



## **An E-Update**

Prepared by Organizational Results  
Missouri Department of Transportation

**October 2009**

Volume 5, Issue 1

### **Rail Delays Shrinking; Improvements Still Possible**

Thanks to improvements along the St. Louis to Kansas City line, passengers and freight are getting to their destinations on time. A recently completed assessment of freight and passenger delays showed that delay minutes have been reduced by 33 percent and delays resulting from freight train interference has dropped 50 percent. The assessment also identified a new list of possible improvements along with the impact each would have on freight and passenger services. Get on track with all the information in the full report.

[Freight & Passenger Rail Analysis](#)

### **Faster Testing Methods for Aggregates Proposed**

Ask the average person about the contents of a pile of rocks, and he or she would probably say it contained rocks. Ask an engineer that same question, and the answer could easily fill this page. It's that type of attention to the smallest particles within aggregate that results in strong long-lasting pavements. However, testing aggregate for those small particles can take a considerable amount of time. That's why the department teamed up with the Missouri University of Science and Technology to find testing methods that could do the job faster with an acceptable level of accuracy. You can sift through the details in the full report.

[Quick Test for Deleterious Material](#)

### **Software for Specific Conditions Makes Work Zones Safer**

Setting up a work zone is a complex process involving a myriad of variables that must be considered to keep workers and travelers safe and traffic flowing. In response, several work zone softwares have entered the market with promises of simplifying the process. But which one does the best job? A recently completed study by the University of Missouri-Columbia suggests that as many as three individual software solutions may be the best approach with each used for a specific set of circumstances such as the possibility of impacting traffic on adjacent roadways or the number of travel lanes. Find a free flow of information in the final report. [Evaluation of Work Zone Enhancement Software](#)

### **Bridge Inspections as Simple as the Click of a Camera**

The next time you see a MoDOT employee taking pictures of a bridge it may be more than meets the eye. New thermographic cameras allow bridge inspectors to see what's going on beneath the surface of the concrete, such as corrosion of steel reinforcement, that may result in concrete problems in the future. The best part is thermographic images can be taken from a distance that keep inspectors safer and usually doesn't require any lane closures. Check out the cool photos in the full report. [Development of Hand-held Thermographic Inspection Technologies](#)

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page 2

### **Study Offers Engineering Guidance on Truck-Only Lanes**

To improve safety and the efficiency of freight movement on Interstates 70 and 44, MoDOT is investigating the possible separation of truck traffic from other vehicles. As part of this continuing effort, MoDOT contracted Wilbur Smith Associates and the Missouri University of Science and Technology to study a variety of issues including slip ramp spacing and safety features, emergency medical service access, enforcement, median guard cables and public outreach. You have full access to the study findings in the final report.

[Truck Only and Vehicle Only Travelways](#)

### **Public Policy Changes Could Spur Rail Development**

Attracting more freight development to Missouri benefits the state's economy and reduces traffic on the state highway system. That's why MoDOT recently teamed with Cambridge Systematics to identifying the state policies that most directly affect or advance railroad development. The study found those policies to be taxation (particularly property taxes), highway-rail grade crossing programs, rail safety enforcement and economic incentives for railroad investments. The study also examined how Missouri's public policies compare with surrounding states. The final report rolls out several recommendations.

[Impact of Public Policy on Rail Development](#)

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