



Program

Smooth Roads Initiative Completion Celebration
10:30 a.m., Dec. 8, 2006

Today we celebrate the completion of the Smooth Roads Initiative, which has delivered 2,200 miles of smoother pavement, brighter striping, rumble stripes and other safety improvements on Missouri's most heavily traveled highways. The highway miles included in the Smooth Roads Initiative account for 60 percent of all traffic on the state system. About 86 percent of Missouri's population lives within 10 miles of one of the improved roads, and about 80 million miles a day are driven on these roads. Three-fourths of these roadways were in fair to poor condition at the beginning of 2005 when the work started.

This is a celebration that has been two years in the making, but has come one year earlier than expected. We originally promised Missourians we would complete the initiative in three years, an aggressive timeframe for the amount of work involved. However, in this year's State of the State Address, Gov. Matt Blunt challenged us to complete the work by the end of this year – a full year ahead of schedule. Thanks to

the dedicated efforts of MoDOT employees, our industry partners, state and local officials and contractors throughout the state, we were able to meet this challenge and make good on our promise.

What does this mean for Missourians? It means they'll be traveling on better, safer roads throughout most of the state. More specifically, it means that about 70 percent of our major roads are now in good condition.

It also shows we are accountable to Missouri taxpayers and can deliver timely, quality projects within budget. We thank Missouri voters for their vote of confidence in us when they approved Amendment 3 in November 2004 so we could get to work fixing our roads. Completing the Smooth Roads Initiative just two years later shows we're serious about working quickly to put Missourians' money to good use and providing a dollar of value for every dollar we spend.

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Missouri Department of Transportation Director
Pete Rahn

Speakers

Rep. Neil St. Onge
Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner
David Gach
Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner
Mike Kehoe

Keynote Speaker

Gov. Matt Blunt

Sign Unveiling

Gov. Blunt and Pete Rahn

