



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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A Weekly Column for the
Week of June 30, 2008

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MoDOT Work Zones: Protecting Those Who Construct and Repair Our Roadways

Summer is one of the busiest times for motorists in Missouri. It's also a busy time for those who are in charge of keeping up with our state's transportation needs. According to the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), last year the department had more than 1,000 work zones active in the state. This year is another big year for construction as MoDOT continues to work toward improving 5,600 miles of roads by the end of 2011.

[MoDOT's Web site](#) provides drivers from all around the state with up-to-date information on the condition of our roadways as well as when and where certain areas will be under construction. A [statewide construction map](#) is available for drivers in order for them to be aware of construction zones in their area or along their destination route, so motorists can plan ahead.

In Henry County, day and nighttime pavement improvements are underway on Route 7 from the Cass County line to Route 13 in Clinton and are expected to be completed by Fall 2008. Daytime pavement improvements are also underway on Route 13 from Route 18 to the St. Clair County line and are also expected to be completed by Fall 2008. Both projects fall under the Better Roads, Brighter Future Initiative — a program that will improve the remainder of the state's 5,600 miles of major highways over the next four years. Wider stripes, rumble strips, brighter signs, paved shoulders and smother pavement will bring 85 percent of Missouri's major roads up to good condition by 2011.

Other projects in the 28th Senate District include daytime resurfacing work on Route 43 in Barton County from Route 160 to Route 171, which are expected to be completed by Winter 2008. MoDOT workers will also be working during the day on grading, paving and replacing a bridge over Monegaw Creek (approximately two miles west of Route M) on Route A in St. Clair County. Expect these repairs to be finished by Fall 2008.

These improvements in our district and throughout the state mean more work zones. MoDOT is working to keep motorists out of annoying traffic jams as well as ensure workers' safety on Missouri's roadways. The department launched [Operation Orange](#) in April 2007 to draw attention to work zone safety. It features significant landmarks such as the St. Louis Science Center, Six Flags Ferris Wheel, Downtown Kansas City Marriott Hotel, Shelter Insurance Fountain in Columbia, Boone County Courthouse, and the MoDOT Central Office in Jefferson City, which were all transformed through orange illuminated lighting to publicize work zone safety throughout the state.

Along with the construction map highlighted above, the MoDOT has also an [Online Traveler Information Map](#), which allows travelers to see the department's active work zones before they even get into their cars and leave for their destination. Radio and billboards across our state, as well as other educational materials, remind Missouri motorists to "Drive Smart."

MoDOT's Web site displays nine important tips in order to drive smart in work zones to arrive alive:

Buckle Up — Every trip, every time — safety belts save lives.

Stay Alert — Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.

Follow Signs — They'll get you through work zones safely.

Expect the Unexpected — Watch for flaggers, workers and equipment.

Pay Attention — Turn the radio down and don't use your cell phone.

Be Patient — Remember workers are improving the road for future travels.

Don't Speed — Follow posted limits and adjust for weather conditions.

Don't Drink and Drive — Impairment of any kind is unacceptable.

Be Nice — Merge as directed, don't tailgate and don't change lanes in a work zone.

If you have questions or comments about work zones in your area or other MoDOT projects in our state, please visit www.modot.mo.gov or 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.

