

MoDOT  
in

# MOTION

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Dear Friends,



Welcome to the fall 2014 edition of MoDOT in Motion. As I reflect on this last year, it has been a busy one for the Southeast District. Missourians decided not to pass the Amendment 7 ballot measure in August, and you can read more about that to the right.

On the construction side, we have made great progress on many of our construction projects over the summer. That work will continue well into the fall. Please read more about that on page two. Additionally on page three, you can learn more about new paving methods we have been utilizing on Route 21.

With the upcoming winter season, our maintenance forces have been busy preparing. So you can have the most up-to-date road conditions, we continuously update road conditions throughout the state on our Traveler Information Map. Learn more about that on page four.

For area high schools, we are offering our most popular high school programs. You can learn more about the 11th Annual Bridge Competition and the Battle of the Belt Challenge on page five.

Thank you for your continued interest in MoDOT and the SE District. Stay Safe and Buckle Up.

Thank you,

Mark Shelton, P.E.  
District Engineer

## Amendment 7 and MoDOT's Future

On Aug. 5, Missouri voters decided on Amendment 7, a ballot measure that would have temporarily raised Missouri's sales tax by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cent. All proceeds from the 10-year tax would have been used toward much-needed transportation improvements across the state.

Due to the lack of consensus in how to invest in our transportation infrastructure, Amendment 7 failed to pass.

"We are very disappointed in the result, but the people have spoken and we respect that," said Stephen Miller, chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.

Ultimately, passage of Amendment 7 would have gone a long way toward fixing roads and bridges where Missouri's system is already in bad condition. The end result would have affected

Missourians in every region of the state and helped meet the goals set forth in last year's long-range transportation plan.

Dave Nichols, director of the Missouri Department of Transportation, issued the following statement in response to the Amendment 7 election results.

"We will continue our focus on safety, maintaining our roads and bridges, and providing outstanding customer service with the resources we have."

However, existing revenue streams in Missouri will not be enough to even maintain our transportation system by 2017. At that time our construction budget will fall to \$325 million, well below the \$485 million it requires each year to maintain our system in its current condition.

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# Southeast District Construction Update

## Underway & Upcoming Projects

**Route 34 Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties** - Work is underway to construct shoulders and overlay Route 34 from County Road 402 to County Road 324. Contractor crews are currently extending the box culvert near Drunken Creek, clearing slopes, and completing seed and mulch work. Motorists are encouraged to use caution when traveling in the area. Trucks are entering and leaving the work area. Improvements are expected to be completed by early December. In 2015, work will take place in Cape Girardeau County.

**Route 51 Bollinger County** - The proposed project includes replacing the Route 51 bridge over Little Whitewater River on a new alignment in an effort to improve safety. In addition, the proposed structure will be six feet wider than the existing bridge. The project is expected to be let in November 2014, with construction underway in 2015. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2015.

**Route 61 Cape Girardeau County** - An upcoming project will replace the bridge on Route 61 over Hughes Creek, located approximately two miles north of Route CC. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2015. Route 61 will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge for approximately three months as work is underway. Property owners adjacent

to the bridge will continue to have access to their properties. A marked detour will be provided during construction. To detour from the north, drivers will take Route 61 south to Route KK, west on Route KK to I-55, south on I-55 to Route E, then east on Route E to Route 61. To detour from the south, drivers will take Route 61 north to Route E, west on Route E to I-55, north on I-55 to Route KK, then east on Route KK to Route 61.

**Route M Carter County** - The proposed project includes widening curves, replacing the one-lane bridge over Pike Creek with a 2-lane structure and adding paved shoulders from Route 60 to the end of state maintenance. The project will require right-of-way acquisition in some locations. The project is expected to be awarded in June 2015. Work is expected to begin in July 2015, with completion anticipated by the end of 2016.

**Route 412 Dunklin County** - The proposed improvements include five-laning Route 412 from Route 84 to Route VV, constructing a roundabout at Route VV and four-laning from Route VV to Routes O and Y. Construction expected to begin in spring 2015.

**Route C Mississippi County** - The proposed project includes replacing the Route C bridge over Lateral Ditch #4 with a box culvert. The structure is located .3 miles west of Route 105. Work is expected to begin in summer 2015, with Route C remaining closed during construction.

**Route 61 New Madrid County** - Pavement repairs are underway from Larcel Drive to County Road 824, with a lane reduction and 10-foot width restriction in place. Currently, contractors are pouring concrete to widen the east side of

Route 61. Improvements will be completed in stages to keep the entrance open at all times. The project is expected to be completed in early October.

**Interstate 55 Perry and Ste. Genevieve Counties** - North and southbound I-55 is reduced to one lane with a 12-foot width restriction as pavement repairs are underway from Route 51 to Route J/N at Ozora. Crews are currently paving the southbound lanes. In addition, motorists are encouraged to use caution near the area, as trucks are entering and leaving the work area. The project is expected to be completed in mid-November.

**Route 21N Reynolds County and Route 21S Carter County** - The projects included overlaying the roadways and improvements to the shoulders. Contractor crews are currently finishing slope work and seeding & mulching on Route 21 North. On Route 21 South, crews are micro surfacing in preparation for seeding and mulching. With a lane reduction in place, traffic is currently controlled by pilot car. For more information on pilot cars, take a look at the back cover.

**Route 114 Stoddard County** - Contractor crews are currently diamond grinding Route 114 between Route 25 and Route 60. Previously, contractors applied a thin-lift overlay and completed pavement repairs in this location. Drivers can expect short delays when traveling in the area, with flaggers and a pilot car used to control traffic.

**Route Z Wayne County** - An upcoming project will replace the bridge on Route Z over McGee Creek, located approximately three miles east of Route T. Construction could begin as early as spring 2015. As construction is underway, Route Z will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of the bridge. Detour routes will be signed.

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## Innovative Paving Method Used for Route 21 Project

While the finished improvements on Route 21 in Ripley County may look like any other asphalt project, there is actually an innovative method in use. Roller-compacted concrete paving (RCC) was used along the route's shoulders.

The mix for RCC is basically the same as conventional concrete but drier. Rollers are used to compact the mix, and the need for forms, finishing or reinforcing steel is eliminated.

RCC is most well known in the construction industry for its durability, efficiency and the cost savings.

“By allowing this innovative, alternate paving design, more flexibility was available for our contractors during the

bidding process. Ultimately, this helps increase competition, which leads to better bids,” said Construction and Materials Engineer Andy Meyer.

Overall RCC has a reputation for durability and stability, although Route 21 is the first opportunity the Southeast District will have to evaluate it as a final surface. Previously, RCC was used in the widening project on Route 160 at Doniphan, but it was capped with asphalt.

In addition, the placement of the material could be accomplished in greater temperature ranges than the alternative. The finished surface will also be more resistant to “freeze-thaw damage” according to [www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org).



[ Paving operations in late August 2014 on Route 21 in Ripley County. ]

## MoDOT Closes MO 53 Bridge Near Campbell for Replacement

On Aug. 20, MoDOT closed the MO 53 bridge in Campbell, Mo., as a safety measure for travelers. Following a routine bridge inspection, it was found that the nearly 80-year-old structure had shifted since the last inspection in 2012. Since that time, additional inspections resulted in the Department's decision to keep the structure closed until the bridge can be replaced.

“MoDOT conducts bridge inspections every two years,” said David Wyman, MoDOT Area Engineer. “When our inspection crew compared the 2014 inspection with that of two years ago, they found a crack in one of the bridge columns.”

Wyman explained that the Department had been looking at possible solutions that could keep the structure, which carries more than 5,100 vehicles per day, open to traffic. Following the final bridge inspection with Dennis Heckman, MoDOT State Bridge Engineer, the Department determined that closing the bridge until it can be replaced is the only responsible alternative for the traveling public.

“Safety is our highest priority at MoDOT, and closure of this structure ensures that travelers are not at risk,” explained Mark Shelton, District Engineer. “The stark reality is that this

is not the only bridge in poor shape in our region or the state. Bridges get older every day, and in this instance we must look at how we can reprioritize projects to include replacement of this structure.”

Shelton went on to explain that replacing the bridge could take up to a year to complete. MO 53 will remain closed until the structure is replaced. MoDOT will work with its design staff and consultants to begin plans to replace the structure.

“We will have to delay other projects that were originally scheduled for 2014 in our Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP),” said Shelton. “Some of those projects will be pushed back to 2016 or beyond.”

An updated alternate route has been discussed and approved with local city and county officials. Travelers may utilize Route H, Route J, Route 25 and Route 62 to navigate around the bridge closure. The alternate route is signed.

For more information, contact Wyman at (573) 421-0373 or Shelton at (573) 472-5341.

## SE Citizens Honored with Memorial Highway, Bridge

A memorial highway dedication ceremony to honor the Latham family was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Catfish Bowl, located at 106 St. Mary Street in Pilot Knob.

State Representative Paul Fitzwater acquired the necessary 100 signatures to designate Route A from Route 49 to Route 32 in Iron and Reynolds Counties the “Latham Memorial Highway.”

The memorial highway signs recognize both Opal and Edward Latham for the legacy of improvements they left behind for area travelers.

“My mother, Opal Latham, was a driving force behind getting Route A asphalted in the 1960s,” said Ms. Shirley Harrell.

Harrell also explained that her father, Edward Latham, sold

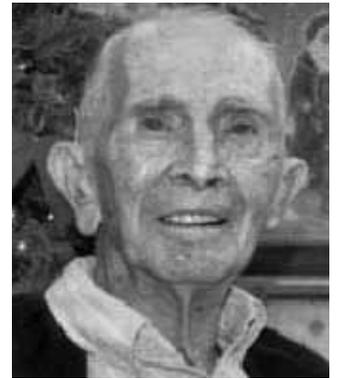
Route A in Iron and Reynolds Counties has been designated the “Latham Memorial Highway” in honor of Opal and Edward Latham.



his land in support of improvements to Route A.

A memorial bridge dedication ceremony to honor Barney Douglas of Gainesville, Mo. was held Saturday, Sept. 20 at Ozark County’s Hootin’ an Hollarin’ festival.

State Representative Lyle Rowland sponsored House Bill 1866 to designate the Route 160 bridge over Lick Creek in Ozark County the “Barney Douglas (The Citizen) Memorial Bridge.” The bill was signed into law by Governor Jay Nixon and became effective on Aug. 28, 2014.



Mr. Barney Douglas dedicated his life to serving his country, the state of Missouri and his local community.

Douglas worked for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) in Mountain View, Mo., which is where he met his wife of 69 years, Doris. During World War II, Douglas volunteered for the U.S. Navy Seabees and later worked in an ammunitions plant in St. Louis where he made high-caliber bullets. Following the war, he returned to Southern Missouri and MoDOT. Douglas worked until his retirement in 1981 as an area supervisor over four maintenance facilities.

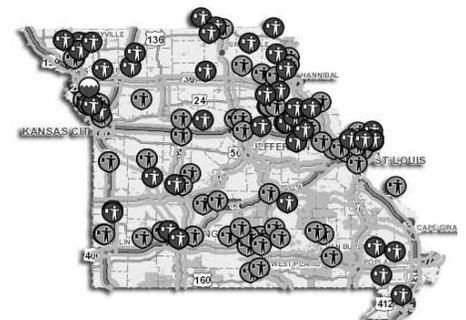
In addition to his MoDOT career, Douglas worked with the American Red Cross bloodmobile for over 30 years, served as an Ozark County Health Department board member for 26 years and as Gainesville school board president. He was also active in the Robert Burns Masonic Lodge #496, Eastern Star and the Hootin’ and Hollarin’ festival.

Douglas passed away on Dec. 22, 2012 at the age of 95, leaving a legacy of community service.

## MoDOT’s Traveler Information Map, App

With winter right around the corner, don’t forget that the Traveler Information Map and Map App are great tools for finding the most up-to-date winter roadway conditions.

MoDOT’s Traveler Information Map is available at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org), and conditions for routes are color coded. For smartphone and tablet users, the Traveler Information App brings the same information to mobile devices. The app is available for free from the iPhone and Android app stores by searching for “MoDOT.”



MoDOT also provides road condition information through the Customer Service Center. Dial 888-ASK-MODOT (888-275-6636) to speak to one of MoDOT’s expert customer service representatives.

## SE Schools to Participate in 11th Annual Bridge Competition

It's almost time for the Southeast District's 11th annual bridge building competition. The competition challenges high school juniors and seniors to design and construct the most efficient model bridge using limited materials-15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue.

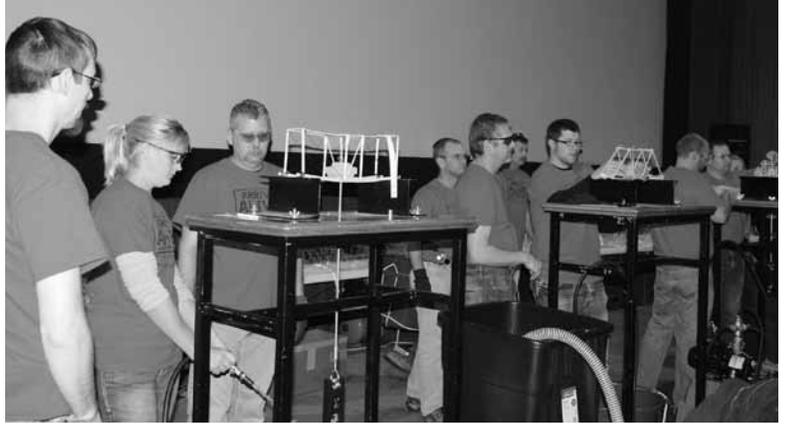
Schools registered by Sept. 9 to compete in the competition. The bridge kits will be delivered to the participating schools on Oct. 6 and 7. Completed bridges will be picked up from participating schools on Nov. 3 and 4.

Bridges entered in the com-

petition will be tested Nov. 20 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.

In addition, MoDOT has partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University,



Videos and photos from last year's bridge testing are available at [www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm](http://www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm).

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/[anita.clark@modot.mo.gov](mailto:anita.clark@modot.mo.gov) or Senior Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks at (573) 472-5294/[gretchen.hanks@modot.mo.gov](mailto:gretchen.hanks@modot.mo.gov).

## BOTB Challenges Missouri High Schools to Buckle Up!

All Missouri high schools are called to compete in the 2014 Battle of the Belt Challenge for an opportunity to win cash and prizes teaching students the importance of buckling up.

Sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, the statewide competition is underway Oct. 1-Nov. 19 to educate young drivers about safety belt use, reduce traffic crash injuries and save teen lives. High schools signed up for the Battle of the Belt Challenge by completing a participation agreement form online at [www.modot.org/Safety/BattleoftheBeltChallenge.htm](http://www.modot.org/Safety/BattleoftheBeltChallenge.htm) by Sept. 23.

"Nearly eight out of 10 teens killed in Missouri vehicle crashes over the last three years weren't buckled up," said Leanna



Depue, chair of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's executive committee. "The Battle of the Belt competition can make a difference with Missouri teens and save lives through education, competition and fun."

Teen drivers are overrepresented in crashes both nationwide and in Missouri. Although comprising only seven percent of Missouri's licensed drivers, they were involved in nearly 20 percent of the fatal and serious injury crashes over the last three years.

The program consists of two surprise seat belt checks at each high school to measure student seat belt usage before and after an educational campaign on the importance of safety belt use. In addition, schools have the opportunity to submit a 30-second video spot aimed at encouraging their peers to buckle up. Statewide and regional cash prizes are awarded to schools reaching high safety belt usage rates to further educate the students on the importance of safety belt use.

Schools achieving Highest Overall Seat Belt Use and Most Improved Seat Belt Use regionally will receive \$500 donated by American Family Insurance. Statewide recognition will be awarded with a banner for seat belt use rates of gold (99-100 percent), silver (95-98 percent) or bronze (91-94 percent) donated by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians. The top three winning video spots will also receive funding to further seat belt educational programs.

Saxony Lutheran High School of Jackson, won last year's award for the Highest Overall Seatbelt Use in the Southeast District.

## What is a Pilot Car?

Pilot cars are used in long, one-way work zones to help traffic get through safely. The more crossroads, lane changes, equipment crossings, and other obstacles in the work zone, the more beneficial the pilot car is to safely guide traffic.

A pilot car continuously drives back and forth through a work zone. All traffic in the work zone should **ONLY** follow the pilot car. Pilot cars are specially marked so drivers can tell them apart from other construction vehicles.

The pilot car driver:

- Will not start a trip through the work zone until it is safe to do so;
- Knows which lanes to use;
- Maintains a safe speed;
- Coordinates with construction equipment and haul trucks; and
- Pulls off the road at the end of a work zone to allow traffic to continue on their way.



When a pilot car is in use, a flagger will stop traffic at the end of each work zone until the pilot car is ready to lead vehicles through the work zone. Traffic should follow the pilot car no matter which lane it uses, until it pulls off the road at the end of the work zone. If a driver does not wait, they may end up in the path of oncoming traffic or construction equipment.

Crossroads will have a “pilot car” sign to indicate a pilot car is in use. These signs will be covered or laid down when the work zone is not active. Private driveways will not necessarily have signs alerting drivers of the pilot car. It is important that residents be aware when work is in their area, to be on the lookout for pilot cars.

# MOTION <sup>in</sup> MoDOT

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