



NEWS

From the Office of Representative Denny Hoskins

121st District

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Solar Power to Reduce Ice and Snow on Missouri Bridges

JEFFERSON CITY – With ice and snow in the forecast, dangerous conditions can be expected on Missouri bridges. Representative Denny Hoskins (R-121) joins the Missouri Department of Transportation in announcing Missouri as one of the first states in the nation to use solar energy to keep bridges safer by preventing the build-up of ice and snow on bridge decks. This will preserve the integrity of the pavement and reduce the necessity for de-icing chemicals.

Contracting with Pave Guard Technologies, Inc., of Lee's Summit, this business has developed this unique technology as an active client of the Innovation Center at the University of Central Missouri. Corey McDonald utilized assistance available at the Innovation Center, also known as Entrepreneur Zone, to develop marketing, establish branding, and build his business. Mark Manley, executive Director of the Innovation Center likens the Innovation Center to a business "incubator without walls."

"Pave Guard Technologies is a true success story of an entrepreneurial effort," said Rep. Hoskins. "Corey McDonald has taken an innovative idea, put it into practice, and also made it environmentally friendly."

Freezing and thawing combined with de-icing chemicals reduces the life expectancy of pavement. This system has the potential to pay for itself in as little as five years.

Simply put, Pave Guard's system is similar to radiant heating in a home's floor. Solution pumped through tubing in the bridge deck will be warmed with solar panels installed at the bridge site, which will keep the deck from freezing. Excess energy produced by the panels when the heating system is not in use can be sold back to local utilities.

"In anticipation of the upcoming state budget process, I am especially interested in ways to assist small businesses in growing jobs," continued Rep. Hoskins.

Assistance provided by Entrepreneur Zone reports creation or retention of 35 jobs in 2009 for less than \$3000 per job. As a member of the House Budget Committee and Appropriations for Transportation and Economic Development, Rep. Hoskins is continually mindful of the bottom line. He believes successful use of state funds such as at the Innovation Center at UCM should be rewarded for the continuation of delivery of positive services.

MoDOT expects the Pave Guard's technology to be installed on a limited number of Missouri bridges by late 2010. Upon performance evaluation of those locations, additional installations may result.