

MoDOT Minute – March 23, 2010

Hi. This is Sally Oxenhandler with your MoDOT Minute.

President Barack Obama last week signed legislation that extended the surface transportation act and put MoDOT's project bid openings back on track. The extension brings federal transportation funding levels back to \$42 billion through the end of the year. This corrects the shortfall of \$243 million that caused the agency to cancel its February and March bid openings. The cancelations delayed more than \$130 million worth of road and bridge projects. Bid openings are now scheduled for April 9 and 30 and May 14 and 28.

A recent shipment of more than 6,000 tons of fertilizer up the Missouri River signified the start of the most promising shipping season in eight years. Drought and low water levels almost sunk Missouri River cargo shipping, but MoDOT has joined forces with industry partners to increase freight movement. The effort includes a market and commodity analysis of Missouri River shipping operations.

That's been your MoDOT Minute. Remember to check back every Tuesday for new information.