

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kara Roberson, Communications Manager/PIO

Phone: (636) 639-2004 or (636) 856-4507

Email: Kara.Roberson@wentzvillemo.gov

## New David Hoekel Parkway Interchange at I-70 Now Open

[Wentzville, MO — Nov. 18, 2021] A project decades in the making reached another milestone today, when the new David Hoekel Parkway (DHP) interchange officially opened to traffic at Interstate 70 in Wentzville. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Nov. 17 to commemorate this important project. The project, which was led by the City of Wentzville, was completed in partnership with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and St. Charles County, and made possible in cooperation with Norfolk Southern Railroad and the Federal Highway Administration.

This phase of DHP project included the new interchange on I-70 near Point Prairie Road, a realigned north outer road and the extension of DHP to Goodfellow Road.

Years of cooperation between agencies and the vision, focus and dedication of Wentzville's elected officials and staff helped this dream become a reality. The project, which was completed under budget, was constructed to help alleviate the congestion on Wentzville Parkway and to spark economic growth in the area.

During the ribbon-cutting event, a small crowd gathered in the cold to celebrate the opening of the interchange — but they were there for more important reasons as well. Attendees took time to recognize the David Hoekel family and once again honor Marine Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz.

David Hoekel, for whom the roadway was named, was a member of Wentzville's Board of Aldermen for 16 years. He also served on Wentzville's Park Board and its Economic Development Council. Additionally, he worked as an administrator in the Fort Zumwalt School District for almost two decades. The roadway's name aspires to recognize Hoekel's important contributions to the Wentzville community.

Lcpl. Jared Schmitz paid the ultimate sacrifice on Aug. 26, 2021, when he tragically lost his life while defending our country in Afghanistan. As a tribute, DHP will receive the "Heroes Way" designation from MoDOT in the coming months. Jared's grandmother and sisters were on hand to unveil the new sign design.

The next phase of DHP will be the Phase 2D project, which extends DHP north to West Meyer Road. Construction for this portion of the project is scheduled to begin in 2022. To view a slide show from the ceremony, please click [here](#).

###