



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

MHTC Announces New MoDOT Director

November 5, 2015



Dear Reader,

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."
Rosalynn Carter

Given Missouri's transportation crisis and our challenges with insufficient funding, there were those who questioned whether the Commission could find that great leader. But great leaders willingly seek out and embrace a good challenge. That was the case with respect to the Commission's search for a new Director.

We began the nationwide search last spring through the exceptional work of our executive search experts, Grant Cooper & Associates. They spent several months connecting with leaders from across the country in an effort to actively recruit candidates that met the description of what we were looking for in a new Director.

Meeting that description is no small task. We needed someone who understands the relationship between transportation and economic development and the impacts on the quality of life for all Missouri citizens. The Commission was looking for a salesperson and innovator who is well versed in the infrastructure funding challenges that exist across the country. We were looking for someone with a track record of working collaboratively with elected officials, industry leaders, and citizens in finding solutions through innovative funding and financing options. We were seeking a leader who will lead, inspire, motivate, empower, and encourage creativity as the MoDOT team moves forward, as well as someone who understands our values and the significance of sustaining a safe and inclusive organizational culture that continues to deliver outstanding customer service.

The decision was not easy given the outstanding group of finalists willing to take on the role. We are thankful to have had such tremendous talent to consider and greatly appreciate the fierce competition. The Commission was so impressed by the ease with which the finalists handled the intensity of the process.

In the end, the Commission unanimously and with great enthusiasm arrived at the selection of Patrick McKenna. Patrick most recently served as the Deputy Commissioner for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, a role that is the chief financial, operating, and legislative officer for the organization. Prior to that he held leadership positions in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Patrick began his professional career with the US Senate Office of the Secretary where he rose to the position of CFO. He left government to lead a small business as a sole proprietor of a real estate holdings company. He then served as the Chief Financial Officer of a statewide non-profit.

Patrick has earned a B.S. Degree in Finance from Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts, and a M.S. in Management and Finance from the University of Maryland University College in College Park, Maryland. He has been involved in youth sports organizations both as a coach and by serving on several boards of non-profit sports foundations. Together with his wife Suzanne, they are enjoying raising two sons, Patrick Jr. and Connor, and a daughter, Kelsey.

We are so pleased Patrick has agreed to lead MoDOT effective December 7! We look forward to a bright future under his leadership. There are challenges ahead, but he has enthusiastically agreed to take on those challenges and so much more. Please join the Commission in welcoming Patrick and his family to Missouri. Together let's take transportation where it ought to be!

Stephen R. Miller
Chairman

If you would like to communicate with the Commission, you can always reach us at MHTC@modot.mo.gov. If you would like to read previous issues of the "View," you can find them on the MoDOT website: <http://www.modot.org/ViewFromTheChair/index.htm>

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