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Port Authority and Ameristar Break Ground on ASB Underpass

Ameristar Casino contributes \$2 million to build Underpass slated for completion in 2009

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 1, 2009) — Ameristar Casino, The City of Kansas City, Mo. and the Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo. (Port Authority) broke ground today in a ceremony at the site of the ASB Underpass. The \$3 million project will complete the Riverfront Heritage Trail connection between Richard L Berkley Riverfront Park and the Riverfront West/River Market area.

“It has taken years of negotiations, redesign, and fundraising, to get to this point,” said Trey Runnion, Chairman of the Port Authority Board of Commissioners. “We are proud to report that construction begins today on the ASB Underpass Trail segment. On behalf of the Port Authority, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to our friends at Ameristar Casino for their very generous \$2 million gift. This project would not be possible without it.”

When completed the ASB Underpass will be one of the trail's most important linkages connecting Berkley Park to the exciting Riverfront West trail segment that meanders through the Port Authority's evolving riverfront ecosystem restoration area.

Ameristar Casino, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the City of Kansas City, and the Port Authority have provided the primary funding for this project. In December 2006, Ameristar and the Port Authority signed a restated and revised development agreement which included a onetime \$2 million contribution in exchange for Transportation Development Tax Credits.

“This critical connector on the Riverfront Heritage Trail will provide safe passage beneath the ASB Railroad Bridge for all users of the trail,” continued Runnion. “The design of the underpass by BNIM and Taliaferro & Browne will allow for trail users to get very close to the Missouri River, as the underpass is constructed directly into the riverbank.”

When completed, the ASB Underpass will connect over ten miles of the Riverfront Heritage Trail and provide great recreational opportunities for all citizens in the region.

Upon conclusion of the event, Kissick Construction Company excavators began moving dirt at the construction site and BNSF Railway raised the center section of the historic ASB Railroad Bridge in recognition of the ground breaking.

The Port Authority of Kansas City is charged with economic development throughout the Kansas City area, including its current focus on the redevelopment of the remediated riverfront site immediately south of Berkley Park. Redeveloping the vacant property in a sustainable manner will strengthen the local tax base and spur appropriate economic development in this portion of downtown.

“Today’s events are just the first step in a series of ‘good news’ announcements that we plan to make during the summer and fall of 2009,” said Vincent Gauthier, Port Authority Executive Director. “By the end of the 2009, the Riverfront Heritage Trail segment stretching from the Town of Kansas Pedestrian Bridge past the ASB Underpass will have a greatly improved aesthetic and be much more engaging to bikers and hikers alike. We are working hard to complete the trail and other enhancements along the Missouri River, with an eye on creating the most sustainable development district in the region.”

About the Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo.

The Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo., was established in 1977 by the City of Kansas City, Mo. to enhance commerce, transportation and trade along the waterfront and to contribute to the overall vitality of the local economy. The Port Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Missouri and was formed to promote economic development activities, especially those related to Kansas City's status as an inland port. The Authority operates as a seven-member, mayor-appointed board and is entrusted with the power to condemn property, enter contracts, and issue bonds. For more information, visit www.kcportauthority.com.

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