

Tolling and Public-Private Partnerships

Tolling and P3s are grouped because they are integrally linked issues. Currently, legislative and community resistance prevents tolls from being established on Missouri highways and interstates. Tolling has failed twice in public votes in Missouri. However, MoDOT has pursued communications efforts in order to educate and inform the public and state legislators of this important funding option.

Communications Planning

In the early 2000s, MoDOT conducted a pair of tolling feasibility studies that identified five projects that could generate adequate revenue to build them. Three of those projects have since been constructed without toll revenue.

Since those studies were conducted, MoDOT has periodically communicated how tolls could work in Missouri to counteract the rampant misconceptions about how modern tolling operates.

In 2012, legislation was proposed in the Missouri General Assembly to enable a public-private partnership and tolling in order to reconstruct and expand Interstate 70 across the state. MoDOT provided informational support for the effort, that included five hearings before the Senate Transportation Committee. A white paper was produced to describe the needs of I-70 and the plan to improve the aging facility that is the nation's oldest interstate. The legislation, however, never came to a vote.

Organization Integration

Sub teams have periodically been established to explore these untapped funding options and provide educational/informational support to legislators, stakeholders and citizens wanting to learn more about them.

Communications Implementation

On Dec. 9, 2014, Gov. Jay Nixon directed the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to provide him with a report on options for tolling Interstate 70 in order to reconstruct and expand the facility while freeing resources for other transportation needs in Missouri. The report is currently available on MoDOT's website at:

<http://www.modot.org/i70tollinganalysis/index.htm>



Tolling Options to IMPROVE I-70

As part of the Road to Tomorrow effort, a workshop was held in St. Louis in fall of 2015 to examine tolling options and other alternative transportation funding mechanisms. National experts were brought in to educate MoDOT senior leaders, legislative leaders and stakeholders.