



*November 21, 2007*

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

Governmental Relations 573/522-9284

**MoDOT DIRECTOR PRESENTS ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT:** On Nov. 19, Director Pete Rahn presented MoDOT's 2007 Annual Accountability Report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight.

Director Rahn opened his presentation by announcing to the committee MoDOT's recent winnings of the Missouri Quality Award and the 2007 AASHTO Safety Leadership Award.

The Missouri Quality Award acknowledges MoDOT's work, exceptional results, overall performance as an agency, and excellence in quality leadership. The 2007 Safety Leadership Award acknowledges MoDOT's role in Missouri having the largest drop in traffic-related fatalities than any other state in the nation. Rahn contributed the successful safety efforts to the partnership between MoDOT, law enforcement, and emergency responders.

During last year's presentation Rahn reported the department's goal would be to show Missouri taxpayers that MoDOT is capable, competent, accountable and able to deliver timely, high quality projects within a budget. This year's report reflects the accomplishment of that goal. Rahn stated during his presentation "MoDOT has been focused on delivering value to the citizens of Missouri...MoDOT is your action agency..."

Here are some other highlights of the annual accountability report presented to the committee:

- Success of the Smooth Roads Initiative brought Missouri up from having the third worst pavement on major roads to an estimated ninth best and seventy-four percent of Missouri's major roads are now in good condition;
- Missouri had the largest drop in traffic-related fatalities of any state in the nation;
- Customer satisfaction has improved;
- Launching of a Better Roads Brighter future program that will bring eighty-five percent of Missouri's roads up to good condition and fifteen percent of the roads in fair condition placing Missouri second best in the nation for its pavement;
- MoDOT recently awarded its second design-build project at the November 2007 commission meeting when it awarded the KcICON bridge contract;
- In 2007 MoDOT delivered its construction program at 7.4% under budget;
- MoDOT customer service representatives are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; and
- As a result of I-70 being accepted under the Corridor of the Future federal program, Missouri has received a \$2 million dollar federal grant for a study of dedicated truck lanes on I-70.

Rahn did however emphasize that Missouri cannot continue in this direction without future investment in transportation. Without any future investment in transportation, Missouri will be in maintenance mode only. Rahn explained that transportation funding in 2010 would be the same as it was prior to the passage of Amendment 3, except without the benefit of the improved system.

In attendance during the hearing were Commissioners Duane Michie, Mike Kehoe, Rudy Farber, David Gach, MoDOT's Chief Engineer Kevin Keith and MoDOT's Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker.

**SPEAKER JETTON TO TOUR MISSOURI:** Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Rod Jetton (R-Marble Hill), will begin a two-week tour of the state of Missouri beginning Dec. 3. The purpose of his trip is to raise awareness (via a grassroots effort) of the need for increased revenues for the state's transportation systems.

The Speaker will be visiting each of MoDOT's 10 districts to get a first hand look at some of the transportation projects currently being built in the area. MoDOT's District Engineers will meet speaker Jetton at each location.

The following is a listing of the scheduled stops:

- Dec. 3 – Central District (Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce)
- Dec. 4 – St. Louis District (Pios in St. Charles)
- Dec. 5 – Northeast (William Cappel Elementary) and North Central District (Kirksville Conservation Building)
- Dec. 6 – Northwest District (Stoney Creek Inn)
- Dec. 7 – Kansas City District (The InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza)
- Dec. 10 – South Central District (Mountain View Community Center)
- Dec. 11 – Springfield (Springfield Chamber of Commerce) and Southwest District (MoDOT District office)
- Dec. 12 – Southeast District (sponsored by Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce)

**PUBLIC UNIVERSITY MAY STUDY FUNDING OPTIONS AND SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR AN IMPROVED I-70 AND I-44:** During a meeting of the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight on Nov. 19, the committee stated it is committed to studying the various transportation funding options and the impacts of each option on the citizens of this state. During this meeting, the committee voted in favor to request proposals from the University of Springfield and University of Missouri-Columbia, to conduct a study that will show: 1) How much new revenue would be generated by any viable funding option; and 2) how each option would affect social and economic groups.

The committee anticipates holding a telephone conference prior to the end of the year to discuss any proposals received and determine whether the committee will work with a university to begin conducting the study.

**TWO MEMORIAL HIGHWAY/BRIDGE NAMINGS APPROVED:** On Nov. 19, the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight approved designating a portion of highway B in Bollinger County as the “Aaron McKinney Memorial Highway” and designating the Bee Creek Bridge on highway 273 between Platte City and Weston as the “SPC Colby M. Farnan KIA OIF 02-25-05 Memorial Bridge”.

**GOVERNOR BLUNT NAMES TRISH VINCENT AS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF:** On Nov. 20, Gov. Blunt announced that he has selected Trish Vincent to serve as his new Chief of Staff.

“Trish is a competent administrator and a dedicated public servant,” Blunt said. “She has tremendous experience and she knows how to lead and manage people. In her new role as Chief of Staff, Trish will be charged with managing my office, staff and cabinet and helping me move Missouri forward. Specifically, I am directing Trish to continue moving us forward on my priorities for education, job creation, implementing my plan to cover Missouri’s uninsured, fighting illegal immigration to make up for Washington’s failure to act and making state government even more efficient and accountable to taxpayers.”

Vincent, 53 of Jefferson City, currently serves in Gov. Blunt’s Cabinet as the Director of the Department of Revenue where she has served since the beginning of the governor’s administration.

Vincent replaces outgoing Chief of Staff Ed Martin.