

Making History: I-49 in Missouri



Fast Facts

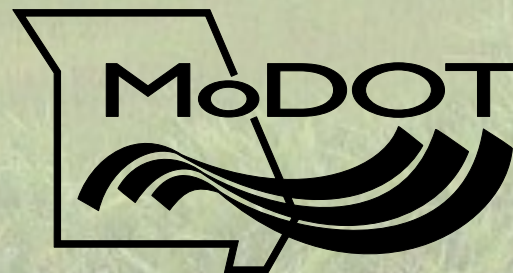
- ◆ As of December 2012, I-49 is 180 miles long, running between Kansas City and Pineville. In the future, five more miles of I-49 will be built south of Pineville to connect with a future section of I-49 in Arkansas.
- ◆ First section of highway designated as I-49 was 32 miles long in southern Louisiana, completed in the mid-1980s.
- ◆ When completed, I-49 will cover 300 miles in Arkansas, 410 miles in Louisiana and 185 miles in Missouri.
- ◆ I-49/I-29 corridor will be 1,600 miles long through Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. It will link New Orleans area ports on the Gulf of Mexico and central Canada near Winnipeg, a center for mineral mining, energy, agriculture and transportation.
- ◆ When completed, I-49 in Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana will cost an estimated \$11.5 billion.

Benefits of Highway Interstate System

Various studies by the Federal Highway Administration, university researchers and business groups show the interstate highway system, whose construction began in 1956, is as important to the nation's infrastructure as electricity, water and sewer.

The interstate highway system has:

- ◆ Contributed significantly to growth in U.S. business productivity and helped control distribution costs. Factors include reduced driving delays between urban centers, more reliable on-time delivery of freight and greater connectivity to air and rail terminals and river, lake and ocean ports.
- ◆ Made driving safer. The fatality rate is 60 percent lower than the rest of the system and the injury rate is 70 percent lower.
- ◆ Increased mobility for the general public. This creates more job opportunities for workers, with the potential for higher income levels. Travel for family and recreational activities is easier.
- ◆ Enhanced national security. The interstate highway grid provides smooth, wide, fast, intersection-free roads that can be used in times of national or regional crisis to move military equipment and supplies and serve as evacuation and rescue routes.



Welcoming I-49

December 12, 2012

Welcome

Becky Baltz

District Engineer, MoDOT Southwest District

Presentation of the Colors

Troop D Honor Guard

Missouri State Highway Patrol

National Anthem

Joplin East Middle School Band

Speakers

Victor Mendez

Administrator, Federal Highway Administration

Jay Nixon — invited

Missouri Governor

God Bless America

Joplin East Middle School Sixth Grade Choir

Special Recognition

Presented by MoDOT Director Kevin Keith

Roy Blunt

United States Senator, Missouri

Rudolph E. Farber

Chairman, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

Sign Unveiling



Our Unveiling Sponsors

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Special Thanks

Joplin School District
Joplin East Middle School

Making History



The Unveiling of I-49 In Missouri

December 12, 2012
Joplin, Mo

