



MoDOT in *MOTION*

District 10

Summer 2009

Dear friends:

Welcome to the summer issue of MoDOT in Motion. I have received many positive comments about our new newsletter and want to thank you for your feedback. It is our hope to continue to provide you with timely, accurate information. Having said that, let me tell you about some of the changes and projects going on at MoDOT.

Recently, we added a new feature to our website that enables anyone with computer access to attend our public meetings online. To find out how to attend an online meeting, please see page 2.

Now that the summer months are upon us, we have been very busy with projects throughout the district. In this issue, we have included information about our top three work zones for this summer. Improvements to Route Y in Stoddard County are well underway, and you can learn more about those projects on page 3.

Other exciting projects that MoDOT will be driving include the new Welcome Centers at Marston and Hayti. To learn more about these centers, please read the article to the right. Artist renderings of the future Welcome Centers are available on page 5.

Again, it is our goal to provide you with information on projects that are going on throughout the Southeast District. If you have additional questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK MoDOT.

Have a wonderful summer and travel safe.

Thank you,

Mark Shelton, P.E.
District Engineer



Welcome Centers Planned for I-55

On July 8, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded a contract for two new Welcome Centers on Interstate 55. The Welcome Centers will feature updated facilities that link Missouri's past to the present through historical interpretation.

With nearly 19 million travelers visiting rest areas and Welcome Centers throughout Missouri, it is MoDOT's intent to make all rest areas more visitor friendly. The new Welcome Centers will provide a higher level of service to travelers and increase educational opportunities regarding transportation issues and regional history.

The Marston Welcome Center, located at mile marker 42.4 on the southbound lane of Interstate 55, will include a new building featuring both New Madrid Earthquake and Mississippian culture themes. The Hayti Welcome Center, located at mile marker 20.4 on the northbound lane of I-55, will include a wetlands theme. Both projects, financed through federal enhancement dollars, will be completed in the fall 2010.

The Marston Welcome Center design

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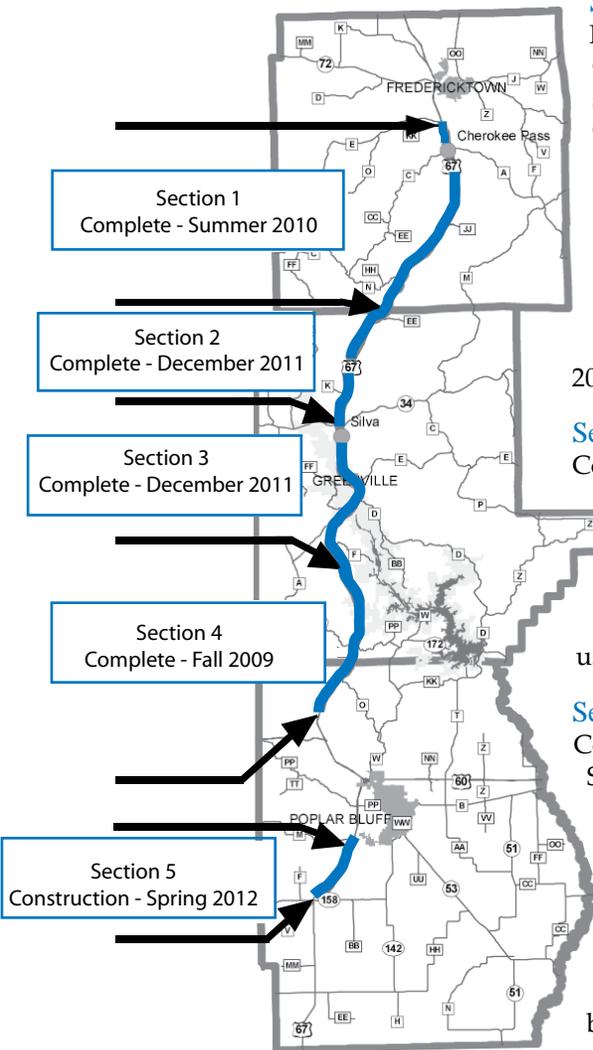
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573-472-5333
1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636)
Fax: 573-472-5351
www.modot.org

Route 67 Takes Shape

Travelers on Route 67 may have noticed many improvements to the roadway over the past several years. The improvements include the construction of two additional lanes with paved shoulders as well as median crossovers to provide access along Route 67 from Fredericktown in Madison County to the end of the existing four-lane highway, just north of Poplar Bluff. Additionally, work will also begin on Route 67 in southern Butler County; this section of the project will include improvements from the end of the existing four-lane to one mile south of the Route 160/158 intersection.



Section 1

Most of the excavation and embankment work has been completed in Madison County. Contractors will continue grading smaller areas, such as tie-in sections to the existing roadway. Paving began at Cherokee Pass in June 2009. Contractors are currently working to lay base rock in preparation for the remainder of the paving work.

Section 2

Contractors are in the process of moving the earth and rock necessary for the new interchange at Routes 34 and 67. The interchange near Silva accounts for nearly half of all earthwork on this project. Travelers will soon see grading work north of the Silva interchange, and paving is scheduled to begin in spring 2010. No major traffic impacts are expected until paving operations begin.

Section 3

Construction of the Lake Wappapello Bridge is now complete. Contractors have moved over 2.5 million cubic yards of earth and rock in preparation for paving. Paving will begin in fall 2009. Once completed, traffic will be moved to the new pavement from north of Greenville to approximately Route A, utilizing the southbound lanes. This will allow crews to begin work on the northbound lanes. Once the traffic switch is complete, motorists will begin using the new Lake Wappapello Bridge.

Section 4

Contractors have paved the travel lanes and started work on the shoulders. Staging work, in preparation for the final configuration of lanes, should begin immediately after the shoulders are complete. The project is expected to be complete by fall 2009.

Section 5

Plans are underway to four-lane the existing Route 67 in southern Butler County. Improvements will span from the end of the existing four-lane section to one mile south of the Route 160/158 intersection. Crews have begun surveying route alignments in preparation for final plans. Right-of-way acquisition will begin in summer 2010. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2012.

MoDOT Offers Online Meeting Option

New methods of communication are introduced every day, making our world more connected than ever. It seems someone is always launching a new media tool or new way to communicate with family, friends, colleagues or even complete strangers.

At MoDOT, we are adopting this philosophy too. Historically, we have offered individuals an opportunity to learn about and provide input on various projects through our public meetings, hearings or community briefings. While we continue to hold those meetings, we are now offering you

the opportunity to attend meetings at your leisure, when it is convenient for you.

We've created a special page on our website under the news and information tab specifically for public meeting information. Each meeting date and location will continue to be published prior to the meeting, and the public is now able to download meeting information to learn more about projects prior to or even after meeting dates. To learn more about our public meeting information, please visit our website at: http://www.modot.mo.gov/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/index.htm



Contractors use a paving train on Route 67, south of Route F. This summer, the travel lanes of Route 67 were paved, and work is now in progress to add shoulders. Staging work in preparation for the final configuration of lanes should begin once the shoulders are completed.

Top Three Summer Work Zones in District 10

With many people taking to the roads for summer travel, it is even more important to know what to expect this summer.

The Southeast District's top three work zones this summer include:

Pemiscot County-Interstate 55

The project includes resurfacing in the northbound lanes from the Arkansas state line to north of Route U. The Route 84 northbound off-ramp pavement will also be replaced. During work, northbound and southbound traffic will be shifted to utilize the southbound lanes only. Four-lane traffic will resume during the winter. Work began this June. Completion is anticipated by fall 2010.

New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties-Interstate 55

The project includes improvements to I-55 that will occur at locations of greatest need between Route 60 at Sikeston and the Arkansas state line. Work will also occur on the ramps of nine interchanges in the area. When the project

was awarded in February, the Southeast Missouri Stone Company immediately began producing rock for the project. Minor work on the roadway began in May, and major work on the asphalt paving will start in July. This year, improvements will extend from mile marker 50 to the Interstate 57 interchange. During work, traffic will be reduced to one lane in either direction at times. The remainder of the improvements will be completed in 2010.

Mississippi County-Interstate 57

Work on Interstate 57 is underway, with improvements to Exit 10 nearing completion. The project includes grading, reconstruction work to bridge approaches and concrete paving in the northbound lanes. Improvements will extend from west of Route 105 to the Mississippi River Bridge near Charleston. During work, northbound traffic will be shifted to the southbound lanes just south of the Route 62 interchange (Exit 12). The project is expected to be completed in late fall 2009.

Improvements Underway on Route Y in Stoddard County

Despite delays for rain, work is in progress to improve Route Y in Stoddard County.

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Contractors perform clearing work on Route Y in preparation for paving.



Neal E. Boyd Speaks to Youth

Southeast Missouri native and 2008 winner of *America's Got Talent*, Neal E. Boyd is using his powerful voice to encourage Missouri's youth to Buckle-Up and Arrive Alive. Boyd recently worked with Senior Community Relations Specialist Belinda McMurry, and other Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety members, to tape a "Buckle-Up" public service announcement (PSA) with local news channel KFVS-12.

"We are thrilled to have such a positive role model promoting positive behaviors to our youth," says McMurry. "The fact that he is a local celebrity with national fame, and was generous enough to find time to tape a 'buckle-up commercial,' really speaks volumes about his character."

The public service announcement will air periodically throughout the year on local channels geared toward youth. The PSA will also be aired on KFVS-12 and can be viewed on the KFVS-12 website, as well as the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety website, www.saveMOLives.com/Southeast.

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety consists of individuals working to decrease the number of fatalities on Missouri roadways. Coalition members range from educators and nurses, to MoDOT workers and emergency responders. The group consistently pursues creative ways to help educate area teens, with the hopes of reducing roadway deaths.

For more information on youth efforts



Southeast Missouri native Neal E. Boyd, 2008 winner of *America's Got Talent*, works with KFVS-12 and the Southeast Coalition to tape a "Buckle-Up" public service announcement in front of the "Missouri Wall of Fame" in downtown Cape Girardeau.

in your area, contact Senior Community Relations Specialist Belinda McMurry, at 573-472-5333, belinda.mcmurry@modot.mo.gov.

Establishment Creek Bridge Project Nears Completion

Contractors attach explosives to the Establishment Creek bridge in preparation for the bridge implosion.

In May, contractors imploded the Establishment Creek Bridge in Ste. Genevieve County. Construction began immediately.



So far, the contractors have completed the substructure and beams for the new bridge. Work is currently underway to construct the deck.

Project Manager Andy Meyer explains that by closing the road and building the bridge on the same alignment, it not only saved money, but also helped the contractor save time.

"The project is ahead of schedule," says Meyer. "The contractors are well on their way to meeting the August completion date."

To celebrate the completion of the bridge MoDOT plans to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony this August. More details will be released as the bridge approaches completion.

Welcome Centers Planned for I-55

[continued from page 1]

elements will focus on the Native American Indian culture, as well as incorporating elements surrounding the 1811 New Madrid Earthquake. Unique artistic elements will be integrated throughout the building and site. From the contemporary arrowhead sculptures to the Richter Scale column lights to the map illustrating the devastating effects of the earthquake and its epicenter, the Welcome Center will educate visitors on the history of southeast Missouri.

Artist rendering of the Floodline Shelter at the Hayti Welcome Center, featuring a wetlands theme, to be located at mile marker 20.4 on the northbound lane of I-55.

The Hayti Welcome Center, located in Pemiscot County, will include a wetlands theme. Interpretive design elements, incorporated throughout the building and site, highlight the unique history of Hayti and the wetland ecology of the floodplains of the Mississippi River. Visitors will be welcomed



by sculptures based on the historic dredges that helped create levees and drain the swamps. A walking trail will depict the early "pole roads" or plank paths that were built on top of the wetlands. A map of Pemiscot County and

Mississippi River will greet the public in the foyer of the Welcome Center.

Both locations will feature restroom facilities, picnic areas, a playground area, benches and walking trails as well as site-specific details, highlighting the rich history of southeast Missouri.



Artist rendering of the Marston Welcome Center to be located at mile marker 42.4 on the southbound lane of I-55 will feature New Madrid Earthquake and Mississippian culture themes.

Improvements Underway on Route Y in Stoddard County

[continued from page 3]

The project includes grading, paving and drainage work from Route 25 to the Union Pacific railroad crossing.

With grading work nearing completion, contractors are currently working to clear the

area in preparation for paving and drainage work.

Within approximately two months, the improvements should be completed.

"Although the ongoing rainy

weather Stoddard County received may have temporarily slowed the operation down, we still plan to meet the September completion date," said Resident Engineer Brian Holt.

Battle of the Belt 2009

As we enter the summer months, plans are already underway for the next Battle of the Belt (BOTB) competition.

The BOTB program, encourages participating high schools to conduct observational safety belt surveys before and after an educational campaign at their school.

The 2009 program will begin Monday, October 5 and end Friday, November 20, 2009. Registration is due by Friday, October 2, 2009.

For more information on the BOTB program, please contact Senior Community Relations Specialist Belinda McMurry at 573-472-5333, Belinda.mcmurry@modot.mo.gov or visit our website at www.savemolives.com/southeast

ARRA Project Update: Wayne County Route 34 Project Gets Underway



Senior Survey Technician Willie Hawkins and Survey Instrument Operator Paul Suver survey Route 34 in preparation for the upcoming Wayne County improvements.

A contract for the Route 34 project in Wayne County was awarded by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on July 8. Right-of-way acquisition began in February, and surveying is currently in progress. Construction is expected to begin August 2009.

Route 67 Update: Old Orchard Road Interchange Project Completed

MoDOT recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the Route 67/Old Orchard Road Interchange project's nearing completion.

Since the ribbon cutting, the project has been completed. The northbound Route 67 on ramp is open to traffic, and median crossings and access points have been removed.



Left to Right: St. Francois County Presiding Commissioner David Cramp, State Senator Kevin Engler, State Representative Linda Fischer, Ms. Heather Garner on behalf of U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson, Bonne Terre Mayor Fritz Gower, Mr. Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Senator Kit Bond, Mr. Ron Steele on behalf of the SEMO Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission and Assistant to the District Engineer Cheryl Ball.

MoDOT in MOTION

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1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)
573-472-5333
Sikeston, MO 63801
P.O. Box 160
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