

NOWADAYS, TRAVELING FROM KANSAS CITY TO ST. LOUIS TAKES ALMOST 4 HOURS BY CAR. THE HYPERLOOP, A NEW HIGH SPEED TUBE TRANSIT SYSTEM, COULD TRAVEL AT 600 MILES AN HOUR AND TAKE PEOPLE OR CARGO BETWEEN THOSE TWO LOCATIONS IN MISSOURI IN 30 MINUTES.

A TASK-FORCE OF MISSOURI LEADERS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WAS CREATED EARLIER THIS YEAR TO STUDY THE BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF HAVING THIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION IN MISSOURI. A PROPOSED ROUTE FROM KANSAS CITY TO ST. LOUIS WOULD ALSO INCLUDE A STOP IN COLUMBIA. EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE TASK FORCE RELEASED ITS REPORT TO THE PUBLIC. THE REPORT OUTLINES THE NEXT STEPS MISSOURI WOULD TAKE TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE COMPANIES WITH THE TECHNOLOGY TO FORM THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS IN MISSOURI, BEGINNING WITH A TEST TRACK.

BILL TURPIN, MU'S INTERIM ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IS A MEMBER OF THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL. HE SAYS THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SYSTEM IS A KEY PARTNER IN THIS ENDEAVOUR, BRINGING RESEARCH EXPERTISE FROM ALL FOUR UM SYSTEM UNIVERSITIES.

“There’s a lot of research left to be done on the hyperloop and we would get our researchers here at all four universities and partner universities such as Illinois, Purdue, and others, to get involved in the continued research and development of the project.”

TURPIN ADDED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF BRINGING THE HYPERLOOP TO MISSOURI, SUCH AS CREATING JOBS AND TRANSPORTING CARGO MORE EFFICIENTLY, THIS TUBE TECHNOLOGY WOULD ALSO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AS WELL.

“It’s all electrical, it generates no green house gases, it’s quiet, and it uses far less energy than any other mode of transportation, a lot less than airplanes and a lot less than trucks.”

I'M BRIAN CONSIGLIO, WITH A MIZZOU SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE.