A Vision for Missouri’s Freight Transportation Future

Building on MoDOT’s long range plan, which established the vision for Missouri transportation, and through collaboration with freight partners, MoDOT has developed a State Freight Plan. The plan describes Missouri’s existing freight system, establishes goals and strategies for updating the system over the next 10+ years, and will guide future investments in transportation and prioritize freight projects that will provide the most economic benefits to the state.

Freight is a critical element in the Missouri economy and it’s important to have a plan to make sure we keep freight – and the Missouri economy – moving smoothly. Missouri’s freight transportation system is how products such as soybeans and aviation parts are transported around the world. Making smart investments can help to provide better options for Missouri businesses to get their products to markets. An improved freight transportation system can also lower transportation costs.

Ports and waterways represent a relatively small share of the modal tonnage and value in Missouri, but there is opportunity for this to increase in the future. The potential for increased traffic is due to the Panama Canal expansion project which could increase freight movement on inland waters and the congestion and capacity issues with highways and rail.

Missouri is a major agricultural producing state. Agriculture products are the second highest commodity by tonnage moving through Missouri ports. Agriculture products account for 10.8 million tons which is nearly 22 percent of Missouri’s port tonnage.

For more information
www.MOFreightPlan.org
www.MODOT.org
1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636)
Key issues identified through regional forums >>

- Missouri River is under-utilized and could take strain off of highways and rail
- Low water levels are a concern
- Outdated locks and dams on upper Mississippi River
- Concerns about funding for ports
- Need consistent support for dredging

Top 5 ports and waterways system needs >>

1. Maintenance of both the land and water sides of operations
2. Upgrades and rehabilitation of locks and dams
3. Enhanced water flow for greater river level reliability, particularly on the Missouri River.
4. Support for development of emerging ports
5. Freight network designation to help focus current and future freight investments.

The freight moving through Missouri ports and along its waterways is a valuable commodity.

Top 5 ports and waterways network commodities >>

1. Coal - 25.3%
2. Farm products - 21.7%
3. Nonmetallic minerals (such as sand, rock, gravel and salt) - 17.6%
4. Chemicals or similar products - 9.2%
5. Clay, concrete, glass or stone - 8.6%

Top 5 ports and waterways network growth trends >>

From 2011 to 2030 it’s forecast that the largest growth will be in intra-state (inside Missouri) and outbound water freight.

Port tonnage is forecast to increase from 49.9 million in 2011 to 63.3 million in 2030, an increase of 26.9%.

Port commodity value is forecast to increase from $12.5 billion in 2011 to $15.4 billion by 2030, an increase of 23.1%.

nearly 22% of the State's port tonnage are agricultural products, making these products the second highest commodity moving through Missouri ports. Coal is the top commodity.