

April 21, 2007

Akin Suggests Phase in of Highway Closure

St. Louis, Mo - In a March 16th open letter to MoDOT Director Pete Rahn, Congressman Todd Akin (R-Mo) expressed support for the decision to rebuild I-64, but suggested a test run of the Interstate 64 shutdown to gather information and diagnose the state of preparedness of communities for a long-term multiyear closure of the highway.

In an April 5 letter to Congressman Akin, MoDOT Director, Pete Rahn stated that such a closure would not be constructive and aid in accessing additional preparation for the shutdown.

Congressman Akin remains concerned over the general state of preparedness by communities and the driving public and is suggesting that MoDOT consider a phase in of a complete highway shutdown.

"I am concerned that when the highway is completely removed as an option for drivers in an abrupt fashion that the consequent impact on businesses and drivers will be severe," said Akin. "I think it would be wise to consider phasing in any such shutdown by closing several but not all lanes for a period of time, possibly weeks, in order to allowing the public to adapt and develop new commuting strategies."