

**From:** Tooley, Mike  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 12:01 PM  
**To:** MDT Employees  
**Subject:** MDT Proposed 2018-2019 Budget

Good afternoon,

As you may have heard, the Governor's proposed budget was released on November 15th and is currently available on the Office of Budget and Planning (OBPP) website. We are in Section C, titled Natural Resources and Transportation.

The formulation of a budget takes the majority of a year to achieve and MDT submitted its budget suggestions to OBPP on September 1st. MDT's budget request is reflective of the financial resources required to maintain the current level of service as in past years and remain within projected revenues.

However, it is important to note that MDT is not the only user of the Highways State Special Revenue Account, also known as HSSRA. The Department of Justice has a number of divisions that are also funded from the HSSRA along with statutory obligations from that fund for distributions to local and tribal governments.

We have all known for some time that the strain on the state fund is enormous and it couldn't support business as usual forever. That brings us to the current issue of all the agencies that have submitted their requests for use of the HSSRA over the next biennium.

- o The conceptual reductions included in the Governor's proposed budget are at a very high level and as the funding picture begins to come into focus, a more detailed implementation plan will be refined.
- o MDT's commitment to our employees remains a top priority.

That last bullet point can be confirmed by the FTE numbers in the budget documents on the OBPP website. The FTE numbers remain the same as the numbers submitted for the last biennium. In fact, there is an increase in MDT personal services in the Governor's proposal that reflect the negotiated pay raises and appears to support career ladder advancements.

The message is clear. We still need our MDT employees here doing what they do. Ultimately there may be some substantial reduction in services if the legislature adopts the proposed budget, but our employees remain funded through the coming biennium. The public likes what you do and we need to keep you here to do it.

I have confidence that there will be some positive action to get the department back to providing the full level of services that the public expects and deserves. In fact, at last count there were at least 33 bills that potentially increase funding for highways and/or infrastructure. Last session there was only one bill that would increase investment in highway infrastructure. Last session there were only a few individuals that concerned themselves with such issues, and now there are large coalitions working on them. There is concern for sure, but much more hope.

If you have questions after reviewing the proposed budget on the OBPP website please speak to your Division Administrator.

Thank you,



Mike Tooley  
Director