



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SAINT LOUIS
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July 15, 2013

Mr. John Hicks, Transportation
St. Louis County Department of Highways and Traffic
Attention: South County Connector
121 S. Meramec Avenue
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Hicks:

As the 16th ward Alderman representing the largest area of the city of St. Louis impacted by the South County Connector (SCC), I have carefully reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and have concerns that were not addressed and leave me with no other alternative than to be opposed to this project.

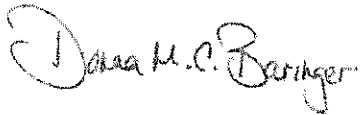
The following are the concerns that negatively impact the 16th ward and were not resolved in the DEIS on River Des Peres from Lansdowne to Gravois:

1. The DEIS provides data showing that there will be an increase in traffic volume on River Des Peres Boulevard (RDP) but the numbers are from 2005/2006 and do not give an accurate estimate. It also does not account for the RDP traffic south of Watson Road. As has been identified by the City of St. Louis, River Des Peres Boulevard has narrow lanes, tight horizontal curvature, poor drainage, and insufficient lighting from Lansdowne Avenue to Gravois Avenue. Furthermore, there is a lack of effective crash barriers between the channel embankment and the roadway. To increase the traffic volume without adequately addressing these issues would be hazardous.
2. In the preferred alternative there is construction of a roundabout at Weil Avenue. The proposed roundabout is in the vicinity of the new River Des Peres Greenway that I, as the elected official, have been working on for 4 years. We begin construction in September of 2013. This project is a considerable amount of investment and ongoing planning for multi-use trails in the RDP project area, however, the DEIS does not specifically show how the SCC will incorporate or modify the existing and proposed trails and connections. At a minimum, planning and coordination with Great Rivers Greenway District, the City of St. Louis, and TrailNet should have occurred.

3. The city of St. Louis is not allowed to sell park land unless approved by a vote of the city residents. The area on RDP just south of Lansdowne is park land, and as such must be approved for any changes. This is not addressed in the DEIS.
4. As an advocate of the City's adopted "Complete Streets" policy, I am concerned it was not part of the planning process. Any improvements on City Streets will need to comply with this policy that provides accommodations for all users.

As the representative of the area most impacted in the City of St. Louis by the SCC, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input for this regionally significant project. All aspects of the impact that could result from the implementation of the SCC must be measured. Because the DEIS failed to do so, I cannot support this project.

Sincerely,



Donna M. C. Baringer
16th Ward Alderman

Cc: Mayor Francis Slay, City of St. Louis
Richard Bradley, BPS
Ann Mack, TrailNet
Susan Trautman, Great Rivers Greenway District
Ed Hillhouse, East-West Gateway Council of Government
Brad Arteaga, SLHNA President