

I have good news and more good news



There are so many good things happening at MoDOT right now that I'm not sure exactly where to start.

By now, you've probably heard that there will be no increase in medical premiums for the third year in a row. In its July meeting, the Commission approved the recommendation to hold premiums at the current rate for active employees and retirees. This is possible, in no small part, to all of you for managing healthcare costs by using participating providers and using generic prescriptions whenever possible. I want to thank you for helping your fellow workers and our department through your efforts.

More good news for employees that came out of the Commission Meeting is a minimum 3 percent increase in salaries beginning on January 31 of next year. Employees on steps 1 through 8 as of Dec. 31, 2019 will receive a two-step salary increase. This increase will move this group of employees further within the range and relieve compression towards the entry step of salary grades 1-21. Employees on steps 9 through 17 as of Dec. 31, 2019 will receive a one-step salary increase. These salary increases will help increase the competitiveness of our salary structure and advance employees within their salary ranges. I feel this shows a dedication by the Commission and MoDOT to recruit and retain valuable employees. We can all be thankful for the Commission's leadership and Governor Parson and the General Assembly for their support of public service.

The Commission also approved the 2020-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The STIP is MoDOT's list of 1,872 highway and bridge projects that are planned by state and regional agencies. Let's hope policymakers in Washington are able to fix the Highway Trust Fund or there could be serious consequences to \$613 million in projects, including 5,423 lane-miles of roadway improvements and 55 bridge projects scheduled for FY 2021 and 2022. I remain optimistic.

The final bit of good news I have to offer is bittersweet. In 2016, an inattentive motorist struck and killed Lyndon Ebker, a 30-year employee of MoDOT, in a Franklin County work zone. On July 9, Gov. Mike Parson signed House Bill 499 which authorizes the Missouri Department of Revenue to revoke the driver's license of anyone who hits a highway or utility worker in a work zone or an emergency responder in an emergency zone. I was there when the governor signed "Lyndon's Law," as were members of Lyndon's family. Nothing will ever replace him in the hearts of his family, friends and co-workers. But Missouri highway, utility and emergency workers will be able to feel a little safer while doing the work for which we are all grateful.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick K. McKenna". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patrick K. McKenna

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation system that is safe, innovative, reliable and dedicated to a prosperous Missouri.