



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

Capitol Building, Room 416
Jefferson City, MO 65101

A Column for the Week of:
June 22, 2009

Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793

Remembering Road Safety Throughout the Summer Months

June ushers in the beginning of summer and many Missourians have already started to enjoy our state's warm-weather activities, including planning and taking summer vacations. I could not think of a better way to spend these next summer months than touring our great state and its many historical sites and wonders. However, these popular travel months mean an increase in citizens traveling on our roadways. While we enjoy the warm temperatures and take advantage of what this season brings to our state, we must remember to travel safely to and from our summer destinations.

MoDOT is currently in the middle of a very busy construction season — maintaining hundreds of work zones throughout the year — and it is our duty as citizens to be aware of these construction zones, not only for our safety, but for the safety of the hundreds of MoDOT employees working to give us better and safer roadways.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) recently released their top ten 2009 work zones based on traffic volume, amount of work, and level of delay. I'd like to share with you some information regarding many of these work zones around the 28th Senatorial District.

- **Kansas City – Route 71** (*number 4 on MoDOT list*) — Construction of a new interchange at 187th Street in Belton/Raymore (periodic lane closures); reconstruction of the 163rd Street interchange in Belton (narrowed two lanes, speed limit 45 mph and periodic lane closures through early July, then southbound restrictions to mid-August); reconstruction of the Route 150 interchange (restricted to two lanes in each direction and ramp closures through the end of 2009). Route 71 is expected to be congested from 140th Street in Grandview to just north
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of Route J in Peculiar through the end of the year.

- **Cooper County – Interstate 70, from Route B** (mile marker 103) near Boonville to the Saline County line) (*number 6 on MoDOT list*) — Westbound lanes will be resurfaced beginning in the summer months and ending in fall 2009. The project route carries 28,000 vehicles a day. Motorists should expect lane closures and possible delays during daytime and night hours when work is taking place.
- **Pulaski County – I-44 eastbound lane from Route 17 to one mile west of Route 28** (*number 10 on MoDOT list*) — This project consists of three miles of surface milling and grinding to remove the excess material from cracks and joints in the pavement. Six miles of overlay will then be added to the surface. I-44 will be restricted to one lane of traffic in the eastbound direction. Motorists should expect morning and afternoon rush-hour congestion. The project will start this summer and take about three months to complete. The route carries approximately 16,000 vehicles per day.

Another valuable tool offered by MoDOT is the newly-updated Traveler Information Map. This map, located on MoDOT's website, shows active work zones in addition to a feature that can show visitors roadwork that might appear up to seven days in advance of their trip. By placing your cursor over an icon on the map, a rollover menu will show visitors the type of work that will be in place and whether or not they should seek an alternate route. When the construction work begins, the icon changes from blue (projected work) to yellow, orange, or red — indicating the level of traffic impact that is expected from the active work zone. To learn more about the Traveler Information Map, visit www.modot.org and click on the map in the center of the page.

And to see a complete list of the top ten work zones to look out for in 2009, please visit MoDOT's website and type in "2009 Top Ten Work Zones" in the search field. You can also contact the department by phone at 1-888-ASK MODOT.

If you have any questions about this column or other legislative matter, 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.*

