



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH – GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 29, 2008

CONTACTS:

Brian Williamsen	217/782.7355
Marisa Kollias	312/814.4693 (IDOT)
Paris Ervin	217/558.0517 (IDOT)

Governor Blagojevich Announces Completion of IL Route 336 Corridor

Major roadway is now open to traffic for western Illinois residents

MACOMB – Leaders of the Blagojevich Administration joined local leaders today to announce the completion and grand opening of IL Route 336 from just west of the city of Macomb in Henderson County westerly to Carthage in Hancock County. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and local officials participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the final section of this four-lane expressway.

“I am proud to see that the vision of this highway, which was to improve life for people in western Illinois, has become a reality,” said Governor Rod R. Blagojevich. “The completion of Highway 336 will increase safety for drivers, along with spurring economic development and providing a link to multiple communities in the area.”

“The completion of this project shows Governor Blagojevich’s dedication to public safety and revitalization in Illinois,” said IDOT Secretary Milton R. Sees. “I commend everyone involved in making this project happen and I’m confident it will bring vitality to the western Illinois region.”

The Highway 336 project was one of IDOT’s largest. The more than \$120 million dollar expressway reconstruction project consists of 20.6 miles of four-lane expressway.

“I am proud to help cut the ribbon as we open this segment of Highway 336,” said Senator John M. Sullivan. “I am very happy to see that the years of hard work and dedication have paid off, by bringing a much-needed travel artery to this region of the state.”

“Countless people have worked tirelessly to make this new section of highway a reality. This will help relieve traffic congestion and make driving safer for all motorists,” said State Rep. Jill Tracy. “It has been a long time coming and I am happy to see that Highway 336 is now complete.”

“The completion of Highway 336 will help bring increased mobility in west-central Illinois and will increase options for much need economic growth during tough times. I want to thank the

hard-working people of IDOT for their continued efforts in making Illinois more accessible for everyone,” said Representative Richard P. Myers.

Construction of this phase of the project took about three years to complete. The finished project used more than 658,000 tons of asphalt, more than 734,000 tons of aggregate, more than five million cubic yards of earthwork moved, and about 10,000 yards of concrete placed to construct the roadway and numerous bridges.

“The completion of IL 336 is an extraordinary accomplishment and we have Governor Blagojevich to thank for making sure this vital project was completed this year, on time as originally scheduled,” said Thomas A. Oakley of Quincy, a regional transportation leader. “IL 336 is more than just a highway between Macomb, Carthage and Quincy. It completes the Illinois portion of a new corridor for the Chicago-Kansas City Expressway, which was envisioned more than 50 years ago.”