

Press Release

For Immediate Release

March 19, 2007

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Lemay Development Corporation **Hails Passage of Federal Bill**

The Lemay Development Corporation hails the passage of HR 1129 sponsored by Congressman Russ Carnahan which authorizes a major transportation infrastructure improvement in our community. The road, known as the Lemay Connector road, was identified in a study conducted by MODOT and completed in 2003. The Lemay Development Corporation was among many community leaders and organizations that participated in the public portion of the MODOT study.

“Lemay was once a thriving inner ring suburb along the Mississippi River and home to many great industries. Unfortunately industries closed, jobs were lost and the Flood of 1993 hit us hard. After that, we knew we had to fight for the revitalization of our community. Immediately following the flood this road was identified as an important component of our efforts”, stated Bill Cocos from the Lemay Development Corporation.

The Lemay connector road will essentially connect Interstate 55 with Lemay’s two major business corridors along Lemay Ferry Road and South Broadway. It will provide an important east-west connection that currently does not exist into this unincorporated area of South St. Louis County and the Carondelet area of South City.

There are four abandoned Brownfield site redevelopment projects in this area that are underway including industrial, commercial, entertainment, and retail developments. The magnitude of the economic impact of the projects isn’t certain yet but it will indisputably include thousands of jobs and desperately needed tax revenues for the local schools and the Lemay Fire Protection District.

While MODOT identified this road as a high priority, there were no funds available for construction. Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. the developer of the 80-acre former National Lead site will fund the road although it will become a County road.

“To say this road is solely about the Pinnacle project is truly short-sighted. We fought for the Lemay Connector road since 1994, long before Pinnacle came to town. The road will provide critically needed access for first responders, and will be an important link to schools, parks, businesses, neighborhoods, bike trails and much, much more”, said Dr. Ed Stewart, Superintendent of the Hancock School District and Lemay Development Corporation Board member.

“We are very proud of our elected leaders’ effectiveness in getting this bill done. Rep. Carnahan introduced the legislation and both of Missouri’s Senators supported our efforts as it passed unanimously in the Senate. Lemay is living proof that through a lot of hard work and dedication, communities can take their destinies into their own hands and find great success”, stated Bill Cocos from the Lemay Development Corporation.

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