

## Our success is truly a team effort



This has been a challenging year. Facing shortages in both supplies and people, our MoDOT team is dedicated to doing its best to maintain our commitment to the safety, service and stability of Missouri roadways.

There have been a few milestones. On Sept. 30, the MHTC and I joined Gov. Mike Parson and Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson for the ribbon cutting ceremony of Interstate 49 at the Missouri/Arkansas state line. State and federal transportation officials have discussed the necessity of the I-49 Missouri-Arkansas Connector for more than 25 years and it was very satisfying to formally open the highway that will provide travelers a safe and efficient route from Kansas City to Fort Smith.

As you're likely aware, we continue to be challenged by department-wide turnover and shortages in our winter maintenance work crews. We have very detailed plans on how we'll handle snow events as they inevitably occur. The upcoming season will be challenging, but we feel we are as prepared as we can possibly be.

That doesn't stop me from hoping for a mild winter.

COVID-19 is not gone, but our situation is improving. That has allowed us to return to some of our pre-pandemic practices. I hope that takes some of the pressure off our teams, but it's important to remember that COVID-19 is still with us. Please be considerate of your fellow co-workers. Practice social distancing whenever possible. Consider getting vaccinated if you haven't already. Wash your hands frequently. And remember, some may still feel more comfortable being masked. It is important to respect their feelings.

Our budget plan has been approved by the Commission but we're still several steps from having it in place. Please be assured we're doing everything we can do on your behalf because your involvement with our MoDOT family is not only the foundation for our past accomplishments, but is also vital to our continued success going forward.

I couldn't be more proud of the way all of you faced the challenges of the past several months and continue to provide exceptional service to the citizens of Missouri.

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.*