April 20, 1835

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was April 20, 1835, the day St. Louis hosted the first Missouri railroad convention.

Representatives from 11 counties converged on the St. Louis courthouse on this day. The recommendation was made for building two railroads from the Gateway City, one would go west to Fayette, and the other would go south to the Lead Belt.

Another meeting would be held the following year, at which point attendees would ask the Legislature to approve these lines and provide a half-million dollars for construction.

Until this point, there had been a hesitance to offer money for any kind of business venture by Missouri lawmakers. But — during the legislative session that followed — the Missouri General Assembly not only agreed to pay for both of these rail lines, but an additional 16 sets of tracks AND 11 turnpike companies. In 1838, lawmakers would charter three more railroads. Unfortunately, an economic slowdown put a halt to most of the work until 1846.

But, it all started on April 20, 1835, the date marking the first Missouri railroad convention — held in St. Louis — on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Lion of the Valley*)