

eConnections



The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

February 2011

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MoDOT Proved Ready

Sunshine is a nice reminder that Mother Nature has a softer side. But as many of us know, this is not always the case. Early February proved to be a test of MoDOT's preparedness as Mother Nature threw what seemed like everything at us except the kitchen sink, and we passed with flying colors. The efforts of all involved with the Blizzard of 2011 have not gone unnoticed. In fact, comments have been coming in from all over our district and statewide complimenting the outstanding job crews did and continue to do. Everyone stand and take a bow. Your hard work has paid off and continues to shine.

Below are a few of the very nice remarks received:

To TEAM MoDOT:

On behalf of the entire Commission, I wish to thank each and everyone in the Missouri Department of Transportation for the exemplary performance during one of the most powerful snow storms our state has ever experienced. The superb planning, the crisp execution, and the extraordinary results speak for themselves.



The Commission is extremely proud of what you have done. You have made a tremendous difference in the well being of our citizens and without a doubt saved many lives in the process.

Again, on behalf of the Commission, I thank you for a job exceedingly well done.

*Rudolph E. Farber
Chairman
Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission*

kcICON Project Receives National Recognition

MoDOT, HNTB honored by ACEC for engineering excellence

by Jennifer Benefield

MoDOT's kcICON Project has earned a National Recognition Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards competition for exceptional achievement in engineering.

The project was nominated by HNTB Corporation for its consulting role and received ACEC/Missouri's top award February 5 – the Grand Conceptor – before advancing to the national awards competition. The National Recognition Award will be presented April 1 in Washington, DC.

“Based on a best-value approach, this new process has resulted in a safer corridor with an iconic river crossing for millions of dollars less than the originally

estimated cost,” said kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell. “We thank HNTB for its program management support as we navigated our way through a new design-build procurement process.”

HNTB Senior Project Manager Rachel Lunceford said she'll always look back to her involvement on the kcICON Project with pride throughout her career. “This project was challenging and fast-paced and resulted in a landmark bridge that will change the city skyline for generations,” said Lunceford. “MoDOT really pushed the limits on almost every aspect of project delivery. And because of this, they got a cost efficient world-class facility.”



The \$245 million kcICON project reconstructed 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 from just north of Route 210/Armour Road in North Kansas City into the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City, Mo. freeway loop. The project included improving six outdated interchanges and the construction of the Christopher S. Bond Bridge – a new landmark, cable-stay Missouri River bridge. Major construction was completed on budget and six months ahead of schedule.



MoDOT Bridge Engineer Tom Skinner (left), HNTB Corporation Kansas City Office Leader Jerry Mugg (center) and kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell (left) were presented the American Civil Engineering Companies 2011 Engineering Excellence Grand Conceptor Award Feb. 5, 2011 during its winter awards banquet in Kansas City, Mo. ACEC/Missouri's top award recognizes HNTB's program management support during the implementation of MoDOT's new design-build procurement process. Based on a best-value approach, this new process has resulted in a safer interstate corridor with an iconic river crossing for millions of dollars less than the originally estimated cost.

kclCON Project Team Receives 2010 Keystone Feature Award

MoDOT recognized for significant contributions to greater Kansas City region

by Jennifer Benefield

The Clay County Economic Development Council and Clay County Commission honored the kclCON Project team with the Keystone Feature Award December 9, 2010 for its significant contribution to Clay County and its surrounding region's economy and quality of life.

The Keystone Awards recognize new and existing companies that make a substantial impact in the Clay County community through significant capital investment, jobs creation, the improvement of neighborhoods and business districts, and for technological innovation.

"About half of our \$245 million fixed project budget was invested in Clay County," said kclCON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "There were over 500 people on the job at the peak of construction who contributed 1.3 million man hours to project. Our workforce development efforts also brought about 100 individuals into the highway construction industry. Investing in transportation creates jobs, spurs economic development and improves the quality life for everyone touched by these projects."

kclCON Project safety, mobility, capac-

ity and aesthetic improvements in Clay County include the widening of 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 from four to six lanes; the reconstruction of the Armour Road interchange to include the addition of noise dampening walls for people residing near the Armour Road interchange; new bridges and ramps at 16th Avenue; the construction of the Levee Road/Bedford Avenue collector-distributor lane system providing improved commercial and personal vehicle access to and from the Paseo Industrial District; and the new, Christopher S. Bond Missouri River Bridge that offers an iconic gateway experience for those traveling to and from Clay County. The project was constructed by Paseo Corridor Construc-

tors, a joint-venture partnership of Clarkson Construction Company, Massman Construction Co. and Kiewit Construction Co. It was designed by Parsons and TranSystems.

MoDOT District 4 also received a 2010 Community Award for completing 13 additional projects totaling approximately \$46.2 million. Improvements included the rehabilitation and addition of bicycle/pedestrian facilities on the Heart of America and Chouteau Bridges, interchange improvements at Route 9 and Briarcliff Parkway, numerous bridge and roadway repairs, ADA sidewalk improvements, and the expansion of Kansas City Scout's bi-state traffic management system.



Corporate Ladder Retirees

Jeffery Burgard
Maintenance Supervisor

Jimmie McBee
Senior Maintenance Worker

Stephen Neumann
Intermediate Equipment Technician

Robert Rowan
Maintenance Crew Leader

Randy Schuman
Motorist Assistance Operator

Gary Wulff
Regional Maintenance Supervisor

Thomas Yates
Maintenance Supervisor

Welcome to D4

Aaron Hayden
Assistant Equipment Technician

Calvin Kenslow
Utility Locator

Warren Thornton
Utility Locator

Albert Wash, JR.
Motorist Assistance Operator

Promotion

Jacob Bradley
Senior Maintenance Worker

Tori Burris
Senior Design Technician

Joseph Caldwell
Senior Construction Technician

Travis Coats
Intermediate Maintenance worker

Troy Collins SR.
Senior Construction Technician

Lisa Craig
Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Jeffrey Cremer
Senior Transportation Planner

Eric Deschamp
Intermediate Construction Inspector

Robin Green
Intermediate Materials Inspector

Ronald Gricher
Motorist Assistance Operator

LeKesha Hardin
Senior Traffic Systems Operator

Chris Heidbreder
Senior Design Technician

Brian Huffner
Senior Maintenance Worker

Thankam Mathew
Intermediate Highway Designer

Patricia McDonald
Maintenance Supervisor

Travis Schilling
Intermediate Highway designer

Rex Studt
Intermediate Materials Inspector

Jerry Wathen
Intermediate Maintenance Worker

Brady Watson JR.
Senior Construction Technician

Christopher Williams
Maintenance Supervisor

Abdul Yahaya
Intermediate Highway Designer



Save the Date and Set Your Sight
on MoDOT's Annual



BIG TRUCK NIGHT

Thursday, April 28

4:30 to 7 p.m.

600 NE Colbern Rd, Lee's Summit MO

In the event of rain this event will be canceled

Lots of FREE ac-
tivities for kids of
all ages!

I-64 Selected Best Transportation Project in the Country

Keith Receives Award for Practical Design Concept



The Interstate 64 reconstruction project in St. Louis has been selected as the 2010 America's Transportation Awards Grand Prize Winner by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Kevin Keith, interim director of the Missouri Department of Transportation, received the President's Transportation Award for Administration.

I-64 was the oldest highway in St. Louis. Over time, the highway and its 30 bridges had become so deteriorated, they had to be replaced. The project closed two five-mile sections of I-64 for one year each. Anticipating public concern over the impending closing, MoDOT began public outreach and ad campaigns with suggestions to help survive the closure. In the end, the project was completed one month early and \$11 million under its \$535 million budget. Survey results showed a 95 percent satisfaction

level with how the work was handled.

The President's Award recognizes exemplary service and contributions that impact transportation regionally or nationwide. Keith was recognized for implementing Practical Design, a cost-saving strategy based on the idea of building many good road and bridge projects instead of a few great ones in an effort to spread resources further. MoDOT saved about \$500 million the first year Practical Design was implemented. It's now the department's standard way of doing business.

Forty-three projects were entered in this year's America's Transportation Awards competition. A video outlining the top 10 projects is available at <http://bit.ly/ATAVID102510>.

For more information, visit www.americastransportationaward.org. Additional information on the I-64 project can be found at www.thenewi64.org.



Safe & Sound Back in Action

D4 Doubles the Number of Bridges to be Done This Year

The third year for the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program is under way and MoDOT is ready for action. With more than 330 out of 802 bridges completed statewide, the SAS crews have been keeping busy. This is an average of one bridge complete and open to traffic every 2.5 days. Missourians are reaping the benefits from this aggressive program, enjoying a smoother, safer drive when crossing these structures.

D4 has been very busy the past couple years while working on the SAS program. With a total of 145 bridges to be done across the district's eight counties, and 53 completed to date, D4 is more than 36 percent done with all the SAS bridges. D4 also has the second highest number of bridges to be done statewide. This year, the district will nearly double the number of bridges worked on compared to last year. We currently have six bridges closed, with two very close to completion. The fun has just begun. Keep an eye out for more updates as the construction season rolls out.

The bridges scheduled to be completed in 2011 include:

- 9 Bridges in Cass County
- One Bridge in Clay County
- 11 Bridges in Henry County
- 9 Bridges in Jackson County
- 16 Bridges in Johnson County
- 15 Bridges in Lafayette County
- The final Bridge in Platte County
- 10 Bridges Ray in Ray County



With the Blizzard of 2011 combined with all of the recent back to back severe winter storms I just want to express how much I appreciate the extra efforts that the MoDOT crews have provided to clear the snow off and keep our metro area Missouri highways safe for traveling.

Please extend this compliment to your MoDOT District 4 staff and crews.

*Sincerely,
Rob Dodson*

*I just wanted to Thank MoDot employees for the wonderful job they did to clear our streets in Belton. Thanks Again!!!!
Sharon M Rowan*

I would like to compliment MoDOT for the wonderful job that was done on our highways during the awful blizzard. They truly were a blessing on helping to keep our highways safe

Kathy Braley

I have been out driving all day from down town Kansas City to Lees Summit to Independence back to down town. I use Route 71 to I-470 to Route 350, I-70 and I-35 in down town. I just have to say what a great job you guys have done! Kudos on all the hard work you had to do!



*I just wanted to say what a wonderful job MoDOT did the last storm!! The roads were beautiful day and night for the trip to work! THANK YOU!!!!
Kathy*

Thanks for doing such a great job on keeping the highways in better condition than I can ever remember! Even our rural road is in good shape just 1 day after the storm! You guys ROCK!!!

Cathie Kellerman

*I just wanted to let you know what a great job you are doing clearing the roads. I work in Public Safety and for the last few storms - you all have really impressed me with how quickly and efficiently you have cleared the roads as best as can be expected. I was really worried that my drives to and from work were going to be horrible in the wake of those storms. You proved me wrong! I am confident you will do the same in the future. Thank you for your hard work and efforts! Way to go MoDOT!
John*

*Great Job. I know you hear all about the bad stuff. In this storm, you have done a GREAT JOB! Thanks.
Terry Meeker*

Please let those working in the snow removal effort know they did any awesome job on the highways. The police really appreciate them.

Charlie

Just wanted to express a big THANK YOU for the hard work and job well done in clearing the roads this winter. You have done an amazing job in making my/our commute a much safer one!

Michele Rogers

Thank you for doing such a wonderful job on cleaning the roads. I was very impressed on how good everything looked after the storm. Here is a pat on the back for all those very tired workers, Job Well Done!

Debbie Jordan



You guys rock. The highways look great. I was able to get off my rural road onto 7 Hwy, make my way to I 70 and drive 30 miles to work safely because of your quality and commitment to our safety. I love living in Missouri!

Klm Clark

Just a quick note to say "thanks" to all the road crews. They did an outstanding job clearing the roads during and after a very major snow event. Thanks again,

Steve Boone (MoDOT retired)

I just want to say how impressed I am with the job that the plow truck personnel did on the highways and streets. Big huge "thank you" from me! Awesome Job!!!

Ron Cilke

I live in Lake Winnebago, MO (Cass County) and I drove into Lee's Summit, and was impressed by how well the roads were cleared after the blizzard. From a windy neighborhood road to a county road to an Interstate, the quality of driving was superb. I imagine MoDOT mostly gets complaints so I wanted to say thank you for your hard work to make our roads safe.

Ryan Lefebvre

I just wanted to say thank you for all of the hard work you put in Feb. Even in blizzard conditions, I was able to safely make it home from work at 11:30 p.m., without getting stranded. I work at The University of Kansas Hospital and working in the emergency room, I had to travel to work. They offered me accommodations to stay overnight in a recliner and curtained area, and I am so happy I was able to come home to my own bed. Thank you again for all that you do to make our roads safe and protect us!

Carli Iles

D4 EAC is here to serve YOU! Check us out on the intranet , read the latest concerns, see our newest members and submit a concern. We are your voice in D4.



The EAC meets monthly to discuss the latest hot topics in the district and to help communicate changes and help alleviate issues. Would you like to know more? Check us out at <http://wwi/intranet/d4/District4EmployeeAdvisoryCouncil.htm>.



Newest EAC Members