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# MXVISION WEATHERSENTRY ONLINE®

CASE STUDY

## MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

From the rural highways to the urban freeways, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) works with the public, transportation partners, state and federal legislators, and other state and local agencies to provide a safe and efficient transportation system to the people of Missouri.

### THE CHALLENGE

Ensuring that snow and ice do not accumulate on major roadways during the winter weather season in Kansas City, Mo., is a considerable challenge. To help keep traffic moving safely, MoDOT has relied on pavement temperature readings and forecasts obtained through Roadway Weather Information System (RWIS) units placed strategically along roadways. The information obtained through RWIS units allows MoDOT to more accurately determine when, if, and where they should engage in anti-icing measures.

However, MoDOT recognizes that RWIS units are expensive to install and repair. Beyond that, their RWIS units do not relay pavement temperature readings and forecasts in a compatible format with their other information systems and are not user-friendly.

Due to tight budgets MoDOT must be prudent in their use of RWIS and other weather forecasting services. Poor weather information can lead to deploying crews to salt roadways unnecessarily, which isn't cost-effective.

"Sending out a crew of 198 trucks to salt roadways whenever there is a chance of icing can be very costly," said Bill Billings, maintenance superintendent, MoDOT district four. "But, you can't take a chance with public safety."

### THE DTN/METEORLOGIX SOLUTION

In looking for an alternative, cost-effective option to assist in anti-icing efforts, Billings decided to use MxVision WeatherSentry Online® *Transportation Edition* for two of the most heavily traveled, weather-sensitive roadways in the area.

MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Transportation Edition* is an all-in-one weather and pavement forecasting tool that includes the key elements of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS). In addition to providing MoDOT with atmospheric weather forecasts, it provides road weather forecasts of pavement and bridge temperatures, frost forecasts, blowing snow forecasts, and even treatment recommendations based on the FHWA guidelines for the two specific roadway areas. The system is a fraction of the cost of a RWIS unit and has no risk of breaking down.



## RESULTS

“Temperature and forecast readings are always within a couple degrees of actual pavement temperatures,” said Billings. “The system is very user-friendly and has been effective in helping us with snow and ice removal. During the first big snow event of the season, DTN/Meteorlogix correctly forecasted that we’d receive 8 to 10 inches of snow when no one else did.”

MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Transportation Edition’s* intuitive, easy-to-use interface allowed MoDOT to easily integrate the system into their operations. Additionally, the information display is easy to read and understand.

“The accuracy of the information provided through this service enables us reduce the amount of trips and salt used, which is incredibly helpful as MoDOT is extremely limited on funds,” said Billings. “The forecasts allow us to properly prepare for upcoming road conditions.”

Billings added that although MoDOT is currently only using the service in two locations in the Kansas City area, he believes that it has been so successful and cost-effective that MoDOT will add multiple locations in the near future.

## THE CLIENT’S VIEW

“This is a nice tool to have in your toolbox. We’ve used MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Transportation Edition* more than we ever used our RWIS service in the past and it’s a fraction of the cost.”

Bill Billings, maintenance superintendent, MoDOT District Four

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