



**CONNECTING MISSOURI & ILLINOIS**

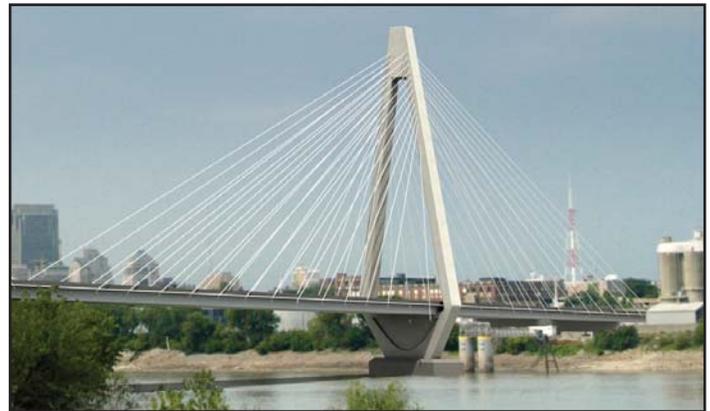
# MAIN SPAN ADVERTISED

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) have advertised the contract to construct the main span of the Mississippi River Bridge.

Each of the four prequalified contractors has until December 8, 2009 to put together a team to construct the bridge and submit a bid. The Missouri and Illinois Departments of Transportation will review the bids before the contract is awarded.

“When Illinois and Missouri agreed to construct the Mississippi River Bridge in February 2008, we agreed to a specific time line for the project – including the dates to award the main span contract,” said Gregory Horn, P.E., Mississippi River Bridge project director. “The leadership of the two states established this time line to keep the project on budget and on time to open the bridge by January 2014.”

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for the main span is 18 percent. MoDOT has incorporated several methods into the contract to improve the fairness in contracting to all potential subcontractors. MoDOT intends to partner with the prime contractor to develop and implement strategies that open up new opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged businesses to become an integral part to the bridge’s completion. A highlight is a \$3.5 million contractor incentive to increase efforts to be socially and environmentally responsible.



**Artist rendition of the bridge, looking west from Illinois.**

Some additional methods to improve minority participation are included in the contract language. The MRB Team is requiring the prime contractor to include a DBE workforce that represents the diversity of contractors who are ready, willing and able to perform commercially useful functions on the bridge. The main span contract will be awarded to the contractor team with the lowest, responsive and responsible bid.

Additionally, the MRB Team will require the winning contractor to provide a DBE performance plan, provide monthly DBE and workforce progress reports and provide a full-time Civil Rights Compliance Manager. Additionally, MoDOT is committing \$1 million to Supportive Services to increase opportunities for Minority- and Woman owned businesses in heavy highway construction.

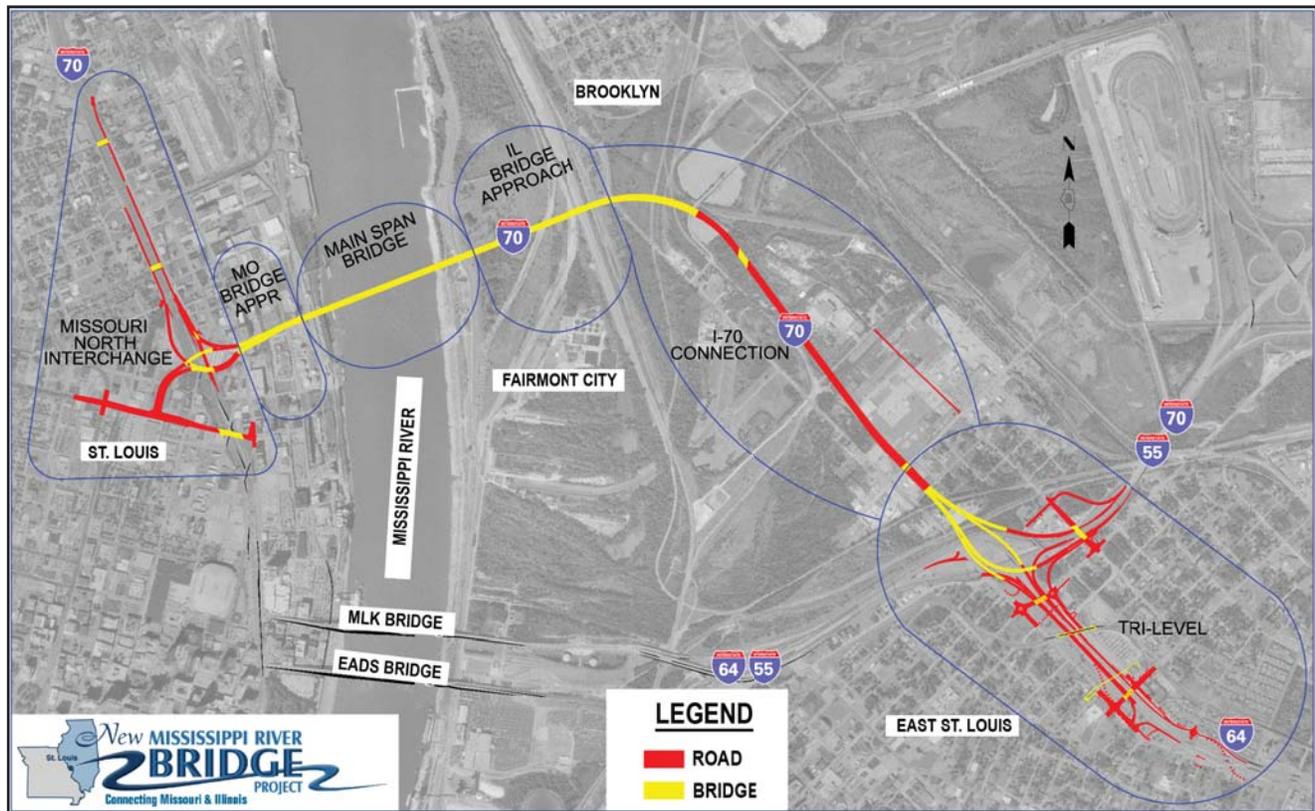
### WHAT’S NEW ON THE WEB

- Take a look at the updated website
- See the latest on YouTube
- Sign up for electronic updates

See more at [www.newriverbridge.org](http://www.newriverbridge.org)

### INSIDE

Project update .....	2
Inside the cables.....	3
News briefs.....	4
Contractor profile.....	5
Website update.....	6



## PROJECT UPDATE

### MAIN SPAN, MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS APPROACHES

Design work on the Mississippi River Bridge and the approaches is essentially complete. The design engineers are coordinating with contractor teams to finalize biddable plans for the various confidential suggestions offered during the Advanced Technical Concept process. The design team is wrapping up some right-of-way coordination for the Illinois Approach and is finalizing all the needed permits for the project.

The MRB team has now advertised for bids on the main span of the Mississippi River Bridge and plan to award the construction contract in December. The MRB team intends to advertise the Missouri Approach starting in December and the Illinois Approach in 2010.

### MISSOURI NORTH INTERCHANGE

Design work on the Missouri Interchange is nearly complete. Design engineers are putting the final touches on the plan, and MoDOT is purchasing right of way and completing utility coordination for the project. MoDOT is planning to incorporate an Alternate Technical Concept process, where potential contractors can offer suggestions for methods to reduce costs that

are incorporated into confidential, biddable plans, into the interchange design. That process will start when all design work is completed on the interchange.

### I-70 CONNECTION AND TRI-LEVEL INTERCHANGE

The Illinois Department of Transportation has begun work on projects associated with the New Mississippi River Bridge Project. IDOT currently has two projects underway and both are for the demolition and clearing of the Relocated I-70 corridor in the former National City Stockyards in Fairmont City. The projects will allow for the construction of the embankment on which relocated I-70 will be built.

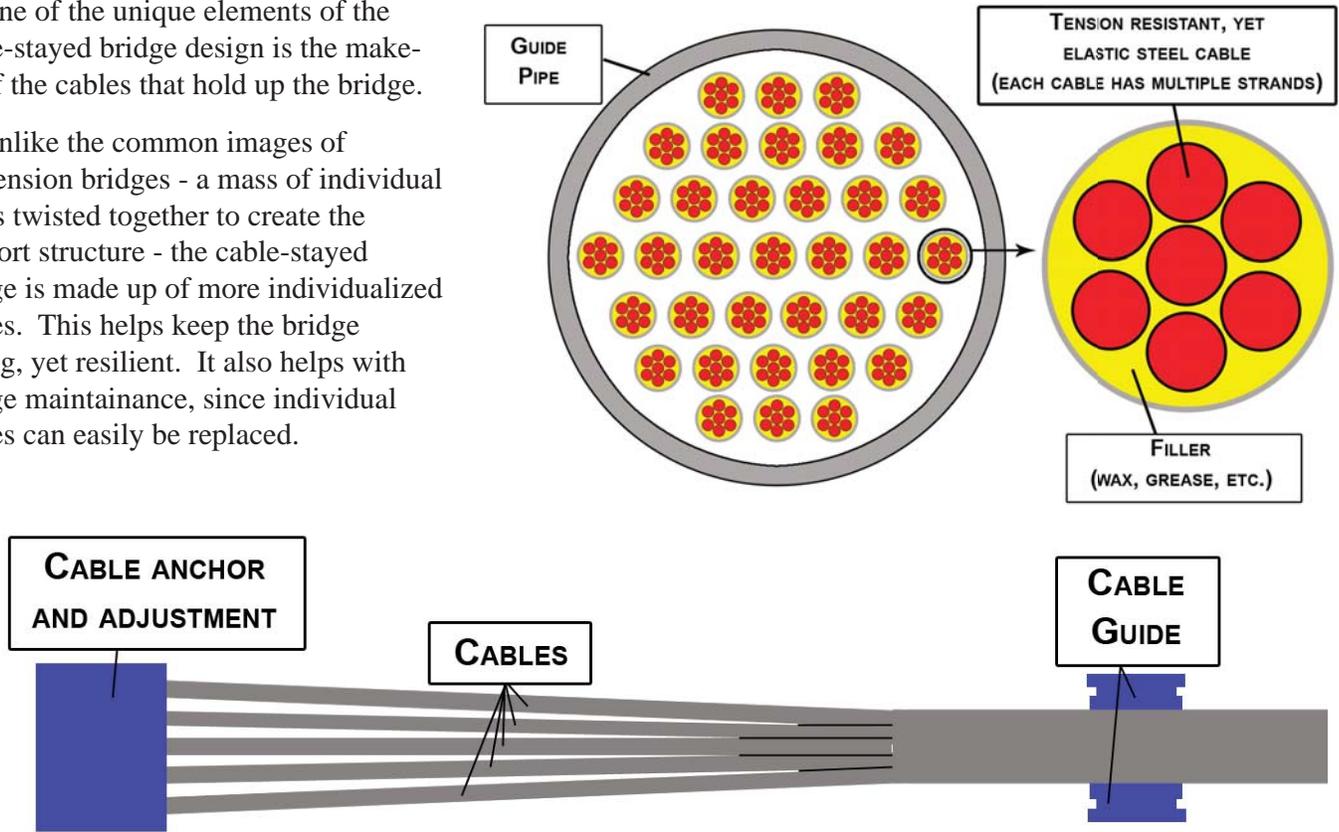
IDOT also recently awarded the construction of a pedestrian bridge near 15th street in East St. Louis. This walkway will allow pedestrians to safely cross over I-64 between Miles Davis Elementary and the Emerson Park Metrolink station. In addition, a sewer repair contract was awarded and is scheduled to begin in late November.

As part of the November 6th letting, improvements to St. Clair and Baugh Avenues between 18th and 20th street were advertised. Included in these improvements is a roundabout at the intersection of 18th and Baugh Avenues. Another demolition contract near the former stockyards was advertised as part of this letting.

# INSIDE THE CABLES OF THE BRIDGE

One of the unique elements of the cable-stayed bridge design is the make-up of the cables that hold up the bridge.

Unlike the common images of suspension bridges - a mass of individual wires twisted together to create the support structure - the cable-stayed bridge is made up of more individualized cables. This helps keep the bridge strong, yet resilient. It also helps with bridge maintenance, since individual cables can easily be replaced.



## DESIGN FIRM MENTORS DBE FIRMS DURING BRIDGE WORK

Crawford, Murphy and Tilly Inc. (CMT) was the prime contractor to help design the Missouri interchange for the new Mississippi River Bridge. As prime, they directed a number of subcontractors, including several Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms to complete the overall design of the interchange. Nearly 30 percent of the interchange design was done by DBE firms.

As part of that work, CMT chose to act as mentors for many of these smaller firms and helped share the knowledge and capabilities that they had learned with the DBE firms. CMT and the firms met regularly and built relationships not only as prime and subcontractors, but as designers and engineers. Here are some of the comments made by the mentored firms:

*“The information and advice CMT staff provided during the DBE Mentoring Sessions was invaluable. Especially useful was the specific procedures outlined*

*for keeping track of project budgets, schedules, and determining staffing needs based on projected workload. We plan to incorporate some of the ideas into our daily work processes.” - George John, P.E., EDSI.*



**Firms network during an event**

*“CMT should be immensely congratulated for their vision and effort in embarking on a mentoring program with its subconsultants during the design of the I-70 Interchange for the New Mississippi River Bridge project. By this singular undertaking, they have gone far and beyond the mere call of duty. They are now truly a shining good example to all other firms with good futuristic perspectives.” - Lawrence Nwachukwu, P.E., Basilico Engineering*

*“While our experience is that most mentoring takes place in a one-on-one setting, this Mentoring Session group format allowed for better consensus from all team members. TSi was able to learn from CMT Project Leaders; and, in turn, TSi was also able to help other newer firms.” - Morris Hervey, P.E. TSi Engineering*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### IDOT INCLUDES LABOR AGREEMENTS, APPLIES FOR DUAL GOAL WAIVER FOR REMAINING ILLINOIS PROJECTS

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is moving forward with implementing Project Labor Agreements (PLA) on all Illinois led Mississippi River Bridge projects. PLAs are a pre-bid agreement between Labor and bidding contractors with benefits such as a properly trained workforce, the elimination of labor disputes, work stoppages or strikes, the establishment of work rules for overtime and working hours, and outlining dispute resolution procedures. IDOT believes using PLAs will ensure the local labor force has an opportunity at the jobs created as a result of this local investment.

“The use of a PLA is a key to the overall success of this project and should be implemented to ensure everyone gets an opportunity to work on this project,” stated Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig.

IDOT has also submitted an application for a Federal waiver to create a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Dual Goal for all remaining Illinois let projects. It is the goal of the department to ensure an equal

opportunity for Minority and Female owned businesses to work on the bridge. The dual goals component will take the current DBE Goal and create separate goals for Minority and Woman owned firms based on their availability.

“The dual goals will ensure DBE firms will get an equal portion of the work based on their availability to work. This will help end any disparity and in the long run will give Minority and Woman owned firms an appropriate portion of the work,” stated IDOT District Eight Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance Office Lee Coleman.

### MISSOURI TO REQUIRE PROMPT PAY FOR MAIN SPAN SUBCONTRACTORS

Based on subcontractor concerns raised during the community roundtable meetings, the Missouri Department of Transportation will require its prime contractor to quickly reimburse certain subcontractors on the main span contract.

For all subcontracts of less than \$1 million, MoDOT will require the prime contractor to reimburse the subcontractor within three business days of receiving payment for the state for that work.

**Minority and Woman owned businesses got the opportunity to discuss the Mississippi River Bridge main span and approach contracts with potential prime contractors during two networking sessions in August.**



# CONTRACTOR FOCUS:

## TWO CONSULTANTS CONDUCT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Two firms - one for Illinois and one for Missouri - assist the Mississippi River Bridge Team by conducting outreach. They interact

with the minority community to promote upcoming projects. Additionally, they facilitate community and citizen-based groups

to advise the Mississippi River Bridge leadership on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and workforce use issues.

### ADDED DIMENSION, LLC - ILLINOIS

**Location:** St. Charles, Mo.

**Years in business:** Three

**Number of employees:** Two

**About working on the MRB project:** "This project demonstrates the power of a community to affect a project and that public input, acceptance and participation are necessary to ensure a project's success. The New MRB project is a perfect example of ordinary people making a difference.



**MaryAnn Taylor-Crate  
Principal**

Working on the new Mississippi River Bridge project has been a wonderful experience for our team and we are excited to be a part of it.

This project is a symbol of regional cooperation and collaboration. It is a project that will not only connect Missouri and Illinois, but will create new jobs, serve as a catalyst for development opportunities, and enhance the economic vitality of the region." -Mary Ann Taylor Crate

### MARKS AND ASSOCIATES - MISSOURI

**Location:** St. Louis, Mo.

**Years in business:** 23 years

**Number of employees:** Five

**Quote about MRB experience:** "The MRB Project has been my first contractual relationship with MoDOT and IDOT. As part of the MRB Team we offer our experience working with DBE firms in the private sector and our relationships with local business and workforce development partners. We also provide support to the administrative and public information functions of the project which further enhances our capabilities in both of these areas. I consider every client engagement a learning experience and an opportunity to have a positive impact on the economic climate of this region. I am proud to be part of the team!" - Sandra Marks



**Sandra Marks,  
President**

## WORD ON THE STREET - WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE MRB



**““The Mississippi River Bridge project is vital to moving our region forward. We must continue to improve our infrastructure in order to compete in the global market. We must have a strong core if we want to be a successful region. This new bridge will benefit the entire St. Louis region and the states of Missouri and Illinois for many years to come.””**

**Mayor Francis Slay  
City of St. Louis**

# RIVER BRIDGE WEBSITE GETS NEW LOOK

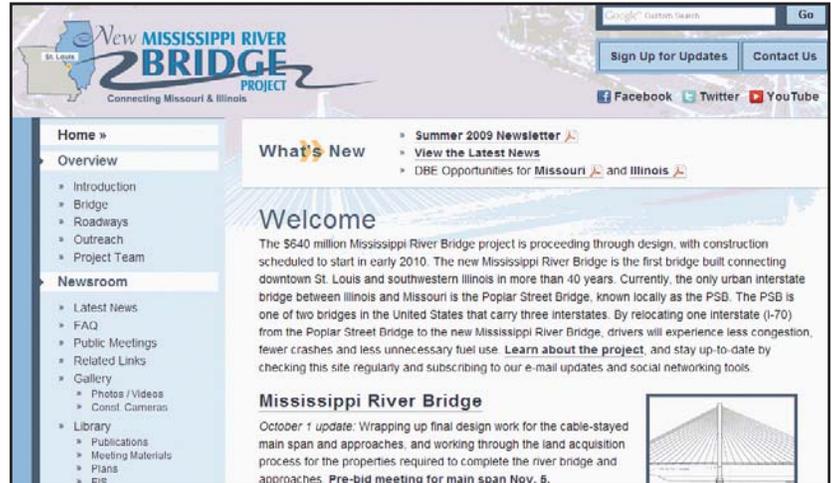
The Mississippi River Bridge website has the same web address, but a brand-new look.

The new website is easier to navigate, and has improved photo and video galleries, according to Andrew Gates, Mississippi River Bridge community relations.

“With the bridge construction planned to start early next year, it seemed like the right time to improve and update the website,” he said. “The old version was more geared toward the planning and design for the bridge.”

The Mississippi River Bridge team collaborated on the site, trying to seamlessly meld the information the public needed and wanted about the project.

“As we start construction, the public is going to need to know about possible detours, road closures and other impacts,” said Gates. “On the other hand, there will be



The main page of the new website.

a great deal of curiosity about what work is currently going on. We wanted to be able to make the web experience simple for all users.”

For suggestions about future additions and improvements to the website or questions about the project, send an e-mail to [info@newriverbridge.org](mailto:info@newriverbridge.org).

## FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE BRIDGE AT [WWW.NEWRIVERBRIDGE.ORG](http://WWW.NEWRIVERBRIDGE.ORG)



MRB Project Office  
707 N. 2nd Street, Suite 300, St Louis MO 63102  
Phone: (314) 236-2960

