

# The **Association** report

## from the **Capitol**

February 2, 2004

The past week at the capitol had a strong emphasis on MoDOT with the presentation of the "State of Transportation Address" before a joint session of the legislature as well as the introduction of a major portion of our Association's legislative package.

Rep. Tom Green of St. Charles filed HB 1282, the "Transportation Service Accountability Act." Provisions of the bill would require MoDOT to prepare a cost/benefit analysis for the proposed privatization of any department contract with a value of \$200,000 or more. It would exclude agreements that provide only legal or management consulting services.

Also included in the bill are requirements that when considering privatizing a service, the department must prepare a written estimate of the cost of doing the job with regular employees before soliciting competitive sealed bids. Also a proposed privatization contract must show a savings of at least 10 per cent compared to delivering the service with department employees. These contracts could not exceed five years. The state auditor would also be required to review any privatization contract. Also of significance is the provision that a proposed contract must disclose information on any political contributions made by the proposed contractor and their management employees. HB 1282 has not been assigned to a committee.

Wednesday's "State of Transportation" address is a result of recently passed legislation. MoDOT Director Harry Hungerbeeler emphasized that the department's share of state funding has dropped from 17% to 7.5% in the past 25 years. He added that inadequate funding is the department's biggest problem. He complimented MoDOT's employees during the speech.

"The state of your MoDOT is sound and that is due primarily to one thing - our outstanding workforce," Mr. Hungerbeeler said. "I was proud to serve my country in the United States Airforce for more than 30 years. I can say unequivocally, however, that I have never had the honor to serve with a harder-working, more dedicated group of people than I have at MoDOT.

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