

# **The Association report**

## **from the Capitol**

February 20, 2019

Significant MoDOT projects were quietly advanced last week (Feb. 12) when a Missouri Senate Committee approved a measure that would finance badly needed bridge reconstruction.

The senate bill is [SCR 14](#) which would authorize the issuance of more than \$350 million in bonds to be used to replace 250 MoDOT bridges around the state. The proposal is sponsored by Sen. Dave Schatz of Sullivan. Additionally, it is of significance to note that Sen. Schatz is the Senate President Pro Tem, the chief presiding officer of the state senate.

Sen. Schatz's legislation follows up on a plan put forth by Gov. Mike Parson who is actively pushing the bridge rebuilding plan. In recent days, Gov. Parson has traveled the state to explain the need to get moving on highway and bridge improvements. It was pointed out that the bridge replacement bonds would free up funding for additional transportation projects around the state.

Authorities on the subject emphasize that Missouri has more than 10,000 state highway bridges, the sixth most in the 50 states. We are told also, that 922 of those are classified as "in poor condition" while another 1,194 have weight restrictions. I'll have more on the progress of HCR14 in coming weeks.

In other areas of the Capitol, legislators continue to introduce a variety of bills including some of which could affect state employees. I'll have an update on these proposals in a future report.

From Harry Hill, Lobbyist  
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