***This Week in the Missouri Senate* Script: Transportation**

This week in the Missouri Senate, we review the changing focus on transportation…

**Nat Snd 1 / Runs :06 / OC: somewhat under debate.**

*“It’s a bigger piece of the pie that’s necessary. The process in which we get to that, I think, is still somewhat under debate.”*

The [21st Century Missouri Transportation System Task Force](http://www.senate.mo.gov/mttf/) held a hearing in Jefferson City last week. *This* week, the task force was in St. Louis.

Co-chair, Sen. Dave Schatz of Sullivan, says a tax increase is looking more like the only option to improve infrastructure funding in the Show-Me State…

**Schatz 1 / Runs :21 / OC: tax on diesel.**

*“From the group of members that I spoke with, prefer a referendum going to the voters. When we ask a one-time ask of a larger ask, not asking for incremental increases over time, but fixing the need. Looking out for possibly a 10-year window, trying to make a determination. That’s looking at somewhere, 10-cent area, as far as the increase in this motor fuel tax — maybe with an additional tax on diesel.”*

But, this is not sitting well with everyone on the task force, including Sen. Bill Eigel of Weldon Spring…

**Eigel 2 / Runs: 16 / OC: support tax increases.**

*“Most of the committee members probably know that I continue, and have been a critic of, raising anybody’s taxes. I appreciate the comment that you made here, but — as long as we’re in an environment where the people of Missouri are already sending record amounts of revenue to Jefferson City — I will not support tax increases.”*

The 21st Century Missouri Transportation System Task Force will have a plan sent to the full Missouri General Assembly before the first of the year…

**Nat Snd 2 / Runs :05 / OC: like the other.**

*“This reminds me of a Sesame Street question, or riddle: ‘One of these things is not like the other.’”*

Transportation has spent several years out of the spotlight among Missouri lawmakers, but has started to make a return over the last two sessions.

Take, for instance, [House Bill 130](http://www.house.mo.gov/bill.aspx?bill=HB130&year=2017&code=R) — a new law that puts into place provisions relating to transportation network companies.

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur says when the measure was debated in the Missouri Senate earlier this year, a move was made to include rental car language in the legislation…

**Schupp 3 / Runs :20 / OC: of driver services.**

*“The sponsors of those different amendments claimed that rental cars fit under the category of TNC’s. And, Sen. [Ryan] Silvey [R-Kansas City] got up and sort of pre-empted me. I was going to call a Point of Order, because — I think that — rental cars fall under a different category than taxi cab services or other kinds of driver services.”*

She adds the final product turned out well…

**Schupp 4 / Runs :20 / OC: everybody has access.**

*“Safe when they get into those vehicles and leave those vehicles. There’s information about insurance and the variations between insurance for those individual Uber drivers versus taxi cabs, and trying to create a level playing field, in terms of where these services will go to — in our communities around the state — that everybody has access.”*

Transportation, and other items, will be on the table — once again — very soon, as prefiled legislation will be numbered for the next regular legislative session on Dec. 1.

And, remember, you can follow these and other issues facing the Missouri Senate by visiting our website: [senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

Reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.