



Dooley: Page-Olive Connector Proposals 'Great News' for St. Louis County

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St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley described this morning's opening of proposals for the Page-Olive Connector as "great news almost any way you look at it."

"We had three great teams competing for this project, and the apparent winner came in more than \$6 million under our estimate," Dooley said. "That's a victory for taxpayers."

The Federal Highway Administration and the Missouri Department of Transportation must give final approval to South St. Louis County-based KCI Construction Company's \$51,995,000 proposal.

In addition to KCI, design and construction teams led by Millstone Bangert and Fred Weber submitted proposals for the project – the largest road construction job in St. Louis County's history. The proposals include the "design and construction" portion of the work – which the County estimated at \$58 million.

"We're talking about a significant savings of public money," Dooley observed. "But just as importantly, we're talking about a new, six-lane road that will benefit our community for the next fifty years. This project is vitally needed."

St. Louis County expects bulldozers to be in the field later this year – with work scheduled for completion in 2012. Officials say the new road will greatly relieve traffic congestion on I-270 and other local roads, in addition to serving as the centerpiece of an "outer belt" that will eventually connect South County to North County - and Jefferson County to St. Charles County.

The County Executive was also excited about the economic boost that the Page-Olive Connector will give to the region. Officials expect several hundred jobs to be created.

"These are good-paying jobs," Dooley continued. "And that's great news – especially in our present, challenging environment."

St. Louis County will use \$20 million in federal stimulus funds to help pay for its share of the work. The Cities of Chesterfield and Maryland Heights will each contribute \$5 million. The County will issue bonds to cover the rest of the expense.

KCI Construction Company President Doug Jones stated: "KCI is pleased to partner with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., our design consultant. Together, we look forward to completing this key link in the region's transportation network."