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## 2<sup>nd</sup> District Road Projects will Improve Safety and Convenience

JEFFERSON CITY — With the approval of Amendment 3 in November 2004, which directed more funding for Missouri roads without a tax increase, Missourians ushered in a strong rededication to our state's transportation infrastructure. The Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) Smoother, Safer, Sooner campaign has made significant headway in its first phase, the Smooth Roads Initiative. St. Charles and Lincoln counties are seeing their fair share of road-improvement projects, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District will continue to see new opportunities under the MoDOT plan.

The Smooth Roads Initiative will ultimately result in 2,200 miles of better-quality pavement, shoulders, guard rails and lane dividers on Missouri's busiest roads. These roads and highways will be brought up to good condition by the end of this year using \$1.7 billion in Amendment 3 revenues.

**St. Charles County** has seen and will continue to witness important construction projects on many of its busiest roads, including Interstate 70 and Highway 40, and several of its most vital bridges.

Completed projects include:

- **I-70 and Highway 40:** New interchange ramps, widening on I-70 to Route Z, tower lighting and bridge rehabs.
- **I-70 from Wentzville Parkway to Warren County line:** Asphalt overlay.
- **Highway 40 from west of Route DD to east of Lake St. Louis Blvd.:** New pavement and interchange at Rte. N. Rte. N west of Highway 40 also relocated to the north.

Projects scheduled for completion in 2006:

- **I-70 from west of Rte. 94 to east of Lake St. Louis Blvd.:** Smoother concrete.
- **Rte. T Bridge over Peruque Creek in Foristell:** The bridge has deteriorated beyond repair and needs deck replacement and earthquake strengthening.

Projects scheduled for 2007:

- **Eastbound I-70 from Rte. 79 to Mid Rivers Mall Drive:** Fourth driving lane and bridge widening over Dardenne Creek. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2007.
- **Westbound I-70 from Rte. 79 to the T.R. Hughes interchange:** Construction is underway and is expected to be complete by spring 2007.
- **Highway 40 from west of Rte. K to east of Rte. DD:** Already underway, this project will upgrade the existing highway to interstate standards by eliminating all at-grade crossings, adding new pavement, and converting westbound lanes to a two-way outer road. Scheduled for completion by fall 2007.

- **Rte. 79 Bridge Replacement Project:** This project, currently underway, will replace three bridges along Rte. 79 and add a traffic signal at Rtes. 79 and M. Scheduled for completion in late spring 2007.
- **Rte. A Bridge and Ramp Expansion Project:** MoDOT will expand the bridge deck and ramps at Rte. A over Highway 61 in Wentzville. Completion slated for November 2007.

**Lincoln County** is also witnessing a number of transportation projects. The following projects are currently underway.

- **Rtes. 61/C Interchange at Moscow Mills:** The \$18.7 million project to grade, pave and install bridges at the interchange will offer more convenience and reduce accidents. The project is scheduled for completion in September 2007.
- **Rte. 61 Repaving:** The \$2.9 million resurfacing of 7.8 miles of driving lanes and shoulders from Rte. B to KK near Troy is nearing completion.
- **Cherry Street Overpass at Troy:** Work to rehabilitate, seal and paint the bridge should be finished this November.

There are also a number of projects scheduled for the coming years in Lincoln County, including:

- **Rte. 61:** Intersection improvements at Route U and Mette Road are estimated to cost \$500,000, and bids are to open in 2007.
- **Route D:** Bridge replacement over Little Lead Creek, 1.1 miles south of Route E, will cost an estimated \$700,000. Bids are slated to open February 2007.
- **Route D:** Bridge replacement on Turkey Creek, 2.4 miles south of Route TT, will cost approximately \$500,000, and bids will open February 2008.
- **Route D:** Bridge replacement over Little Lead Creek, 2.5 miles east of Route O north junction, will cost an estimated \$400,000, with bids opening February 2009.

The following are preliminary engineering projects that have yet to receive funding, though lawmakers will continue efforts to make these needed projects happen:

- **Route 47:** Looking into improvements to Route 47 from Route 61 west ramps to Main Street in Troy.
- **Route 61:** Investigating potential South Lincoln Drive interchange at Troy.
- **Route V:** Examining bridge project over Sugar Creek, 0.9 mile east of Route 61.
- **Route C:** Evaluating need for bridge improvements at Cuivre River.

These and other projects in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District reflect Missouri's increased efforts at providing smoother, safer and more convenient roads and highways for Missouri motorists.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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