August 25, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

Diverging Diamond Dedication August 27

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the diverging diamond interchange at James River Freeway (U.S. 60) and National Avenue is set for 10 a.m., Friday, Aug. 27.

The public and media are invited to attend the ceremony.

The location is along the west side of National Avenue just south of the Cox South Hospital Emergency Department entrance (south of Primrose Street). From northbound National Avenue, turn right on Bradford Parkway and use the tunnel underneath National Avenue, or from southbound National Avenue, turn right into Cox South Hospital driveway. Download a parking map.

The Missouri Department of Transportation, the City of Springfield and CoxHealth were partners in the construction of the city’s second diverging diamond interchange, designed to improve north-south traffic flow on National Avenue and to make it easier and safer for drivers to make left turns onto the freeway and to enter and exit CoxHealth facilities on both sides of National Avenue.

The $9.7-million project ($7.5 million for construction and $2.2 million for engineering and right-of-way acquisition) included:

- Widening the National Avenue bridge over the James River Freeway.
- Building auxiliary lanes on the freeway between National and Campbell avenues.
- Widening the ramps at the interchange to provide dual northbound turn lanes.
- Widening National Avenue between Bradford Parkway on the north and Kingsley Street on the south.
- Building a new access road and underpass underneath National Avenue to connect CoxHealth facilities on either side of National Avenue.

The public-private partnership project was funded by MoDOT regular funds and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds; the City of Springfield’s voter-approved 1/8-cent Sales Tax for Transportation and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds; and CoxHealth. Ground was broken in September 2009.

For more information, contact: Mike Brothers, City of Springfield, (417) 864-1119, or Bob Edwards or Angela Eden, MoDOT, (417) 895-7600.