

Feds' Approval Means Release of Key Funding For County's Page-Olive Project

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More Information: David Wrone at 314-615-8173

St. Louis County has secured a vital portion of funds needed for its "Page-Olive Connector" project.

Late Friday (October 30), the Federal Highway Administration notified County officials of its approval of the County's plans to build a new road between Page Avenue and Olive Boulevard. Missouri's Department of Transportation also signed off on the plan. The federal and state governments' action means St. Louis County officially has "obligated" – or "qualified for and will soon receive" - \$20 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. That money represents nearly 30 percent of the County's total, \$67 million budget for the job.

"This is a huge 'next step' for one of the largest road construction project ever undertaken by St. Louis County," enthused St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley. "This project will create hundreds of construction jobs, not to mention many years of smooth-flowing traffic."

The new road – which will have between four and six lanes – will replace a narrow, two-lane stretch of Creve Coeur Mill Road. It will ultimately connect to the Maryland Heights Expressway to the north, and MoDOT's Highway 141 to the south. Traffic officials say the new road will greatly help enhance traffic flow throughout the region.

Work is expected to begin next summer, after St. Louis County selects a design-builder for the work. The new road is expected to be open by the summer of 2012.