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The Charles N. Kimball Lecture
Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
Pierson Auditorium, University Center, UMKC

Pete K. Rahn
Director, Missouri Department of Transportation

Where Do We Fit In A Global \ National Transportation Network?

Dear Friends,

You are invited to the **Fall 2008 Charles N. Kimball Lecture**, a series established by the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City to honor our late friend and civic leader. This series shares the primary goal of Charlie's popular *Midcontinent Perspectives* to encourage a discussion of issues vitally important to our region. Our particular focus is on understanding how historical developments affect and inform our present and future.

As the global economy shifts geographically, our connection to it will change as well. Where is Kansas City and Missouri positioned for this new reality?

Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr., then President of Kansas City Southern, in a 1975 MIDCONTINENT PERSPECTIVES lecture *Transportation Perspectives – Implications for this Region*, observed, "...the Middle West has a unique franchise with regard to the future. ...the uses and markets for our products are expanding at a quite extraordinary pace. Charlie Kimball has correctly stated that geography is in our corner. In short, this area's agribusiness attributes are about to launch us into the forefront of the future—if we can get off the launch pad. If adequate distribution support exists. If the markets for our products can, in fact, be reached on a continuing basis. If not, we may wish that our primary products could be exported in briefcases as opposed to boxcars and truckloads...." Now 33 years later, it is appropriate to assess the technologies, infrastructure, and policies that impact moving materials, goods, and people within our cities, region, and beyond.

Pete Rahn, as the Director of MoDOT, oversees the work of more than 6,000 employees who plan, build, and maintain the state's transportation system. This includes 32,000 miles of highways and the state support of aviation, rail, transit, and port systems. He is president and member of its board of directors of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. He also serves on the executive committee of the Transportation Research Board and its Task Force on Accelerating Innovation in the Highway Industry.

Before coming to Missouri in September 2004, Mr. Rahn was Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department from 1995 to 2002. He is a graduate from New Mexico State University with a bachelor of arts in government and a bachelor of science in planning.

I hope you can attend to share in Pete Rahn's insights. This is a free lecture. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Boutros".

David Boutros
Associate Director