

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN MISSOURI

Missouri Constitution Article IV, Section 30a on Transportation: Since this portion of the constitution was written, life has changed creating a great disparity in taxation. Local governments (counties, cities and towns) receive a quarter of highway taxes for streets and bridges. MoDOT receives the rest. But the current formula for distributing revenues results in gross inequity and reduces safety.

TRANSPORTATION

Drivers in 5 MO counties of the **St. Louis area pay half** of the gas tax paid in the state. The 5 counties include St. Louis, St. Charles, St. Louis City, Jefferson and Franklin counties.

Yet St. Louis **receives less than a quarter (23%)** of these taxes transferred to local governments per the MO Constitution.

As a result, the St. Louis area has **70% of the traffic on locally owned critical bridges** which are eligible for federal funds in the state.

The required **repairs of these heavily traveled, critical bridges would cost \$290 million**. Plus another \$70 million for critical bridges without federal aid. Bad roads and bridges increase auto repair, gas use, and congestion. St. Louis' drivers lose \$1,511 every year in added costs. Road features are a contributing factor in approximately one-third of fatal traffic crashes.

Withholding funds for highway and bridge construction **exports highway construction jobs** away from the most populous area in the state. This harms both local majority and minority businesses.

Unfair, Zero Transit Funding from Highway Taxes: The MO Constitution does not permit highway taxes to be used for public transit.

Many states dedicate 15-20% of highway taxes to various forms of public transit.

Inadequate public transportation damages our communities. It limits access to: health care, jobs, education, shopping, entertainment... For decades, parts of St. Louis have posted some of the **worst infant mortality rates** in the nation. Lack of prenatal care due to inadequate healthcare and limited public transportation has been cited as a major cause of infant mortality in poor neighborhoods. Some St. Louis neighborhoods have 3-4 times more infant deaths than the national average - exceeding that of Third World Countries.

Change MO Constitution's transportation section to increase safety and equity: Allocate taxes to local governments based on taxes paid and/or need: number of drivers, local traffic, number of vehicles... Also dedicate 15-20% of highway taxes to public transit. To ensure gas tax proceeds are spent equitably within the state, many states have developed a distribution formula based on some combination of resident population, registered motor vehicles, and highway miles.

It's time that the St. Louis members of the legislature work together to change unsafe and unfair transportation sections of the MO Constitution.

