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Ribbon Cutting Marks Completion of Noland Road Bridge over I-70

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The Independence Chamber of Commerce and the City of Independence joined MoDOT today to cut the ribbon on the Noland Road Bridge over I-70, marking an official completion to a highly successful project that opened the bridge weeks earlier than planned last April.

The Noland Road bridge is a vital link in the Independence community. Removal and replacement of the bridge could have taken well over a year, but MoDOT and Independence residents, business owners and city officials discussed options that significantly reduced the closure and restore the vital link.

MoDOT worked with consulting engineers at **DRG** to design the new bridge to allow the contractor, APAC - Kansas, Inc., to move quickly to remove the old bridge and build a new one within weeks. The bridge closed Feb. 16 and re-opened to traffic April 13, a stunning pace of replacement that drew praise and notice from throughout the region, said Elizabeth Wright, district engineer.

The swift, successful bridge replacement was a product of teamwork involving the contractor, the community and MoDOT. Early in construction, APAC proposed complete closure of I-70 for several hours in each direction during the weekend of March 7-9 to allow further acceleration of the project. The closure allowed cutting out weeks of additional time so that APAC could quickly deliver a project of great value to the Independence community and to I-70 travelers. Reconstruction of the four ramps, shoulder work and signal installation continued into September on the \$9.3 million project.

For more information about other projects in the area, please visit MoDOT's Web site at www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity.