



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
Jefferson City, MO 65101

For the Week of:
May 29, 2006

Contact: Aaron Baker
(573) 751-1507

Drive Safely Around Construction Zones and Emergency Vehicles

With all the orange cones, vests and signs, Missouri's official color should be orange. As summer arrives in Missouri, we have reached that time of year when Missouri's roads and highways become bustling with highway road crews. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is working diligently this summer to finish 2,200 miles of smoother roads one year earlier than scheduled. With that added activity, Missouri roads are as dangerous as ever, and drivers need to remember to exercise caution in work zones. Meanwhile, Missouri drivers need to look out for our highway patrol officers and emergency vehicles that are pulled over.

MoDOT is planning in 2006 several construction projects for the 21st District. Motorists should avoid these areas when possible and slow down when driving through construction zones. The following projects will be underway this summer:

- Interstate 70 — Saline County: Resurfacing 14.5 miles of the east- and westbound lanes from the Lafayette County line to the Blackwater River. December 2006 completion.
- I-70 — Saline County: Installing various emergency markers. December 2006 completion.
- Route 36 — Macon County: Road improvements and new bridges on eight miles from the Linn County line to just east of New Cambria. Includes a new interchange at New Cambria and a concrete overlay of the existing lanes from Callao to the Linn County line. December 2006 completion.

These are just a handful of construction projects planned for central Missouri in 2006. For a comprehensive listing, visit www.modot.mo.gov.

As Missouri motorists play it safe in construction zones, they should also do so when emergency and law enforcement vehicles are pulled over. Thanks to legislation enacted in 2002, it is the law in Missouri to slow down and move over into the far lane when approaching emergency vehicles or road work crews on the side of the roadway. Penalties for those who break the law were increased this year from a Class B to a Class misdemeanor, for good reason.

Since 2002, four members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol have been killed due to drivers who did not move over. All four of the officers killed were hit by vehicles while performing traffic duties. In each incident, the patrol vehicles were fully illuminated with emergency lights activated. These tragic deaths could easily have been avoided had drivers showed a little more caution.

To all Missourians who will be on the road this summer, I urge you to drive safely and carefully, especially around work crews and vehicles pulled over. Your care just might save a life.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by email at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

-END-