

# House Minority Caucus

---



**Paul LeVota, Minority Leader**  
**J.C. Kuessner, Asst. Minority Leader**  
**Connie Johnson, Minority Whip**  
**Ed Wildberger, Caucus Chair**  
**Sara Lampe, Caucus Secretary**  
**Gina Walsh, Caucus Vice Chair**



**For Immediate Release:**  
**Feb. 6, 2008**

**For more information contact:**  
**Rep. Paul LeVota at (573) 751-9759**  
**Rep. J.C. Kuessner at (573) 751-2112**

## **Blunt to leave state saddled with \$2.62 billion transportation debt**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – During his 2008 State of Transportation address to the General Assembly today, state Department of Transportation Director Pete Rahn warned that “the bottom drops out of Missouri’s transportation funding” in 2010.

This pending financial disaster has been known since Gov. Matt Blunt took office, yet the governor and the Republican-controlled General Assembly have done nothing to prepare for it. As a result, the next governor will be stuck with a \$2.62 billion transportation debt.

“During this decade Missouri has run up its credit card to pay for road improvements, but a massive bill is about to come due,” said Assistant House Minority Leader J.C. Kuessner, D-Eminence. “Except to take credit for the road improvements made possible by putting the state deeply in hock, Governor Blunt barely mentioned transportation during any of his four State of the State addresses, including the one last month. Instead of showing leadership, he’s leaving it to the next governor to clean up the mess.”

Missouri’s transportation bond debt for FY 2008, which ends June 30, stands at \$2.29 billion. By the time Blunt leaves office in January 2009, the transportation debt balance will rise to \$2.35 billion. The debt is scheduled to top out at nearly \$2.62 billion in FY 2010.

Because MoDOT will have to shift more of its revenue to paying off debt, its construction budget will soon be cut by more than half, dropping from \$1.23 billion in FY 2008 to \$569 million in FY 2010. As a result, MoDOT will “barely be able to maintain our highways,” according to the department.

“By the time Missouri finishes paying off these roads in 2029, many of them will again need to be rebuilt,” said House Minority Leader Paul LeVota, D-Independence. “Governor Blunt and his fellow Republicans who control the General Assembly should have spent the last three years preparing for this looming transportation funding crisis. As a result, new road improvements will soon grind to a halt, and for the next couple decades Missourians will be stuck paying the bills for this spending spree.”

###