

MoDOT  
in

# MOTION

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the winter 2012 issue of MoDOT in Motion. Since our last issue, the Southeast District has been busy implementing the Bolder Five-Year Direction. With our management team firmly in place, we have put together a document highlighting our management team members, and you can find your area engineer as well. To learn more about the management team and the new role of the area engineer, see page two.

Though we are working through the Bolder Five-Year Direction, project work throughout the district is still ongoing. In the coming construction season, you will see work on Interstate 55 in Ste. Genevieve County while motorists can enjoy passing lanes on Route 63. To learn more on those stories, see pages three and four, respectively.

The flood in the spring of 2011 caused damage across the Southeast District, including Route T at Lake Wappapello. Make sure to learn more details of our informational meeting to be held at the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center on March 5. Details are included on page four.

With another construction season nearing, I'd like to remind you to always buckle up and slow down when you near a work zone. Travel safe.



Thank you.

Mark Shelton, P.E.  
District Engineer

## Safe & Sound Program Wraps Up in 2012

With 108 bridges completed throughout Southeast Missouri, the Southeast District is well on its way to delivering on the commitments of MoDOT's Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program.

"Not only are we honoring our commitments, we have also added two bridge projects to the statewide Safe & Sound program," said District Construction and Materials Engineer Andy Meyer. "This brings the total to 804 bridge improvements across the state."

Meyer explained that one of the bridges is located in the Southeast District on Route 142 over Main Ditch in Butler County.

"Savings were identified and to make the best use of taxpayers' dollars, additional projects were prioritized," he said.

The following Safe & Sound projects are also scheduled to be completed this construction season:

- Route 76 over Bryant Creek in Douglas County
- Route 49 over Ottery Creek in Reynolds County
- Route 49 over Ottery Creek Overflow in Reynolds County
- Route 72 Overpass over Route 67 in Madison County
- Route 60 over BNSF Railroad in New Madrid County
- Route 60 over Union Pacific Railroad in Stoddard County
- Route 60 over LRDD Ditch 37 in Stoddard County

"We have had great success with this program and look forward to continuing that success as we wrap up the Southeast District's portion of the program in 2012—more than a year ahead of schedule," said Meyer.

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www.modot.org/southeast

## US 60/62 Bridge at Cairo to Reopen

For more than one year, the US 60/62 bridge over the Mississippi River has been closed to traffic due to deterioration of the bridge's floor beams.



IDOT will reopen the US 60/62 bridge at Cairo this spring, after more than a year long closure.

noncompliance rate, the bridge was closed on Jan. 11, 2011. During summer 2011, IDOT awarded a contract over \$2 million to begin repairs to the bridge.

IDOT is nearing completion of all necessary repairs and will open the bridge this spring. Motorists can check our Traveler Information Map at [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast) for more information on the bridge's opening.

In November 2010, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) issued a weight limit of 15 tons. Because of a high

## Bolder Five-Year Direction Update: Find Your Area Engineer

On June 8, 2011, MoDOT implemented the Bolder Five-Year Direction. Under this plan, districts across the state have been reorganized and new management teams are now in place. The department previously had 10 districts located throughout the state, and under the plan has only seven.

MoDOT's new Southeast District, with a population of 577,418, is comprised of 25 counties, totaling 15,950 lane miles. A listing of the new SE District management team can be found at [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast).

MoDOT continues to be committed to providing the public with outstanding customer service, as

well as a safe and modern transportation system. In an effort to make MoDOT more accessible to the communities they serve, the department has restructured the role of the area engineer. Area engineers can answer questions from the public, meet with media, or speak to groups and organizations about transportation in Missouri. The goal of the area engineer is to have one person knowledgeable of and able to

coordinate all department activities including design, construction and maintenance in a particular geographical area.

Our area engineers are committed to addressing the public's concerns and questions involving the state transportation system as well as all modes of transportation in the area. The SE District area engineers

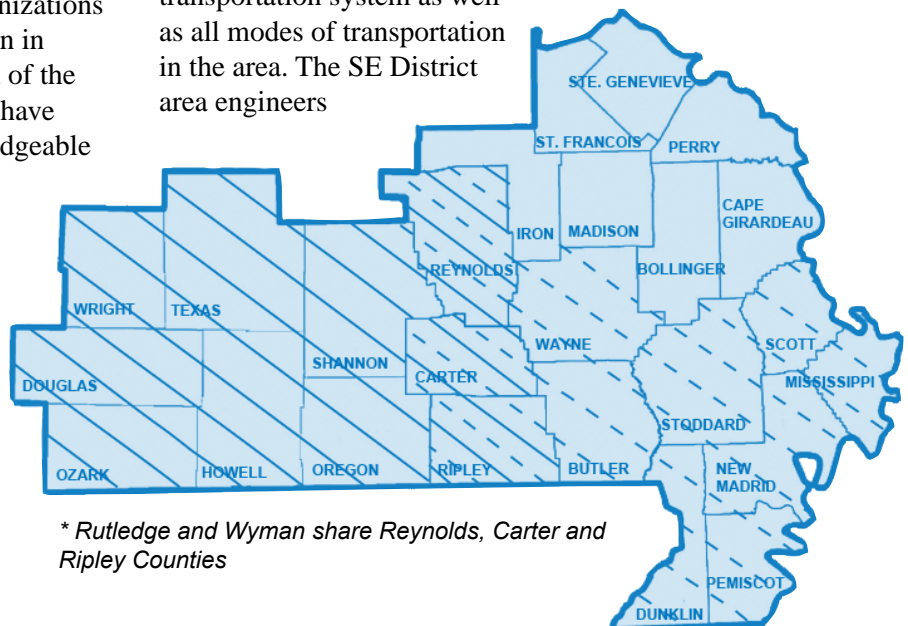
include David Wyman, Dale Kinneman and Chris Rutledge.

For additional information, contact MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636) or visit [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast).

Chris Rutledge  
417.469.6239

David Wyman  
573.840.9297

Dale Kinneman  
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## Upcoming I-55 Project in Ste. Genevieve County

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded a contract during its regular meeting on Dec. 7 for improvements to Interstate 55 in Ste. Genevieve County. The project will include resurfacing and undersealing over 40 miles of the north and southbound lanes from the Jefferson County line to Route J/N (Exit 143). Additionally, median guard cable will be installed from Route 67 near Crystal City to Route E near Oak Ridge.

“Median guard cable is a great safety feature and will help reduce the likelihood of head-on collisions in the area,” said Project Manager Eric Krapf. “Head-on collisions are some of the most severe and deadly crashes on our roadways, and this will aid in the effort to reduce fatalities across the state.”

Cross-median crashes occur when a vehicle crosses the median and enters the opposing traffic lane. On Interstate

70 in 2002, there were 24 fatalities involving cars that crossed over the median. In 2007, a year after guard cable was completely installed on all of I-70, there were two fatalities involving a cross-median crash. In 2008, there was one fatality involving a cross-median crash.

Weather permitting, work is anticipated to begin in spring 2012, with completion in late summer 2013.

I-55 will be reduced to one lane as work is underway during daylight hours. Motorists can expect reduced speeds and minor delays during peak traffic times.

The \$21,671,867 contract was awarded to Chester Bross Const. Co/C.B. Equipment Inc., Hannibal, Mo.

For more information, please contact MoDOT's Customer Service Center



Guard cable was designed to absorb the majority of a vehicle's momentum. When a vehicle leaves the passing lane, it travels down the slope. As it hits the cable, the cable deflects and absorbs the impact.

toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636). For information about guard cable, please visit: [www.modot.org/southeast/documents/FAQ\\_Revised.pdf](http://www.modot.org/southeast/documents/FAQ_Revised.pdf).

## Safe & Sound Program Wraps Up in 2012 [ continued from cover ]



Over 100 attendees joined to celebrate the opening of the three Route 34 bridges in Cape Girardeau County.

He cited the three Route 34 bridges in Cape Girardeau County, the Route 21 bridge over Reid Creek in Iron County and the Route 61 bridge over Ramsey Creek in Cape Girardeau County as great examples of the program's achievements.

The three Route 34 bridges were some of the largest bridges replaced, with Whitewater River spanning 300 feet.

“Area travelers were anxious to have the new bridges in place before the start of school and fall harvest,” said

Meyer. “We utilized one road closure and multiple crews to complete all three Route 34 bridges, which typically would have taken an entire construction season, in 86 days.”

After coordinating with the

local community, the Route 21 bridge was improved with as much work as possible completed with a lane reduction. Following the local Pumpkin Festival, the bridge was only closed for a week.

“Thank you to the MoDOT personnel and their director, L Krupp Construction and KTU Constructors for your valiant effort to get this completed in seven days,” said Representative Paul Fitzwater during the bridge's opening. “It is truly unbelievable they accomplished it in this amount of time.”

The Route 61 project also exemplified speed when it was completed in 22 days, instead of the anticipated 62 days. A typical bridge replacement takes approximately 60 to 90 days.

“The Safe & Sound program has been very rewarding, and we have drawn on the talents of employees across the department,” said Meyer. “From designers reviewing plans to maintenance crews completing prep work and monitoring road closures, MoDOT has truly made this a priority.”

## Route 63 Passing Lanes Complete

A project to resurface and add alternate passing lanes on Route 63 was completed in November. These improvements were part of MoDOT's Better Roads, Brighter Future Program, which targets highways carrying 80 percent of all travel on the state highway system.

Route 63 now features intermittent alternate passing lanes for 58 miles, extending from Cabool to Rolla. The project also included the addition of wider stripes, rumble strips and brighter signs.

According to Southeast District Transportation Project Manager Pete Berry, these passing lanes

are a winning solution for travelers.

“Alternate passing lanes are a good, cost-effective option for improving traffic flow and safety. Drivers can become frustrated with delays when they are not able to pass a slower moving vehicle; these passing lanes allow travelers to pass other vehicles safely,” said Berry.

The passing lanes that alternate between both sides of the highway give drivers periodic opportunities to pass. This design is also much more cost effective. Alternate passing lanes can cost as much as 75 percent less than a typical four-lane highway. Work on the alternate passing lanes on



Traveling along Route 63 from Cabool to Rolla is now easier and safer thanks to the new alternate passing lanes.

Route 63 was accomplished by overlaying, restriping and signing over existing state right of way.

The project was completed in multiple sections and began five years ago. Work on the final section of passing

lanes was completed by Pace Construction Company, LLC. of St. Louis and Leo Journagan Construction of Springfield.

For more information, please contact Berry at (417) 469-6242.

## MoDOT, Corps Review Plans to Replace Route T in Wayne County

During the spring 2011 flood, Route T near Lake Wappapello in Wayne County washed out due to rising lake levels and use of the emergency spillway.

A temporary crossing is currently in place, but with the help of community members and county leaders, MoDOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are looking for a more permanent solution.

At the public meeting held in

September 2011, MoDOT discussed various options with the public and many chose a bridge as the best option. However, after further inspection, it has been found that a bridge is not a viable solution.

The Corps has requested MoDOT refrain from constructing or placing any material in the transition area. With the restrictions, there is not a fiscally responsible way to bridge the transition area.

Considering the alternative options, MoDOT will replace the washed out section with a channel crossing below the transition area. The best solution is to locate the roadway crossing 650 feet downstream from the spillway. The new roadway will have a curved alignment similar to that of the existing temporary crossing but with a greatly improved vertical alignment. The new roadway will accommodate oversized vehicles.

An informational meeting to discuss the project will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. March 5 at the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center, located in Wappapello.

For more information, please visit: [www.modot.org/southeast/news\\_and\\_information/public\\_meetings](http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings).

Route T washed out due to rising lake levels and use of the emergency spillway.



## 2011 Battle of the Belt Winners Announced

Statewide, 155 schools, including 38 in the Southeast participated in this year's Battle of the Belt Challenge, a competition to raise seat belt use among teens.

Participating schools launched two surprise seat belt checks at each school to measure student seat belt use before and after a seat belt safety educational campaign. In addition, schools had the opportunity to submit a 30-second video spot to encourage their peers to buckle up.

Cape Girardeau's Notre Dame Regional High School won the Southeast regional award for the Highest Overall Seat Belt Use achieving 100 percent seat belt use. Bell City won the Southeast regional award for the Most Improved Seat Belt Use increasing their usage from 28 percent to 78 percent. Both schools will receive \$500 donated by American Family Insurance to be used for seat belt educational programs at the schools.

"We incorporated a number of educational activities for the competition," said Notre Dame senior Sarah McCrate. "The most effective activity was handing out funeral cards to those students not using seat belts during our checks."

McCrate said the funeral cards included the name and phone number of funeral

homes so students could call and give information on who to contact in the event they would not survive a crash. Other education components included signing seat belt pledge cards, handing out candy with seat belt education messages and public service announcements playing on the school's internal television station.

Five schools in the Southeast received statewide recognition for reaching gold (99-100 percent), silver (95-98 percent) or bronze (91-94 percent) levels of seat belt use. Those schools received banners donated by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians. Those schools included:

- Notre Dame High School, Cape Girardeau-Gold Level
- Saxony Lutheran High School, Cape Girardeau-Gold Level
- Southland High School, Cardwell-Bronze Level
- Oran High School, Oran-Bronze Level
- Valle High School, Ste. Genevieve -Bronze Level

"I believe our success can be attributed to a number of things, one being good parental role modeling," said Angela Schaefer, Notre Dame High School Counselor. "Peer pressure is also a contributing factor. Students continually stress the importance of safety belt usage to their peers."

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people 15-20 years old. Results of a 2011 survey indicate 33 percent of teens are not wearing their seat belt, putting them at greater risk. Seven out of 10 teens killed in Missouri traffic crashes are unbuckled.

## Fatalities Decline for Sixth Year Running

Though the count will not be considered final for a few months, MoDOT has announced that as of Feb. 23, Missouri traffic crash fatalities totaled 781 in 2011. This is nearly five percent lower than the 821 fatalities experienced in 2010 and the lowest total since the late 1940s.

# ARRIVE ALIVE

"Last year was the sixth consecutive year Missouri's crash fatality rate fell," said Leanna Depue, MoDOT's Highway Safety Director. "We applaud Missouri drivers who pay attention, drive defensively and take care to travel safely. They, along with law enforcement professionals, emergency services personnel, those who focus on highway and vehicle safety improvements and messengers who help people adopt safer behaviors work together to make this happen."

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, a group of safety partners, challenged the state to work toward a goal of 850 or fewer roadway fatalities by 2012. That goal was met in 2010 and has since been surpassed. But Depue said the coalition will continue to work toward zero fatalities in Missouri. To learn more about safe travel, visit [www.saveMOLives.com](http://www.saveMOLives.com).

### Missouri's 7-Year Fatality Totals

- |        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| • 2005 | 1,257            |
| • 2006 | 1,096            |
| • 2007 | 992              |
| • 2008 | 960              |
| • 2009 | 878              |
| • 2010 | 821              |
| • 2011 | 781 (unofficial) |

Notre Dame High School seniors Sarah McCrate and Elizabeth Kiblinger conduct safety belt checks on sophomores Shelby Shaefer and Kelsey Tollison during the 2011 Battle of the Belt competition.



# Check Out MoDOT's Map App

Visit the iPhone App Store or Android Marketplace Today!

With the launch of MoDOT's new Traveler Information Map mobile app, Missouri travelers can get the latest information on road conditions, work zones, flooding and incidents on their iPhones and Androids.

The Map App offers the same information as its online big brother, the Traveler Information Map, but with the convenience people have come to expect with the mobile revolution.

When the map loads, users see the entire state at a glance and can zoom in for a better view by tapping the screen on iPhones or using the pan and zoom buttons on the Android version. Weather-related road conditions are loaded as a default, but users can view work zones and incidents by tapping the "Conditions" button and choosing their display options. Even still shots of traffic cameras are a view option.

Radar images supplied by the National Weather Service are also available, so travelers can keep an eye on continuously

changing weather conditions and plan their trips accordingly.

Information is updated continuously throughout snow and ice events. For incidents, work zones and flooding, visitors can tap on icons for more information on delays.

Easy to use, easy to install, the app is available at both the iPhone App Store and Android Marketplace. And if drivers want more information not offered on the map, MoDOT's customer service phone number is just a tap away!

The Traveler Information Map is only one tool Missouri travelers should use before driving across the Show-Me state. Local weather reports and law enforcement alerts should also be a part of any traveler plan, especially during the winter months.

As always, MoDOT urges people to not use their mobile device while driving.

*MoDOT in MOTION*

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