

The Missouri Freight Plan - Overview

Background

As part of our *On the Move* initiative in 2013, MoDOT talked with thousands of Missourians in all 114 counties about our state's transportation future. We learned that Missourians want a transportation system that is well maintained, safe, grows our economy and leads to job creation, and provides Missourians with more interconnected travel options.

Freight moved by truck, train, barge and plane is an essential part of Missouri's economy and growth. The freight transportation system is how products such as soybeans and aviation parts are transported around the world. Making smart investments in our freight transportation system can provide better options for Missouri businesses to get their products to markets. An improved freight transportation system can also lower transportation costs and help create more jobs.



What is the Freight Plan?

Building on *On the Move* and through collaboration with freight partners, we will identify opportunities and actions in the Freight Plan to increase economic development and jobs. More specifically, with your input, the Freight Plan will accomplish three things. First, it will describe Missouri's existing freight transportation system. Second, it will establish goals and strategies for updating the system over the next 10+ years. Third, it will guide future investments in freight transportation and prioritize freight projects that would provide the most benefits.

The Freight Plan will help MoDOT meet the current and future needs of Missouri businesses. In November 2013, we began working on the plan. Our goal is to have a final Freight Plan ready by September 2014.

What You Can Do

What are the strengths, problems and areas of opportunity for Missouri's freight network? We want to know your thoughts and opinions. Here are some of the ways MoDOT is gathering input:

- **Statewide steering committee** (Dec 2013-Sep 2014)
Senior MoDOT leadership, representatives of various freight modes along with economic development professionals will guide development of the Freight Plan.
- **Stakeholder interviews** (Dec 2013-Jan 2014)
We will conduct interviews with major freight stakeholders, community leaders and economic development professionals across the state. We want to hear their ideas, views and concerns about the current freight transportation system and what actions MoDOT could take that would make Missouri more competitive.
- **Freight forums** (Jan-Feb 2014)
MoDOT will host a forum in each of the seven districts to give freight partners, business and community leaders a chance to learn more about the Freight Plan. We will be asking participants for feedback on what they think are the important issues for freight transportation in Missouri. These meetings are a key step in identifying potential freight improvement project options.

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- Leadership roundtable (Feb 2014)**
 Business, economic, banking and freight development leaders will meet to envision how Missouri's economy could change with an improved freight transportation system.
- Business forums (Apr-May 2014)**
 At three forums—one each in Kansas City, St. Louis and the Springfield/Joplin area—MoDOT will work with freight stakeholders and the business community to translate goals and strategies into specific actions. We will also work to prioritize freight projects that could update the freight transportation system.
- Preview the draft plan (Jun-Sep 2014)**
 We will preview the draft Freight Plan to make sure Missourians understand and have the opportunity to comment on how freight investment decisions will be made in the future. Through small discussion groups, one-on-one phone calls and mini-polls, we will ask you to give us feedback on the draft plan.

Milestones

Here are important milestones in 2013 and 2014:

	2013		2014								
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Project Milestones											
Describe the existing system/identify issues	●—————●										
Establish goals and strategies			●—————●								
Identify specific actions/prioritize freight projects				●—————●							
Prepare draft and final plans							●—————●				
Engagement Activities											
Statewide Steering Committee		●—————●									
Stakeholder interviews	●—————●										
Freight forums		●—————●									
Leadership roundtable			●—————●								
Business forums					●—————●						
Preview the draft plan							●—————●				

Let us know what you think.
 Please email your comments to chsmith@burnsmcd.com

