

*Missouri
Department
of Transportation*



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Pete K. Rahn, Director



2007 Missouri Quality Award Winner

April 28, 2008

Mr. Brent Hugh
Missouri Bicycle Federation, Inc.
5916 Arlington Avenue
Raytown, MO 64133

Dear Mr. Hugh:

This letter is to clarify MoDOT's position on the recent legislative action regarding House Bill 2206. There was no promise to Representative Mike Sutherland for implementation of all items in House Bill 2206. MoDOT already has policies in place providing for the consideration of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on each project. Much of this bill was redundant to existing MoDOT policy. In addition, the bill dealt with areas more appropriate as policy of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission than state statute. MoDOT has committed to review these policies and implement any changes we believe are necessary to better serve Missouri.

Mandatory training was a part of the original version of the bill. MoDOT Design and Construction staff in all ten districts have recently been trained on non-motorized transportation issues. More detailed training is under development and will include project scoping, engineering policy, design guidance and construction practices and will also be presented in all districts.

A staffing change has been made to provide for better implementation of the department's policies. The position of bike/ped coordinator previously located in the Planning Division has been changed to an engineering position in the Design Division allowing more oversight through the entire Program Delivery process. Project development, design and reviews are handled in this division allowing direct involvement with projects and consistent guidance across the State. It is expected that this change will also provide positive interaction with internal staff and with stakeholders.

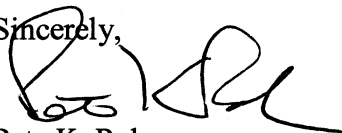
With the funding provided by Amendment 3 in 2004, it was MoDOT's responsibility to use those funds in the most effective manner possible. In the last four years the Smoother, Safer, Sooner program has brought smooth pavement, shoulder treatments and new striping to 80% of the highway system users and reduced fatalities to less than 1000 in 2007. The Better Roads, Brighter Future program is nearing completion and will upgrade major roads to a level of 85% in

“good” condition. The Safe and Sound program will repair or replace 800 bridges in “poor” condition preventing the closure of some bridges and ensuring the continued accessibility of many rural areas of the State.

These projects have benefited all users, both motorists and bicyclists alike, by improving travelways and increasing safety. It is important that MoDOT remains responsible and accountable for the use of taxpayer funding and that MoDOT continues to make decisions on how those funds are used to best provide for all aspects of the state’s transportation systems.

MoDOT appreciates the interest of the Missouri Bike Federation and encourages their continued input. Questions and concerns may be directed to Melissa Anderson, Non-motorized Transportation Engineer, at 573-526-2921 or Melissa.Anderson@modot.mo.gov.

Sincerely,



Pete K. Rahn
Director

cc: Representative Mike Sutherland
Jay Wunderlich-gr
Melissa Anderson-de