

The Missouri Department of Transportation is soliciting projects for the State Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) Freight Enhancement Program.

<p>Eligible Applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public, private, and not-for-profit entities are eligible for Freight Enhancement funds.
<p>Project Eligibility: NOTE: Any application that fails to meet these criteria will be disqualified and is ineligible for funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with RSMo 226.225, Freight Enhancement funds must be used for transportation purposes other than roads. Freight Enhancement funds are limited to capital projects such as the construction of improvements or purchase of equipment that support the 2022 State Freight and Rail Plan's identified goals, objectives, strategies, actions or needs (see Tables 1, 2, and 3 of this notice for additional information). Operating costs are not eligible. A minimum of 20% of the project's cost must come from sources other than FRE funding. A total of \$1,750,000 is anticipated to be available for this program. The maximum available for any one project is \$700,000. Funds will be paid on a reimbursable basis and will not be lump sum grants. A list of previously selected projects can be found on the MoDOT Freight website.
<p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freight Enhancement funds must be used on projects located within the State of Missouri.
<p>Project Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects should be ready to begin July 15, 2025, and must be completed and billed to MoDOT by June 15, 2026. NOTE: All eligible costs must occur after July 15, be preapproved by MoDOT staff, and be procured following Missouri State Statutes.
<p>Contact information for questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levi Woods 573-526-5578; MoFreight@modot.mo.gov Stacey Fowler 573-526-4045; MoFreight@modot.mo.gov
<p>Application Procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project applications must be submitted electronically in Adobe .pdf format to MoFreight@modot.mo.gov and received no later than 5:00 pm Central Time May 7, 2025. We recommend applicants check the return receipt option in their email. The proposal must be limited to seven (7) pages and must contain the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name, address, telephone number and email address of the applicant. Address and/or physical description of the project location including a map or aerial photo of the location. A narrative description of the construction project or equipment to be purchased that includes a justification for the project and how it links to the 2022 State Freight and Rail Plan through Tables 1, 2 and 3 of this notice. Identify how the project meets the Evaluation Criteria (see page 2). This must be clearly explained in the applicant's response. Project budget. This must include the following table:

Total Project Cost for SFY 2026	Freight Enhancement Funds Requested \$	Matching Funds Amount \$	% Local Match for this SFY 2026

- A commitment letter(s) from the matching funds supplier(s) shall be included but will not be counted against the seven-page limit.

Evaluation Criteria: The following criteria will be considered when making relative project rankings. Final selection will be made by MoDOT staff from among the projects. The evaluation rubric is located here .	Points Possible <i>36 total</i>
1. Which 2022 Missouri State Freight and Rail Plan goals, objectives, needs, strategies, or actions (see Tables 1, 2, and 3 of this notice <i>for additional information</i>) does this project directly address? <i>The narrative must provide the reader with a clear <u>understanding of how this project links to the needs, actions, strategies, objectives, and goals from the SFRP. Specificity encouraged. This category is linked to the public benefit derived from the project if funded.</u></i>	15
2. Amount of additional annual freight (tonnage) this project will directly allow the facility to shift to a non-highway transportation mode. Include a brief statement on how that amount was calculated and how this project directly contributes to that modal shift.	3
3. Amount of additional annual freight (value) this project will directly allow the facility to shift to a non-highway transportation mode. Include a brief statement on how that amount was calculated and how this project directly contributes to that modal shift.	3
4. Is the need for this project based on an existing customer/market, a committed prospective customer, or speculative? Include information on industries that will be served by this improvement.	7
5. Percent matching funds above 20 percent can result in a higher relative project ranking. <i>a. Total Project Cost = Match Dollars + State Freight Enhancement Dollars.</i> <i>b. Match Percent = Match Dollars/Total Project Cost.</i>	8

Table 1. Summary of [Missouri 2022 State Freight and Rail Plan](#) Applicable Goals and Objectives

Goal	Goal	Objective
SAFETY	Improve SAFETY and SECURITY of the multimodal freight system by supporting efforts to decrease the number and severity of freight vehicle crashes, increase truck parking options and improve safety throughout the multimodal freight system	
SAFETY		Decrease the number and severity of crashes involving commercial motor vehicles.
SAFETY		Improve grade crossing surfaces, utilize warning devices, and pursue road closures and grade separations where appropriate.
SAFETY		Support the safe movement of maritime and aviation freight.
SAFETY		Promote the safe transportation of hazardous materials.
SAFETY		Support cooperative efforts with Amtrak and freight railroads to enhance the security of passenger and freight operations.
SAFETY		Support the maintenance and development of safe and secure truck parking facilities for commercial vehicle drivers.
CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY	Improve the CONNECTIVITY and MOBILITY of the multimodal freight system by supporting improved efficiency of rails, waterways and airports and improving connections between freight modes.	
CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY		Support the development of intermodal freight facilities to increase connectivity between air, rail, truck and water modes to increase access to domestic and global markets.
CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY		Reduce congestion and increase reliability on roadways and freight intermodal connectors, including connections to freight generators.
CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY		Support and encourage improved efficiency of railroads, waterways and airports.
EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY	Support EQUITY and ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY of the multimodal freight system	

Goal	Goal	Objective
EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY		Support opportunities for alternative fueling infrastructure.
EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY		Support expanded multimodal freight service as a part of an overall state energy conservation policy to protect Missouri travelers and shippers from the adverse mobility and economic impacts of expected increases in future transportation energy costs.
EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY		Support expanded multimodal freight service as a means of reducing carbon emissions and fuel consumed and support increasing the resiliency and redundancy of the system against extreme weather events.
MAINTENANCE	MAINTAIN the multimodal freight system in good condition by supporting the maintenance of railways, waterways, airports and multimodal connections.	
ECONOMY	Support ECONOMIC GROWTH and COMPETITIVENESS in Missouri through strategic improvements to the multimodal freight network	
ECONOMY		Enhance and support opportunities for economic development, business expansion and attraction and job growth through improvements to the multimodal freight system.
ECONOMY		Promote multimodal freight service, infrastructure improvements and intermodal connectivity to increase the efficiency of multimodal freight modes, lower transportation costs for Missouri businesses and provide increased access to global markets.
ECONOMY		Enhance resiliency and develop redundancy for the multimodal freight system
PROCESS AND INNOVATION	Institute policies and practices that support the multimodal freight systems, encourage INNOVATION and promote an efficient use of resources	
PROCESS AND INNOVATION		Support the efficient use of resources in multimodal freight planning efforts.
PROCESS AND INNOVATION		Encourage the use of technology to improve the safety, efficiency and accuracy of multimodal freight planning efforts.

Table 2. Summary of [Missouri 2022 State Freight and Rail Plan](#) Applicable Needs

Mode	Need
RAIL	Signalization and signing at-grade rail-highway crossings
RAIL	Spurs serving local businesses
RAIL	Improving intermodal network, facilities and connectivity through port improvements, transload facilities and rail infrastructure serving hubs
RAIL	Addressing bottlenecks and constraints to help ensure businesses can rely on the rail network for shipping needs
RAIL	Maintaining and expanding shortline and local railroads to avoid removal or reduced operations
RAIL	Aging structures and clearance restrictions
AIR	Seamless access to air cargo facilities
AIR	Improve runway and taxiway expansions, cargo aprons and more space for commercial vehicle storage.
AIR	Industrial development around airports to increase the value of air cargo services
PORTS	Lock and dam expansion on Mississippi River
PORTS	Investments for intermodal connectivity at port sites including rail, container on barge and container on vessel service
PORTS	Investments for emerging port development

Table 3. Summary of [Missouri 2022 State Freight and Rail Plan](#) Applicable Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Purpose	Actions
Expand the "AG Coast of America"	To support increased shipments of agriculture products – including grain, fertilizer and processed food products – on Mississippi and Missouri rivers, continuing the success of the Ag Coast of America and providing additional opportunities for agribusinesses to leverage Missouri's efficient and robust inland waterways network.	
Expand the "AG Coast of America"		Improve efficient road and rail access to inland port site
Expand the "AG Coast of America"		Support increased bulk and container cargo capacity and handling capabilities
Expand the "AG Coast of America"		Continue support for COV/COB ventures led by private sector partners
Missouri Manufactures	To enable the state to support the evolving freight transportation needs for goods movement and its supporting workforce.	
Missouri Manufactures		Improved road and rail access to air cargo facilities
Missouri Manufactures		Improved road and rail access to new and repurposed industrial sites

Strategy	Purpose	Actions
Missouri Manufactures		Identify and invest in potential infrastructure needed to support new and emerging industries expected in new areas of the state
Efficient and Intelligent Multimodal Freight Corridors	To leverage technology solutions and operational changes to improve the efficiency of freight movement across all modes.	
Efficient and Intelligent Multimodal Freight Corridors		Support implementation of freight-based technology solutions and foster emerging transportation technologies across all modes
Expand Freight Rail Market Opportunities	To expand the rail freight market to make Missouri more competitive for shippers	
Expand Freight Rail Market Opportunities		Reduce number of at-grade highway/rail crossings to improve the efficient movement of freight and increase the quality of life through reduce congestion and improved safety
Expand Freight Rail Market Opportunities		Invest in grade separations for high-use/risk at-grade crossings to improve safety
Expand Freight Rail Market Opportunities		Improve access and connectivity to multimodal freight rail facilities
Expand Freight Rail Market Opportunities		Continue work with private-sector rail industry to expand rail capacity, improve rail fluidity and ease traffic congestion to accommodate projected growth
Expand Freight Rail Market Opportunities		Increase truck to rail freight conversions by working with shippers and carriers to improve access to rail freight