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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** MICHAEL BOYD  
**FROM:** BRAD LITTON  
**SUBJECT:** HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HEARING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**DATE:** 8/17/2001

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The meeting was to discuss the \$849,000,000 budget the Mississippi Department of Transportation is requesting from the Legislature.

Bobby Moseley made the MDOT presentation to the committee members. During the presentation, he stated that MDOT would be doing no more maintenance during this fiscal year. They needed that money to make sure they could pay other incoming bills. This concerned many members of the committee. They inquired why MDOT did not have enough money in the budget to pay these bills and continue with maintenance. After a long explanation, the question was never answered.

Several members questioned why the 1987 Highway Plan was behind schedule. Members of MDOT explained that higher fuel cost caused them to get off schedule, as well as, other unforeseen cost. Big truck traffic has increased 91% from 1989-1998; this has caused damage to highways that needed to be repaired. Commissioner Zack Stewart also attempted to explain the delay in schedule.

MDOT also wants the flexibility in their budget to use money to match federal funds. Currently their guidelines do not allow them to shift money around for this purpose.

Members were asked to submit questions to be answered during the next meeting. This was to allow MDOT time to gather information to accurately answer all questions.