

## MoDOT delivers

**F**iscal year 2002 was a successful one for MoDOT in many ways.

First, they delivered 206 highway and bridge construction projects on time and under budget. This is the third year in a row they have been able to continue this kind of positive trend.

They also awarded a record number of projects in 2002 at 2 percent below what they estimated the bids would be. That's the most projects they have ever awarded, and they saved money that they rolled right back into the construction program.

Finally, their independent audit results were, in the words of the auditor, "as good as it gets" with an unqualified report. They did this while in compliance with new federally required standards for financial reporting. This was the third straight year the department has received such an outstanding rating.

**Be a pal!**

Pass this newsletter on  
or post it for others to enjoy!

## Dates to remember

**World of Asphalt**  
Nashville, TN  
March 17-19, 2003

**Airport Pavement Work Shop**  
April 14-17, 2003

**MAPA-REF Golf Tournament**  
August 27, 2003

**Future MoDOT Highway Lettings**  
March 21, 2003    May 23, 2003  
April 16, 2003    June 20, 2003

## Commission appoints blue ribbon panel



**F**ollowing through on a promise to get more citizen input into Missouri's transportation programs, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission appointed a 12-member Blue Ribbon Panel on Accountability, Credibility and Efficiency.

The group will examine and evaluate the commission and Missouri Department of Transportation and recommend ways for them to enhance accountability, credibility and efficiency in the state's transportation operations. The panel will review a variety of areas, including how the commission and department are governed, and sources of state and federal funding, including transportation monies allocated to other agencies. Panel members will also compare MoDOT to other state departments of transportation in terms of funding sources, organization, highway system size and other operational aspects.

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## Quote of the day:

Property may be destroyed and money may lose its purchasing power, but character, health, knowledge and good judgement will always be in demand under all conditions.

— Roger Babson

## From the executive director...

Once again MAPA had their most successful Asphalt Conference and Equipment Exhibit ever. I want to say a special thank you to all of our Exhibitors, Sponsors, Speakers and Attendees for making this year's conference a success. Much hard work goes into the conference, and when it is a success, it makes it all worthwhile.



We have many things going at the same time, and none are more important to the Asphalt Industry than the following: MAPA applauds MoDOT's Chief Engineer Kevin Keith for moving these processes forward.

1. The Pavement Selection Process for the state of Missouri is being looked at from the start to finish. Nothing is off the table. As the Concrete Industry, Asphalt Industry, FHWA and MoDOT sit at the table every week, I am confident the new Pavement Selection Process will be open and easily understood. MAPA had many concerns about this process up until now, for good reason, and now we are confident all of our concerns will be addressed appropriately.
2. MoDOT is taking their entire Specification Book and where possible they will make it a Performance Specification. MAPA has been meeting with MoDOT for about three years now on this matter, and we are getting close to something we can live with. There are a few minor disagreements and one major disagreement that have to be worked out yet. All in all the process has been a true partnering effort and has worked out well.

*Stay tuned for the final results.*

*MAPA Executive Director  
David Yates*

## PAVING THE WAY ...



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## Some Earlier History of Asphalt

The story of asphalt begins thousands of years before the founding of the United States. The ancient Mesopotamians used it to waterproof temple baths and water tanks. The Phoenicians caulked the seams of their merchant ships with asphalt. In the days of the Pharaohs, Egyptians used the material as mortar for rocks laid along the banks of the Nile to prevent erosion, and the infant Moses' basket was waterproofed with asphalt.

**625 B.C.** The first recorded use of asphalt as a road-building material in Babylon. The ancient Greeks were also familiar with asphalt. The word asphalt comes from the Greek "asphaltos," meaning "secure." The Romans used it to seal their baths, reservoirs and aqueducts.

**1595** Europeans exploring the New World discovered natural deposits of asphalt. Sir Walter Raleigh described a "plain" (or lake) of asphalt on the island of Trinidad, near Venezuela. He used it for re-caulking his ships.

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