

Missouri Department of Transportation

573.751.2840
Fax: 573.751.6555

For more information, contact Kristi Jamison (573) 751-7121

April 5, 2012 – For immediate release

MoDOT Seeks Public Feedback on Draft State Rail Plan

JEFFERSON CITY – Enhancing passenger rail service and improving freight rail access are among the top public recommendations included in a new draft State Rail Plan, intended to provide a 20-year strategic framework for passenger and freight rail development in Missouri. The Missouri Department of Transportation seeks the public’s feedback on the plan at meetings in April.

“Missourians told us both freight and passenger rail provide numerous economic, environmental and transportation benefits to the state,” said Eric Curtit, state administrator of railroads. “They made it very clear increased access to both types of service is important to Missouri’s future.”

Draft recommendations also call for completion of projects designed to improve the reliability of the state-supported Amtrak Missouri River Runner service, with a longer-term goal of adding more trains and schedule options to the route. This service currently operates at 79 mph and with incremental improvements could travel as fast as 90 mph. The plan also proposes a staged approach to establishing dedicated high-speed passenger rail service (110 mph or higher) between St. Louis and Kansas City and setting priorities for new corridor developments, such as service to Springfield and Hannibal and feeder bus routes to Branson, Columbia and St. Joseph.

Proposals to maximize the economic benefits of freight rail in coordination with the Missouri Department of Economic Development are also included. As funding becomes available, the plan suggests identifying ways to encourage intermodal access at Missouri ports



Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

www.modot.org

by increasing capacity of existing tracks, industrial spurs and sidings and by supporting the development of additional rail access where new industrial development opportunities exist.

The recommendations also include an array of policy proposals to better fund and encourage the continued development of Missouri's rail system.

Amtrak, freight railroads operating in Missouri, shippers, economic and transportation agencies and citizens participated in community leader workshops and public meetings last fall.

"The ideas and guidance shared by individuals and organizations last fall led to the creation of a good plan," said Kristi Jamison, state rail plan project manager. "Public input is just as important now as we finalize Missouri's rail development strategies for the next two decades."

All open house meetings will be held from 4:30 to 6 pm, with a presentation at 4:45 pm, at the following locations:

Tuesday, April 10
St. Joseph
East Hills Library
Theater Room
502 North Woodbine Street

Wednesday, April 11
Kansas City
Mid-America Regional Council
Board Room
600 Broadway Street, Suite 200

Thursday, April 12
Hannibal
Hannibal Nutrition Center
219 South 10th Street

Tuesday, April 17
Springfield
Springfield Chamber of Commerce
202 South John Q. Hammons Parkway

Wednesday, April 18
Jefferson City
MoDOT Central Office
Conference Room 100
105 W. Capitol Avenue

Wednesday, April 25
Poplar Bluff
Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce
1111 West Pine Street

Thursday, April 26
Kirkwood
Kirkwood Train Station
110 West Argonne Drive

The draft plan is available at www.morail.org, where the online version of the public meeting will also be available starting April 10. Public comments will be accepted until May 4.

###