CHAPTER SEVEN:
FINANCING

7.1 Federal Funding Sources

Federal revenue sources include the 18.4 cents per gallon tax on gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon tax on diesel fuel. Other sources include various taxes on tires, truck and trailer sales, and heavy vehicle use.

Federal Funding - FAST Act

According to the US Department of Transportation, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act is a $305 Billion five-year bill to improve the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, transit systems, and rail transportation network. The bill, which was signed by President Obama on Dec. 4, 2015, is the first long-term transportation bill to be passed in 10 years. Since the 2012 expiration of the previous bill, MAP-21, 36 extensions had been filed to maintain transportation funding. The following information, according to the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, provides a summary of the bill:

Roads and Bridges

- Facilitates commerce and the movement of goods by refocusing existing funding for a National Highway Freight
- Program and a Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program
- Expands funding available for bridges off the National Highway System
- Converts the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to a block grant program, increases flexibility for states and local governments, and rolls the Transportation Alternatives Program into the STP Block Grant
- Streamlines the environmental review and permitting process to accelerate project approvals
- Eliminates or consolidates at least six separate offices within the Department of Transportation and establishes a National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau to help states, local governments, and the private sector with project delivery
- Increases transparency by requiring the Department of Transportation to provide project-level information to Congress and the public
- Promotes private investment in our surface transportation system
- Promotes the deployment of transportation technologies and congestion management tools
- Encourages installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure equipment to improve congestion and safety

- Updates research and transportation standards development to reflect the growth of technology

Public Transportation

- Increases dedicated bus funding by 89 percent over the life of the bill
- Provides both stable formula funding and a competitive grant program to address bus and bus facility needs
- Reforms public transportation procurement to make federal investment more cost effective and competitive
- Consolidates and refocuses transit research activities to increase efficiency and accountability
- Establishes a pilot program for communities to expand transit through the use of public-private partnerships
- Eliminates the set aside for allocated transit improvements
- Provides flexibility for recipients to use federal funds to meet their state of good repair needs
- Provides for the coordination of public transportation services with other federally assisted transportation services to aid in the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities
- Requires a review of safety standards and protocols to evaluate the need to establish federal minimum safety standards in public transportation and requires the results to be made public

Highway and Motor Vehicle Safety

- Focuses funding for roadway safety critical needs
- Increases percentage of National Priority Safety Program states can spend on traditional safety programs
- Ensures more states are eligible for safety incentive grant funds and encourages states to adopt additional safety improvements
- Encourages states to increase safety awareness of commercial motor vehicles
- Increases funding for highway-railway grade crossings
- Requires a feasibility study for an impairment standard for drivers under the influence of marijuana
- Improves the auto safety recall process to better inform and protect consumers
- Increases accountability in the automobile industry for safety-related issues

Truck and Bus Safety

- Overhauls the rulemaking process for truck and bus safety to improve transparency

- Consolidates truck and bus safety grant programs and provides state flexibility on safety priorities
- Incentivizes the adoption of innovative truck and bus safety technologies
- Requires changes to the Compliance, Safety, Accountability program to improve transparency in the FMCSA's oversight activity
- Improves truck and bus safety by accelerating the introduction of new transportation technologies

Hazardous Materials

- Grants states more power to decide how to spend training and planning funds for first responders
- Requires Class I railroads to provide crude oil movement information to emergency responders
- Reforms an underutilized grant program for state and Indian tribe emergency response efforts
- Better leverages training funding for hazmat employees and those enforcing hazmat regulations
- Requires real-world testing and a data-driven approach to braking technology
- Enhances safety for both new tank cars and legacy tank cars
- Speeds up administrative processes for hazmat special permits and approvals
- Cuts red tape to allow a more nimble federal response during national emergencies

Railroads

- Provides robust reforms for Amtrak, including reorganizing the way Amtrak operates into business lines
- Gives states greater control over their routes, by creating a State-Supported Route Committee
- Speeds up the environmental review process for rail projects
- Creates opportunities for the private sector through station and right-of-way development
- Consolidates rail grant programs for passenger, freight, and other rail activities
- Establishes a Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grant program
- Strengthens Northeast Corridor planning to make Amtrak more accountable and states equal partners
- Allows competitors to operate up to three Amtrak long-distance lines, if at less cost to the taxpayer
- Strengthens passenger and commuter rail safety, and track and bridge safety
- Preserves historic sites for rail while ensuring that safety improvements can move forward

- Unlocks and reforms the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan program
- Includes reforms to get RRIF loans approved more quickly with enhanced transparency
- Provides commuter railroads with competitive grants and loans to spur timely Positive Train Control implementation
- Provides competitive opportunities for the enhancement and restoration of rail service

Additional Provisions

- Includes strongly bipartisan measures to simplify rules and regulations, aid consumers, enhance our capital markets, assist low-income housing residents, and help build a healthier economy
- Includes bipartisan provisions to provide energy infrastructure and security upgrades
- Streamlines the review process for infrastructure, energy, and other construction projects

Financing Provisions

- Includes fiscally responsible provisions to ensure the bill is fully paid for
- Ensures the Highway Trust Fund is authorized to meet its obligations through FY 2020
- Directs offsets from the FAST Act into the Highway Trust Fund to ensure fund solvency
- Reauthorizes the dedicated revenue sources to the Highway Trust Fund, which periodically expire

7.2 What the Fast Act Means for Missouri

In early January 2016, MoDOT produced an executive summary that provides an overview of the impact of the FAST Act on Missouri's transportation system. The following information is taken from that executive summary:

From Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2020, the availability of federal funds Missouri will be able to match will be approximately $1 billion, which is an increase of 9.8 percent over the previous federal bill – MAP 21. Federal dollars represent the largest source of funds in MoDOT's budget. With current state revenue projections, it is anticipated that MoDOT will be able to fully match its available federal funds. The best news for Missouri is the FAST Act allows for a five-year period of funding certainty which will allow for effective project planning.

Safety

The Office of Highway Safety will be required to conduct a survey every two years of all automated traffic enforcement systems to include red light running cameras and speed enforcement camera systems. The legislation requires a separate grant application for states to implement the 24-7 sobriety programs.

A study will be conducted on marijuana impaired driving including the issues of methods used to detect and measure marijuana levels and identify the role and extent of marijuana impairment in motor vehicle accidents.

States will be allowed to submit a multi-year plan detailing motor carrier safety efforts. These reports will include annual updates. States will undertake efforts to emphasize and improve enforcement of state and local traffic safety laws and regulations.

Freight

The bill establishes a new competitive grant program for very large, predominantly highway projects that benefit the national freight network. One condition of this program is a project estimated cost of $100 million or 30 percent of a state's annual federal appropriation. The minimum grant is $25 million. However, there are some reserves (10 percent) for smaller projects of less than $5 million and 25 percent for rural areas (population less than 200,000).

A local match will be required for funds used to support the capital needs of public ferries. FAST revises the formula for apportionment. The biggest change is the minimum fiscal year allocation of $100,000.

Performance metrics will be developed on the nation's top 25 ports in each category of tonnage, containers and dry bulk. The St. Louis port is the only one that qualifies as a mandate on the list.

New funding is designated to improve the freight highway network. The language includes requirements to be designated as a "freight project." MoDOT will need to add these elements to its planning processes. Missouri has more than two percent of the national freight mileage so its apportionment must be spent on the primary freight network, critical urban and critical rural freight corridors instead of the broader freight system.

State Freight Plans are now mandated and must be in place within two years for Missouri to be able to access the freight funds. State Freight Advisory Committees remain as an encouraged activity, but not mandated.

Transit

The FAST Act provides transit increases of 9 to11 percent over five years and also increases the annual statewide allocation for buses and bus facilities.

Based on the estimated apportionments, the new surface transportation bill provides modest increases of approximately 3.5 percent in the first year and approximately 2 percent per year increase through Fiscal Year 2020.

The statewide allocation for the Bus & Bus Facilities program has increased from $1.25 million to $1.75 million per year. This is an increase for much needed capital projects. This program also includes a new competitive grant program.

Rural Area Funding program appears to remain the same with no significant changes. The funding in Missouri appears to increase modestly in each year based in preliminary estimates from $17.7 million in 2016 to $19.4 million in 2020 (8.7 percent).

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program will see modest increased funding from $4.86 million in 2016 to $5.37 million in 2020 (9 percent). There is a provision added for a new "pilot program for innovative coordinated access and mobility." Grant money could be available for eligible entities.

Environment

The environmental provisions of the bill are intended to streamline the project delivery process and ensure interagency cooperation. New language under Efficient Environmental Review for Project Decision making changes definition of "project" to include multimodal projects and "lead federal agency" to "operating administration" so that projects benefit from review efficiencies; takes into account any source of federal funding. This should be helpful to multimodal projects. Similar streamlining of rail projects can be achieved once regulatory procedures are put in place.

Integration of Planning and Environmental Review: Clarifies and defines the planning products that can be adopted during National Environmental Policy Act development. Includes: Financing, modal choice, purpose and need, preliminary screening of alternatives, description of the environmental setting, methodology for analysis and programmatic level mitigation.

DOT and Heads of Federal Agencies will develop coordinated and concurrent environmental review and permitting process for Environmental Impact Statements.

Planning

The FAST Act expands the scope of the planning process to include addressing resiliency and reliability of the transportation system, mitigating storm water impacts of surface transportation and enhancing travel and tourism of the transportation system.

The act requires state DOTs to incorporate the performance measures for rural transit agencies into its planning documents. In addition, the FAST Act requires states to establish a state freight plan in order to receive National Highway Freight Program funds. The state freight plan may be part of the state's long-range transportation plan, but is more granular in requirements than a long-range transportation plan.

Performance Management

If a state DOT does not achieve or make significant progress toward achieving targets after one reporting cycle (instead of two reporting cycles), then the state DOT must include a description of the actions they plan to take to achieve their targets in the future in a report.

The penalty for falling below the minimum condition levels for pavements on the interstate system is imposed after the first reporting cycle (instead of after two reporting cycles); eliminates the need to collect safety data and information on unpaved or gravel roads.

USDOT will now assess if the state DOT has made significant progress toward the achievement of freight performance targets. If the state DOT has not made significant progress, then there are additional reporting requirements but not penalties associated with obligating freight funds.

Establishes a performance management data support program to enable the USDOT to better support state DOTs, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Federal Highway Administration in the collection and management of data for performance-based planning and programming.

Motor Carrier Services

Changes language to make sure that a tow vehicle is equal to or exceeds the gross vehicle weight of the disabled vehicle it is towing.

The act will allow emergency vehicles that travel the interstate to weigh 86,000 pounds.

The act increases the length limit of some automobile transport trucks; this will require legislative action.

Research

Every Day Counts Program has been continued.

The FAST Act establishes a new National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau. Highway Research, Technology and Education Authorization Program funding mostly stays the same or has small increases.

The Innovative Pavement Research and Deployment Program have been expanded. It now requires the Secretary to develop a program to stimulate deployment of advanced transportation technologies to improve system safety, efficiency and performance.

The goals for the Intelligent Transportation System have been expanded, but are mostly freight-related.

ITS program funds for operational tests can't be used for building physical surface infrastructure unless the construction is incidental and critically necessary to implement the ITS project.

The new Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology's responsibilities would include coordinating departmental Research & Technology activities, advancing innovative technologies, developing comprehensive statistics and data and coordinating multimodal and multidisciplinary research. The Secretary can enter into cooperative contracts with federal, state and local and other agencies to conduct departmental research on a 50/50 cost share basis.

The Transportation Research Board will be required to do a study ($5 million; report due in 3 years) on how to restore the interstate highway system to premier status.

University Transportation Center funding has been increased; funding levels within ranges will be flexible instead of fixed. No change in matching requirements.

Rail

This is the first surface transportation bill to include a rail title; passenger rail and other rail investments total $10.4 billion over the five-year life of the legislation. Federal funding for intercity passenger rail does not begin until Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

FAST Act's most significant language to Missouri pertains to operating assistance. For the first time, Congress has provided states a chance to compete for $20 million per year to offset costs for state-sponsored service. This primarily targets states' new cost from the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2009 (PRIIA).

In Missouri's case, costs were relatively the same after PRIIA. Therefore, it is uncertain how much Missouri will be able to obtain from this new funding source. States can compete for this funding to improve infrastructure and vehicles used in the delivery of intercity passenger rail. This is similar to what Congress did through ARRA and the creation of the High Speed and Improved Passenger Rail Program – which delivered much needed projects like the Osage River Railroad Bridge.

Grade crossing safety remained a distinct safety program targeting improvements at highway rail grade crossings.

Congress also put funding towards a committee currently working on costs. This committee stems is made up of the Federal Railroad Administration, states, and Amtrak. The committee continues to work to help ensure states are paying only their fair share of costs. For example, this committee is addressing call center costs.

Missouri has identified to Amtrak for years that its call center costs are too high and they need a better system to track where these costs are allocated. It seems they are primarily allocated to states, instead of Amtrak, where appropriate. This should continue to help lower costs to Missouri and other states.

Highway and Bridge Revenue Sources

<u>State motor fuel tax</u>

The largest source of revenue from Missouri user fees is the state fuel tax. Assessed at a rate of 17-cents per gallon, it produced over 45 percent of state transportation revenues in 2016. However, the motor fuel tax is not indexed to keep pace with inflation, and there has been no rate increase since 1996. History shows that even when fuel prices rise dramatically, Missourians are generally unwilling or unable to turn to other modes of transportation, continuing to drive their personal vehicles and to purchase fuel to do so. Trends show motor fuel tax revenues increase about one percent annually. However, if fuel prices rise and stay at higher rates, more Missourians may turn to more fuel-efficient vehicles, make fewer trips or seek other transportation options they had previously avoided. While good for the environment, these actions erode motor fuel tax revenues.

<u>Motor vehicle sales and use taxes</u>

Motor vehicle sales and use taxes provided approximately 26 percent of state transportation revenues in 2016. This is the one source of state revenue that has recently provided substantial additional resources for transportation. In November 2004, Missouri voters passed Amendment 3. This set in motion a four-year phase in, redirecting motor vehicle sales taxes previously deposited in the state's General Revenue Fund to a newly created State Road Bond Fund. In accordance with this constitutional change, MoDOT began selling bonds to fund road improvements. From 2000-2010, MoDOT sold bonds that provided additional resources for highway improvements. Bonds are debt and similar to a home mortgage – this debt must be repaid over time. The total debt payment in fiscal year 2016 totaled $280 million.

MoDOT has three kinds of bonds: senior bonds that were authorized by the Missouri General Assembly in 2000; Amendment 3 bonds that were authorized by Missouri voters in 2004; and federal GARVEE (Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle) bonds that financed specific projects. Borrowing accelerated construction and allowed MoDOT to avoid inflation in labor and materials costs. It gave Missourians improvements that would not have been built for many years with pay-as-you-go funding. Without borrowing, many of those projects still would not be completed. Senior bonds will be paid off by 2023, Amendment 3 bonds will be paid off by 2029 and GARVEE bonds will be paid off by 2033. The average interest rate on all outstanding debt combined is 2.98 percent.

Motor vehicle and driver's licensing fees

Motor vehicle and driver's licensing fees also provided approximately 21 percent of Missouri's state transportation revenue in 2016. Similar to motor fuel tax, these fees are not indexed to keep pace with inflation, and there have been no annual registration fee increases since 1984. This revenue source increases at a rate of about 2.5 percent annually.

Transportation revenues are shared

It is important to remember that cities and counties receive a substantial portion of these state transportation revenues. For example, cities and counties receive approximately 4.5 cents of the state's 17-cent per gallon fuel tax. They also receive approximately 14 percent of the remaining state transportation revenues discussed earlier. These funds go directly to cities and counties to fund local transportation.

Interest earned on invested funds and other miscellaneous collections

The remaining 8 percent of state transportation revenues comes from interest earned on invested funds and other miscellaneous collections in 2016. During the Amendment 3 bonding program, cash balances in state transportation funds have been unusually high. Bond proceeds are received in large increments and are paid out over time as project costs are incurred. When the Amendment 3 projects are completed, the balance of state transportation funds will be substantially less, and interest income will also decline.

Funding for Alternative Modes of Transportation

Transportation funding for alternative modes has historically been less than 5 percent of all MoDOT transportation revenue (approximately $96 million annually). Funding for alternate modes of transportation comes from a variety of sources including motor vehicle sales taxes, aviation fuel and sales taxes, railroad regulation fees, state general revenue funds and federal grants. MoDOT Multimodal Operations is responsible for supporting alternative transportation programs within the state. The division functions to continue the advancement and strategic planning for Aviation, Rail, Transit, Waterways, and Freight Development initiatives designed to expand Missouri's infrastructure and facilitate travel and commerce. Through the integration of the various modes, the traveling public enjoys greater accessibility to the resources of the state while industry capitalizes on improved transportation efficiencies.

Multimodal Operations Functional Overview

- Assists in the development of port authorities through the distribution of capital and administrative funding while championing the efficiencies of waterborne transportation to industry and the general public.
- Administers federal and state capital improvement funding for Missouri's eligible public aviation facilities.
- Conducts airports safety inspections.

- Provides financial and technical assistance to public transit and specialized mobility providers across the state.
- Partners with industry and local communities to promote economic development and improved freight traffic efficiency by examining existing infrastructure obstructions and proactively assessing potential obstacles.
- Regulates freight and passenger rail operations, oversees rail crossing safety and construction projects, conducts railroad safety inspections, and provides outreach educational opportunities.
- Supports the continued operation of Amtrak in the state and provides direction for the development of expanded passenger rail service.

The amalgamation of the non-highway transportation modes into a single regulatory division traces its lineage back to the formation of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Department in 1980. With the subsequent merger and reorganization, Multimodal Operations assumed charge of consolidated authority over Aviation, Rail, Transit, and Waterway operations within the state as the definitive administrative body. The division has since evolved into a very specialized organization, centered on engaging partnership participation that focuses on safe, accessible, efficient, and environmentally responsible alternative transportation solutions. In fiscal year 2012, Multimodal Operations functioned with an operating budget of $2.5 million and a staff of 31, maintained over 4,000 internal and external partnership contacts, and cumulatively delivered over $79 million in multimodal projects with partners across the state (nearly $47 million federal funds, over $14 million in state funds, and over $18 million in local match funds).

Multimodal Operations Profile – Activities by Mode

- Aviation
  - Administer grants and provide guidance for public use airports (State Block Grant Program & State Aviation Trust Fund Program)
  - Conduct airport safety inspections
  - Publish Aeronautical Chart, Airport Directory, and Show Me Flyer
  - Maintain State Airport System Plan (SASP)
  - Approve Airport Master Plans (AMP) and Airport Layout Plans (ALP)
  - Maintain Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) equipment
  - Promote education to the aviation community and other enthusiasts
- Rail
  - Conduct railroad infrastructure safety inspections (including track, grade crossing signals, and operating practices)
  - Support Amtrak passenger rail service through Missouri and promote ridership both through operations and project delivery

- Maintain Statewide Rail Plan to identify the framework for freight and passenger rail development in Missouri for the next twenty years (including High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSPIR))
  - Regulate safety for freight rail and passenger rail in Missouri
  - Enforce safety regulations for light rail operations (Metrolink)
  - Administer the Missouri Highway/Rail Crossing Safety Program
  - Plan and administer funding for rail/highway construction projects
  - Present outreach seminars on railroad grade crossing safety in conjunction with Missouri Operation Lifesaver
  - Catalog freight and passenger rail maps of Missouri
- Transit
  - Administer federal grant funding under Section 5310 Agencies Serving Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
  - Transportation Assistance Vehicle Program
  - Administer federal grant funding under Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Transit Assistance Formula Grant Program, Section 5311(b) Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP), and 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program
  - Administer federal grant funding under Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC)
  - Administer federal grant funding under Section 5317 New Freedom Program
  - Administer federal grant funding under Section 5309 Discretionary Transit Capital Program
  - Administer federal grant funding under Section 5305 Statewide Transit Planning Grant Program
  - Administer federal grant funding under Section 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities Grant Program
  - Administer state funded Missouri Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Assistance Program (MEHTAP)(RSMo 208.250-208.265)
  - Administer state funded Missouri State Transit Assistance Program (RSMo 226.195)
  - Administer federal grant funding consistent with the new MAP-21 transportation funding provisions
  - Provide technical support and program assistance to partners and external customers
- Waterways
  - Assist in the formation and operation of port authorities in Missouri
  - Provide technical assistance and promote use of Missouri's navigable rivers
  - Represent port interests in industry and governmental bodies
  - Assist in distributing capital and administrative funding for port improvements
  - Provide financial assistance to two ferryboat operations

    - Maintain waterways map of port authorities
- Freight Development
    - Encourage freight initiatives that promote economic development and efficient movement of goods
    - Conduct studies to determine opportunities for enhanced system capacity
    - Evaluate performance of state infrastructure to improve efficiencies
    - Host public forums and outreach opportunities for public comment and contribution

Unlike highways, MoDOT does not own multimodal facilities. Instead, MoDOT's role is to administer funding and provide an oversight role for multimodal improvements. Many of the multimodal entities receive local tax revenue and direct federal funding, which are not included in these amounts. MoDOT administered $35 million of aviation funds in fiscal year 2016. Missouri has dedicated taxes on aviation fuel to fund improvements to public use airports in Missouri. MoDOT also administers federal funding to improve airfield pavement conditions and lighting systems, eliminate obstructions and for expansion projects.

In fiscal year 2016, MoDOT administered $34 million of transit funds. The majority of these funds are from federal programs that support operating costs and bus purchases for transit agencies across the state. There is a small amount of state and General Revenue funding to support operating costs for transit agencies. MoDOT administered $19 million of rail funds in fiscal year 2016. These funds are used to support two programs – the Amtrak passenger rail service between St. Louis and Kansas City, and safety improvements at railroad crossings. The Amtrak funding is from General Revenue, and safety improvements at railroad crossings are from state and federal sources.

Waterways funding totaled $6 million in fiscal year 2016. These funds provided operating and capital assistance to Missouri's river ports and ferry boat operators. MoDOT also administers a $1 million freight enhancement program that provides assistance to public, private or not-for-profit entities for non-highway capital projects that improve the efficient flow of freight in Missouri.

Internal operating costs to administer the various multimodal programs totaled $3 million, including salaries, wages and fringe benefits. In fiscal year 2016, MoDOT administered $98 million for multimodal needs. Since only $96 million was available, MoDOT used $2 million of cash balances dedicated by law to multimodal activities to provide these projects and services.

Missouri's transportation needs are substantial, and the costs of the needs are enormous. Yet, the sources that have traditionally provided transportation funding in Missouri and in the nation are not adequate. They do not keep pace with the rising cost of construction and maintenance, and they provide little for alternative modes of transportation. Another complicating factor is that Missouri's transportation revenues are small in comparison to many other states. Missouri's revenue per mile of state highway is one of the lowest in the region and in the country. Missouri ranks 47th nationally in revenue per mile which leads to significant unfunded transportation needs across the state. Missouri receives both state and federal transportation funds. Much of the funding comes with strings attached, limiting the activities for which it can be used. For example, the state motor fuel tax can only be spent on highways and bridges. It is not available for alternative modes of transportation. Federal funds may be earmarked for specific projects or limited to specific types of construction such as interstate maintenance. Some federal and state funds are allocated to specific modes of transportation such as transit or passenger rail.

7.3 Funding Tools for the Local or Regional Level

Funding for local county and municipal roadway maintenance and construction comes primarily from the state-distributed motor fuel tax, individual city and county capital improvement sales taxes and transportation sales taxes. Additional potential revenue options are available for local or regional transportation projects.

Economic Development Administration - Public Works and Economic Development Program

Through the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, the United States Department of Commerce, through its EDA branch, offers project grants to enhance regional competitiveness and promote long-term economic development in regions experiencing substantial economic distress. EDA provides Public Works investments to help distressed communities and regions revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies and generate or retain long-term private sector jobs and investment. Current priorities include proposals that help support existing industry clusters, develop emerging new clusters or attract new economic drivers.

Project grants may be used for investments in facilities such as water and sewer systems, industrial access roads, industrial and business parks, port facilities, railroad sidings, distance learning facilities, skill-training facilities, business incubator facilities, redevelopment of brownfields, eco-industrial facilities and telecommunications infrastructure improvements needed for business retention and expansion. Eligible activities include the acquisition or development of public land and improvements for use for a public works, public service or development facility, and acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of publicly-owned and operated development facilities, including related machinery and equipment. A project must be located in a region that, on the date EDA receives an application for investment assistance, satisfies one or more of the economic distress criteria set forth in 13 C.F.R. 301.3(a). In addition the project must fulfill a pressing need of the region and must:

1. Improve the opportunities for the successful establishment or expansion of industrial or commercial plants or facilities in the region;
2. Assist in the creation of additional long-term employment opportunities in the region; or
3. Primarily benefit the long-term unemployed and members of low-income families.

In addition, all proposed investments must be consistent with the currently approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region in which the project will be located, and the applicant must have the required local share of funds committed, available and unencumbered. Also, the project must be capable of being started and completed in a timely manner.

USDA Rural Development

Community Programs, a division of the Housing and Community Facilities Programs, is part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development mission area. Community Programs administers programs designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through its Community Programs, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program.

Community Programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments. Applicants must have the legal authority to borrow and repay loans, to pledge security for loans, and to construct, operate and maintain the facilities. They must also be financially sound and able to organize and manage the facility effectively. Repayment of the loan must be based on tax assessments, revenues, fees, or other sources of money sufficient for operation and maintenance, reserves and debt retirement. Feasibility studies are normally required when loans are for start-up facilities or existing facilities when the project will significantly change the borrower's financial operations. The feasibility study should be prepared by an independent consultant with recognized expertise in the type of facility being financed.

Community Programs can guarantee loans made and serviced by lenders such as banks, savings and loans, mortgage companies which are part of bank holding companies, banks of the Farm Credit System or insurance companies regulated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Community Programs may guarantee up to 90percent of any loss of interest or principal on the loan. Community Programs can also make direct loans to applicants who are unable to obtain commercial credit. Loan funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and public services. This can include costs to acquire land needed for a facility, pay necessary professional fees and purchase equipment required for its operation. Refinancing existing debts may be considered an eligible direct or guaranteed loan purpose if the debt being refinanced is a secondary part of the loan, is associated with the project facility and if the applicant's creditors are unwilling to extend or modify terms in order for the new loan to be feasible.

Additionally, Community Programs also provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. In addition, applicants must have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility and also be unable to obtain needed funds from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms.

Grant funds may be used to assist in the development of essential community facilities. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and community and public services. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation. A grant may be made in combination with other Community Facilities financial assistance such as a direct or guaranteed loan, applicant contributions or loans and grants from other sources. The Community Facilities Grant Program is typically used to fund projects under special initiatives, such as Native American community development efforts, child care centers linked with the Federal government's Welfare-to-Work initiative, Federally-designated Enterprise and Champion Communities and the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative area.

Statewide Transportation Assistance Revolving (STAR) Fund

The STAR Fund, authorized by the Missouri General Assembly in 1997, provides loans to local entities for non-highway projects such as rail, waterway and air travel infrastructure. The STAR fund can also provide loans to fund rolling stock for transit and the purchase of vehicles for elderly or handicapped persons. The STAR fund can assist in the planning, acquisition, development and construction of facilities for transportation by air, water, rail or mass transit; however, STAR fund monies cannot fund operating expenses. The local district engineer must endorse projects in cooperation with MoDOT's Multimodal Team. The Cost Share Committee evaluates STAR applications and provides a recommendation to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC), which is the deciding body.

Delta Regional Authority - Delta Development Highway System

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) was established by Congress in 2000 to enhance economic development and improve the quality of life for residents of this region. The DRA encompasses 252 counties and parishes in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

There are 29 counties in Missouri that are a part of the DRA region. The counties are in the southeast part of the state and make up the Eighth Congressional District. They are: Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Oregon, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, Wayne and Wright. There are a total of 566 DDHS miles identified in Missouri, which constitutes 14.7 percent of the total DDHS miles, of which 346 miles are 2-lane facilities. The Missouri DDHS improvements consist of widening and upgrading portions of US 60, US 63, US 67, US 412 and MO 8.

As a key part of its effort to improve the lives of Delta residents, the DRA operates a grant program in the eight states it serves. The DRA works closely with local development districts, which provide technical assistance to grant applicants. Once grant applications are submitted each year, the federal co-chairman determines which applications are eligible for funding and which are ineligible. There is an appeals process for those applicants whose submissions are deemed ineligible. From the list of eligible applicants, the governors of the eight states then make recommendations to the full board. The board decides which projects are funded based on the funds available. Congress has mandated that transportation and basic public infrastructure projects must receive at least 50 percent of appropriated funds. The authority may provide matching funds for other state and federal programs.

During a planning retreat in February 2005, the Delta Regional Authority board voted to make transportation one of the authority's three major policy development areas. The DRA Highway Transportation Plan/Delta Development Highway System Plan (DDHS) was developed following input from transportation executives and local organizations in the eight states covered by the DRA. Public meetings were held throughout the region in the fall of 2006. The plan was presented to the President and Congress. The DDHS consists of 3,843 miles of roads throughout the region. The estimated cost to complete the planned improvement projects for these roads is $18.5 billion. Of the roads in the plan, 27 percent provide four or more travel lanes already and the remainder is two-lane roads.

Missouri Department of Economic Development - Community Development Block Grants

Through the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), a federal program through HUD, offers grants to small Missouri communities to improve local facilities, address critical health and safety concerns and develop a greater capacity for growth. The program offers funds for projects that can range from housing and street repairs to industrial loans and job training. State CDBG funds are only available to non-entitlement areas (incorporated municipalities under 50,000 and counties under 200,000 in population).

Larger cities receive funds directly through the Entitlement Communities Grants program. The entitlement program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low-income and moderate-income persons. HUD awards grants to entitlement community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development and providing improved community facilities and services. Entitlement communities develop their own programs and funding priorities. However, grantees must give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A grantee may also carry out activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Additionally, grantees may fund activities when the grantee certifies that the activities meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. CDBG funds may not be used for activities which do not meet these broad national objectives.

Sales Tax

The 4.225 percent state sales/use tax rate in Missouri is lower than the rates in 38 other states, as of Jan. 1, 2017, according to Taxfoundation.org. Missouri communities have the option of adopting a local sales tax, generally ranging from one-half to one percent. Counties may also adopt a sales tax generally ranging from one-fourth to one percent that can be used for transportation.

Use Tax

Use tax is similar to sales tax, but is imposed when tangible personal property comes into the state and is stored, used or consumed in Missouri. Communities have the option of adopting a local use tax equal to the local sales tax for that community to use for transportation expense.

Local Option Economic Development Sales Tax

The Local Option Economic Development Sales Tax, approved by the Missouri General Assembly in 2005, allows citizens to authorize a supplemental sales tax dedicated exclusively for certain economic development initiatives in their home municipality. The state statute section governing this program is found at 67.1305 RSMo. The voter-approved tax of not more than one half per cent is charged on all retail sales made in the municipality that are subject to sales taxes under Ch.144 RSMo. Missouri statutes define “municipality” as an incorporated city, town, village or county. Revenues generated by the tax may not be used for retail developments unless such retail projects are limited exclusively to the redevelopment of downtown areas and historic districts. A portion of the revenues may be used for project administration, staff and facilities, and at least twenty per cent of the funds raised must be used for projects directly related to long-term economic preparation, such as land acquisition, installation of infrastructure for industrial or business parks, water and wastewater treatment capacity, street extensions and for matching state or federal grants related to such long-term projects. Any remaining funds may also be used for marketing, training for advanced technology jobs, grants and loans to companies for employee training, equipment and infrastructure and other specified uses.

Neighborhood Improvement District

A Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) may be created in an area desiring certain public-use improvements that are paid for by special tax assessments to property owners in the area in which the improvements are made. The kinds of projects that can be financed through an NID must be for facilities used by the public, and must confer a benefit on property within the NID. An NID is created by election or petition of voters and/or property owners within the boundaries of the proposed district. Election or petition is authorized by a resolution of the governing body of the municipality in which the proposed NID is located. Language contained in the petition narrative or ballot question must include certain information including, but not limited to a full disclosure of the scope of the project, its cost, repayment and assessment parameters to affected property owners within the NID.

Community Improvement District

A Community Improvement District (CID) may be either a political subdivision or a not-for-profit corporation. CIDs are organized for the purpose of financing a wide range of public-use facilities and establishing and managing policies and public services relative to the needs of the district. By request petition, signed by property owners owning at least 50 percent of the assessed value of the real property, and more than 50 percent per capita of all owners of real property within the proposed CID, presented for authorizing ordnance to the governing body of the local municipality in which the proposed CID would be located. Unlike a Neighborhood Improvement District, a CID is a separate legal entity, and is distinct and apart from the municipality that creates the district. A CID is, however, created by ordinance of the governing body of the municipality in which the CID is located, and may have other direct organizational or operational ties to the local government, depending upon the charter of the CID.

Tax Increment Financing

Local Tax Increment Financing (Local TIF) permits the use of a portion of local property and sales taxes to assist funding the redevelopment of certain designated areas within your community. Areas eligible for Local TIF must contain property classified as a "Blighted", "Conservation" or an "Economic Development" area, or any combination thereof, as defined by

Missouri Statutes. The idea behind Local TIF is the assumption that property and/or local sales taxes (depending upon the type of redevelopment project) will increase in the designated area after redevelopment, and a portion of the increase of these taxes collected in the future (up to 23 years) may be allocated by the municipality to help pay the certain project costs, partially listed above.

Transportation Development Districts

Transportation Development Districts (TDDs) are organized under the Missouri Transportation Development District Act, Sections 238.200 to 238.275 of the Missouri State Statutes. The district may be created to fund, promote, plan, design, construct, improve, maintain and operate one or more projects or to assist in such activity.

Transportation Development Corporations

Transportation Development Corporations (TDCs) are organized under the Missouri Transportation Corporation Act, Sections 238.300 to 238.367 of the Missouri State Statutes. TDCs act in promoting and developing public transportation facilities and systems and in promoting economic development. Demands for transportation improvements have greatly outpaced the funds available to meet them. In response to this demand, the Missouri Department of Transportation has established various mechanisms for successful public/public and public/private partnerships. These expand financing options for transportation projects that serve a public purpose, including: highway and rail projects, transit equipment, air and water transportation facilities and elderly/handicapped vehicles. The benefits to a project assisted by these partnerships may include: inflation cost savings, early economic and public benefits, financing tailored to the project's needs and a reduced cost of project financing.

Partnership Debt-Financing Programs

Debt-financing programs make loans to a project that has to be repaid. The Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation's (MTFC*)* authority to form and operate is initially derived from the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The MTFC incorporated in August 1996, adopted bylaws and subsequently entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), agencies of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (Commission). Under the authority granted initially by TEA-21, as amended by 23 U.S.C. 610, the Missouri Non Profit Corporation Act, Chapter 355, RSMo, and pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement, the Commission organized the MTFC to assist in financing transportation improvements.

The MTFC provides direct loans for transportation projects within the state of Missouri. Loans are funded from available MTFC resources. The MTFC assistance may be any type authorized by 23 U.S.C. 610. The following are examples of potential financing options included in 23 U.S.C. 610: Primary or subordinated loans, Credit enhancements, Debt reserve financing, Subsidized interest rates, Purchase and lease agreements for transit projects, and Bond security. These direct loans must help assist the Commission to achieve continued economic, social and commercial growth of Missouri, act in the public interest, or promote the health, safety and general welfare of Missouri citizens.

Bridge Replacement Off-System (BRO)

The Off-System Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (BRO) program provides funding to counties for replacement and rehab of bridges. A minimum amount of approach roadway construction may be allowed under the program. Federal Funds are available to finance up to 80% of the eligible project cost, but may be increased with the use of credit earned from replacing an eligible bridge that is not on the federal-aid system. It will be necessary for the local agency to provide the necessary matching funds. The fair market value of donated right-of-way may be credited to the local agency's matching share with the amount not to exceed the local agency's share. Both Missouri Department of Economic Development CDBG funds and EDA Local Public Works funds can be used to match BRO funds, if used on the project.

BRO Funds are administered according to the following policy:

- The current Highway Act requires that at least 15% and no more than 35% of the state's total bridge appropriation be allocated to the counties and the City of St. Louis for use on off-system bridges (BRO). The Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission approves the amount of bridge funds allocated to this program. Off-system bridges are bridges that are on roads that are functionally classified as a local road or street and rural minor collectors.

Federal Aviation Administration - Airport Improvement Program

The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) provides grants to public agencies - and, in some cases, to private owners and entities - for the planning and development of public-use airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). For large and medium primary hub airports, the grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, the grant covers 95 percent of eligible costs. AIP grants for planning, development or noise compatibility projects are at or associated with individual public-use airports (including heliports and seaplane bases). A public-use airport is an airport open to the public that also meets the following criteria:

1. Publicly owned, or
2. Privately owned but designated by the FAA as a reliever, or
3. Privately owned but having scheduled service and at least 2,500 annual enplanements.

Further, to be eligible for a grant, an airport must be included in the NPIAS. The NPIAS, which is prepared and published every two years, identifies public-use airports that are important to public transportation and contribute to the needs of civil aviation, national defense, and the postal service. The description of eligible grant activities is described in the authorizing legislation and relates to capital items serving to develop and improve the airport in areas of safety, capacity and noise compatibility. In addition to these basic principles, a grantee must be legally, financially and otherwise able to carry out the assurances and obligations contained in the project application and grant agreement.

Eligible projects include those improvements related to enhancing airport safety, capacity, security and environmental concerns. In general, sponsors can use AIP funds on most airfield capital improvements or repairs except those for terminals, hangars, and non-aviation development. Any professional services that are necessary for eligible projects - such as planning, surveying and design - are eligible as is runway, taxiway and apron pavement maintenance. Aviation demand at the airport must justify the projects, which must also meet Federal environmental and procurement requirements. Projects related to airport operations and revenue-generating improvements are typically not eligible for funding. Operational costs - such as salaries, maintenance services, equipment and supplies - are also not eligible for AIP grants.

FAA Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF)

The Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF), created by the Airport and Airway Revenue Act of 1970, provides funding for the federal commitment to the nation’s aviation system through several aviation-related excise taxes. Funding currently comes from collections related to passenger tickets, passenger flight segments, international arrivals/ departures, cargo waybills, aviation fuels and frequent flyer mile awards from non-airline sources like credit cards.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funding

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was authorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) to provide for a variety of alternative transportation projects, including many that were previously eligible activities under separately funded programs. The TAP replaces the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails, Safe Routes to School, and Scenic Byways, wrapping them into a single funding source. The TAP remains in place with the 2015 passage of the FAST ACT. The mission of the Transportation Alternatives Program is to improve our nation’s communities through leadership, innovation, and program delivery. The funds are available to develop a variety of project types located in both rural and urban communities to create safe, accessible, attractive, and environmentally sensitive communities where people want to live, work, and recreate. The Transportation Alternatives Program consists of: Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities, Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Safe Routes to School (SRTS) activities, and Boulevards from Divided Highways.

Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)

The Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) allows local public agencies (LPA) to receive engineering assistance for studying traffic engineering problems. Typical traffic engineering related projects include: corridor safety and/or operational analysis, intersection(s) safety and/or operational analysis, speed limit review, sign inventory, pedestrian/bike route analysis, parking issues, and other traffic studies, etc. Local public agencies are reimbursed for eligible project costs at a rate of 80 percent with the local agency providing a 20-percent match. Funds administered by MoDOT, will provide 80 percent of the TEAP project costs, up to $8,000 per project. If the total cost is greater than $10,000, the local agency can pay more than 20 percent to complete the TEAP project, if desired.

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) provides funds for projects on Federal Lands Access Transportation Facilities that are located on or adjacent to, or that provide access to Federal lands as provided for in the FAST Act. The FLAP, as an adjunct to the Federal-Aid Highway Program, covers highway programs in cooperation with federal-land managing agencies. It provides transportation-engineering services for planning, design, construction and rehabilitation of the highways and bridges providing access to federally owned lands. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) also provides training, technology, deployment, engineering services and products to other customers. The FHWA administers the Federal Lands Access Program, including survey, design and construction of forest highway system roads, parkways and park roads, Indian reservation roads, defense access roads and other federal-lands roads. The FHWA, through cooperative agreements with federal-land managing agencies such as the National Park Service, Forest Service, Military Traffic Management Command, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, administers a coordinated federal-lands program consisting of forest highways, public-lands highways, park roads and parkways, refuge roads and Indian reservation roads. This program provides support for approximately 30,000 miles of public roads serving Federal and Indian lands to support the economic vitality of adjacent communities and regions.

Cost Share Program Guidelines

The purpose of the Cost Share Program is to build partnerships with local entities to pool efforts and resources to deliver state highway and bridge projects. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) allocates Cost Share funds based on the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission's (MHTC) approved funding distribution formula. At least 10 percent is set-aside for projects that demonstrate economic development through job creation. Projects are selected by the Cost Share Committee, which consists of the Chief Engineer, Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Chief Engineer. They are then recommended for approval by the MHTC via a STIP amendment.

MoDOT participates up to 50 percent of the total project costs on the state highway system. While contributions are expected on economic development projects, the Cost Share Committee may increase MoDOT's participation up to 100 percent for economic development projects that create new jobs. Job creation will be verified by the Department of Economic Development. The project agreement will identify requirements for returning funds if jobs are not created as planned. Retail development projects do not qualify as economic development.
MoDOT's participation includes the amount of Cost Share funds allocated to the project, District STIP or Operating Budget funds and activities performed by MoDOT such as preliminary engineering, right of way incidentals and construction engineering.

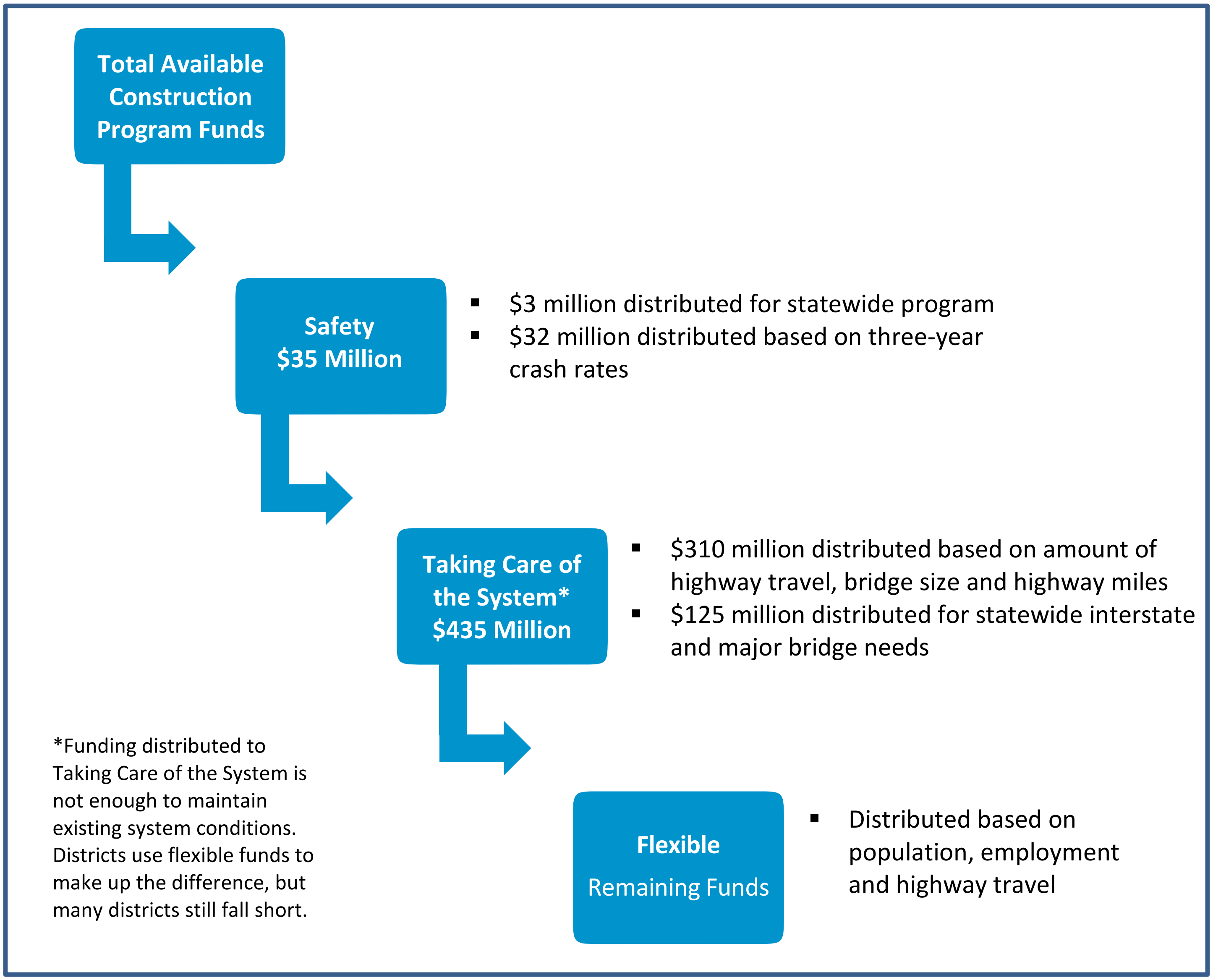
Generally, the Cost Share funding per project is limited to $10 million in total and $2.5 million per year. However, projects exceeding this limit can be considered based on factors such as project need, the opportunity for economic development and the willingness of the local partners to be flexible and bring resources to the table. Project applications should not expand the state highway system or increase maintenance costs for MoDOT. Project applications that significantly expand the state highway system or increase maintenance costs for MoDOT must seek pre-approval by the Chief Engineer prior to submittal.

7.4 Funding Distribution

On Jan. 10, 2003, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission adopted an objective method to distribute transportation funds using factors reflecting system size and usage and where people live and work. The distribution of funds has been the subject of debate for over a decade. The method for determining where and on what to spend limited transportation dollars has changed several times. Changes have been a result of both long-term project plans and political pressure centered on dividing funds between the urban and rural areas of the state. This method goes beyond the narrow discussions of geography and allows for allocation of funding based on objective, transportation-related factors that are representative indicators of physical system needs.

Since 2003, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has used a formula to distribute construction program funds for road and bridge improvements to each of its districts (seven since 2011). This is the largest area of MoDOT's budget that provides funding for safety improvements, taking care of the system and flexible funds that districts can use to take care of the system or invest in major projects that relieve congestion and spur economic growth. In many districts, taking care of the system funds are not sufficient to maintain current system conditions. Districts use flexible funds to make up the difference, but often times still fall short. Figure 7.1 identifies how construction program funds are allocated annually to districts using the following formula:

Figure 7.1 MoDOT Funding Distribution for Construction Funds

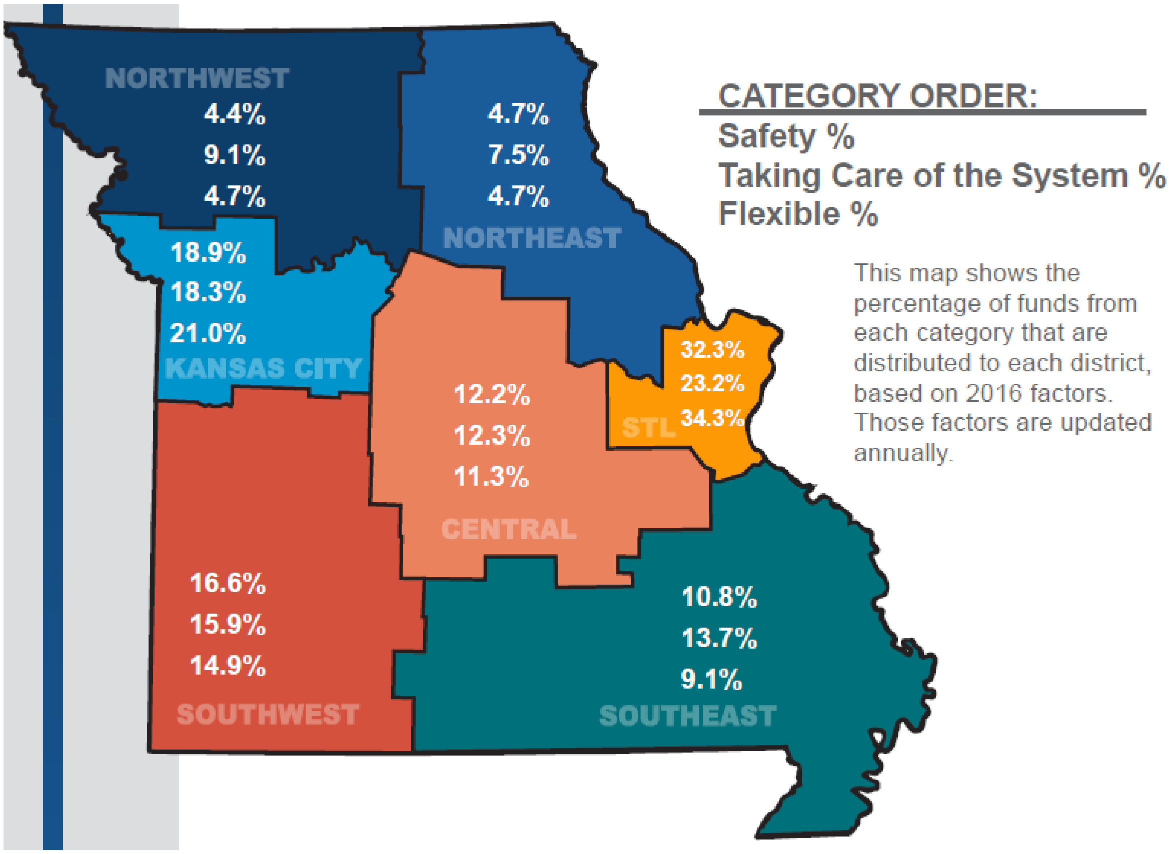


Source: MoDOT's Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding in Missouri, 2016

Funding Distribution Overview

Once construction program funds are distributed to districts, MoDOT collaborates with regional planning groups to identify local priorities based on projected available funding. The regional transportation improvement plans are brought together to form the department's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which outlines five years of transportation improvements. As one year of the plan is accomplished, another year is added.

Figure 7.2 MoDOT Funding Distribution by District



Source: MoDOT's Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding in Missouri, 2016

When adding the construction program, operations, administration and highway safety programs together, the following amounts were spent in districts based on the three-year average from fiscal years 2014 through 2016:

Table 7.1 MoDOT Funding Distribution – Total by District ($ Millions)

District	Construction Program	Operations	Admin	HWY Safety Programs	Total
Northwest	$46	$57	$2	-	$105
Northeast	$41	$50	$2	-	$93
Kansas City	$217	$52	$3	-	$272
Central	$90	$65	$2	-	$157
St. Louis	$229	$62	$3	-	$293
Southwest	$132	$80	$2	-	$214
Southeast	$84	$76	$2	-	$162
Statewide	$36	$67	$35	$16	$154
Total	**$875**	**$509**	**$51**	**$16**	**$1,450**

Source: MoDOT's Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding in Missouri, 2016