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Subject: Transportation Connections E-Letter Spring 2011

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 4:01 PM

From: Press Releases <press@meramecregion.org>

To: Press Releases press@meramecregion.org

Conversation: Transportation Connections E-Letter Spring 2011

Transportation Connections

*A publication of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee*



Representing Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage,
Phelps, Pulaski and Washington counties



IN THIS
ISSUE

[Roadway Safety Coalition Meeting Slated for Meramec Counties](#)

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the District 9 Blueprint North meeting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at Meramec Regional Planning Commission, 4 Industrial Dr., St. James. We will be discussing the year in

Spring 2011

Highway Commission Approved Bolder Five-Year Direction to Save MoDOT \$512 Million

The Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission (MHTC) approved the Bolder Five-Year Direction district plan June 8 that will make the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) smaller, to allow more funding directed toward road and bridge projects.

discussing the year in review and looking at the upcoming year.

With the restructuring of MoDOT and elimination of three districts, including District 9, we anticipate some changes to the Blueprint Coalition. Under the new plan, all Meramec counties are now a part of the Central District in Jefferson City.

How this effects Blueprint Coalitions is not clear, but we believe that coalition boundaries will match the new MoDOT boundaries, therefore Crawford, Dent, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington counties would become part of the Central District coalition.

Matt Myers coordinates the Central District Blueprint Coalition, and he will be at the meeting at MRPC to discuss the activities of that coalition. This group meets monthly in Jefferson City.

We are hopeful that Kelly and Matt will have more information to share by June 21.

Please plan to attend this meeting. Please confirm your attendance with an email to me [at kelly.martin@modot.mo.gov](mailto:kelly.martin@modot.mo.gov), indicating that you will be attending the meeting at MRPC.

Law enforcement, fire departments, EMS personnel, educators and the general public is invited to attend the coalition and learn more about efforts to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents.

For more information on the meetings, contact Meramec Regional Planning Commission at 573-265-2993 or MoDOT at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636).

With the restructuring plan, MoDOT districts will be reconfigured, eliminating Districts 2, 7 and 9. The highway commission adjusted the boundaries of the districts to agree with the state's regional planning commissions' boundaries. All counties for MRPC will now be located in the Central District.

Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) on May 25 requested the highway commission to delay its decision by 90 days on the proposed restructuring plan to allow more time to study the proposal. The highway commission considered delaying its decision, but decided to move ahead with the proposition.

The proposal will reduce MoDOT's staff by 1,200, close 131 facilities and sell more than 741 pieces of equipment. By 2015, the plan will save \$512 million and additionally \$100 million annually thereafter.

The proposal for reducing MoDOT's fleet, maintenance facilities and equipment will be implemented by Dec. 31, 2012 and the plan to reduce MoDOT's employees will be effective by March 31, 2013.

Director of MoDOT Kevin Keith, at the May 12 MRPC meeting, presented the proposed Bolder Five-Year Direction to the board.

The plan focuses on making MoDOT more efficient, while still providing quality service, regardless of funding level, Keith said.

"That does not solve our problems. It lets us survive for five years," he said.

Keith explained MoDOT's budget, which averages \$1.2 billion a year, has been cut to approximately \$600 million a year.

As proposed at that time, the District 9 counties of Crawford, Phelps and Pulaski would become a part of the Central District, headquartered in Jefferson City, while Dent and Washington counties would become part of the new Southeast District, headquartered in Sikeston. At the June 8 MHTC meeting, Keith recommended that the new seven districts be aligned with regional planning commission boundaries.

Buckle Up! Arrive Alive Campaign

The Meramec Regional Planning Commission and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety would like to encourage safe driving practices and we have a fast, easy, and free way to promote seatbelt use within your organization.



You may borrow our stencil to paint the image of two hands clicking a seatbelt together with the words "Buckle Up" underneath on the pavement exit of schools, businesses, and other agencies. For more information or to schedule the template for use in Crawford, Dent, Maries, Gasconade, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington counties, please contact Teri Smith at (573) 265-2993 or e-mail press@meramecregion.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Blueprint for Safer Roads Coalition District 9 Meets June 21 2:00 p.m. - MRPC

The proposed plan would also close maintenance facilities in St. James, Dixon, Chamois, Meta and Owensville with employees transferred to other sheds.

Keith explained MoDOT's employees represent 50 percent of the operating budget, but maintenance workers would not be eliminated because they will have an increased workload.

Many employees would be reassigned to jobs that match their skills and therefore approximately 200 would ultimately be laid off, Keith said.

Keith also noted MoDOT would be saving costs by mowing less, striping less and installing less signage.

During the presentation Keith assured board members that Missourians would still receive quality service, but that service would be different.

"We think it is the right thing to do, and that's why we are moving forward," Keith said.

The highway commission did just that at its June 8 meeting. Beginning at 9 a.m., the commission heard an overview of the public comment, heard Keith's official recommendation and then heard testimony from numerous groups and individuals. The commission reconvened at 2:30 p.m. and asked Keith to address questions raised during the morning session. Then, each commissioner stated his or her position – all voiced support for moving forward with the seven-district proposal. The official resolution was read and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Steve Miller commented that this was probably the most important decision that the commission will make during this term – perhaps in the life of the commission itself.

MSHP Demonstrates Seat Belt Safety



The Missouri State Highway Patrol and The Missouri Department of Transportation have a variety of resources

Office

TAC Meets
August 11
4:00 p.m. -
MRPC
Office

TAC MEMBERS

Crawford County

Robert Schaffer
Richard Martin
Leo Sanders

Dent County

Gary Brown
Donald Dodd
Darrell Skiles

Gasconade County

John W. Kamler
Ron Jost
Jim Decker

Maries County

Richard Huse
James Kleffner
Greg Stratman

Osage County

Danny Foster
Dave
Dudenhoeffer
Elmer Senevey

Phelps County

John Butz
Candace Connell
Larry Stratman

Pulaski County

Bruce Harrill
George Sanders
Cecil Penning

Washington



available to encourage seat belt safety and safe driving. Here Sgt. Danny Crain, Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop I, demonstrates the "seat belt convincer" with Bland Middle School student Nick Brewer. The convincer simulates a crash at 5 mph. The Highway Patrol displayed the simulator at the Maries R-2 PTO carnival in Belle, Mo., and MoDOT District 5

provided products encouraging the use of seat belts and arriving alive.

MoDOT Responds to Safety Concerns

The District 9 Potosi Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) maintenance crew, led by District 9 Engineer Tom Stehn, recently improved edge ruts on Route 185 and Route N in Washington County after receiving a request from a concerned driver. The crew added material to build up the shoulder area to increase safety on Route N. Approximately four tandem loads were used to construct an edge to the pavement.



Route N in Washington County before shoulder improvements were made

County

John Casey
T.R. Dudley
Todd Moyers

**Ex-Officio
Members**

Jack Heusted,
OATS
Bill Osborne,
SMTS
Tom Stehn,
MoDOT



Route N after improvements by MoDOT



The Meramec Region's Transportation Advisory Committee was formed in August 1994 to advise the Meramec Regional Planning Commission on regional transportation issues and priorities and to work closely with the Missouri Department of Transportation. The TAC is comprised of three appointees from each of Meramec's eight counties. The TAC meets every other month at MRPC, 4 Industrial Drive, St. James. The meetings are open to the public. For more information or to report a transportation need or issue, contact MRPC at (573) 265-2993 or www.meramecregion.org.









Transportation Connections is published by MRPC. Bonnie J. Prigge - Editor; Teri Smith - Graphics/Layout

This message was sent to press@meramecregion.org from:

MRPC | 4 Industrial Drive | St. James, MO 65559



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