

Department
of Transportation



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Pete K. Rahn, Director

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Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight:

I'm pleased to present the Missouri Department of Transportation's *2004 Report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight*. This comprehensive account of MoDOT's projects and finances covers July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. An *Executive Summary* outlines the report to the committee and highlights some of MoDOT's accomplishments throughout the year.

This report gives Missouri legislators a view of our accomplishments for the year and is an important part in making MoDOT one of the most accountable organizations in Missouri state government. These pages feature the highlights of our financial and legislative achievements, and a look at our construction and maintenance plans for the coming years.

The report also gives citizens a chance to learn who we are and what we do. MoDOT is responsible for more than 32,000 miles of highways and bridges -- the seventh-largest state road system in the United States. In addition to constructing and taking care of highways, MoDOT plays a key part in Missouri's rail, aviation, transit and waterway systems.

More than 6,000 dedicated employees maintain the highway system, so Missourians get the most from their transportation investment. Our highways and bridges are a \$65 billion asset that we must protect by devoting the proper resources to taking better care of our existing highways, finishing what we've started and building public trust. The department also takes care of 350,000 acres of roadside, maintains 19 rest areas, installs hundreds of thousands of signs and signals on state routes, protects travelers and workers in hundreds of work zones, and helps our individual customers.

Answering these challenges becomes increasingly difficult as our funding resources dwindle. MoDOT maintains our immense transportation system with one of the lowest investments per mile of highway in the United States. Right now, 43 states receive more revenue per mile than Missouri. Weigh that against the needs of our system and it's easy to see the transportation challenges Missouri faces.

Missouri's future depends on the success of our transportation system. I look forward to discussing our plans with you and hearing your thoughts on meeting the challenges before us, so that together we can provide the most value for our transportation investment.

Sincerely,

Pete K. Rahn
Director
Missouri Department of Transportation

cc: Members of the Missouri General Assembly
Governor's Office