



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Policies

Category: ORGANIZATION
Subcategory: District Office Structure

DISTRICT OFFICE STRUCTURE

On April 2, 1917, the State Highway Board (predecessor to the Commission) concurred in the State Highway Engineer's recommendation to divide the state into six highway districts. Realizing the increase of work to be accomplished under the 1921 Centennial Road Law, the newly created State Highway Commission increased the number of districts from six to ten on May 9, 1922. In 1942, in response to a request from the Commission, the Department staff studied the possibility of consolidating the districts by eliminating either two or five district offices and reported that no appreciable savings would be realized. On August 14, 1987, the Commission realigned the ten districts to more efficiently spread the work load among the Districts and better serve the public. On June 8, 2011, the Commission reduced the number of districts from ten to seven.

The 2011 action was part of a plan to downsize the Department not only to more appropriately meet the needs of a significantly reduced construction program, but also to restructure the organization in such a manner as to accommodate a larger construction program should additional funds for highway improvements be made available in the future. In addition to closing the district offices located in Willow Springs, Macon, and Joplin, the total number of maintenance and construction facilities was reduced from 327 to 203; the equipment fleet was reduced by approximately 740 units; and the workforce was reduced from 6,300 positions to approximately 5,100.

The Commission directed that, to the extent possible, the closed district office buildings be used for the benefit of local communities. On July 15, 2011, the Commission entered into an agreement with Joplin Schools wherein the schools are allowed to use the district office premises for the sole purpose of School Administration Office Space until July 14, 2014. In 2012, the Commission entered into a ten-year lease/sales option agreement with the City of Willow Springs, and a ten-year lease/sales option agreement with the County of Macon, on the respective district office properties.