



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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## Senator John Loudon's No-Tax, Road and Bridge Funding Plan Among Topics of Transportation Summits

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY — An innovative, long-range, no-tax, road and bridge funding plan, sponsored by Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, addressing the Missouri Department of Transportation's impending funding crisis is among the solutions being explored during a series of statewide transportation summits currently underway.

The Missouri Transportation and Development Council, a division of Associated Industries of Missouri, is hosting statewide summits to seek public input on the state transportation funding issue. Upcoming summits are planned in Jefferson City on Oct. 2 and St. Charles on Oct. 23.

In two years, MoDOT funding is predicted to drop from \$1.2 billion a year to only about \$569 million annually, leaving Missouri with unfunded transportation needs. MoDOT's funding crisis is attributed to declining federal aid for state highway, bridge and safety programs, the rising costs of construction, maintenance and fuel, and the exhaustion of \$2 billion of Amendment 3 bond money — approved in 2004 for road construction and repair — which must be directed to repay bonds beginning next summer.

Senator Loudon's proposal (Senate Joint Resolution 43) — introduced in the General Assembly earlier this year — targets 10 percent of the growth in the state's general revenue fund to transportation. The economy-building measure — which would require a voter-approved Constitutional amendment — could create \$150 million in revenue by its fourth year of implementation and an estimated \$1.3 billion by the 20<sup>th</sup> year.

“Our transportation problems are getting worse, and we still have no definitive plan,” Sen. Loudon said. “Missouri voters, especially during the current economic climate, won’t support tax increases, so this innovative approach to boost revenue for our state’s vital transportation infrastructure is gaining appeal.”

Senator Loudon encourages Missourians to attend one of the upcoming transportation funding summits to examine all funding options under consideration. In addition to the no-tax road and bridge plan, other proposals include a one-cent sales tax, a 2-cent sales tax to replace the state’s current 17-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax, and public-private partnerships to build toll roads.

The Jefferson City transportation summit will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the Truman Hotel, 1510 Jefferson St. St. Charles’ transportation funding summit will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Charles Community College, 4601 Mid Rivers Mall Dr. The public is invited.

“Now more than ever, we need Missourians’ input to ensure Missouri can provide a safe, competitive transportation network,” Sen. Loudon said. “As they take a closer look at the options available to us, I believe Missourians will support the no-tax increase road and bridge plan — which would serve as a great start to a long-term funding solution.”

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