



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 416
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
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**Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793**

Safe and Convenient Travel this Summer

JEFFERSON CITY – For many, summer is a time for travel. Whether the adventures are to a vacation destination you’ve never visited or an annual family reunion site, the roadways in Missouri are sure to be packed with eager travelers. Summer is also the time that the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) chooses to complete many of their projects in order to make our roadways even better.

At the end of June, the Reason Foundation, an organization that conducts public policy research, released their report on state highway systems. The report showed that Missouri is enjoying steady progress. The state’s ranking improved from 28th place to 17th place since last year—the second largest increase in the nation. These increases in the condition, safety, and efficiency of Missouri’s roads are thanks to initiatives by MoDOT and funding provided through the state budget crafted by the legislature and ultimately paid for by you, the taxpayer.

Summer travel can be made easier and safer by being aware of the projects going on in your area. Whether you are traveling across the state or across town, here are some current projects benefiting 28th District for you to be aware of.

- MoDOT is conducting an environmental and location study to decide the impact of widening Route 65 from two lanes to four lanes from just south of Cole Camp Junction to Rte. 7 in Warsaw. A public meeting was held in March in order to hear input about the planned expansion.
- The Route 123 bridge between Humansville and Weaubleau at Panther Creek will be closed to traffic while crews build a new replacement bridge that will be both wider

and higher. Currently, contractor crews are finishing work on the footings for the new bridge. Traffic is being detoured using Routes 54 and 13. Projected completion for the project is scheduled for October.

- On Tuesday, the Route 215 bridge at the Turkey Creek Arm of Stockton Lake south of Aldrich closed so crews could pour concrete for the final portion of a new bridge deck. Crews are replacing the deck of the bridge one half at a time with two weeks scheduled for each half. Detours are provided using Routes 245, W, and 123. There is narrow, one-lane traffic to get through the work zone. The projected completion time for the project is mid-August.
- Resurfacing crews will work on a 3.4 mile section of Route 13 from north of Warrensburg to Route E in Johnson County beginning July 9. When work on that section is complete, crews will resurface a 21.7 mile section of Route 13 between Warrensburg and Clinton in Henry County.

In addition to these projects, crews will be conducting routine maintenance throughout the summer including sealing and paving of roads, patching of shoulders, and landscaping. For a week-to-week schedule of maintenance and projects in your area or along your travel route, visit www.modot.gov or call 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

Always make sure to use safety precautions on the roadways, including never driving while impaired and buckling up. Drivers also need to be careful in work zones where long waits can lead to frustration. Construction crews are spending their days trying to improve Missouri's roadways, and drivers need to respect the speed limits and safety signs posted in work areas. Fines for speeding are doubled in these areas, and law enforcement will be watching the roadways.

Summer should be the season for fun, sun, and family time. No matter what your plans are, I hope you have a happy and safe summer.

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.