



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Public Comment Continues on Draft Project List for CA-7

June 26, 2014



Dear «GreetingLine»

For the past two weeks, MoDOT ambassadors have been meeting with Missourians throughout the state to seek input regarding the draft list of projects that will be delivered with new revenues generated by Constitutional Amendment 7. The results have been impressive – 43 open house meetings attended by more than 2,000 people, numerous one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders and partners, well over 700 comments submitted through the Moving Forward webpage (www.modot.org/MovingForward) and extensive media coverage through newspapers, radio, and television as well as social media. These efforts mark the culmination of at least a two-year outreach process which included MoDOT's participation in a Blue Ribbon Committee appointed by the Speaker of the House and MoDOT's own "On the Move" campaign which culminated in a 20-year long range plan. The public comment period continues until 5 p.m., July 3, after which the Commission will review and consider the input that has been given before finally approving the project list on July 9. At yesterday's Commission meeting in Jefferson City, we received a preliminary report from each of our seven District Engineers. I am pleased to see that a consensus is emerging in region after region of the state. In future Views, I will share with you further information concerning each region.

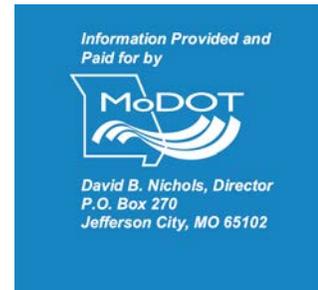
We also approved today MoDOT's \$2.2 billion Fiscal Year 2015 budget. While that may sound like a lot, it is down from \$3.0 billion in 2011. After the costs of doing business are accounted for, only \$720 million will remain for contractor awards, and in two years, the figure plummets to \$325 million. The FY2015 budget also reflects what we project to be a \$93.3 million reduction in federal funds.

Yesterday, we were also reminded of the sad reality that investment in transportation can be measured by the loss of life. MoDOT Director Dave Nichols reported that since 2005, when Amendment 3 funding first kicked in, Missouri has seen a steady decline in fatalities. As funding dries up, there is less investment in improvements that make our roads safer and we have seen an uptick in the loss of life. We are up 4 percent year-to-date over the last year – that’s 11 lives. We must do better.

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

Onward!

Stephen R. Miller
Chairman



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