



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Friday, October 8, 2010

**CONTACTS:**  
Joseph Gray 618.346.3282

## **IDOT plans ribbon cutting ceremony for the pedestrian bridge over I-64 in East St. Louis, IL**

*New walkway is first major project associated with the Mississippi River Bridge project to be complete in Illinois*

**EAST ST. LOUIS** – The Illinois Department of Transportation will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a pedestrian bridge in East St. Louis over Interstate 64, on **Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** on the south landing of this new facility near 15<sup>th</sup> Street and St. Clair Avenue. This bridge is one of the first projects to be completed in Illinois as a part of the Mississippi River Bridge project between Missouri and Illinois. The public is cordially invited to attend this event.

“With the busiest construction season in our state’s history in full swing, we are excited by the completion of this project,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig. “Opening this new pedestrian overpass in the East St. Louis area re-affirms our commitment to providing pedestrians with a safe and efficient way to cross from one side of the interstate to the other, even as it reconnects two communities that have long been divided by Interstate 64. This bridge also symbolizes the tremendous cooperation between IDOT, the city of East St. Louis, East St. Louis School District 189 and the community.”

“The new pedestrian bridge over I-64 enhances greatly the traveling safety of the community- pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. It makes accessing Miles Davis Elementary School, the Metro-link station at Emerson Park, churches and other points of interest much easier due to the separating of walkers and cyclists versus the drivers of cars, trucks and other motor vehicles. It’s a winner!” said Mayor Alvin Parks, Jr., East St. Louis, Illinois.

This new facility was built to allow pedestrian traffic over I-64, St. Clair Avenue and Baugh Avenue in East St. Louis. It also links Metro-link, several churches, schools and other businesses within the area.

“I am pleased that this new pedestrian bridge has been built, as it will provide a safe and accessible way for our citizens to traverse throughout our community. It is important that this bridge was one of the first major products accomplished by the Mississippi River Bridge project in Illinois. This bridge is an example of the continuous efforts that are being made to reinvest in our community’s infrastructure. This project will have a great impact on the surrounding neighborhoods and on the community as a whole,” said Illinois Representative Eddie Lee Jackson of the 114<sup>th</sup> District.

“The new pedestrian bridge in East St. Louis provides a safe passage across the highway for non-motorists. It also gives people on the south side of Interstate 64 access to Metro-link” said Illinois Senator James F. Clayborne, Jr., of the 57<sup>th</sup> District.

The pedestrian bridge structure is 12 feet wide and 9 feet tall, much wider and taller than a typical pedestrian bridge. It is ADA compliant, with a length of 803.5 feet. Lighting will be provided throughout the entire bridge including both approaches to the bridge. This \$4.9 million project, constructed by Halverson Construction, included a Project Labor Agreement which ensured that it was constructed with skilled labor and finished without delay. Work began December 15, 2009.

###