

Week of August 24, 2009



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In recent years Missouri has seen a remarkable turnaround in its infrastructure. Our roads, once among the lowest-rated in the nation, are now near the top. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) continues to improve our state's roads, largely as part of the department's Smooth Roads Initiative and Better Roads, Brighter Future program. And now, with the Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement program, which will repair or replace more than 800 of the state's worst bridges by 2014, and the addition of federal stimulus funds for more transportation improvement projects, Missouri has proven itself to be a leader in infrastructure development.

Of course, all of these road improvements do come with their share of inconveniences for travelers—especially for Missourians who consistently drive on a route that happens to be under construction. I recently received notice that several paving projects will begin in rural Cass County next month and I wanted to pass along that information so you will be prepared.

Cold milling (removal of the surface of the existing pavement to the desired depth) and one-inch asphalt overlay operations of 52 miles of state highways in Cass County will begin in late September. A pilot car with flaggers will control traffic flow in the work zones. Roads slated for improvements this fall include: **Route B, Route KK, Route VV, Route E, Route 7, Route K & Spur, Route 71, Route C** and **Route YY**.

In addition, two significant projects in western Cass County will begin soon. First, another construction company will be cold milling and conducting full-depth pavement reclamation (rehabilitating existing pavement) of Route Y between Route D and the Beyer Crushed Rock Quarry beginning Aug. 31. By mid-September, the project is scheduled to shift to the second phase from the quarry to Route YY. This 6.5-mile project is the first in MoDOT's Kansas City District to employ full-depth pavement reclamation, a process that

saves labor, fuel, equipment and natural resources. Only local access will be provided during each phase of the \$1 million reconstruction process. The project is scheduled for completion by Sept. 30.

The second project involves resurfacing 1.5 miles of Route Y from the Kansas state line to Route D in Cleveland, and 12.4 miles of Route D from Cleveland south to Route A in Drexel. Paving will likely begin in early September and must be completed by Nov. 1. It's possible that crews may be working all daylight hours, six days a week, to ensure the project is completed before the weather gets cold. The contractor faces penalties of \$2,450 per day on Route D and \$2,725 per day on Route Y if work is not completed by Nov. 1.

Johnson County also has some major road projects in store or underway:

- Route 50: Resurfacing and shoulder treatments on eastbound lanes from Jackson County line to Route HH (*Better Roads Brighter Future*).
- Route 13: Construction of two-lane roadway from just north of Route 50 to just north of Route Y and new interchange at Route 50 near Warrensburg.
- Route DD: Resurfacing from Route 23 to Route 13 and construct new interchange with relocated Route 13 in Warrensburg.
- Route OO: Deck replacement of bridge N0865 over Honey Creek four miles east of Route 13; Route ZZ: Deck replacement of bridge N0552 over Panther Creek just south of La Tour (*Safe & Sound Bridge Projects*).
- Route 131: Pavement improvements from Route 50 to Route 2 (*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects*).

Also in the 31st Senatorial District, Route 52 in Vernon County underwent some maintenance this week as pavement was sealed, though there are no major construction projects to report. In Bates County, a construction company was awarded a \$9.2 million contract to resurface Route 71 from Rich Hill to Archie, with an estimated completion date of fall 2009.

Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we continue to improve our local roads. As these construction projects get underway or for more information on road construction or maintenance projects in your county, visit www.modot.mo.gov and click on the Traveler Information Map for detailed information on the work zones.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

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