

### MoDOT Seeks Input on Rail Plan

The Missouri Department of Transportation is seeking feedback from the public on a new plan for development of passenger and freight rail service in the state.

MoDOT officials say enhancing passenger rail service and improving freight rail access are among the top public recommendations included in the new draft State Rail Plan.

Draft recommendations also call for completion of projects designed to improve the reliability of the state-supported Amtrak Missouri River Runner service, with a long-term goal of adding more trains and schedule options to the route. The plan proposes a staged approach to establish dedicated high-speed passenger rail service between St. Louis and Kansas City, and setting priorities for new corridor developments and feeder bus routes to Branson, Columbia, and St. Joseph.

Proposals are also included to maximize the economic benefits of freight rail, and an array of policy proposals to better fund and encourage the continued development of Missouri's rail system.

The Missouri Department of Transportation will gather public input on the plan during open house meetings in the month of April. A meeting will be held in St. Joseph, on Tuesday, April 10th, in the Theater Room of the East Hills Library at 502 North Woodbine Street. The open house meeting is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., with a presentation at 4:45 p.m.

The draft plan is available online, at [www.morail.org](http://www.morail.org). Public comments on the plan will be accepted until May 4th.