

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2007

Mr. Pete K. Rahn  
Director  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
105 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Rahn:

Thank you for replying so promptly to my letter dated March 16, 2007. The extent of coordination that the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is pursuing with the traffic departments of other governing bodies – particularly with St. Louis County – and the level of detail to which traffic mitigation plans are being developed are encouraging.

I remain committed to ensuring that every reasonable effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience and adverse economic consequences that this much-needed rebuild of I-64 might have upon the constituents of Missouri's Second Congressional District. Although the projected sequencing of road closings, the aggressive construction schedule and the short overall duration of this project seem likely to promote those ends, no opportunity to increase the likelihood of accomplishing these goals should be overlooked.

In your reply to my previous letter, you stated that motorists typically require up to a month to find the alternate routes that result in the most efficient rebalancing of regional traffic patterns. You also mentioned that traffic engineers and MoDOT partners at the County and City levels will be evaluating all regional roads and making adjustments to help optimize traffic movements on all roads, and that these evaluations and adjustments will continue for the duration of the project.

When the date approaches for closing I-64 from Spoeche to Interstate 170, I suggest that MoDOT progressively restrict motorist access to I-64 by closing lanes over the course of several days or weeks rather than closing them all at once. This process would be similar to shutting off a water faucet gradually rather than suddenly. I believe this gradual transition to alternate routes – if widely announced – would be much safer and far less traumatic to the vast majority of commuters.

I appreciate your commitment to the success of this project. I am looking forward to working with you and other stakeholders to exhaust all potential means of minimizing the unpleasant aspects.

Sincerely,



W. Todd Akin  
Member of Congress

I-64 Rebuild Coordination

Page 2

April 20, 2007

CC:

The Honorable Matt Blunt, Governor, State of Missouri

The Honorable Charlie A. Dooley, County Executive, St. Louis County

The Honorable Steve Ehlmann, County Executive, St. Charles County

The Honorable Francis G. Slay, Mayor, City of St. Louis