



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Loudon  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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**Contact: Mike Reid**  
**(573) 751-9763**

## **Sen. John Loudon Applauds Highway 141 Milestone**

*East-West Gateway Council's Right-of-Way Approval  
Starts Road to Potential \$20 Billion Economic Growth*

JEFFERSON CITY – Citing tremendous potential economic benefits, Sen. John Loudon (R-Chesterfield) is applauding a major step taken today by the East-West Gateway Council of Governments to advance an important regional and state priority, the completion of Highway 141.

This major step forward was taken when the Council approved, as part of the region's 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, \$23.5 million in funding for right-of-way acquisition to acquire land to relocate and reconstruct the section of Highway 141 between Interstate 64 and Olive Boulevard. The Missouri Department of Transportation approved funds for the acquisition, part of the State Transportation Improvement Program, on July 2.

"We have finally gotten to the point where Highway 141 is a regional priority," Sen. Loudon said. "Most of the engineering is done, land is being acquired, and funding has started. It is time we finish the job."

Plans call for six new lanes of Highway 141 from I-64 to Olive Boulevard. Additional funding of about \$110 million will be needed for remaining right-of-way acquisition, final engineering and bridge design and construction to finish this portion.

In the meantime, several communities are contributing to the project's progress. The City of Maryland Heights is working with St. Louis County to extend two lanes of the Maryland Heights Expressway south from Page Avenue to the city limits. Construction began this spring and should be completed by the end of the year. St. Louis County eventually plans to extend all four lanes south to Olive Boulevard. This will relieve congestion on Interstates 270 and 64 and provide a major transportation link between Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and the Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield. Depending on the route taken, the estimated cost is \$64.5 million.

"The completion of Highway 141 is vital to relieve traffic congestion, create new economic development opportunities, and for substantial job creation," Sen. Loudon said. "In light of

economic downturns, it's especially important to make investments in our infrastructure. We know the investment will pay off. St. Louis County conducted a study that estimates by completing the highway; we could produce \$20 billion in economic activity over 20 years for St. Louis County and the entire region.”

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