



*December 7, 2007*

## ***The GR Capitol Report***

Governmental Relations 573/522-9284

**SPEAKER JETTON TOURS MISSOURI - UNDERSTANDS NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION REVENUES:** During his first week of a two-week tour, Speaker Rod Jetton (R-Marble Hill), gained first hand experience on what kinds of transportation projects are currently being built and the needs that will yet remain until additional transportation funding can be identified.

In 2000, shortly after Rep. Jetton was elected to his current seat in the Missouri House of Representatives, he walked from Marble Hill to the steps of the Capitol as an attempt to campaign against MoDOT and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) because at that time he believed the two entities were "unaccountable" because the 15-Year Highway Plan was not being completed.

However, during his tenure in the Missouri legislature, Rep. Jetton say he has gained valuable education about the MHTC and MoDOT and how they operate – and today – praises the department for the work it does.

Speaker Jetton attributes his public support for MoDOT and the MHTC because of the following reasons:

- The Gubernatorial appointment (of the current) six MHTC members who understand the need to improve the state's transportation infrastructure.
- Director Pete Rahn and his ability to lead MoDOT and its employees into a direction of being the nations transportation leaders.
- Missouri had 161 fewer highway deaths because of safety improvement on Missouri's roads and bridges (i.e. guard cable and rumble stripes)
- The department has received several national safety awards;
- MoDOT has the 3rd lowest administrative cost in the nation;
- Missouri's roads have improved from the 47th worst in the nation to 3rd best in the nation; and
- MoDOT utilizes contractor innovation.

Rep. Jetton has gone on record as stating that he supports a revenue increase for the transportation needs of the state. Where the revenues should come from and how the money should be spent is something that he believes needs to yet be determined.

Rep. Jetton says the only way to convince 51 percent of Missouri voters to support a future revenue increase for transportation is going to be a grass-roots educational effort to show the voters that MoDOT is a very accountable and efficient state agency (referring to the Missouri Quality Award) and there are many local and statewide transportation projects that need funding if Missouri is going to be a transportation hub of the nation.

To date, Rep. Jetton's outreach program has influenced about 200 local transportation leaders in the northern part of the state.

Next week, Speaker Jetton will continue his tour in the southern areas of the state by visiting Springfield, Joplin, Rolla, Mt. View and Poplar Bluff areas.

### **MoDOT PRESENTS APPROPRIATIONS SUMMARY BEFORE HOUSE**

**COMMITTEE:** On Dec. 3, the House Appropriations Committee for Transportation and Economic Development held a hearing to receive public testimony relating to the issue of transportation. This form of "public outlet" allows taxpayers of the state to praise or complain to state elected officials about the state services they receive as it relates to transportation. (Please note: other budget committees also hear public testimony relating other state services relating to social services, natural resources, health and so on.)

After public testimony was presented to the committee, MoDOT officials presented to the committee an overview of its appropriations requests for FY 2009.

MoDOT's Chief Financial Officer, Roberta Broeker, provided testimony to the committee. Her presentation focused on the department's appropriations request with respect to administration, construction, maintenance, highway safety, motor carriers and fleet systems. MoDOT's Multimodal Operations Director, Brian Weiler, presented the appropriations requests as it related to ports, aviation, rail and transit.

**MoDOT PRESENTS SPECIAL TOPIC REPORT TO HOUSE COMMITTEE:** On Dec. 3, MoDOT presented a report to the House Appropriations Committee for Transportation and Economic Development informing the committee of topics of special interest requested by the committee members. MoDOT's Chief Engineer, Kevin Keith, provided an update to the committee members on the I-64 highway reconstruction project in St. Louis and an overview of the new Kansas City KcICON bridge project. The Chief also provided an update on the Safe and Sound 802 Bridge Program; on-going negotiations with the state of Illinois on a proposed New Mississippi River Bridge crossing in St. Louis; and why MoDOT will spend \$2 million dollars in federal grant money to study the needs on I-70.

**LEGISLATION INTRODUCED FOR 2008 SESSION:** Beginning Dec. 1, members of the Missouri General Assembly began pre-filing legislation for the 2008 session.

Since 2008 is an election year, it appears at this time, that the legislature will not be heavily debating the issue of increased funding for transportation. MoDOT however will continue to educate the general public on the need for increased funding for transportation purposes; however, it will be left up to either our state's elected officials or the private sector to determine how increased funding should be derived.

The following is a list of some of the more important pieces of transportation-related legislation filed during the first week of pre-filing legislation:

**UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION PROPOSAL FILED EARLY:** Senate Bills 760 and 761, sponsored by Sen. Bill Stouffer (R-Napton), would authorize Missouri to participate in the new federal registration program titled “Unified Carrier Registration.” This is a program the federal government has created to replace the Single State Registration program. Unless legislation is adopted this session to participate in this federal program, the state is subject to a loss of \$2.3 million in commercial motor vehicle registration fees to other states who have adopted this UCR program. Missouri commercial motor carriers support this initiative. This proposal is an MHTC/MoDOT legislative priority for the 2008 session.

**BILL FILED IN RESPONSE TO THE CLOSING OF I-64:** Rep. Scott Muschany (R-St. Louis) filed HB 1338 that would prohibit any state entity from closing any highway with a weighted average traffic volume exceeding seven thousand, for a continuous period exceeding sixty days. Although this bill will have no immediate impact on the I-64 project, it will impact future projects, if passed. Rep. Muschany filed this bill as his means of opposition to MoDOT for closing I-64 to traffic (beginning Jan. 2, 2008) for construction purposes. The biggest part of the I-64 project goes through Rep. Muschany’s legislative district.

**OTHER TRANSPORTATION RELATED BILLS FILED:** Also pre-filed are the following bills relating to transportation:

- SB 722, sponsored by Sen. Maida Coleman (D-St. Louis), exempting school buses from paying motor fuel tax;
- SB 728, sponsored by Sen. Charlie Shield (R-St. Joseph), designating a portion of U.S. Highway 169 as the “Deputy Charles M. Cook Memorial Highway”;
- SB 731, sponsored by Sen. John Griesheimer (R-Washington), relates to safety and emissions inspections and provides when an owner renews his or her registration the year following the purchase of a used vehicle, he or she will not have to submit the vehicle to a safety or emissions inspection;
- SB 753, sponsored by Sen. Rob Mayer (R-Dexter), designated a portion of state highway 84 as the “Corporal Rickey L. Bell Memorial Highway”;
- SB 793, sponsored by Sen. Matt Bartle (R-Lee’s Summit), would authorize MoDOT to construct toll roads in Missouri provided a referendum goes to the voters;
- SB 809, sponsored by Sen. Bill Stouffer (R-Napton), would impose certain outdoor advertising regulations to off-premise billboards within 660 feet of Interstate 70 and Interstate 44 during the period any new construction takes place on such interstates;
- SB 867, sponsored by Sen. Wes Shoemyer (D-Clarence), would require salaries for state employees, excluding elected officials and certain other public officials, to be annually adjusted according to the most recent percentage change in the Consumer Price Index;

- HB 1329, sponsored by Rep. David Sater (R-Cassville), would give registrants an option of a one-time registration for trailers with an unloaded weight of three thousand pounds or less; and
- SB 76, sponsored by Sen. Bill Stouffer (R-Napton), would include a provision that would allow for contractors to purchase and submit annual bid bonds as opposed to project specific bid bonds.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROPOSES AN INCREASE IN PERMIT**

**FEES:** On Nov. 27, Floyd Gilzow, Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Deputy Director of Policy, proposed to the Joint Committee on Restructuring Fees of the Clean Water and Storm Water Programs to increase the clean water program funding by \$29.75 million over five years. To acquire the requested funding, DNR recommended a combination of increasing general revenue allocated and increasing fees. They identified three areas of need: permitting; compliance and assistance; and monitoring. DNR proposed a graduated increase in the permit fee structure. Two possible proposals were suggested: a thirty percent increase in permit fees the first year with an additional five percent per year increase for each of the four succeeding years; or a forty percent increase in permit fees the first year with an additional 2.5 percent per year increase for each of the four succeeding years.

The Committee requested DNR provide additional suggestions concerning the fee structure and suggested incremental increases rather than a large increase at one time. The Committee accepted additional comments from the public and announced they are constructing a preliminary report.

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND**

**CORRECTIONS:** On Dec. 3, Jim Lundsted, Chief Interoperability Officer for the Department of Public Safety, spoke about the need for increased funding for implementation of a statewide interoperability (communications system). Mr. Lundsted testified about his department's inability to communicate with local officials during the Highway 54 bridge accident that occurred on Nov. 27, 2007 and the Dec. 2005 Taum Sauk Dam incident. Mr. Lundsted said state departments are working together and a consultant in developing an interoperability plan for the state. The cost estimates received ranged from thirty million to several hundred million dollars. The Department of Public Safety plans to present a budget proposal requesting only appropriations to fund interoperability. Mr. Lundsted stated the vision is to create a system that local agencies want to be involved in rather than forced to belong for funding purposes.

**LEGISLATIVE MATRIX:** Attached is Governmental Relations weekly update matrix, which shows some of the more important transportation bills that the department is tracking. If you should have any questions about these or any other pending legislative proposals, contact GR at 573.522.9284.



**MoDOT**  
**Bill Progress Matrix**  
 12/6/2007

\***Bills/text in bold** are new to the matrix or received action since the last report

\***Highlighted bills** are MHTC/MoDOT 2008 Priorities

Bill	Description	Author	1st-Chamber	Comm Report	Passed	2nd-Chamber	Comm Report	Passed	Signed/Veto
<b>HB 1299</b>	Changes the definition of "all-terrain vehicle" to include certain utility vehicles manufactured and used exclusively for off-highway use	<b>Kuessner</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>HB 1309</b>	Allows any family member older than 21 years of age to occupy the seat beside a driver with a temporary instruction permit	<b>Day</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>HB 1326</b>	Authorizes an individual income tax deduction for the purchase of a hybrid motor vehicle	<b>Sater</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>HB 1333</b>	Increases the amount that may be recovered through civil action from a landowner who knowingly allows certain noxious weeds to grow on his or her property	<b>Sater</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>HB 1338</b>	Prevents any state entity from completely shutting down a state highway with a certain traffic volume for a continuous period exceeding two months	<b>Muschany</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>HB 1354</b>	Exempts certain "implements of husbandry" from the titling, registration, and license plate requirements of Chapter 301, RSMo	<b>Wilson-119</b>	<b>5-Dec</b>						
<b>HB 1363</b>	Exempts motor fuel used for agricultural purposes from sales and use taxes.	<b>Cunningham</b>	<b>5-Dec</b>						
<b>HJR 39</b>	increasing the percentage of required voter signatures in each of two-thirds of the Congressional districts before a petition can be placed on the ballot	<b>Kuessner</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						

<b>HJR 40</b>	Proposes a constitutional amendment requiring at least 60% of voters to approve amendments to the Missouri Constitution instead of the current simple majority requirement.	<b>Kuessner</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>HJR 45</b>	Proposes a constitutional amendment reducing the number of state representatives to 137, and changes dates for appropriations bills and tabling deadlines	<b>Flook</b>	<b>5-Dec</b>						
<b>HJR 46</b>	Proposes a constitutional amendment reducing, beginning with the 97th General Assembly, the number of state representatives to 137	<b>Kraus</b>	<b>6-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 722</b>	This act exempts motor fuel used for school buses, by school districts or persons contracted with school districts to provide school bus services.	<b>Coleman</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 725</b>	This act allows taxpayers who trade-in or sell a motor vehicle, trailer, boat, or outboard motor for more than the purchase price of another motor vehicle, trailer, boat or outboard motor to apply any excess to any subsequent purchase of such an article within one hundred and eighty days of the original sale of such article.	<b>Scott</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 728</b>	Designates a portion of U.S. Highway 169 as the "Deputy Charles M. Cook Memorial Highway".	<b>Shields</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 729</b>	This act creates the Missouri County Planning Act.	<b>Griesheimer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 731</b>	Exempts certain motorists from submitting their motor vehicles to safety or emissions inspections when renewing their registrations if certain conditions are met	<b>Griesheimer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 753</b>	Designates a portion of state highway 84 as the "Corporal Rickey L. Bell Memorial Highway".	<b>Mayer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 760</b>	Authorizes the State Highways and Transportation Commission to take the necessary steps to implement and administer a state plan to conform with the Unified Carrier Registration Act of 2005	<b>Stouffer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 761</b>	Modifies various laws relating to transportation and the regulation of motor vehicles.	<b>Stouffer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 809</b>	Imposes various billboard standards to billboards adjacent to Interstate 70 and Interstate 44 during period of interstate construction	<b>Stouffer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						

<b>SB 810</b>	Requires all diesel fuel sold at retail in Missouri after April 1, 2010 to be biodiesel-blended fuel	<b>Stouffer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 811</b>	Creates a tax credit for the use of idle reduction technology.	<b>Stouffer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 841</b>	Increases weight limit for certain motor vehicles equipped with idle reduction technology.	<b>Stouffer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 842</b>	Modifies various provisions relating to billboards, particularly the voidance of billboard permits by the commission	<b>Stouffer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 860</b>	Prohibits the condemnation of property owned by a gun club or sportsmen's club.	<b>Shoemyer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SB 867</b>	Requires state employee salaries to be annually adjusted by the consumer price index.	<b>Shoemyer</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						
<b>SJR 31</b>	authorizes the Highway & Transportation Commission to conduct feasibility studies, fund, design, acquire, construct, maintain, and operate toll facilities.	<b>Bartle</b>	<b>3-Dec</b>						