What are Missouri’s Transportation Needs?

When MoDOT completed its long-range transportation plan in 2014, and refreshed it in 2018, extensive input from Missourians resulted in five goals for the state’s transportation system over the next 20 years:

1. Take care of the transportation system and services we enjoy today.
2. Keep all travelers safe – no matter the mode of transportation.
3. Invest in projects that spur economic growth and create jobs.
4. Give Missourians better transportation choices.
5. Improve reliability and reduce congestion on Missouri’s transportation system.

High-Priority Unfunded Annual Transportation Needs

- Improve Bridge Conditions: $95 million
- Improve Road Conditions: $50 million
- MoDOT Maint. & Operations: $25 million
- Invest in projects that increase economic growth and improve safety: $275 million
- Major Interstate Reconstruction: $300 million
- Improve Multimodal Transportation Options: $80 million

Total: $825 million
With MoDOT’s current available resources, the reality is that the department must focus its attention on keeping the existing system in the condition that it is in today. To do that, some MoDOT districts must devote every available dollar to maintaining the condition of their roads and bridges, and they are still going to lose ground over time. That leaves a number of unfunded transportation needs.

**Improve road and bridge conditions** – Investing an additional $170 million per year would enable all of MoDOT’s districts to adequately maintain their existing system, begin driving down the state’s number of poor bridges, improve the condition of the state’s roads and stabilize the level of MoDOT’s maintenance and operations efforts to keep pace with inflationary cost increases. The **required investment equates to an average of $3.31 per month by each of the state’s licensed drivers.**
Invest in projects that increase economic growth and improve safety – These are the projects that local communities across the state are clamoring for but which are unaffordable in today’s financial environment. Projects include new interchanges, adding shoulders with rumble stripes and adding lanes to the current system. In addition to congestion reduction and economic growth benefits, all of these projects would improve safety so fewer fatalities and serious injuries occur.

An additional investment of $275 million per year would allow MoDOT to begin meeting those needs. MoDOT would work with its regional planning partners to ensure the highest priorities would be funded. The required investment equates to an average of $5.36 per month by each of the state’s licensed drivers.
Major interstate highway reconstruction – The nation’s interstate system is now 60 years old, and Missouri’s interstates were built with a 20-year life expectancy. They need attention. The poster child for Missouri’s interstate needs is Interstate 70 – the nation’s oldest interstate. MoDOT has known for years that it needs to be reconstructed with added capacity to reliably handle mounting levels of traffic, especially long-haul trucks. The project, though, has been and continues to be unaffordable.

The state’s other six interstates will also be facing improvement/preservation needs in the coming years. An additional $300 million per year would allow MoDOT to begin tackling this long overdue improvement. The required investment equates to an average of $5.85 per month by each of the state’s licensed drivers.
High-Priority Unfunded TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

Many Missourians depend on non-highway modes of transportation; however, the state currently invests very little money towards those needs.

Improve multimodal transportation options – Missouri’s transit systems, railroads, ports, waterways, airports and bicycle/pedestrian facilities could begin to see much needed improvements with an annual investment of $80 million. MoDOT would work with the owners and stakeholders of these transportation systems, along with our regional planning partners, to identify and fund the highest priority needs. The required investment equates to an average of $1.56 per month by each of the state’s licensed drivers.