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## MoDOT St. Louis Area District News Release

May 12, 2006

### Partnering Agreement Signed for I-64 Workforce Utilization Plan

ST LOUIS – MoDOT and a group of stakeholders signed a partnering agreement today pledging to work together towards a workforce utilization plan for The New I-64 project. The plan focuses on training and employment of minority, female and economically disadvantaged individuals on the I-64 project.

The partnering agreement includes the use of ½ of 1% of the I-64 project dollars. It will be used as incentives for the I-64 contractor to hire individuals on the project to obtain workforce diversity. The agreement also establishes an advisory committee who will recommend training and employment programs to receive funding from MoDOT. The contractors and community based organizations also pledged to be diligent and work proactively to increase the workforce.

“It is a new day for MoDOT, the community and the heavy highway construction industry. We hope this workforce utilization process will become a model for other states,” said Lester Woods, MoDOT’s External Civil Rights Administrator. “Growing the workforce is a complicated task that cannot be solved by one entity. With everyone working together and doing our individual roles in this process, we will see more trained minority and female workers.”

MoDOT hired Julie Cunningham, president of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), in February to facilitate the discussions. Together the group identified its concerns and established a plan for increased workforce. Stakeholders involved included the two contractor teams competing for the I-64 project, local construction and trade unions and community based organizations including Metropolitan Congregations United, MOKAN, Pride, SLATE and many others.

The New I-64 project includes the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 12 miles of highway from west of Spoeede Road to Sarah Street in the City of St. Louis. The contractor will be selected by the end of 2006 with construction beginning in 2007 lasting until October 2010.

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For more information, contact The New I-64 Community Relations Manager at 314-340-4117.

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