

June 18, 2001

Akin Tours Page Avenue Extension Project

Washington, D.C.- Today, Congressman Todd Akin will tour the Page Avenue extension project. The purpose of the visit is for the congressman to see first hand the project's progress. Currently the first phase is under construction and is expected to be completed sometime in late 2002.

The Page extension will relieve congestion on I-70 at Earth City near the St. Louis/St. Charles County border. Studies have shown that this area has the highest traffic volumes in the state:

- Current volumes in this area are close to 200,000 vehicles per day.
- In 2015, if the extension were not built, peak rush hours in this area would be expanded from approximately 6 hours each day to around 12 hours each day.
- Between 1950 and 1990, the population of St. Louis and St. Charles Counties grew by 145% and 614% respectively. Since 1990, the population of St. Charles County has risen by 25%. The bridge is needed to ease traffic congestion resulting from already established commercial and residential development.

"Improving our infrastructure in this area will help unite the region, promote economic growth and provide increased mobility for the entire region," said Akin. "It is critical that all three phases are completed."