



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 221
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
Week of September 26, 2005**

**Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793**

Smoother, Safer, Sooner

JEFFERSON CITY – If you have traveled anywhere in Missouri this summer, you no doubt have noticed orange pylons dotting the roadways, and construction crews paving, repaving and rebuilding our state’s highways. These improvements, known as the “Smoother, Safer, Sooner” program, are made possible by voter approval of Amendment Three last November.

Passage of Amendment Three redirected some existing highway user fees back to the Missouri Department of Transportation to improve our neglected highway system. That new money is funding 177 projects in the Smooth Roads Initiative, which is the first phase of the Smoother, Safer, Sooner program. The initiative will provide 2,200 miles of smoother pavement, brighter road markings, and other safety improvements on the state’s most heavily traveled roadways in three years.

The second phase of the program will accelerate projects already planned in MODOT’s five-year construction program. By using bond financing to speed projects already in their regular budget, MODOT is moving these high-priority projects up several years in the program.

The final phase of the program will add new major projects. MODOT is working closely with local officials to determine the state’s highest priorities for new projects.

For example, the four-laning of U.S. 65 between Springfield and a little south of Buffalo is a high priority for the region and has been added to MODOT’s construction timetable.

Work will begin in 2007. Additionally, progress remains steady on reaching the goal of a four-lane highway between Springfield and Kansas City.

Smaller projects include the resurfacing of Route KK in St. Clair County, resurfacing the pavement and shoulders on Route 71 in Barton County, surface improvements to Route 13 in Polk County, and pavement improvements on Routes Y, 50 and 65 in Pettis County.

The highway miles included in the Smooth Roads Initiative, the first phase of Smoother, Safer, Sooner, account for 60 percent of all traffic on the state highway system. About 86 percent of Missouri's population lives within 10 miles of one of the selected roads.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.