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Missouri Department of Transportation



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April 6, 2005—For immediate release

I-55 And I-57 To See Smoother Pavement *Commission Awards Next Round Of Amendment Three Projects*

SIKESTON—Missouri voters said show me smoother roads last fall with the passage of Amendment 3, and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded three contracts in Southeast Missouri to make that happen during its regular meeting today.

A \$7,123,446 contract was awarded to Apex Paving Co., Cape Girardeau, Mo., for resurfacing 16 miles of Interstate 55 from Fruitland to Scott City in Cape Girardeau and Scott Counties. The work includes resurfacing both the northbound and southbound driving lanes as well as shoulders.

A \$7,753,168 contract was awarded to Apex Paving Co., for diamond grinding the driving lanes and resurfacing the shoulders of 22 miles of Interstate 57 in Scott and Mississippi Counties. Diamond grinding is an innovative technique used to create smoother pavement. This contract also includes a research project with the Federal Highway Administration, which includes reconstructing a 0.3-mile section of northbound lanes west of Route 105 to Route 105 at Charleston. The pavement is actually already pre-cast, meaning instead of pouring the concrete on-site, it will arrive as 38-foot by 10-foot panels.

Southeast District

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An \$11,943,497 contract was awarded to Apex Paving Co., for interstate improvements in Scott, New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties. The work includes diamond grinding and shoulder resurfacing 40 miles of both northbound and southbound I-55 from Scott City to New Madrid (Exit 49). Additional diamond grinding and shoulder resurfacing will also take place on the northbound lanes from Wardell (Exit 27) to Arkansas and in the southbound lanes from Mile Marker 30 to Mile Marker 18 and from Mile Marker 2 to the Arkansas state line. Mile Marker 18 to Mile Marker 2 was reconstructed in 2002.

Construction is expected to start this summer and wrap up by fall 2006. During construction, portions of I-55 will be reduced to one lane and delays are likely.

“We hope motorists are patient with us,” District Engineer Scott Meyer said. “We ask that they slow down and drive carefully through the work zones. By going slower for a few minutes, we can have safer roads for a few years.”

Once details are finalized with the contractor, MoDOT will alert motorists prior to any change in traffic. Drivers are urged to use extreme caution in work zones and to visit www.modot.org/southeast for more information about where to avoid road work and traffic delays.

For more information, contact Meyer at (573) 472-5340 or call MoDOT’s Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

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