

# Overcoming challenges



Data in this edition reflects the rise in the traffic fatality rate for 2021 which surpassed 1,000 for the first time since 2006. According to preliminary data, 1,007 people were killed in Missouri traffic crashes in 2021, a 2% increase over 2020. This is an alarming number, particularly when you consider that it represents the second straight year of growing fatality totals after nearly a decade of steady decline. Excessive speed, distracted driving and lack of seat belt use account for a majority of these unnecessary deaths. The challenge to us moving forward is finding a way to emphasize our safety messages—most notably Buckle Up Phone Down—and getting those warnings to stick in the minds of those traveling in Missouri.

Another challenge for the new year is finding a way to reverse the growing turnover rate. As you'll see in this edition's measures, the projected fiscal year 2022 overall turnover rate is 18.2%. Last year, MoDOT experienced seven consecutive months of 70 or more separations per month and two months that exceeded 90 separations. We continue to explore ways to reduce that turnover and retain our valuable, experienced workforce.

I'm proud of the planning and execution of our recent snow fights, particularly since they have been made more difficult by staff shortages and the continuing pandemic. If you have not yet been vaccinated or received your COVID booster, please consider doing so. Don't come to work if you're feeling sick. Our best safety practices have always been about taking care of ourselves while we care for those around us.

With all of our challenges, the MoDOT team continues to perform and to deliver strong results to taxpayers. Please use this Tracker and those developed at the divisional level to understand how we are doing and use these insights to continue to strive for even better future performance.

Thank you for your service and please stay healthy and safe.

## Mission

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

Patrick K. McKenna