

## Wheels and Heels – January 2007

Email news from MoDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Caryn Giarratano

Greetings Windbenders,

Progress is apparent with the training I have been creating to share with the personnel of all ten MoDOT districts regarding the accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians along state roads. *Spokes and Laces* is planned to answer the six journalistic questions regarding accommodating for nonmotorists (who, what, when, where, how and why). Look for more details about the training as it develops. More on this topic soon!

**Tour of Missouri** – MoDOT has created a steering team, led by Sue Cox in Transportation Planning, to assist Medalists Sport, the race manager, with this professional bicycle race. Members on the steering team represent MoDOT districts and divisions. Mike Weiss, Category 1 Racer, owner of St. Louis Big Shark Bicycle Shop and president of the Missouri Bicycle Racing Association, has been hired by Medalist Sports as the Venue Manager. Lt. Governor Peter Kinder will hold a press conference in Kansas City to release the names of the host cities on Thursday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Country Club Plaza (map at ... <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hotel/mkcha/transportation>). See ... <http://www.tourofmissouri.com/>.

**The State Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** met in November to continue moving forward on *Missouri's Trailmap for Nonmotorized Transportation*. Tasks accomplished by BPAC included integration of the *Trailmap* with MoDOT's work plan based in 18 tangible results supported by performance measures. See ... [http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike\\_ped/documents/Trailmap\\_100505.pdf](http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/documents/Trailmap_100505.pdf).

**New Crash Maps** – MoDOT has added two new maps to the transportation safety Web site. These maps indicate the number and location of Missouri bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities and injuries. See ... <http://www.savemolives.com/programs/BikePedSafety.htm>.

**Safe Routes to School** – There has been a lot of interest in the Missouri SRTS program, and MoDOT has already received several applications for the 2007 funding cycle of \$2.6 million. The deadline for applications was Jan. 31, 2007. Awards will be posted on the Web site June 29, 2007. Applications for the 2008 funding cycle of \$2.1 million will be accepted in the fall of 2007. For information regarding the SRTS program, contact SRTS State Coordinator Todd Messenger in MoDOT's Highway Safety Division. [todd.messenger@modot.mo.gov](mailto:todd.messenger@modot.mo.gov), 573-751-3320. See ... <http://www.modot.mo.gov/safety/SafeRoutestoSchool.htm>.

**Continuous Flow Intersection** – This video of a **new intersection concept** that is being planned for St. Louis may be interesting to all road users. See ... <http://www.abmb.com/cfi-testdrive.html>.

**Progress in Columbia** – The *PedNet Project: Connecting Columbia* is the name of the new non-motorized transportation pilot program funded by the federal government. The goal of the project is to encourage residents to drive less by making significant improvements to the city for easier and safer walking and biking. Ted Curtis, bike/ped program manager for the city of Columbia, has hired temporary staff who are working with GIS mapping software to identify suggestions and areas of concerns received from citizens. The first step in implementation is to identify areas that are ready for bike lanes to be painted, perhaps as early as this summer. Goals include: making bike/ped transportation safer by educating the public to share the roads, learn what routes in Columbia are the most traveled by bicyclists and how routes are chosen. Comments may be shared with the bike route team at [clflaker@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:clflaker@gocolumbiamo.com) or 573-874-7250. See ... [http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/PedNet\\_Project/](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/PedNet_Project/).

**Missouri River Crossing Feasibility Study** – MoDOT and the Mid-America Regional Council coordinated planning efforts for the bicycle and pedestrian Missouri River Crossing Feasibility Study to identify a preferred b/p river crossing location in the I-29/I-35 corridor. MoDOT has proposed funding for one river crossing as part of the EIS. Four locations were considered: a new facility at the Town of Kansas Historical Site, the ASB Bridge, the Heart of America Bridge and on the newly constructed Paseo Crossing. The Heart of America Bridge was identified as the preferred location. See ... <http://www.krivercrossings.org/>

**Quality of Life in St. Louis** – Trailnet improves the St. Louis regional quality of life in many ways: offering bicycle rides and recreational events; promoting transportation alternatives; providing community bicycle and pedestrian planning; collaborating on trails, greenways and b/p-compatible roadways; and assisting with public outreach and advocacy. Priorities in 2007 include: expanding the Safe Routes to School program to serve more elementary schools in Missouri; continuing to develop b/p facilities' plans in Crystal City, Festus, Vinita Park, Bridgeton, Sunset Hills, Lake St. Louis, O'Fallon, Wentzville, New Haven and Gerald and initiating an Active Living Policy Initiative to address the obesity epidemic in low-income communities.

**Springfield Encased in Ice** – The recent storm left thousands of residents without electricity and covered every road surface with thick ice. Traveling the trails sparked the feeling of being encased in a fantasyland of crystal passages. The breeze in the trees softly tinkled the icy wind chimes. The trails were officially closed for public safety due to the potential risk of loudly cracking limbs and the real risk of entire trees crashing to the ground. See ... [www.ozarkgreenways.org](http://www.ozarkgreenways.org).

**PedNet Coalition** – The Columbia PedNet Coalition operated 16 walking school buses at six schools last semester with 145 children walking to school every day under the supervision of 30 trained volunteer leaders. A pedestrian and bicycle safety course for K-2 was taught during PE and a BikePro proficiency class for 4-7 was offered after school. A bike train program (similar to the walking school bus) is planned for children who pass the BikePro class. Last May, more than 2,450 Columbians participated in Bike, Walk and Wheel Week.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**Decking Highways with Parks** – To allow movement of wildlife, some cities are building freeway segments underground and covering them with parkland. Called a lid, deck, bridge or tunnel, there are more than 20 highway parks in the country. See ... <http://www.governing.com/articles/1parks.htm>.

**England Removes Traffic Control to Reduce Congestion** – Traffic lights, road signs and white lines are being removed from some streets to improve safety and reduce congestion by giving drivers and pedestrians equal status. See ... <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/newspaper/0,,170-2559340,00.html>.

## **QUOTE FOR THE DAY**

"Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. It has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives a woman a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel ... the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood."

-- Susan B. Anthony, Equal Rights Activist

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Check this link for other state agencies connected to bicycle and pedestrian issues, state bicycle coordinators' contact information, bicycle organizations, pedestrian information, advocacy contacts and research sources... [http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike\\_ped/bicyclepedprogram.htm](http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/bicyclepedprogram.htm).

## **CALENDAR**

Feb.15 – Transportation Conference hosted by MoDOT, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and the Missouri Farm Bureau in Jefferson City at Capital Plaza Hotel

March 13-16 – National Bike Summit 2007, Washington, DC, sponsored by Bikes Belong and the League of American Bicyclists. See ... <http://www.bikeleague.org/conferences/summit07/index.php>.

May 14-18 – Bike to Work Week

June 12-15, 2007 – Velo City International Bicycle Conference, Munich, Germany, <http://www.velocity2007.com/>.

Sept. 9-16 – Tour of Missouri. See ... <http://www.tourofmissouri.com/>.

Oct. 3 – Walk to School Day, <http://www.walktoschool-usa.org/>

Oct. 16 – White Cane Day, see Public Law 88-628 (approved Oct. 6, 1964), <http://www.blindaccessjournal.com/2006/10/president-bush-proclaims-october-15.html>, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/10/20011015-12.html>

May 18 – Last day of the state 2007 legislative session

May 19 – Ozark Greenways Adventure Race, [http://www.ozarkgreenways.org/mark\\_twain\\_race/index.html](http://www.ozarkgreenways.org/mark_twain_race/index.html)

Sept. 2-5, 2008 – Pro Walk/Pro Bike, Seattle's Westin Hotel, Seattle, WA. See ... <http://www.bikewalk.org/conference.php>.

*Please forward this newsletter to anyone you feel may be interested. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be added, please tell me!*

**Tailwinds, Caryn**

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