

Hi. This is Sally Oxenhandler with your MoDOT Minute.

A record boost in state funding will help improve ports along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The state budget includes \$6.65 million for port improvements. Missouri typically devotes less than \$1 million a year to ports. MoDOT says the funding will dramatically improve river freight service and create jobs and growth for the state.

However, MoDOT says many transportation needs remain. The agency has outlined a plan for what could be done if more money became available for transportation. The plan identifies 46 major highway projects and 20 bridges that would be at the top of the list to tackle. The 20-year plan calls for rebuilding Interstates 70 and 44, improving 4,500 miles of less traveled roads, maintaining the state's major highways and providing better public transportation. MoDOT estimates it would need an additional \$18.8 billion over the next 20 years to implement the plan.

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