



August 2007 Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program (GVIP) Status Report

On May 29, 2007, the state awarded the GVIP contract to SysTech International, who will sell the inspection equipment to the licensed inspection stations and manage the data collection on behalf of the state. Through a competitive bid process, SysTech International received the highest score of five proposals. SysTech International offered the lowest equipment cost to the participating shops, as well as the best match for the state's specifications. The contract is effective from May 29 until Sept. 1, 2011. The contract contains options for one two-year and one one-year extension.

On June 13, 14, and 21, 2007, the Department of Natural Resources, Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) and SysTech International (STI) hosted GVIP Station Seminars. All licensed safety inspection stations were invited to attend one of these seminars, and all three meetings were fully attended. The department and MSHP introduced STI to the stations, and STI introduced their inspection equipment offering and distributed equipment-ordering contracts.

Contracts submitted to STI by June 29, 2007, will be filled in the order the contracts were received. STI received 593 equipment orders for approximately 550 unique locations by the June 29 deadline. As of July 13, 2007, STI had received 664 equipment orders. For a copy of the GVIP Station Seminar presentation or equipment ordering contract, please visit the following web page: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/gatewayvip/repair/index.html>.

STI has secured an office location in St. Louis County and hired their Missouri-based staff, all of whom are Missouri residents. They have also contracted with local inspection equipment installers for the rapid deployment of equipment during GVIP implementation. They have begun placing equipment orders with their suppliers for the inspection equipment and their data collection system, as well as developing the inspection equipment software. Finally, STI is working on a plan to train the vehicle inspector/mechanics who will be using the inspection equipment.

The GVIP will allow, but not require, current safety inspection stations and other interested businesses to be licensed by the state to conduct on-board diagnostics (OBD) emissions testing for 1996 and newer gasoline powered and 1997 and newer diesel powered vehicles in conjunction with safety inspections.

The department and the MSHP will jointly administer the GVIP, which will be phased in over the month of September. OBD pass/fail testing will begin on October 1, 2007. During the month of September, participating shops will finalize equipment installation, training, and licensing to ensure a smoother transition to the new, decentralized emissions testing requirements.

The department is encouraging motorists with odd model year plates that expire in September to test their vehicle early to ease this transition. September registrants can have their vehicle tested at one of the current Gateway Clean Air Program testing locations by Sept. 1. However, if they

miss this cutoff, they will be granted an emissions testing extension until Dec. 1. Vehicle owners will need a passing safety inspection to renew their plates in September. The department will send a notice to these registrants to remind them to fulfill their emissions testing requirements.

The department has been sending a combination of messages out to our target audiences. St. Louis area repair shops were the initial targets for this message. Letters were sent to these shops to encourage their attendance at one of three seminars in the St. Louis area where they were informed on the steps that they needed to take to sign-up for the Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program.

The next sets of messages were targeted for the motoring public. The department secured media buys in all of the major news outlets for all affected counties. Starting July 1 public service announcements began running in the St. Louis area stating that changes were coming. These PSAs will continue through Sept 1. Print advertisements also started on July 1. These print ads are running once a week for eight weeks detailing the changes coming to the emissions testing program. Starting Aug. 17 both the AMC and Wehrenberg theater chains in the St. Louis area will run PSAs detailing the changes coming to the emissions program. These PSAs will be running for 10-13 weeks. Additional media buys will be purchased for the rest of the year through contracts that the state maintains. Public Notices will also be published in the newspapers of all affected counties a week before full transition.

A Web site has also been developed to provide updated information as it becomes available. A series of fact sheets and frequently asked questions are also available on the Web site. For the latest information about the GVIP, please visit our web site: <http://www.GatewayVIP.com>.

The GVIP is a key component of the ongoing effort to improve air quality in the St. Louis region. The department and the MSHP will be working together daily to ensure a smooth transition. Our goal is to have a program with high integrity that is cost-effective and convenient for motorists.