

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Issue 7 - FALL 2008

I-64 CONSTRUCTION AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Although there is still a lot of work yet to be completed on the west half of the I-64 reconstruction project, MoDOT and Gateway Constructors are already looking ahead to the coming closure and reconstruction of the east half of the highway.

At an October 3 press conference on the Lindbergh Boulevard bridge, MoDOT Director Pete Rahn announced that the first half of the \$535 million project to rebuild about 10 miles of the aging interstate between Ballas Road and Kingshighway Boulevard would reopen early. The section from Ballas Road to I-170 will reopen between late November and New Year's Eve 2008.

Despite the rainiest year on record in 2008, Gateway Constructors crews still managed to complete enough work by the beginning of October to be able to predict an early completion of the first half of the project. That means,

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Stop by anytime)

October 15, 2008 St. Louis Science Center Lower Level 5050 Oakland Avenue St. Louis, Missouri

October 16, 2008 The Heights Community Center 8001 Dale Avenue Richmond Heights, Missouri weather permitting, construction can then begin immediately on the five miles of highway between I-170 and Kingshighway Boulevard. The east end closure of I-64 will be the focus of another round of public meetings for The New I-64 Project. **The open house meetings will be held on October 15 and 16**, one at each end of the east portion of the I-64 project. The same information will be presented at each meeting. See the box on this page for the exact dates, times and locations of the meetings.

Some have asked if it would be possible to open the west half for a period of time before closing the east half and give drivers a chance to use the entire highway for a short period. However, the two halves of the project no longer match up with each other. The mainline of the new I-64 has been moved about 45 feet to the north at the I-170 interchange to fit in between the west-to-north and south-to-east flyover ramps.

Also, during construction the flyover ramps have been striped to carry two lanes of traffic. With two lanes coming from the west, and two lanes coming from the east, in addition to another lane entering from Galleria Parkway, there simply isn't enough room on northbound I-170. Therefore the opening of the west half and closing of the east half have to be simultaneous.

Gateway Constructors will give the public 30 days notice of the date for reopening the west half and closing the east half. A public celebration for the west half will be held a few days before it opens to give people the opportunity to get an up close look at the new highway. More details on the celebration events will be announced a month in advance.

Once the east half of I-64 closes, all westbound I-64 traffic will exit at Kingshighway Boulevard while all eastbound traffic will exit either to Brentwood Boulevard or take the new flyover ramp to northbound I-170. Drivers will also be able to take I-170 south to westbound I-64 or enter the

Continued on Page 2





Page 1





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CONTACT US

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WEBSITE: www.thenewi64.org

TRAVEL INFORMATION:



Mark your calendar for the PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES on October 15 and 16!

Continued from Page 2

timing changes remotely;

- A new Traffic Operations Center (TOC) inside the Street Department headquarters to monitor and update signal and timing changes;
- Vehicle detection monitors at 72 new intersections to notify signals when vehicles are waiting for a green light;
- Six new video cameras to monitor traffic;
- Resurfaced or sealed sections of the priority routes for a smoother ride, for preservation and to prevent potholes;
- Nearly half of the city's traffic maintenance staff including engineers, technicians, road utility inspectors, pot hole/patch crews, striping crews and sign crews are being assigned to the east end closure.

Specific location improvements by MoDOT, St. Louis County and St. Louis City include:

- Lengthening the exit ramp from northbound I-170 to Forest Park Parkway;
- Lengthening the exit ramp from southbound I-170 to Forest Park Parkway making it a continuous ramp between Ladue and Forest Park Parkway,
- Restriping Forsyth Boulevard;
- Removal of the islands and restriping at Forest Park

Parkway and Skinker;

- New traffic signal actuation for Midland/Lindbergh and Dorsett/Lindbergh;
- Speed limit adjustments on Big Bend Boulevard and Delmar Boulevard.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Before you drive:

- Visit <u>www.modot.org</u>:
- Click on The New I-64 for Hwy 40 daily work
- Click on Gateway Guide for current traffic conditions
- Click on Map My Trip to get street-to-street directions routing you around current road closures
- Call **511** for current traffic information

On the Road:

• Read Message Boards with current travel times and lane closures

Questions about MoDOT work:

- Call Customer Service at 1-888-ASK-MODOT
- Call I-64 infoline for project specific problems at 314-524-9191

For Regular Email Updates:

- Sign up at <u>www.modot.org</u> for all St. Louis information
- Sign up at <u>www.thenewi64.org</u> for I-64 weekly updates

WARNING: For your safety and the workers safety, please do not trespass on the closed roadway. It is an active construction hard hat zone with workers present any day of the week.