

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

April 17, 2009

The unmistakable aroma of freshly fried fish wafted through the air Wednesday (4-15-09) as our Association provided a lunch-time meal for hungry workers at the state capitol.

Archie Daily, Association president, said about 450 people came through the chow line for a generous helping of deep-fried fish (Alaskan pollock) hush puppies and slaw. Soft drinks also were served with the meal. He emphasized that the 30 to 35 Association members who helped with the event specifically took vacation time from their regular MoDOT jobs to be at the capitol.

The fish fry was held as part of the Association's "lobby day" where our members visit with legislators and staff about this session's agenda. Those issues include proposals that could affect our employees' retirement benefits and promoting the expansion of the deferred compensation program.

Serving a complete meal to busy capitol workers is also a way of saying "thank you" for past help on issues important to our members.

"I had several people tell me they appreciated us being there (at the capitol) and the good work MoDOT does," Mr. Daily said.

Our lobby day appearance comes as the legislature enters the final month of the '09 regular session. This year's session began on Jan. 7th and is required by law to end at 6 p.m. on May 15<sup>th</sup>. There has been speculation that the legislature may be called for a "special session" later in the year to deal with federal stimulus funds.

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