



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Loudon
7th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:

March 6, 2008

**Contact: Mike Reid
(573) 751-9763**

Senate Panel Endorses Sen. Loudon's Economy-Building Transportation Plan

JEFFERSON CITY — An innovative, long-range, no-tax, road and bridge funding plan, sponsored by Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, to address the Missouri Department of Transportation's looming financial crisis and to stimulate the state's economy, is headed for debate on the Senate floor following resounding approval by a Senate panel today.

The Financial and Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee voted 6-1 in favor of Sen. Loudon's proposal (SJR 43), which targets 10 percent of the growth in the state's general revenue fund toward Missouri's financially threatened transportation infrastructure. In two years, MoDOT funding will drop from \$1.2 billion a year to fix road and bridges to only about \$569 annually, leaving Missouri with critical transportation needs without the money to pay for them.

"I am pleased the committee endorsed this ground-breaking, no-tax approach, which I believe will result in making the needed investment to our critical infrastructure while significantly growing the economy," Sen. Loudon said. "This long-term commitment will create jobs, encourage more companies to locate and expand, and significantly increase state revenues — which all translate into a robust economy."

If approved by the Senate and House, voters will have the final say on enacting the plan. If approved by voters, it could mean \$36 million in 2010. At its maturity in 2030, the plan could produce \$1.3 billion per year and grow the economy 4 percent.

The Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity is among many organizations that have voiced their support of the no-tax road and bridge funding plan.

Terry Nelson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the carpenters' council, said his trades people are among the first to feel any changes to the state's economy.

“Working families win when you invest in the state of Missouri,” Nelson said of the plan, which would sustain and expand job-creating construction projects for generations.

MoDOT has also testified in support of Sen. Loudon’s no-tax funding proposal to ensure a safe, competitive transportation network.

“Voters have repeatedly rejected new taxes, so we developed a solution to address this enormous problem that will not take any more out of the pockets of our hard-working taxpayers,” Sen. Loudon said. “This solution keeps faith with voters and ensures our transportation and economic well-being for the long haul.”

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