



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

For the Week of:
July 2, 2007

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Jefferson City, MO 65101

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National Reports Show Big Improvement in Missouri Roads

Every business, agency, and department has a mission. These statements are created to provide the basis for determining the general direction for that entity as well as how that organization provides products to consumers.

The [Missouri Department of Transportation's](#) mission is to "provide a world-class transportation experience that delights [their] customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri."

Recent national reports, compiled by the [Reason Foundation](#) and [The Road Information Program](#) (TRIP - a national transportation research group), tout MoDOT's progress and continued work to improve Missouri's roadways for travelers. The non-profit research from these reports cited Missouri's major improvements in road conditions statewide.

The following highlights portions of the two reports, released by MoDOT at the end of June:

- Missouri's rank in overall performance of its state highway system jumped 11 spots in one year, from 28th in 2004 to 17th in 2005 – the second-largest increase in the nation.
- Missouri had the third lowest administrative costs per mile and the sixth lowest project expenses per mile.
- MoDOT's Smooth Roads Initiative, which improved 2,200 miles of the state's busiest highways, brought 74 percent of Missouri's major highways up to good condition - an increase from just 47 percent in 2004. It's also important to note MoDOT completed the initiative in December 2006, a year head of schedule.

The reports also mentioned Missouri had improved road and bridge conditions, enhanced highway safety, and eased congestion with additional funding from Amendment 3. The reports touched on a recent nationwide survey completed by truckers, which showed Interstates 70 and 44 in Missouri among the nation's most improved highways.

Despite MoDOT's progress, the reports warned about future transportation challenges. Missouri's lowest score dealt with deficient bridges. MoDOT plans to address these bridges with its Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program, which will tackle 800 of Missouri's worst bridges – repairing or replacing them by 2012.

Another challenge falls on funding. The report showed that Missouri had the sixth lowest revenue per mile of any state, while having the seventh largest highway system (32,464 miles).

According to TRIP, MoDOT's annual construction program will fall sharply from \$1.23 billion in 2008 to \$569 million in 2010. This state's transportation system cannot take a funding shortfall of \$18 billion over the next 20 years.

An \$18 billion shortfall is no way to continue the growth of Missouri roadways. This report shows that our state's transportation department has performed efficient operation measures and is moving in the right direction – making our roads safer for all travelers and completing projects on time and within budget.

Full copies of the [Reason Foundation report](#) and the [TRIP report](#) can be found online. If you have questions or comments about these reports or any other issue, please call my office toll free (866) 768-3987 or send me an e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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