

## Focus on the future



Happy New Year and welcome to a brand-new decade.

Of course, one of the biggest changes in the new year so far is the way you're reading this introductory letter. Starting with this issue of *Tracker*, our quarterly publication to track our successes and challenges is coming to you in an all-digital format. In addition to the obvious cost savings of not printing a hard copy, this online version of *Tracker* is structurally and visually focused to align with our mission of Safety, Service and Stability. It is much more convenient to access for all employees and has a higher level of transparency to the general public.

In addition, the online *Tracker* gives readers more ability to interact with the information than ever before. I'm excited about this new online publication and I'm looking forward to hearing your feedback.

As we move forward in the new decade, we're going to be taking on new challenges in public safety on our roadways. Highway fatalities were down slightly in 2019 but I find the nearly 37,000 deaths across the country to be unacceptable. I strongly believe that this is a public health crisis that needs to be addressed.

I'm encouraged by statistics that show seat belt usage is up across the state, reaching an all-time high of 87.7%. That's up 6.4% in the last three years alone. Not coincidentally, our Buckle Up Phone Down campaign celebrated its third birthday in 2019. As the current president of AASHTO, I'm urging other states to take advantage of BUPD's proven success.

Speaking of BUPD, the campaign was one of two MoDOT winners in the recent Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity. The second went to North Fork River Emergency Bridge Replacements on State Route PP and State Route CC in Ozark County. Though the respective teams accepted the awards, I like to think every employee at MoDOT was the real recipient for what is truly a team effort. Congratulations to all and thank you for everything you do.

With warm regards,

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.*