



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Constitutional Amendment 7 Will Create Much-Needed Jobs

July 16, 2014



Dear «GreetingLine»

The list of priority transportation projects that will be delivered over the next 10 years if voters approve Constitutional Amendment 7 on August 5 represents a sizeable investment in Missouri's transportation infrastructure, but will also make a tremendous difference in the job opportunities for thousands of Missourians.

The 10-year list of projects can be expected to create and sustain more than 75,000 jobs. That figure is based on the most recent estimate of the impacts of infrastructure investment on employment generated by the Council of Economic Advisers within the Executive Office of the President.

During the economic downturn, unemployment rates in the construction industry ran double the state average, approaching 20 percent. Obviously the new revenue for transportation projects will put lots of them back to work, but it will also provide opportunities for persons seeking an entrance into the field.

At last week's Commission meeting, there was some discussion about the need for well-paying, sustainable jobs and an inclusive workforce. We have made tremendous strides along these lines in the last decade, but we, as a state, have an obligation to make a commitment to anyone looking to better themselves and their communities. MoDOT Director Dave Nichols said it very well last week: "It's not about just giving someone a job; it's about an opportunity to develop a career."

Construction jobs aren't the only ones that will be created as a result of Amendment 7 projects.

Material suppliers and fabricators will also benefit. Other jobs will be induced as direct spending from the new revenue occurs throughout the state by workers and companies. Additionally, companies that are reliant on a safe and efficient transportation system to be successful can be expected to look favorably on the Missouri economic environment because the two most important factors for business relocations and expansions are availability of a quality workforce and access to transportation.

Onward!

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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