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January 19, 2010 – For immediate release

## **Mississippi River Bridge team, contractor exceed DBE goal**

ST. LOUIS – The Mississippi River Bridge team and its joint venture prime contractor have exceeded the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for the main span contract for the bridge.

“The 18 percent DBE goal for the main span is the most aggressive DBE goal we have had in Missouri for a major project,” said Ed Hassinger, P.E., MoDOT District Engineer for St. Louis. “We are pleased to announce that the Massman-Traylor-Alberici (MTA) joint venture has subcontracted for more than \$42 million of construction work with DBE firms – a total of 18.3 percent of the contract.”

Goals for other recent large projects in the state were 13 percent for the KC-ICON bridge in Kansas City and 16 percent for the Interstate 64 project in St. Louis.

Thirteen DBE firms have subcontracted with the MTA joint venture. Of the total contract, 16.6 percent (\$38 million) will go to eight minority-owned firms, another 1.3 percent (\$3 million) will go to woman-owned firms, and 0.4 percent (\$1 million) will go to a minority woman-owned firm. All the DBE firms selected are certified to do construction work in either Illinois or Missouri – or both.

“The Mississippi River Bridge team has been committed to ensuring inclusion in all phases of the project,” said Gregory Horn, P.E. Mississippi River Bridge project director. “The outstanding efforts by the MTA joint venture continue the track record set during design of the Mississippi River Bridge.”

During the design phase, Illinois- and Missouri-certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) companies were awarded more than 41 subcontracts for design work on the bridge project. So far, 40 subcontracts have been awarded for construction to certified DBE companies, including 13 on the main span contract.

“We are very pleased with the efforts the MTA joint venture has made so far for inclusion,” said Horn. “They have exceeded the goal for this contract, and have created a very diversified team. As we move forward, we will work with the prime contractors on the remaining 24 contracts for the river bridge to ensure they, too, are reaching out to include DBE contractors.”

MoDOT signed the contract with the joint venture team Friday afternoon.

Missouri and Illinois will break “ground” on the main span project sometime within the next couple of months and construction will start this spring. The main span contract is one of about 30 construction projects associated with the Mississippi River Bridge. The bridge is part of the plan to relocate Interstate 70 off the Poplar Street Bridge and move the interstate to its new location halfway between the Martin Luther King Bridge and the McKinley Bridge.

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