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Media Advisory: MoDOT, IDOT CANCEL Groundbreaking ceremony for MRB

ST. LOUIS –The ceremony for the Mississippi River Bridge groundbreaking, scheduled for this morning, has been canceled because most of the Federal officials were not able to make it out of Washington D.C. because flights were canceled due to severe weather.

"Members of Congress on both sides of the river and officials with the U.S. Department of Transportation played vital roles in securing funding for the new bridge and ensuring that this important transportation improvement became a reality," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn. "We want to make sure that they get the recognition they so rightly deserve."

At this time, the event has not been rescheduled. Work on the bridge, however, will start.

"I am pleased construction will start as planned. I was looking forward to participating in officially kicking off construction on a project that will improve safety and support jobs in the St. Louis area and our state," Governor Jay Nixon said. "You can be sure I will be there for the rescheduled ground-breaking celebration to show my support and thank everyone who made building the new bridge possible."

The New Mississippi River Bridge is part of a group of roadway improvement projects that will connect I-70 at the I-55/64/70 interchange in East St. Louis to I-70 near Cass Avenue in Missouri. The entire project will cost a total of \$670 million and is being funded through a combination of federal and state funds. The New Mississippi River Bridge project is expected to be completed in 2014.

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Media Note: Ed Hassinger will be available at the district office at 11 a.m. to discuss this, if any media desire an interview