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Watch Out for Slow Moving Paint Crews

JULY 07TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Watch Out for Slow Moving Paint Crews

The Missouri Department of Transportation's Southeast District will kick-off striping operations in cities and towns in mid-July. Striping crews will restripe state routes in Jackson, Cape Girardeau, Poplar Bluff, Sikeston and Dexter, Missouri.

To help reduce the impact to traffic, striping will take place overnight from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Weather permitting, striping operations will begin July 18, with completion anticipated in approximately three weeks.

Drivers may come upon slow-moving caravans of trucks refreshing the lines on the roadway and are encouraged to use caution. Motorists are asked to help assure the safety of MoDOT workers by paying attention to the road and not driving distracted—Buckle Up Phone Down.

Striping crews must travel slowly as they paint roadway markings to ensure a good quality line. The striping trains consist of three to five vehicles and can stretch over one-half mile while moving 8 to 12 mph. The trucks have flashing lights, boards with flashing arrows and signs that say, "SLOW VEHICLES" and "WET PAINT."

Crisp, easy-to-see striping is a significant safety feature on roadways. MoDOT uses paint embedded with glass beads. The beads reflect headlight beams back in the direction of the motorist to make the stripes more visible, especially at night, wet road or low light conditions.

Rain or very damp conditions will cancel or cut short any striping work that is scheduled.

Safety Tips

Be patient if you come across MoDOT crews and give them the space to do their job safely.

Slow down as soon as you see the lights and signs and keep your distance until it is safe to go around the trucks.

On four-lane divided highways, pull around the striping train by merging carefully into the open lane, passing all the trucks in the train before moving back into the driving lane.

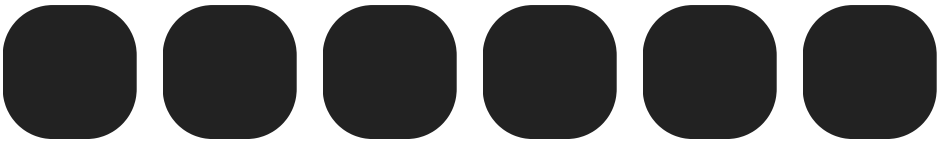
On two-lane highways, stay behind the last truck in the striping train. This vehicle is placed well behind the striping truck to give the new paint the few minutes it needs to dry. MoDOT crews will pull off the road where it is safe to do so to let congestion clear.

MoDOT uses water-based paint in all its highway operations. If you drive through wet paint, clean your car as quickly as possible with a high-powered water hose, such as those used in car washes.

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