



# NEWS

**From the Office of  
Rep. Louis Riggs**

**District 5**

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## **State Representative Louis Riggs Takes on MoDOT with New Legislation to Empower Local Communities**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – State Representative Louis Riggs announced the filing of House Bill 759, which proposes to increase transparency and accountability in Missouri’s transportation planning process. HB 759 would provide a pathway for local officials to challenge decisions made by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) regarding the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Under HB 759, any state legislator, county commissioner, or mayor can appeal MoDOT decisions they believe unfairly impact their communities. Appeals would be reviewed by the Administrative Hearing Commission, allowing a fair process for addressing concerns over transportation funding and planning.

Riggs, R-Hannibal, vehemently asserted that “MoDOT’s central office has consistently prioritized urban areas over the needs of rural ones when allocating taxpayer dollars. For decades, unelected bureaucrats have dictated where funds are spent, leaving no way to challenge or appeal their decisions.” He continued, “This culture of zero accountability has cost Northeast Missouri dearly, which must stop. HB 759 would empower elected officials to advocate for their constituents and demand a fair allocation of resources.”

Riggs also emphasized that HB 759 is part of a broader effort to hold MoDOT accountable, adding, “This piece of legislation is just one of several I’m filing this session to bring what I believe is much-needed oversight to an agency that has operated without meaningful checks since its inception in 1921.”

If passed, HB 759 would ensure local voices are heard in decisions that affect communities, particularly rural areas, across the state. Riggs looks forward to robust discussions this legislative session and impactful results for his constituents and all Missourians.

*Rep. Louis Riggs, a Republican, represents Marion and Ralls counties (District 5) in the Missouri House of Representatives. Rep. Riggs was elected in November 2018. For more information, please contact Rep. Riggs at 573-751-3613 or by email at [Louis.Riggs@house.mo.gov](mailto:Louis.Riggs@house.mo.gov).*

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