

PRESS RELEASE



State Representative Rachel Storch District 64



State Capitol – Room 105-i
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806

**For Immediate Release:
January 13, 2005**

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Representative Storch Hosts Highway 40 Town Hall Meeting

Storch asks Hwy. 40 project managers to answer questions from the public on construction plans.

On Thursday, January 12th, Representative Rachel Storch hosted a Town Hall meeting on the I-64/Hwy. 40 construction project. Speakers included Lesley Sollinger Hoffarth, I-64/Hwy. 40 Project Director, MODOT; Ronald Morris, I-64/Hwy. 40 Deputy Project Director; and Chris Poehler, Project Manager, Metrolink. Charlie Brennan from KMOX radio served as Moderator.

More than 150 St. Louisans attended the Town Hall meeting to ask questions and voice concerns regarding the impact of this project on the local community. Representative Storch kicked off the meeting with opening comments, "Let me begin by saying that it is very positive for the St. Louis area to have a highway project of this magnitude in our region. Strengthening our highway infrastructure will help us to position St. Louis as one of the great cities in the United States," said Storch.

"But we also know that the I-64/Hwy. 40 construction project will have a tremendous impact on our community – our traffic and commuting time; our restaurants, businesses, even our quality of life," said Storch. "It is absolutely vital that we have a flow of information to the public and continued dialogue between MODOT and the citizens in our area."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Storch requested MODOT to provide citizens with a public map that would show traffic capacity on all main arteries to the downtown area. Storch asked that such a map would be updated on a monthly basis.

Storch also urged MODOT to work closely with hospitals to ensure full access to hospitals and healthcare centers.

Storch also noted that it is vital for MODOT to include citizens and stakeholders in the planning process. "Because this is a Design-Build project – the first of its kind in Missouri – MODOT must ensure that Missourians have continued public input into the process."

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