

Hi, this is Sally Oxenhandler with your MoDOT Minute.

Construction is under way on a new railroad side track that will add capacity and reduce delays on the Amtrak route between Kansas City and St. Louis. The new siding, located just west of California, Mo., works like a passing lane. It will enable slower freight trains to move off the main line allowing faster Amtrak trains to pass. The addition will reduce train delays by nearly 17 percent.

The Missouri legislature has repealed a 40-year-old law requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets. MoDOT says the move could increase motorcycle deaths by more than 50 percent. While traffic fatalities are on the decline in Missouri, motorcycle crash fatalities rose 13 percent from 2007 to 2008. To combat the increase, radio advertising featuring Missouri Tigers' football coach and avid motorcycle rider, Gary Pinkel, will run through July.

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