

At the outset of the development of the state rail plan, MoDOT posted a survey on its website, www.modot.org. As of March 9, 2012, it had attracted almost 3,000 online respondents. The survey shows Missourians not only have a deep appreciation for the value and service of railroads, but it suggests they also see value in investing federal and state funds to do more to carry people and freight. Highlights from the survey include:

- More than 76 percent said if there was a benefit to the state (reduced highway congestion or more reliable passenger service), state or federal funds should be used to fund freight rail expansion.
- More than 91 percent believe passenger rail service and routes should be expanded in Missouri, while 85 percent say they would consider commuting to work or school by rail if it were available.
- Specific to state-supported Missouri River Runner passenger rail service, survey responses indicate the majority of Missourians believe it is both a good value and generally view the service and on-time performance as good. Eighty eight percent say yes to this question: "The Missouri River Runner currently relies on annual funding from the state legislature. Do you support the continuation of this service?"
- A majority (57 percent) support continued funding; even recognizing such funding is not secure and must be renewed annually by state legislators.
- As to sources of funding, sizeable numbers indicate they would favor using state gasoline tax revenue (48.2 percent) or state sales tax revenue (38.6 percent) to support passenger rail service. More than 32 percent favor a dedicated sales tax to support passenger rail.
- Nearly half (45.9 percent) of respondents indicate increased freight rail capacity should be a high priority.
- Almost 66 percent view shipping by rail as more economically justified and cost effective, while more than half (51.5 percent) view freight rail as more environmentally friendly.
- When those who use freight rail were asked what they view as the biggest issue, 43.1 percent named "congestion" as the primary concern. Less than 20 percent see passenger trains sharing track space with freight trains as an important issue.
- Asked to rank railroad facility or service improvements which would help generate more sales/business for companies or would encourage more businesses to use rail, 36.7 percent rank creating more rail-to-truck transfer facilities as their primary desire and 31 percent suggest more city-owned spur tracks which could be used by multiple companies.

Complete survey results are available by clicking here ([link to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=hw2ftJsDYyGE5CMVG_2bHZvx9_2bHwGv_2faK33_2baIQ_PvCfsY_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=hw2ftJsDYyGE5CMVG_2bHZvx9_2bHwGv_2faK33_2baIQ_PvCfsY_3d)). Comments from the survey do not necessarily reflect the views of the Missouri Department of Transportation of MoDOT, but rather represent the opinions of respondents. The results of the survey were analyzed and used in conjunction with several other sources of information, such as public comments, statistical and anecdotal information from passenger and freight railroad companies and other analyses performed by HNTB, in the development of the Missouri State Rail Plan.