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## **St. Louis Transportation Projects to Benefit from New Law Giving Green Light to More Design-Build Contracts**

### *Senator Scott T. Rupp's Transportation Measure Signed into Law*

JEFFERSON CITY — A legislative proposal advanced by Sen. Scott T. Rupp (R-Wentzville) that will give the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission the authority to award more single contracts to expedite state road improvement projects was signed into law Tuesday.

The new law — passed in [House Bill 359](#) — will allow the commission to increase the number of design-build contracts it awards up to 2 percent of its annual projects until 2012. Currently, the transportation agency awards about 500 projects per year, so about 10 projects annually would be eligible for single design-build contracts. Design-build contracts allow contactors to bid as teams, using their own designers, engineers and supplies instead of requiring the department to design and bid projects.

In 2002, the transportation agency was given permission to award three design-build projects, including the rebuilding of I-64/Highway 40 in the St. Louis area, and has used up the allowance.

A single contract for improvements on Missouri Route 364 in St. Charles and St. Louis counties has been approved, transportation planners say, and won't count against the cap.

“This measure is going to give the department of transportation more flexibility in awarding contracts for road and bridges, and the St. Louis area will benefit from greater speed and efficiency in carrying out vital transportation projects,” Sen. Rupp said.

The legislation, which took effect immediately, is designed to make road building more efficient and to ensure Missouri “shovel-ready” transportation projects can qualify for potential federal stabilization funds.

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