



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Invites Extended for Spring-Break Tours of Poor Roads, Critical Bridges

March 23, 2015



Dear «GreetingLine»

Our General Assembly enjoys its traditional spring break this week. It is an opportunity to get back home and recharge batteries for the final hectic weeks of the session. When legislators return to Jefferson City on March 30, only 28 days will remain to determine the future of our state.

Will our lawmakers decide to take action to avoid the loss of hundreds of millions of Missouri taxpayer dollars which have been paid to the federal government – or will they decide to do nothing?

Will we rescue our transportation system from decay – or will we allow the decline to begin? Whatever decision is made, it should be a fully informed decision.

I just recently received a copy of an email from a MoDOT area engineer. He discussed an afternoon field trip he made with a representative in the Missouri House of Representatives to look at some of the critical bridges and poor roads in the representative's district. They discussed Missouri's 325 System and what would happen to bridges and road conditions if we must move forward with making capital investments on only 8,000 miles of Missouri highways.

Taking the time to actually visit a critical bridge and ride down a poor road helped the representative to better understand the need for additional transportation funding. They also discussed the potential loss of federal funds – funds from federal fuel taxes paid by Missourians but which may now go to other states because we won't have the required state revenues to match those federal dollars.

Bravo to that representative who took the time to reach out to the MoDOT area engineer in his district for a guided tour.

Following the example of this representative, I urge every legislator (all of whom receive the "View") to take the time over this break to check out the critical bridges and poor roads in their district. Our area and district engineers will be available for a personally guided tour – or if they prefer a self-guided tour, MoDOT has available for each lawmaker a list of the critical bridges and poor roads in their district.

Before our legislators return next week, I hope they will take the time to see for themselves the problem – and the opportunity they alone possess to do something about it.

Let's get going!

Stephen R. Miller
Chairman

If you would like to communicate with the Commission, you can always reach us at MHTC@modot.mo.gov.

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