI will have fewer



Watch a simulation of the DDI at <http://youtu.be/CEEeDf9gQNc>.

potential conflict points than traditional interchanges and will reduce 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.

Drivers are urged to use extreme caution near the work zone and plan for possible delays.

For more information, please contact Resident Engineer Jason Williams at (573) 431-4933.

## First Phase of Oak Grove Road Interchange Construction Begins in Poplar Bluff

Work to construct ramps for the new Oak Grove Road interchange in Poplar Bluff began Thursday, May 24. During this phase of construction, portions of Oak Grove Road will be closed.

“We worked with the city of Poplar Bluff to coordinate our construction schedules to minimize impacts as much as possible,” said Area Engineer Dave Wyman. “Completing this phase of the interchange project while school is out of session will benefit local travelers.”

Wyman explained the city also began work on May 24, which will result in additional closures along Oak Grove Road.

Oak Grove Road is expected to reopen by mid-August. Although the ramps may not be open to traffic at this time, any remaining ramp work will not require the closure of Oak Grove Road.

Once complete, the ramps will allow the area to function as an interchange with head-to-head traffic on the overpass bridge.

The second phase of the interchange project will include constructing an overpass bridge adjacent to the existing bridge. This phase is expected to be let in March 2013.

In addition to constructing an interchange to provide full access between Oak Grove Road and Route 67, MoDOT will complete geometric and traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Oak Grove Road and Westwood Boulevard. This portion of the project is expected to be let in September 2012. The city's portion of the project will consist of adding lanes to Oak Grove Road between Route 67 and Westwood Boulevard.

The project is expected to be complete in late 2013, weather permitting.

Construction is underway on Oak Grove Road in Poplar Bluff. For more information about MoDOT's portion of the project, please contact Area Engineer Dave Wyman at (573) 840-9297 or Resident Engineer Audie Pulliam at (573) 840-9781. For information about the city's portion of the project, please contact Smith & Company Project Manager Dominic Thompson at (573) 785-9621.



# Route 67 South Construction Begins This Summer

## Last Amendment 3 Project in SE District

With right of way acquisition wrapping up, construction to upgrade Route 67 to four lanes from south of Route M to south of Route 160 could begin as early as this summer. When complete, the improvements will provide a four-lane highway from Route 160 in Poplar Bluff to St. Louis, in addition to strengthening the connection from Route 160 to Route 60.

This project marks the last improvements in the Southeast District made possible through Amendment 3 funds. Amendment 3 was passed by Missourians in November 2004 in order to keep transportation dollars focused on major highway needs throughout the state.

“This project is a great example of what can be accomplished when funding is available,” said Project Manager Eric Krapf. “But with current transportation funding levels, it is unlikely Missourians will continue to see this type of improvement project. In the midst of a funding shortage, we will focus on maintaining our current system for as long as possible.”

Krapf explained the project will have a significant impact on the area by addressing the two primary concerns.

“The full interchange planned at the Route 160 intersection will address the current issues with left turning traffic,” he said. “Additionally, the project will reduce the number of potential conflict points by limiting access.”

According to Krapf, managing the number and location of access points will also help reduce congestion.

The improvements are expected to be completed by summer 2014.

As construction is underway, most of the work will be completed off of the existing right of way and will not impact traffic. There will be short-term closures on Route 158 as the interchange is constructed. Traffic will also utilize temporary bypasses as the new alignment is tied into the existing pavement.

“In addition to upgrading Route 67, we will replace two bridges on Route 67 near Neelyville with box culverts,” said Krapf. “Travelers are urged to pay extra attention when traveling through this busy construction area.”

The bridges to be replaced are located approximately 2 miles south of the four-laning project, and work will be underway during the same time period. The bridge work is expected to begin this summer, with completion anticipated by the end of the year.



Last August, a trio of ribbon cutting ceremonies celebrated completion of the Route 67 upgrade from north of Poplar Bluff to Fredericktown in Madison County. This summer, Poplar Bluff residents can expect to see more improvements to Route 67. The upcoming project will improve the route from south of Route M to south of Route 160.

Bids opened on both Route 67 projects on May 25. Additional information will be released prior to the start of construction.

For more information, please contact Krapf at (573) 472-5261, Resident Engineer Audie Pulliam at (573) 840-9781 or MoDOT’s Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636).

## Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee [ continued from cover ]

Transportation, Tilley’s Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee has scheduled public meetings around the state to gather information from citizens and stakeholders.

“Transportation is more than roads and bridges and projects. It’s our connection to work, business, family and better government,” said John Mehner, Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce. “This is a great opportunity to help shape our transportation system and the quality of life for all Missourians.”

For more information, or for additional meeting locations, contact MoDOT’s Customer Service Center at 1-888-275-6636.

## Installation of New Signals in Ava Begins

*New Signals Will Feature Flashing Yellow Arrows*

Installation of new traffic signals at the intersection of Route 5 and Route 14 in Ava is expected to begin on June 4, weather permitting.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded a contract for the project on April 3. The \$227,241 contract was awarded to Ewing Signal Construction, LLC, Nixa, Mo.

The updated signals will feature flashing yellow arrows for left turning traffic, which will help increase efficiency during off-peak times. A flashing yellow arrow will signify that drivers turning left should yield to oncoming traffic. The signals will also display solid green arrows when left turning traffic has the right of way. A solid

yellow arrow will indicate drivers should prepare to stop or complete the turn if in the intersection.

As work is underway, there will be periodic lane closures at the intersection. Flaggers will be present to guide traffic through the work zone during lane reductions.

The project is expected to be completed in early August.

The work zone will be marked with signs. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution while traveling near the area.

“By using the flashing yellow arrow during off-peak times, mainline traffic will see fewer red lights. The signal should result in shorter red lights for everyone at the

intersection,” said Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist Michael Wake.

Wake explained the flashing yellow arrow installed at the intersection of Broadway and Washington Avenue in West Plains has received positive reviews from area motorists.

“We are replacing signals throughout the state with

flashing yellow arrows,” he said. “Motorists are benefiting from the improved efficiency and eased congestion.”

For more information, please contact Resident Engineer Lindell Huskey at (417) 469-9028 or District Traffic Engineer Craig Compas at (573) 472-5310.



Learn how to navigate through an intersection with a traffic signal featuring flashing yellow arrows at <http://youtu.be/H6-hcgWt7co>.

## Safe & Sound Program Replaces Route 72 Overpass in Madison County

The Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program is nearing completion.

The program was designed to repair or replace over 800 of the state’s lowest-rated bridges in five years. Currently, 727 bridges have been completed, and the program is on track to be completed this fall—over one year ahead of schedule.

One of the final projects in the Southeast District will replace the Route 72 overpass over Route 67 in Madison County. Construction is expected to begin on June 7, weather permitting.

On June 7, there will be periodic lane reductions on Route 72 and Route 67 as work zone traffic control devices are installed.

Demolition of the Route 72 overpass will begin at 7 a.m. on Friday, June 8. During this time, the overpass will close and traffic will follow a marked detour. Westbound traffic on Route 72 will be detoured to Route 67 North to the Catherine

Place median crossing. The median crossing was constructed to include a turn lane in anticipation of this project. From the median crossing, drivers may take Route 67 South or County Road 517 South. Eastbound travelers will take Route 67 South to the Route E interchange to the southeast outer road.

Additionally, traffic on Route 67 will be detoured to travel up and over the interchange ramps during demolition.

Removal of the overpass is expected to be completed by 7 a.m. on Sunday, June 10, which will allow Route 67 traffic to resume normal operations. However, during various stages of construction, Route 67 will be reduced to one lane in each direction with a 20-foot width restriction in place.

The Route 72 overpass will remain closed as construction is underway.

The project is expected to be completed in early August, weather permitting.

# Work Zone Awareness Week Recap

## Rate Our Work Zones Online!

In the midst of another construction season, reminding employees and motorists of the importance of work zone safety is a top priority for the Missouri Department of Transportation. MoDOT celebrated National Work Zone Awareness Week from April 23-27 to help raise awareness.

Throughout the week, the Southeast District asked the public to help spread the word about the importance of work zone safety.

“In 2011, 701 people were injured in Missouri work zones, compared to 1,036 in 2010,” said District Engineer Mark Shelton. “We want to make sure this progress continues. Our goal is to educate the public, as well as our employees and contractors, to ensure everyone gets home safe at the end of each day.”

The week kicked-off with the Southeast District’s new public service announcement (PSA) showing the dangers of distracted driving within a familiar environment—a grocery store. The video strives to illustrate that distracted driving is unacceptable anywhere, but especially in our work zones.

The PSA is available at <http://youtu.be/ZyhII1kElr4> or on the district’s website at [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast).

Barrel Bob, a 10-foot tall man made of orange construction barrels, also made appearances throughout the district and asked the public to join in by correctly



Watch the distracted driving PSA at <http://youtu.be/ZyhII1kElr4>.

guessing his location. Participants played along on the district’s facebook and twitter accounts, available at [facebook.com/MoDOTSoutheast](http://facebook.com/MoDOTSoutheast) and [twitter.com/MoDOTSoutheast](http://twitter.com/MoDOTSoutheast).

“We also tried a new component this year,” said Shelton. “We asked our employees and members of the public to wear orange on Wednesday, April 25 and submit photos for our Work Zone Awareness Wall of Fame.”

To view photos from the district’s “Orange Out,” please visit this year’s Work Zone Awareness Wall of Fame at [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast) or search for “MoDOT SE” on flickr.

Although Work Zone Awareness Week is over, there are still ways to help improve Missouri’s work zones. Travelers are encouraged to “Rate Our Work Zones” by filling out a quick, online form after traveling through a MoDOT work zone. The form is available at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org).

MoDOT also erected new work zone signs to help remind motorists to rate Missouri’s work zones.

Look for MoDOT’s “Rate Our Work Zone” signs and remember to fill out the quick, online survey at [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast).

## Update: Route T at Lake Wappapello

Residents and travelers near the Lake Wappapello area will soon see a more permanent solution for the section of Route T that washed out during the 2011 flood.

Construction to replace the section of Route T with a channel crossing is expected to begin this summer.

A majority of the new roadway will be constructed with minimal impacts to traffic. The short-term traffic impacts will consist of one-lane, flagger-controlled work zones, which will only be in place during the daytime.

As the project nears completion, the new roadway will be tied into the existing pavement, which will require longer durations of two-way, one-lane traffic. During these durations, traffic will be controlled by temporary signals 24 hours a day.

Once complete, the roadway crossing will be located 650 feet downstream from the spillway. The new roadway will have a curved alignment similar to that of the existing temporary crossing, with improved accommodations for oversized vehicles.

“While a bridge design was initially the option many residents favored, the public meeting attendees were understanding at the meeting on March 5,” said Area Engineer Dave Wyman. “They understood that the project takes into account the Corps of Engineers’ requirements and MoDOT’s specifications.”

Bids for the project opened on May 25. If a contract for the project is awarded to a contractor in June, work could begin as early as July.

Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2012.



# MoDOT's SE District Markets Properties Online

Through MoDOT's Realty to Roads program, excess land originally acquired for a transportation project or other operational need that is no longer necessary is marketed to the public.

The process benefits taxpayers because the funds generated through the Realty to Roads program are dedicated to roadway improvements. Ridding of excess right of way also saves maintenance costs, reduces liability and puts the property back on the tax rolls to the advantage of local communities.

The excess land is sold by auction, a real estate broker or marked for sale by MoDOT.

Currently, the Southeast District has several properties for sale across the 25-county region.

To learn more, please visit [www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm](http://www.modot.org/southeast/RealtytoRoads.htm).



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