

Recommendations for Statutory or Regulatory Changes 21.795. 2(7) RSMo

*The information in this section is in accordance with the following section of the reporting statute. “Specific Recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the department;...”
Section 21.795.2(7)*

The Missouri Department of Transportation strives to maintain its existing transportation system, and continues to work with the available funding for construction and rehabilitation of the state road system. MoDOT is committed to working with the Governor’s Office and the General Assembly in the 2007 legislative session to explore ways to enhance transportation programs & operations, accelerate project completion and improve safety on Missouri’s highways.

Last year, the General Assembly passed a number of legislative proposals that affected Missouri’s transportation system. Some of the legislative proposals included the Missouri Public-Private Partnerships Transportation Act, highway work zone safety, motor carrier safety and changes to the child passenger restraint law.

MoDOT has drafted a number of legislative proposals for next session to improve safety on Missouri roadways, assist with economic development and help the department operate more efficiently.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the department’s legislative agenda at its September meeting. The proposals are grouped into five “tangible results” found in MoDOT’s Tracker, Measures of Departmental Performance: Safe Transportation System, Innovative Transportation Solutions, Efficient Movement of Goods, Partner With Others to Deliver Transportation Services and Advocate for Transportation Issues.

Safe Transportation System

Primary Safety Belt Law – Safety is MoDOT’s top priority in everything it does. The department’s goal is to create a safe environment for both the traveling public and its employees. To help achieve this goal, the department is proposing a primary safety belt law that would allow law enforcement officials to stop drivers for failing to wear their seat belts. Under current state law, officers can only issue a citation for failing to wear a seat belt if the driver is stopped for some other violation. A mandated safety belt law could save approximately 90 lives a year.

Highway Safety Name Change – This cleanup language would make reference to the transfer of statutory powers, duties and functions previously performed by the Division of Highway Safety (DHS) under the Department of Public Safety to the

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The legislation is needed in order to change incorrect references to the DHS rather than the MHTC due to the transfer of duties that took place in 2003.

Innovative Transportation Solutions

Multimodal Financing – MoDOT not only administers programs related to highways and bridges but also public transit, rail, aviation and waterways. This proposal would allow the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to issue bonds from revenue deposited into a dedicated funding source for the purpose of funding multimodal capital improvement projects and assist local transportation providers with the necessary match required for federal transit capital grants.

Efficient Movement of Goods and Partner With Others to Deliver Transportation Services

Unified Carrier Registration System – The department will pursue a proposal that would put into place statutory authorization to implement a new interstate registration program referred to as the Unified Carrier Registration System. This program would replace the current Single State Registration System and will modify the registration requirements for the interstate exempt registration program, mirroring recent federal law changes.

Advocate for Transportation Issues

Voiding Outdoor Advertising Permits – Another proposal to increase department efficiency would give the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission authority to void outdoor advertising permits under certain circumstances. This authority would allow MoDOT to be in compliance with federal requirements for effective outdoor advertising control.

While these are the issues that MODOT is specifically requesting General Assembly approval during the 2007 legislative session, the department may continue to support other legislative proposals for 2007 that it supported in previous years.