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in

MOTION

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the fall 2013 edition of MoDOT in Motion. Since our last issue, the Southeast District has been busy with many construction projects. As you know, the Route M overpass collapsed on Memorial Day weekend, following the collision of two trains. That overpass was opened to traffic the Friday before Labor Day weekend. Learn more about that on page two.

In addition, we completed the roundabout project in conjunction with the City of Cape Girardeau on Sept. 12 and held the ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 24. Learn more about that on page three.

The district continues to plan for future projects like a new roundabout in Poplar Bluff to aid in reducing traffic congestion. You can learn more about that on page four.

And finally with the start of school comes two of our most popular programs for teens, the 10th Annual Bridge Competition and Battle of the Belt Challenge. You can learn more about both of those programs on page five.

Thank you,



Mark Shelton, P.E.  
District Engineer



## On the Move Update: Thanks for Your Input

The Missouri Department of Transportation's On the Move initiative kicked-off with listening sessions across the state. MoDOT then hit-the-streets to gather input for the 20-year transportation plan this April through July.

"We want to thank Southeast Missourians for making transportation a priority and taking time to tell us what they would like to see in the future," said Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton.

He explained that MoDOT's On the Move Ambassadors visited 93 communities within the Southeast District's 25-county region during the mobile tour.

"Across the state, we received over 7,500 comments, and many of



these came from the residents in our region," said Shelton. "Now, we want to make sure we heard what you told us."

A draft of the long-range transportation plan will be presented to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) in Nov. 2013. In addition, a draft of the plan will also be shared with Missourians this fall for feedback. The final plan will be presented to the MHTC for approval in 2014.

To stay up-to-date on MoDOT's On the Move efforts, please visit [www.missourionthemove.org](http://www.missourionthemove.org).

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# Route M Overpass in Scott County Opens to Traffic

Three months after the collapse of the Route M overpass in Scott County due to a train collision, MoDOT's Southeast District opened the new overpass. The new overpass opened to traffic Friday, Aug. 30.

"We worked as a team to accelerate this project," said MoDOT District Engineer Mark Shelton.

He explained the timeline for a 300-foot bridge like Route M typically includes four to five months to prepare plans and a six to eight month construction process.

"Plans for the new overpass were completed in 30 days, and the construction process was completed in 60 days," said Shelton. "I am very pleased to have the project completed so rapidly. It is vital for the safety of area motorists."

The overpass was constructed approximately 20 years ago to eliminate the use of at-grade railroad crossings in Rock-

view, Mo. Following the incident and the bridge's collapse, motorists were utilizing the at-grade crossings.

Shelton added that completing the project quickly also minimized impacts to BNSF and Union Pacific railroads.

"The railroad, MoDOT personnel and Fred Weber Inc. worked to get the clean-up and demolition of the remaining portions of the bridge completed throughout Memorial Day weekend," said Shelton.

Following the early morning collision on Saturday, May 25, a majority of the clean-up was completed by Sunday evening, with trains running on one of the impacted tracks.

"Both of the railroads were very cooperative following clean-up as well," he said. "They expedited their review of the plans, scheduled track closures as the bridge beams were set and provided flaggers throughout the project."

He added Scott County was helpful as the MoDOT team planned detour routes, and Burns & McDonnell assisted with the design of the new overpass. On July 1, a \$2,319,363 contract for construction of the overpass was awarded to Goodwin Brothers Construction Company.

"Our contractor went to work immediately and by Aug. 18 the deck pour was completed," said Shelton. "I appreciate their diligence in completing this project."

He explained this is a great example of what can be accomplished when various groups make a project a priority and work toward that goal as a team.

In celebration of the project's completion, MoDOT representatives were on-site during the bridge's opening to complete media interviews. Photos of the Route M overpass project and opening are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/modot\\_se/sets/72157635256377569/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se/sets/72157635256377569/).



May 25: Trains collided causing the collapse of the overpass.



July 1: A \$2,319,363 contract was awarded to Goodwin Brothers Construction Company. Construction began immediately.



Aug. 30: The Route M overpass opened to traffic after only three months.

May 26: A majority of the clean-up was completed by Sunday evening, with trains running on one of the impacted tracks. Work continued throughout Memorial Day weekend to complete clean-up and demolition of the remaining portion of the overpass.



Aug. 18: The deck pour was completed.



## MoDOT, City of Cape Girardeau Celebrate Completion of Roundabout Project *Route W/Lexington/Kingsway*

MoDOT and the City of Cape Girardeau celebrated completion of the roundabout in Cape Girardeau on Sept. 24.

The project included constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Route W/ Lexington Avenue/Kingsway Drive to help meet the growing demands of traffic in Cape Girardeau and improve safety.

“The need for improvements at this intersection was identified through the public involvement process for Cape’s Transportation Trust Fund program,” said Resident Engineer Brian Holt.

Holt explained MoDOT

continued to work with the city to find a solution to ease congestion in this location.

“Traffic counts did not show enough vehicles traveling through the area to require an additional signal, and the signal would be placed too close to a signal at the intersection of Lexington Avenue/Mount Auburn Road and Kingshighway,” he said. “After evaluating options with the city, a roundabout was the most effective solution.”

Holt added roundabouts also have fewer conflict points than traditional intersections and reduce delays by allowing traffic to flow more smoothly with fewer stops.



The new roundabout in Cape Girardeau opened to traffic Sept. 12, and the ribbon cutting ceremony was held Sept. 24.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded a \$1,465,295 contract for construction of the roundabout to Fronabarger Concreters, Inc., in March 2013. In addition, the contract included construction of a turn lane at the intersection of Kingshighway and Lexington Avenue and capacity

improvements on Lexington Avenue. This is a cost-share project, with the City of Cape Girardeau providing \$793,000.

To view photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony, please visit [www.modot.org/southeast/news\\_and\\_information/special\\_events/](http://www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/special_events/).

## Meet Our New Area Engineer for the Northern Region



[ Brian Okenfuss ]

Brian Okenfuss has been named the Southeast District’s North Area Area Engineer. He will serve the counties of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Iron, Madison, Perry, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.

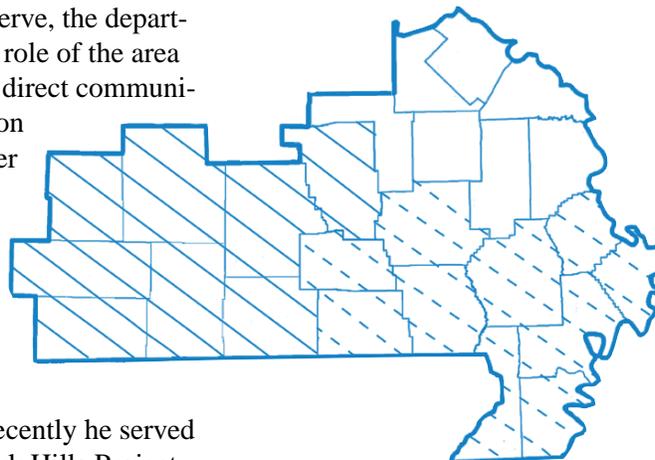
To make MoDOT accessible to the communities they serve, the department structured the role of the area engineer to include direct communication and interaction

with each community. Area engineers answer questions from the public, meet with media and speak to groups and organizations about transportation in Missouri.

As a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Okenfuss has worked at MoDOT since 2007. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and most recently he served as a Senior Construction Inspector in the Park Hills Project Office.

“I’m excited to meet with the communities I’ll be serving,” said Okenfuss. “I’ve lived in the area throughout my life and look forward to helping my neighbors with their transportation needs.”

For more information about your area engineer, visit [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast). To find your area engineer, please see the map below.



Chris Rutledge  
417.252.1816

David Wyman  
573.421.0373

Brian Okenfuss  
573.225.3574

## Poplar Bluff Considers Roundabout Options

In July, MoDOT asked Poplar Bluff residents to consider two roundabout options for the intersection of Route PP and Township Line Road.

The proposed intersection improvements at Route PP and Township Line Road would help traffic flow more smoothly.

Alternate A is a four-legged roundabout and includes relocating County Road 448 or Miller Road. Alternate B is a five-legged roundabout and would not require the relocation of County Road 448.



[ Alternate A is a four-legged roundabout.]

Currently, MoDOT is continuing to gather public input about the alternates. This fall, MoDOT will select an alternate and move forward with the preliminary design. A public meeting will be held to discuss the preliminary design.

Right-of-way acquisition is expected to be underway summer – fall 2014, with construction beginning in 2015.

For more information, please contact Area Engineer Dave Wyman at (573) 421-0373, Project Manager Jason Williams at (573) 472-5290 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636). In addition, the public meeting handout is available at [www.modot.mo.gov/southeast/news\\_and\\_in-](http://www.modot.mo.gov/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/RoutePPandTownship_PB_July2013.htm)

[formation/public\\_meetings/RoutePPandTownship\\_PB\\_July2013.htm](http://www.modot.mo.gov/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/RoutePPandTownship_PB_July2013.htm).



[ Alternate B is a five-legged roundabout.]

## Increasing Safety with Shoulders, Passing Lanes

Safety is one of MoDOT's top priorities. Adding and widening paved shoulders and utilizing passing lanes has been found to help increase safety.

Paved shoulders are effective in reducing a variety of types of crashes. In addition, shoulders provide a safe location for emergency stops, improve drainage and add more space for maintenance and snow removal operations.

Passing lanes also improve safety on two-lane highways. Installation of passing lanes can reduce accident rates by up to 25 percent, according to MoDOT's engineering policy guide.

### SE District shouldering/passing lane projects include:

**Texas/Shannon Route 106:** The need for improvements on Route 106 from Summersville to Route H was identified by the South Central Ozark Council of Governments. The project was recently completed and included adding 2 and 3-foot wide paved shoulders with rumbles and overlaying the existing lanes.

**Carter/Ripley Route 21:** Work is currently underway to add 4-foot paved shoulders to Route 21 from Route 60 to Route 160 near Doniphan. Work is expected to be completed by fall 2014.

**Ripley Route 160:** With increased capacity, the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission identified the need for improvements in Doniphan. Paving is underway to add alternate passing lanes on Route 160 to the east of Doniphan. A second project has been added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan for FY 2015, which will continue passing lanes on Route 160 to Route 67.

**Bollinger/Stoddard Route 51:** Work is underway to add shoulders and resurface Route 51 from Route 34 at Marble Hill to Route 60 in Stoddard County. In addition, construction is underway to add shoulders on Route 51 from Route 72 to Route 34. The improvements are expected to be completed this fall.

## SE High Schools Encouraged to Participate in 10th Annual Bridge Competition

The Southeast District is kicking-off fall with the 10th Annual Bridge Building Competition. Each year, 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.

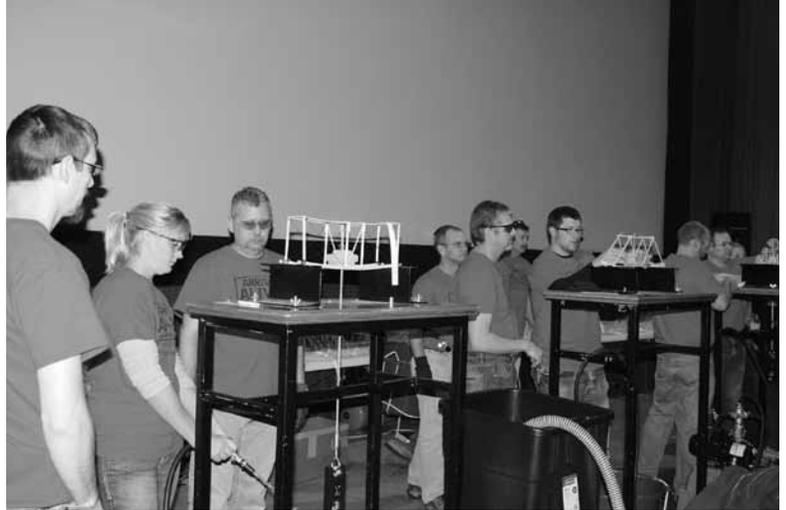
Prizes donated by area businesses and organizations will be awarded to the top bridge building winners. In addition, MoDOT has partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia and Southern Illinois University

to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to \$10,000 in scholarships.

Thirty-eight Southeast Missouri high schools are currently signed up to compete in this year's challenge.

The bridge kits will be delivered to the participating schools on Oct. 7 and 8. Completed bridges will be picked up from participating schools on Nov. 4 and 5.

Bridges entered in the competition will be tested Nov. 21 at Cape West 14 Cine in Cape Girardeau. The lightest bridge to carry the greatest load will ultimately be declared the winner. Prizes



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)

will also be awarded for the most aesthetic bridge and to the winner of the electronic bridge competition.

For more information about the bridge competition, please contact Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark at (573) 472-5292 or [anita.clark@modot.mo.gov](mailto:anita.clark@modot.mo.gov), Senior

Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks at (573) 472-5294 or [gretchen.hanks@modot.mo.gov](mailto:gretchen.hanks@modot.mo.gov), or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636). Photos and videos from prior competitions are available at [www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm](http://www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm).

## High Schools Challenged to Compete in 2013 BOTB Competition

Calling all Missouri high schools to compete in the 2013 Battle of the Belt Challenge. Sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, this statewide competition will run Oct. 1 to Nov. 8.

“Eight out of 10 teens killed in Missouri

The SE District's Couch High School, located in Myrtle, Mo., was named the statewide winner of the 30-second video competition during last year's BOTB Challenge.

vehicle crashes each year aren't buckled up,” said Leanna Depue, executive committee chair for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. “Through education, competition and fun, the Battle of the Belt Challenge can make a difference with Missouri teens and save lives.”

The program consists of two surprise seat belt checks at each participating 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 opportu-

nity to submit a 30-second video spot aimed at encouraging their peers to buckle up.

Schools achieving Highest Overall Seat Belt Use and Most Improved Seat Belt Use regionally will receive \$500 donated by American Family Insurance to be used for future seat belt educational programs at the schools. Statewide recognition will be awarded with a banner for seat belt use donated by the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians. The top three winning 30-second video spots will also receive money to further seat belt educational programs at their schools.

Sign up your local high school to take the Battle of the Belt Challenge by completing a participation agreement form online at [saveMOLives.com](http://saveMOLives.com) before Oct. 1.



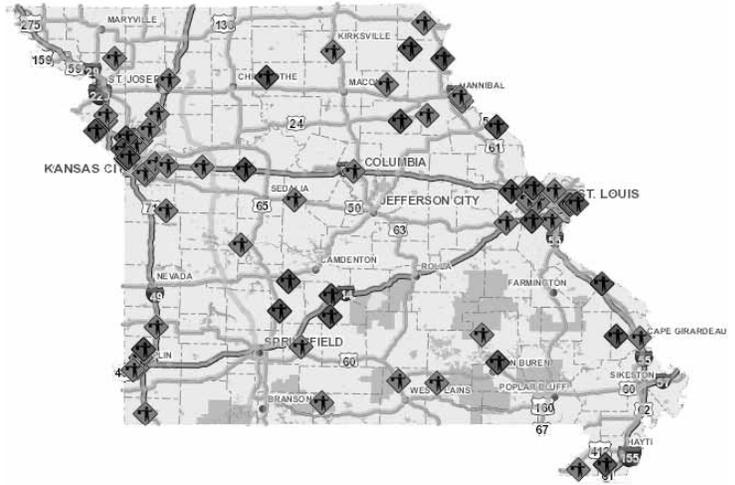
# MoDOT Preps for Winter

Even though the first snowfall may be months away, MoDOT starts preparing early to make sure it has the right number of people, in the right places, ready to plow and treat Missouri's 33,891 miles of state routes.

Crews are currently inspecting equipment, making necessary repairs, reviewing snowplow routes and refreshing their skills with training. On Nov. 5, crews will complete a winter operations drill to ensure the equipment is in working order and to allow crews to run SE District snow routes before winter weather hits.

While the department's 2,400 maintenance employees will be ready to plow, if a big regional or statewide storm hits, MoDOT must rely on some extra help. Each year the department recruits emergency snowplow operators to fill the gaps and help get the job done.

To learn more about becoming an emergency operator, please visit [www.modot.org/jobs/EmergencyOperators.htm](http://www.modot.org/jobs/EmergencyOperators.htm).



When winter weather strikes, visit MoDOT's Traveler Information Map before heading out. The map is available at <http://traveler.modot.org/map/>. The map is also available as an app for Androids or iPhones.

# MoDOT in MOTION

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