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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christian County to Host Public Meeting for Route CC-J-NN Project Preliminary Design, Fremont Road to Pheasant Road

Christian County is hosting a public meeting to update the community on preliminary plans for the Route CC-J-NN project from approximately Fremont Road east to Pheasant Road. The meeting will be from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. March 31 at the Ozark Community Center, 1530 West Jackson, Ozark, Missouri. It will be in an open house format so that those interested can come and go as they please.

Participants will have an opportunity to review preliminary project plans, ask questions regarding the project and offer comments for consideration in the final design. Project scheduling and right-of-way acquisition information will also be available.

Significant elements of the ultimate, or fully constructed, preliminary plans include:

- Replacing the existing standard diamond interchange at Highway 65 with a diverging diamond interchange, including construction of a second bridge over Highway 65
- Improving the intersections at 17th Street, Highway NN, and Pheasant Road,
- Expanding the roadway from a two-lane roadway to a five- lane divided expressway.

Initial work will focus on the Highway 65 interchange and improvements to the 17th Street and Pheasant Road intersections with subsequent projects subject to funding availability in the future. However, the drawings to be displayed will show the ultimate roadway facility, with interchanges at US Hwy 65, 17th Street, Hwy NN and Pheasant Road.

Christian County is working in partnership with the Ozark Special Road District and the cities of Fremont Hills, Nixa and Ozark to design the improvements to Route CC-J-NN. The

project partners have teamed together because each wants to ensure a safe and efficient roadway network that will serve both existing property owners and future development. Upon completion, plans for the preferred improvements for Route CC-J-NN from the City of Nixa to the City of Ozark will be finalized. When constructed, this project will reduce traffic congestion and prepare the county for impending development.

The project will unfold over two phases. The first phase, nearing completion, is the preliminary design phase. Preliminary design work is divided into two sections. The first section, from Fremont Road to Pheasant Road in Ozark, is the focus of the March 31 public meeting. The second section, from Fremont Road to Main Street in Nixa, will be the subject of a public meeting within the next few months. Over the course of the next eight or nine months, the second phase will continue to complete final design of the project. Final design should be finished in Fall 2011. Construction of the diverging diamond is expected in 2015, pending approval from the Missouri Department of Transportation and adequate funding.

In addition to the public meeting on March 31, information will also be available for public inspection at the office of the District Engineer of the Missouri Department of Transportation, 3025 E. Kearney, Springfield, Missouri.

A website is available for the project to provide residents, stakeholders and anyone interested in it with current information. It can be found at www.routecc-j-nn.com. The website offers valuable information about the project, including its history, answers to frequently asked questions, current news, and ways that anyone interested can get involved and stay informed.

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