



NEWS RELEASE

St. Charles County Government

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Road Board Recommends \$3 Million For Shoulder Work

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. CHARLES COUNTY _ The St. Charles County Road Board approved a recommendation by County Executive Steve Ehlmann to allocate up to \$3 million from its reserve fund to encourage the Missouri Department of Transportation to begin work on safety improvements on state roads in the southwest part of the county.

"We need to get this done now," Ehlmann said. "Those roads are dangerous without shoulders and too many people have died out there."

Ehlmann stressed that these are state highways, and MoDOT is solely responsible for improving and maintaining them. But, in the interest of public safety, he is recommending that the county provide a up 10 percent match for whatever MoDOT will spend. MoDOT has estimated it will cost approximately \$30 million to provide shoulders and other safety improvements on approximately 100 miles of lettered and numbered routes in St. Charles County.

"We cannot assume their responsibility, but we can assist to get these improvements now," Ehlmann said.

The Road Board, which dispenses funds from the county's 1/2-cent transportation sales tax, requires a 10 percent match from municipalities for work done within city limits, so Ehlmann said it would be appropriate for the county to put up 10 percent of the cost incurred for the shoulders on the state roads.

"The more MoDOT will spend the more the County will contribute, up to \$3 million," Ehlmann said.

The Road Board approved Ehlmann's recommendation at a Wednesday night (Feb. 17) meeting. The County Council will be asked to approve an amendment to the already approved 2010-2112 Transportation Improvement Plan. A first reading on the amendment will be heard at Monday night's (Feb. 22) meeting.

If this is approved, Ehlmann will then send a letter to MoDOT about the cost-sharing plan. It will then be up to the state to begin the project.

The latest fatality on Highway DD occurred Sunday night (Feb. 14) about a half mile north of Highway 94. There have been at least six fatalities along Highway DD in the last five years.

"MoDOT needs to act now," Ehlmann said.

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