

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

February 7, 2008

The first month of the '08 legislative session wrapped up this week with Transportation Day at the capitol. The 3rd floor rotunda featured MoDOT displays highlighting accomplishments from recent years. But the most popular attraction, however, appeared to be the coffee and sweet rolls table sponsored by our Association.

The real highlight of the day was the "State of Transportation Address" by MoDOT Director Pete Rahn.

Mr. Rahn said in 2005 that "we would be a model for what today's state government should be - efficient, streamlined, forward thinking, results-driven and customer-oriented."

The director followed by discussing MoDOT accomplishments, including making highways safer and reducing traffic deaths. "We have gone from a state where an obscene number of our family, friends and neighbors were dying on our roadways to a state that leads the nation in reducing traffic fatalities," he said.

Mr. Rahn noted that "78 percent of our major roads are in good condition compared to 44 percent just five years ago. He added, however, that "the perfect storm continues to brew on the transportation horizon."

In the year 2010 Amendment 3 money will be used up and federal highway funds are expected to drop by 40%, he said.

Mr. Rahn also noted that this is the last of five years that the "State of Transportation Address" is required by law.

Meanwhile legislative committees continue to sift through available resources and listen to departmental witnesses to fashion a budget for '09. This includes the House General Administration Appropriations committee which is expected to make a decision on increasing the deferred comp contribution requested by the Association.

**From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
Missouri Highway and Transportation Employees' Association**