July 31, 1921

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was July 31, 1921, considered to be the day the Centennial Road Law is signed.

There are some conflicting dates. Some say it happened on July 30, as part of signing House Bill 4. Others say it happened on Aug. 4. For the sake of this collection, we will call it July 31.

The previous November, Missouri voters approved bonding the first roads in our state. On June 14, lawmakers returned to Jefferson City for an extra session to put these funds into play, and figure out where to build these roads.

The $60 million were designed to go toward hard-surface roads; however, it would be some time before this would happen. The Show-Me State’s first roads were pretty much just ruts in the dirt, or mud.

Also worth noting: July 31 was a Sunday, which is why this was probably signed into law on a different day.

In any event, the previous day — Saturday, July 30 — was the 30th day of session. This extra session would officially adjourn after 40 days, on Thursday, Aug. 4, 1921.

The $60 million had been assigned, and a number of new laws and regulations would go on the books, all of which relating to the beginnings of the structure that we now know as the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.

July 31, 1921, the date marking signage of the Centennial Road Law, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [*Journal of the Missouri Senate*](https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/senatej/id/72603/rec/170), )