

“Look how far we’ve come.” That was the message MoDOT Director Pete Rahn delivered to state legislators in the fifth and final State of Transportation Address on Feb. 6. Here is a recap of MoDOT’s top 10 achievements in 2008 that underscore the agency’s efforts to be accountable and deliver a safe and efficient transportation system.

### 1. Coalition Reaches Goal For Reducing Fatalities

Missouri reached its highway fatality reduction goal of fewer than 1,000 deaths by 2008 one year early. Not since 1993 has the state had fewer than 1,000 fatalities. Over the last two years, Missouri has seen a 21 percent decrease in traffic deaths – the second-largest decrease in the nation.

### 2. I-64 Closing Goes Smoothly

Although St. Louisans braced themselves for the worst, the closing of a five-mile stretch of Interstate 64 in the heart of St. Louis went off with few problems. In addition, this portion of the largest reconstruction project in MoDOT history was completed two weeks ahead of schedule.

### 3. Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program Launched

In September, MoDOT launched the largest bridge program in state history. Under the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program, the agency will improve 802 of Missouri's worst rated bridges in five years.

### 4. State Highway Conditions, System Performance Show Marked Improvements

In 2008, 78 percent of the state’s major roads were reported to be in good condition compared to 44 percent in 2003. The Reason Foundation announced this year that Missouri ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation for overall performance of its state highway system in 2006. That was up from 17<sup>th</sup> in 2005 and 28<sup>th</sup> in 2004. In its "Grading the States 2008" study, the Pew Center on the States gave Missouri a B+ for its infrastructure performance, which beat all but four other states and the 50-state average grade of a B-.

### 5. Other Ways to Travel Get Funding Boost

Missouri legislators increased funding for Missouri’s passenger rail, aviation, port and transit travel by a whopping 74 percent in the last legislative session. The department will invest the money in rail and airport improvements, port upgrades and operating assistance for agencies that transport elderly and disabled citizens.

### 6. MoDOT Responds To Emergencies

In April, the Missouri House of Representatives honored MoDOT maintenance crews with a resolution thanking them for keeping Missouri highways clear and safe in the face of record snow, ice, flooding, earthquakes and, yes, even frogs.

### 7. MoDOT Cost Savings Fund Additional Projects

By pinching pennies, estimating construction work to the dime and encouraging innovation, MoDOT saved nearly \$50 million in 2008 that was used to tackle 36 new highway projects. Over the last five years, MoDOT has completed \$5.6 billion worth of work within seven-tenths of a percent of the estimate for a \$38 million savings.

### 8. Work Begins on kcICON Design-Build Project

MoDOT broke ground on a major design-build project in Kansas City in April. The quarter-billion dollar road and bridge project – kcICON – will improve four miles of interstate highway north of downtown Kansas City and build a new landmark, cable-stay Missouri River bridge.

### 9. States Agree on Mississippi River Bridge Project

In February, the governors of Missouri and Illinois announced the two states had reached an agreement on building a new Mississippi River Bridge in St. Louis.

### 10. Rahn Delivers Last State of Transportation Address

MoDOT Director Pete Rahn delivered the fifth and final State of Transportation Address to Missouri legislators on Feb. 6. The law authorizing the annual speech contained a five-year sunset clause, which legislators did not extend. “I believe the elimination of this speech sends a clear signal that MoDOT has regained its footing and your trust,” Rahn told legislators. “Five years ago we faced uncertainty, but today there is no doubt - we’ve come a long way in a short time.”

