



December 12, 2012



I-49: Missouri's Newest Interstate Highway

A Change in Status to I-49

Route 71 along the western edge of Missouri south of Kansas City -- a distance of 185 miles -- has been upgraded to interstate highway standards, with new interchanges, overpasses and outer roads. The transformation to I-49 in Missouri has occurred over several decades.

Planning for the final series of projects began in the late 1980s, with construction beginning in the the early 1990s and concluding this year., costing nearly \$500 million. Highway officials in Arkansas and Louisiana also are working to complete Interstate 49 in their states. The first section of highway designated as I-49 was in 1984 in Louisiana.

Taken together, Interstate 49 south of Kansas City and Interstate 29 north of Kansas City will cover 1,630 miles of highway. The interstate corridor will link busy Gulf Coast ports at New Orleans with south-central Canada near Winnipeg, a busy center of industry, transportation, agriculture, mineral mining and energy. Expansion of the Panama Canal, on target for 2014, will add to the importance of this enhanced transportation access to the Gulf, and to the Pacific Rim.

MoDOT thanks Gail of Gail's Harley-Davidson, for graciously agreeing to host this event, and for her many years of support for Missouri's transportation system.

Program

Welcome

Gail

Owner, Gail's Harley-Davidson

Introduction and Acknowledgments

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MoDOT District Engineer

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Kansas City Councilman, 5th District

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Jimmie Odom

Mayor, Belton and Cass County Commissioner-elect

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Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner