



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

State's Economy Relies on Safe, Reliable Transportation System

July 29, 2014



Dear «GreetingLine»

As many people and businesses are well aware, transportation improvements can be a catalyst to attract new businesses to Missouri and help existing businesses be competitive by improving access to customers and employees. Additionally, Missouri's location at the crossroads of America gives us the opportunity to be the national leader in logistics and puts our companies in a prime location to be able to reach fertile national and global markets. But, alas, location without investment means little.

Missouri's strategic location puts it within 500 miles of:

- 43 percent of the U.S. population,
- 44 percent of the total U.S. wholesale trade,
- 41 percent of total U.S. buying power,
- 44 percent of all U.S. manufacturing plants, and
- Seven of the top 25 international cargo hubs in the U.S.

Analysis of our projects by Missouri's Department of Economic Development consistently demonstrates that for every dollar invested in transportation in Missouri, four dollars of new economic activity occurs. That's a pretty good return on investment! We also know that investment of state funds can also result in additional private investment. In addition to the cost-share program example I referenced in the previous View from the Chair, since 2007, \$24.2 million invested in Missouri ports has resulted in \$125.5 million in private investment.

Without additional funds our ability to continue investing in our transportation system will be

impossible.

The last time Missourians decided to invest more in transportation was in 1992, when gasoline cost \$1.13 cents per gallon, milk was \$2.14 and a loaf of bread was 71 cents. They voted to gradually – over six years – increase the fuel tax six cents to its current 17 cents per gallon. Today, that 17 cents is worth 8.

Since 1992, a whole new generation of Missourians has been raised and joined the work force. Many of them were involved in our long range planning activities last year. They told us of the many new investments they would like to see made in our transportation system. They now have an opportunity to help craft a more prosperous future.

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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