

## **Diverging Diamond Compliments iconic Christopher Bond Bridge**

The diverging diamond took the engineering world by storm when Missouri Department of Transportation opened the first U.S. interchange in Springfield in 2010. Since then, MoDOT has opened another DDI in St. Louis, construction is underway for a diamond at Botts Road and on April 4, ground breaks on the newest DDI at I-435 and Front Street.

The diverging diamond – sometimes called the crossing diamond interchange -- is the perfect design for this busy interchange, which includes a large volume of left-hand turning traffic, specifically trucks. A DDI shifts traffic to the left side through the interchange to allow vehicles to complete left turns without waiting for oncoming traffic. Once through the interchange, traffic shifts back to the right side.

Construction at I-435 and Front Street was initially planned to begin in 2008 but was postponed until the new Christopher S. Bond Bridge over the Missouri River was nearly complete. MoDOT has now opened the Bond Bridge, which allows MoDOT to begin this interchange project.

Some lane restrictions will be in place as early as April 4 and last through late fall on Front Street between Universal on the west side, to the railroad overpass on the east side of I-435. The DDI and Bond Bridge projects impact businesses in the Northeast Industrial District - one of Kansas City's largest employment centers. Rush hour traffic congestion is a significant issue in the area and high truck volumes add to the problem.

Earlier this month MoDOT selected Clarkson Construction Company to start building the \$8.2 million I-435 and Front Street DDI to replace the existing conventional diamond interchange.

Once complete, this innovative and efficient design will compliment the iconic Christopher S. Bond Bridge – both representing the best in highway engineering from this decade.

Once construction begins, a web camera will give visitors to the MoDOT Web site ([www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity](http://www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity)) a snapshot of construction progress and traffic every few minutes.

For construction updates and more information, visit [www.modot.org/kc](http://www.modot.org/kc)

## **The Personal Aspect of Transportation**

For the last six years, MoDOT's statewide construction program has averaged \$1.2 billion a year. Moving forward, the very best it will be is half that amount - about \$600 million a year. That decline in funding for transportation means more than a decrease in needed projects – it means Missouri stands to lose 17,000 jobs.

Facing a stark financial reality, the department is working with the Missouri Transportation Alliance to remind drivers, voters and citizens that a decline in funding will personally touch everyone.

“We’re doing what most businesses and families have had to do over the last few years – we’re tightening our belts,” said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith. “We’re getting smaller, cutting costs,

reducing services and squeezing every penny out of every dollar we have. But we can only survive this way for so long.”

In 2010, the department announced the focus for the five years; Direct all available resources to taking care of the roads and bridges we have. That will not include many, if any, new projects.

Keith said the severe drop in highway funding should be a wake-up call. The good roads and improved bridges Missourians have enjoyed for the past six years will start to deteriorate without more money for transportation projects.

"Investing in transportation creates jobs, makes our highways better and safer and increases our transportation options, which all contribute to a higher quality of life," Keith said. "If we don't take some action in the near future to increase funding for transportation, we risk losing lives, jobs and businesses, and that impacts all of us."

### **Tagged! kcICON Project the Target of Vandals**

*MoDOT to test new anti-graffiti coating to save time, money*

Graffiti vandalism along northbound Interstate 29/35 at Paseo Boulevard has created a public eyesore for motorists traveling the new Bond Bridge corridor rebuilt to improve traffic flow and serve as a dramatic gateway to and from downtown Kansas City and North Kansas City.

“Ten dollars worth of spray paint and bad judgment created about \$10,000 worth of damage,” said kcICON Project Director Brian Kidwell. “What’s most unfortunate is that the taggers defaced areas of the project with aesthetic enhancements chosen by the community.”

To help combat the problem, MoDOT will test a clear, anti-graffiti coating designed to withstand multiple taggings. “According to the manufacturer, this new coating is supposed to protect our concrete surfaces while still allowing for the easy removal of graffiti,” said Kidwell. “If it proves to work well, MoDOT could expand its use on other parts of our system where graffiti vandalism is a chronic problem.”

Although major construction is complete, segments of the kcICON Project are still under construction. The contractor, Paseo Corridor Constructors, will soon remove and repair the graffiti damage, and apply the new coating as weather permits.

The \$245 million kcICON project reconstructed 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 from just north of Route 210/Armour Road in North Kansas City into the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City, Mo. freeway loop. The project included the improvement of six outdated interchanges and the construction of the Christopher S. Bond Bridge – a new landmark, cable-stay Missouri River bridge. Major construction was completed on budget and six months ahead of schedule.

### **Safe & Sound Bridges: More than 57,000 Vehicles Using New Bridges**

The Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program is entering the third year in construction and continues to bring safe, cost-effective and highly-rated bridges to the eight counties in the Kansas City district.

But what makes a bridge Safe & Sound? Here's a few facts about the program that you may not know:

- Missouri has more than 10,000 bridges, and 1,093 in Condition 3 (serious) or Condition 4 (poor).
- After replacement or refurbishment though Safe & Sound, the improved bridges have an average rating of 8.70, based on a scale with an excellent rating of 9.
- 32 bridges were completed in 2010.
- The entire program is 91 days ahead of schedule.
- The average bridge closure for this project is 45 days.
- Nearly 57,000 vehicles a day are now using the 32 new bridges that were replaced this past season.
- Safe & Sound will directly or indirectly support more than 5,300 jobs.
- During a 103-day span in the summer/fall of 2010, 114 bridge projects were completed – 90 of those were total replacements.

MoDOT took a somewhat unconventional approach to funding this program and sold bonds to pay for the project, with annual payments of approximately \$50 million. MoDOT will use roughly one-third of the Federal bridge replacement funds it receives each year to make those payments, which means the Safe & Sound program requires no additional funding. As a result, many of these bridges are being repaired or replaced sooner than if MoDOT used a traditional planning and funding process.

A single \$487 million design-build contract was awarded to KTU Constructors on May 21, 2009. KTU Constructors sub contracts a substantial portion of the work. Many local contractors have the opportunity to bid on jobs in the area, which in turn, benefits small and local businesses and communities.

A total of 145 bridges will be improved in Platte, Clay, Ray, Jackson, Lafayette, Cass, Johnson and Henry counties. More than 70 bridges will be replaced this year. To review the complete list of bridges in the surrounding counties, visit [www.modot.org/safesound.htm](http://www.modot.org/safesound.htm)

### **Workzones: What Do You have to Say About That?**

Workzones are a fact of commuting in this day and age. Whether it's a pothole repair or a major bridge replacement, at some time you will hit a workzone this summer.

What you may not know is that MoDOT is actively seeking your opinions about those work zones. Speed limit too fast or not fast enough? Lane closures too short, or just right? Compliments or criticisms, we are interested in what you have to say.

It's easy to deliver your opinion in one of three ways:

- Call Customer Service at 800.ASK.MODOT
- Go online to [www.modot.org/kc](http://www.modot.org/kc) and click "Rate Our Workzone"
- E-mail us at [kccommunityrelations@modot.mo.gov](mailto:kccommunityrelations@modot.mo.gov)

Some of the major work zones this year include the I-70 bridge rehabilitations, I-435 and Front Street diverging diamond interchange, Route 150 widening project, Route 150 and Botts Road interchange improvements, as well as more than 70 Safe & Sound Bridges throughout the Kansas City district.

For more information on MoDOT workzones, visit our website at [www.modot.org/kc](http://www.modot.org/kc)

### **Minor Road Improvements Kick Off Construction Season for 2011**

Last year, MoDOT announced the 5-year plan to make some positive costs savings strides with the goal of keeping major highways in good condition and improving minor roads.

This year, the emphasis on minor routes continues with an aggressive paving plan. Every county in the 8-county Kansas City district will see minor routes benefitting from this increased attention.

Minor routes tend to be lettered routes in more rural areas. Cass County residents will benefit from the most minor road improvements this year, including:

- Route F: Resurfacing from Route 7 to Route B
- Route A: Resurfacing from Route 18 to Route B
- Route P: Resurfacing from Route 291 to end of state maintenance
- Route Z: Resurfacing from Route 2 to Route 7
- Route TT: Cold mix treatment from Route 7 to end of state maintenance
- Route DD: Resurfacing from Route 2 to end of state maintenance
- Route CC: Resurfacing from Route E to end of state maintenance
- Route EE: Resurfacing from Route 7 to end of state maintenance

Johnson, Lafayette County and Platte County will also see the asphalt machines in abundance this summer. For a complete list of minor road improvements scheduled this year, visit the Roadwork link on [www.modot.org/kc](http://www.modot.org/kc)

In addition to improving minor roads, the department's top priorities include keeping its commitment to deliver the projects in its five-year construction program, keeping major roads in good condition, maintaining the condition of state bridges and providing outstanding customer service.

Review MoDOT's 5-Year Direction on our homepage at [www.modot.org/kc](http://www.modot.org/kc)

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Projects Wrapping Up**

Last month crews restarted bridge rehabilitation on westbound I-70

Westbound I-70 will be reduced to one lane at night next week so that crews can stripe and place traffic barrier prior to bridge repairs scheduled for this spring and summer.

The left lane of I-70 between Van Brunt and Woodland will close through late spring. Subsequent phases will re-open the left lane, but close the center lane, then the right lane for bridge repairs through August 1.

The repairs are part of a \$6.7 million project to rehabilitate 11 bridges between Downtown Kansas City and I-435 funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Once this project wraps up this summer, almost all of the ARRA projects will be complete.

For more information about other MoDOT projects, please visit MoDOT's Website at [www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity](http://www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity). For instant updates, follow MoDOT\_KC on Twitter or send questions and comments to [kccommunityrelations@modot.mo.gov](mailto:kccommunityrelations@modot.mo.gov).