



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Transportation is Personal It's about the safety of those we love

August 1, 2014



Dear «GreetingLine»

When I joined the Commission five years ago, my daughters were 12 and 14 years old. Since then, I have watched them come of age and go through the great rite of passage: a driver's license and all the freedom that comes with it.

This past November, a friend of my daughter's was returning to college following Thanksgiving break. She hit a patch of black ice, slid across the grass median of one of our interstate highways, was struck head-on by a tractor trailer and killed instantly. In another stretch of road with a guard cable barrier, she might very well have walked away and been back to school as soon as her parents could pick her up.

Transportation has become very personal to me. Every time my daughters walk out the door, I think of the 756 lives lost on our highways last year. Every one of them was someone's child. We will never be able to prevent every tragic death, but we know that investment in transportation makes a tremendous difference.

It's proven that systemwide safety improvements like rumble stripes and median guard cables can reduce the number of traffic accidents and their severity. Through a combination of engineering, education, enforcement and emergency medical services – what are called the “4 E's” – we have seen a substantial reduction in the number of roadway fatalities in Missouri in recent years.

Virtually every project on the Constitutional Amendment 7 list has a safety component – resurfacing to provide smooth driving, adding shoulders or passing lanes to two-lane rural highways, replacing decaying bridges, adding gates and signals to railroad crossings, replacing broken sidewalks and bringing transit stops into ADA compliance, adding crosswalks and bicycle

lanes, replacing old buses. . . the list goes on and on.

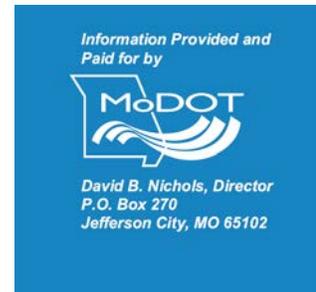
Providing these types of safety improvements will help protect our loved ones and provide a safe and modern transportation system for future generations to enjoy.

Transportation is personal. We have to do better.

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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