



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of Aug. 28, 2006**

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Safer, Smoother, Sooner

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Transportation is on track to meet the governor's challenge to complete the Smooth Roads Initiative by the end of the year. The Smooth Roads Initiative is part of MODOT's Smoother, Safer, Sooner program, a road-building effort financed by voter approval of Amendment 3 in November 2004. The initiative, begun in 2005, had the goal of bringing the most heavily traveled 2,200 miles of Missouri highways up to good condition by December 2007. In his State of the State Address, Governor Blunt called on MODOT to move the deadline to December 2006.

The highway miles included in the Smooth Roads Initiative account for 60 percent of all traffic on the state system. The roads include interstates, major highways in the metropolitan areas, and highway corridors connecting smaller towns throughout the state. When work started on the initiative last year, three-fourths of these highways were in fair to poor condition.

In the 28th Senate District, road construction projects include:

- Barton County: Route O pavement sealing; Route K bridge repairs; Route 71 pavement repairs.
- Benton County: MODOT plans to widen Rte. 65 from two lanes to four lanes from just south of Cole Camp Junction to Rte. 7 in Warsaw; crews have resurfaced approximately 30 miles of Route 7 between Route 65 in Benton County and Route 5 in Camden County.
- Dallas County: The first phase of four-laning U.S. 65 between Springfield and a little south of Buffalo begins in 2007 and covers 9.5 miles between Springfield

and Fair Grove. The second phase begins in 2008 and extends 13.3 miles between Fair Grove and a point near Dallas County Route EE.

- Henry County: Route 18 resurfacing from Business 13 to Pennsylvania St.; Route 13 bridge painting over South Grand River; signals upgraded on Business 13 at Route 18; Route U resurfacing from Route 7 to Bucksaw Marina.
- Pettis County: Route 65 resurfacing from south of Route J and D to Saline Co.
- Polk County: progress remains steady on reaching the goal of a four-lane highway between Springfield and Kansas City.
- St. Clair County: Route H pavement repairs from Route 82 to Route Y.

Amendment 3 took effect last July and will be phased in over four years. By the time it's fully in effect in 2009, it will add \$180-190 million a year to MODOT's budget for transportation system improvements.

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.mo.gov.

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