

Recommendations for Statutory or Regulatory Changes

21.795. 2(7) RSMo

The information in this section is in accordance with the following section of the reporting statute. “Specific Recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the department;...”
Section 21.795.2(7)

The Missouri Department of Transportation strives to maintain its existing transportation system, and continues to work with the available funding for construction and rehabilitation of the state road system. MoDOT is committed to working with the Governor’s Office and the General Assembly in the 2006 legislative session to explore ways to enhance transportation programs and operations and to accelerate project completion.

Last year, the General Assembly passed a number of legislative proposals that affected Missouri’s transportation system. Some of the legislative proposals included the extension of the jet fuel sales tax, creation of a process on highway/bridge designation and provisions relating to bicycle safety.

MoDOT has drafted a number of legislative proposals for next session to improve safety on Missouri roadways, assist with economic development and help the department operate more efficiently.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the department’s legislative agenda at its September meeting. The proposals are grouped into two main areas: safety and economic development.

Safety

Primary Seat Belt Law – Safety is MoDOT’s top priority in everything it does. The department’s goal is to create a safe environment for both the traveling public and its employees. To help achieve this goal, the department is proposing a primary seat belt law that would allow law enforcement officials to stop drivers for failing to wear their seat belts. Under current state law, officers can only issue a citation for failing to wear a seat belt if the driver is stopped for some other violation. A mandated seat belt law could save approximately 90 lives a year.

Safety for Workers on Missouri’s Rights-of-Way – The department is also pursuing legislation to improve highway workers’ safety. The proposal would impose increased and specific penalties for certain actions by motorists in work zones or for killing or injuring a highway worker (private contractor/MoDOT employee). It will also increase fines for repeat traffic offenses in work zones.

Motor Carrier Registration – Another safety-related proposal will allow MoDOT to refuse, suspend or revoke the registration of a motor carrier or driver if that carrier or driver has been prohibited by a federal agency to operate in interstate commerce pursuant to federal law. This would increase safety by keeping motor carrier drivers and vehicles with safety violations off Missouri's roads.

Economic Development

Multimodal Financing – MoDOT not only administers programs related to highways and bridges but also public transit, rail, aviation and waterways. This proposal would allow the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to issue bonds for the purpose of funding multimodal capital improvement projects.

Private Public Partnerships (PPP) – PPPs are a key tool for advancing projects and economic development because they provide another option for improving transportation. The proposal would allow the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to enter into contractual agreements with the private sector that would finance, build, maintain and operate major highway and bridge projects on the state highway system.

While these are the issues that MODOT is specifically requesting General Assembly approval during the 2006 legislative session, the department may continue to support other legislative proposals for 2006 that it supported in previous years.