

## Focus on the future



We're on a roll.

That's one of the messages I've been delivering as I've traveled around the state, often with Gov. Parson as he continues to highlight his top two priorities: infrastructure and workforce development. We're fortunate to have his support. It has paid off in the form of general revenue and bonding authority to fix hundreds of poor bridges, an economic development cost-share program and two federal grants: an INFRA grant to build a new Rocheport Bridge and a Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant.

In October, we put Missouri on the map for those states participating in the annual American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials conference, which we hosted in St. Louis. I was honored to be elected president of this outstanding organization at the conference. I plan to focus on two main areas during my presidency: 1) renewing a focus on a national public health crisis – the loss of lives on our nation's highways; and 2) gaining funding stability through a long-term transportation bill. Taking our Buckle Up Phone Down initiative to the national level will be a goal of my safety focus.

On the home front, I want you to know we are continuing to use all avenues available to us to give you the resources you need to be successful in your job and to support our core values of safety, service and stability. We've made progress toward establishing a more focused safety team under the guidance of our Chief Safety and Operations Officer, Becky Allmeroth. We're working to better support employee health and wellbeing under the Chief Administrative Officer position, being led in the interim by Lester Woods. Brenda Morris, our Chief Financial Officer, and her team have the critical responsibility of handling our budgeting and bonding duties, while Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and Assistant Chief Engineer Eric Schroeter are guiding our core mission of delivering quality projects on time and within budget.

Looking ahead, we face the annual challenges of winter operations. Let's hope the weather is a bit milder than it was last season! Let's also keep the MoDOT team in the Northwest in our thoughts as flooding continues to be a battle throughout the region.

Whatever lies in store for us, I know you are the team to handle it! Thank you for everything you do to ensure the continued safety and satisfaction of all who travel in and through this great state of Missouri.

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.*