



*For more information, contact
Andrew Gates at 314-453-1808 or 314-223-8003.*

**Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NewMississippiRiverBridge
Follow us on Twitter: @MissRiverBridge**

November 15, 2012 – For immediate release

MRB construction teams top one million hours

ST. LOUIS – Crews in Illinois and Missouri working on constructing the Mississippi River Bridge and its associated roadway projects topped the one million hour mark in September.

By September 30, 2012, crews had completed 1,012,576 hours of work on construction projects in Illinois and Missouri, including the main span of the new bridge between St. Clair County, Illinois and St. Louis.

Of those hours, more than 23 percent (235,930 hours) were performed by minority construction workers, and just over 5 percent (52,443) were performed by female construction workers. The Department of Labor has set goals to encourage at least 14.7 percent of the workforce be minority workers and at least 6.9 percent of the workforce be female.

“The main contractors working on the bridge projects have been very diligent in ensuring that we have great minority representation in the workforce of the bridge projects which have started so far. We are continuing to work with them to improve the numbers of female construction workers on projects as we continue through the next 18 months of construction,” said Gregory Horn, MRB project director.

In addition to the construction workers, disadvantaged business enterprises continue to participate in the construction project. As of September, 113 different certified minority and women owned companies have received 229 contracts as part of this project. Those contracts total more than \$108 million of the project’s cost of roughly \$700 million. Goals for DBE participation in federally funded projects are set per project based on the capacity and capability of the available DBE firms.

“Although we are pleased by the efforts made by our contractors so far, we will continue to strive to look for other opportunities to improve our workforce numbers and our DBE participation,” said Horn.

###