

Missouri
Department
of Transportation



Pete Rahn, Director

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May 3, 2007

Honorable W. Todd Akin
U.S. Congressman, District 2
117 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Akin:

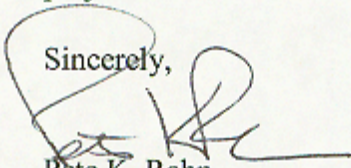
Thank you for your follow up letter regarding your continuing concerns and ideas with the reconstruction of Interstate 64 in St. Louis County. I appreciate the proactive approach you are taking to be informed and engaged in this project.

In your most recent letter, you suggest the idea of closing the interstate one lane at a time during the days or weeks leading up to the complete closure of I-64 between Ballas Road and Interstate 170. I understand your thought process that perhaps the gradual nature will make it easier for people to adjust. The closure is dramatic--one which requires people to make changes. The sooner people make changes in their patterns, the better off for everyone and the sooner traffic will settle into a regular pattern. Slowing down this process is not going to make it any less painful.

The reality is the closure of just one lane on Interstate 64 creates tremendous backups leaving the roadway difficult to use. For example, just last week, there was a water main break at I-64 and Lindbergh and one lane of westbound I-64 was closed through evening rush hour. Traffic was backed up with a solid jam to east of Hampton Avenue. We also don't want to put motorists through the pain of a lane closure with no work happening. The construction schedule and contract are based on the complete closure of the lanes.

Again, thank you for continuing to share your thoughts and concerns. MoDOT staff is working diligently to address these issues and prepare the entire road system and the citizens of St. Louis for this closure. I look forward to continuing to work with you through the construction of this project.

Sincerely,



Pete K. Rahn
Director

cc: Governor Matt Blunt
Charlie Dooley, St. Louis County Executive
Francis Slay, Mayor, City of St. Louis
Steve Ehlmann, St. Charles County Executive
Ed Hassinger-6
Jay Wunderlich-gr