



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
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State Senator Gary Nodler Tapped For Joint Transportation Committee

Panel Charged with Overseeing Accountability, Productivity Efforts Within MoDOT

JEFFERSON CITY -- Senator Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, has earned appointment to the General Assembly's Committee on Transportation Oversight, a panel of Senate and House members charged with recommending ways in which the state's transportation department (MoDOT) can improve its level of services.

"MoDOT has taken it on the chin these last few years and rightly so," Nodler said. "The '15-year-plan' heralded in 1992 was scrapped by the department in six short, expensive years. Today, at a time when Missouri ranks as 48th worst in the nation for road conditions, the current director has apologized for the plan we were sold and the state of affairs we're in. Now is the time for motorists and taxpayers to begin seeing real improvement and this panel will help make that vision a reality."

Nodler, chair of the Senate's Subcommittee on Competition and Privatization and a member of several other legislative panels including the Senate's standing Transportation Committee, said the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee is in place as an advocate for effecting positive change in the near and distant future, rather than as an investigatory board citing past missteps.

“The past is just that, past,” Nodler said. “Missourians are well versed in the story of how our roads and bridges have eroded to what they are today, and no amount of finger pointing or castigating will reverse the facts of history. What we’re looking to do as oversight panel members is to work with MoDOT leaders in rebuilding and expanding our transportation network to a level that leads the nation in safety and functionality.”

Nodler and his colleagues on the Missouri Legislature’s Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight will meet Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. in the Capitol to hear MoDOT’s presentation of the agency’s accountability report.

Required annually by the same legislation establishing the oversight panel, the presentation will include a comprehensive financial report; a detailed explanation of the methods used to select construction projects; a revenue allocation and expenditure proposal; and a work plan proposal for the current fiscal year. MoDOT will also line out the status of current projects and make specific recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes that would make the operation of the department more efficient and effective.

Once panel members evaluate data from the presentation, the transportation oversight committee will issue its own assessments and recommendations to the full Senate and House.

“Positive change comes through a series of small adjustments and sound decisions,” Nodler said. “I believe the work of the Transportation Oversight Committee will result in great change for all who use Missouri’s roadways, railways, waterways and airways.”

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