



*Senator
Bill Stouffer*

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: The Future of Transportation

Smoother, Safer, Sooner – are we getting there yet?

In 2003, many Missourians believed MoDOT's reputation was plummeting and the department needed to increase its accountability. The State of Transportation Address was created with a five-year sunset clause in order to reassure all Missourians that the department will continue to set out to achieve our state's transportation needs — 2008 marked the fifth and final State of Transportation Address.

We revisited transportation's future again recently when the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight held its annual meeting in Jefferson City.

In 2006, Missouri led the nation in lives saved on America's roadways. There were 868 fewer deaths on national roadways, and Missouri accounted for 161 of those lives saved. The miraculous work continued in 2007. With the help of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, the Highway Patrol, and highway safety advocates throughout our state, we were able to report 118 fewer deaths on our roads. These statistics put our state below 1,000 for the first time since 1993, fulfilling the goal of the Coalition for Roadway Safety one year early.

Our state has jumped from a ranking of 39 in the nation to 17 between 2000 and 2005 in a Reason Foundation report analyzing the overall performance of each state's highway system. This same report cited that Missouri had the third lowest administrative costs per mile than any other state in the nation.

National and international headlines highlight our state's innovative Safe and

Sound Bridge Improvement Program, which will repair or replace more than 800 of our state's worst bridges by 2012.

We must continue to fund our state's transportation needs if we want to continue to see improvements to our highways and bridges. Soon, the Amendment 3 bond money will be used up and our current state of transportation will no longer be a reality. In 2010, it's predicted that our state will drop 40 percent from a \$43 billion federal highway program to \$25 billion. And we all are well aware of the value of a dollar — state dollars are buying fewer projects overall because of rising costs of materials that go into our state's bridges and roads.

We need to act on this immediately. As your state senator, I will do everything in my power to ensure your taxes stay low as we search for a solution. I want folks in rural Missouri to know they will not be forgotten as we try to find the missing piece of the puzzle in the future of transportation.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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