



For a clean, green, connected St. Louis region

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For more information contact:
Robyn Frankel, Frankel Public Relations
314-863-3373, rfrankel@frankelpr.com

ST. LOUIS RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

July 2006, St. Louis – A Master Plan concept proposed last fall for the St. Louis Riverfront, featuring islands and terraces that would provide new spaces for special events and recreation, currently is undergoing a series of feasibility studies focused on modeling the design for navigability and effects on the Mississippi River between Eads Bridge and the Poplar Street Bridge.

The feasibility studies are expected to be completed this fall, according to the Great Rivers Greenway District, the public organization leading the initiative, which includes the Danforth Foundation, City of St. Louis, the National Park Service, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Downtown St. Louis Partnership and Metro. It is anticipated that the results will encompass concept design and engineering calculations, as well as any suggestions for refining the concept within the vision of the preliminary design.

The concept of building islands connected by floating walkways to the shore of the Mississippi River in front of the Gateway Arch was developed by Balmori Associates, the New York-based architectural design firm leading the design, and HOK Planning Group of St. Louis, which is providing project management. The design team also includes Consul Mar of Buenos Aires, a naval architectural firm that is engineering the structural elements of the islands and floating walkways.

The proposed Riverfront improvements were the overwhelming first choice of citizens who were presented four different design alternatives at a public forum held in October 2005. This concept also involved the most complicated engineering challenges, from fluctuating river conditions, current speed and flood levels to barge navigation issues and concerns about building a protective barrier system to ensure both human safety and structural safety for islands in the river.

As members of the project's core design team, CDG Engineers Architects Planners, Inc., and Moffatt & Nichol, marine engineers, have been working closely for the past several months with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard and other entities to plan and conduct a series of river modeling studies that include the following:

- **Hydrodynamic Conditions.** A computer generated three-dimensional model will simulate the effects of the Riverfront concept on the river current, including existing and post-construction conditions under specified flow conditions. Model results will be used to calculate the river current patterns around the proposed improvements
- **Sediment Flow.** Modeling will be used to simulate existing conditions and effects of the Riverfront concept on the sediment flow on the river bottom. The study includes simulating existing and proposed conditions and examining river engineering solutions related to sediment response of the river bed.

- **Tow Simulation.** River pilots will use a navigational simulator model to navigate a tow on the Mississippi. The tow simulator will accurately portray the proposed Riverfront concept, as well as currents, wind and wave conditions, shallow-water effects, bank forces, and other elements. The simulator has been used to optimize navigation channels for rivers and harbors throughout the United States.

“The modeling studies will be critical in determining the feasibility of the proposed improvements on the St. Louis Riverfront,” said David Fisher, Executive Director for The Great Rivers Greenway District. “It is an important step in a process that will lead to developing the details necessary for final design and ultimately implementation.”

The process of developing a Master Plan, announced in May 2005, was anticipated to take 12 months and include several public forums. Since then, two public forums have been held, including October 11, 2005, when four different design concepts were presented. Additional public forums are planned at strategic intervals in the future, although no specific dates have been scheduled at this time.

The Danforth Foundation contributed funds to Great Rivers Greenway for the Riverfront Master Plan design process and Senator Danforth agreed to advise St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay on how the projects could proceed beyond design to construction, including determining the interest of various agencies, organizations and levels of government for providing financial and professional support.

Following the results of the feasibility studies, development of design and architectural documents, cost estimates, construction plans and specifications will be developed. It is anticipated that Riverfront improvements between the Poplar Street Bridge and Eads Bridge will begin in 2008 and be completed in 2015, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the Gateway Arch.

About The Great Rivers Greenway District:

The Great Rivers Greenway District is the public organization leading the development of a region-wide system of interconnected greenways, parks and trails, known as the River Ring. The River Ring will join two states and cover an area of 1,216 square miles. The Greenway District was established in November 2000 by the successful passage of the Clean Water, Safe Parks and Community Trails Initiative (Proposition C) in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County, Missouri. For more information about Great Rivers Greenway District, visit www.greatrivers.info.



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ST. LOUIS RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN UPDATE II

October 2006, St. Louis – Feasibility studies completed in October on the proposed Master Plan design concept for the St. Louis Riverfront, featuring floating islands that would provide new spaces for special events and recreation, have concluded that the navigational and safety concerns between the Eads and Poplar Street bridges would make the construction of the floating islands and walkways very complex within this stretch of the Mississippi River.

Specifically, research conducted on the hydrodynamic conditions that simulated the effects of the floating islands concept on the river currents concluded that issues for cross currents, scour and debris would be too difficult to overcome in further design development, as well as future maintenance and operations of the floating islands concept.

The series of feasibility studies, which focused on modeling the island concept for navigability and effects on the Mississippi River between the two bridges, were funded by the Danforth Foundation, the City of St. Louis Port Authority and the Great Rivers Greenway District, the public organization leading the initiative. Other partners for redevelopment of the Riverfront include the City of St. Louis, the National Park Service, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Downtown St. Louis Partnership and Metro.

Although the concept of floating islands was the overwhelming first choice of citizens who were presented four different design alternatives at a public forum held in October 2005, it always involved the most complicated engineering challenges. Issues ranged from fluctuating river levels and conditions, cross-currents and multiple bridge footings to barge navigation issues and concerns about building a protective barrier system to ensure both human safety and structural safety for floating islands in the river.

“While we are disappointed that floating islands and walkways will not be part of the riverfront improvements, we are continuing to work on plans that address the goals we heard from citizens to improve the riverfront with spaces for special events, family-oriented activities and recreational amenities,” said David Fisher, Executive Director for The Great Rivers Greenway District. “We are continuing to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard and other entities to plan riverfront improvements that will provide public access along and into the Mississippi River.”

Mayor Francis Slay said, “Embarking on the floating islands concept was a pioneering effort, but results of the testing convinced us that we must consider an alternative design. We were bold in our vision and we will continue to push the envelope to make sure we have a riverfront to be proud of and which sets the standard for an urban riverfront.”

The Mayor added that he was pleased with the efforts of the partners involved. “I want to express my support and appreciation to all the partners, as well as the Danforth Foundation and Great

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Rivers Greenway District which continue to champion and guide our efforts,” said Mayor Slay. “We have learned much and this will help us as we move forward.”

The Danforth Foundation contributed funds to Great Rivers Greenway for the Riverfront Master Plan design process. In addition, Senator Danforth agreed to St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay’s request for advice on how the project could proceed beyond design to construction, including determining the interest of various agencies, organizations and levels of government for providing financial and professional support. The Danforth Foundation is continuing to work with the Great Rivers Greenway District to plan for improving the riverfront.

“The St. Louis Riverfront presents many challenges for redevelopment, including river conditions, navigation, safety and very limited land for development due to the size of the Arch Grounds in addition to several other issues. The floating island design concept may not be feasible as a plan, but certain elements such as connections between the Arch Grounds and the Eads Bridge or Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard seem feasible. We should continue design development for those features while determining whether other, more feasible options exist for redeveloping the remainder of the St. Louis Riverfront into a destination for residents and tourists,” said Peter Sortino, President of the Danforth Foundation.

The process of developing a Master Plan, announced in May 2005, was anticipated to take 12 months and include several public forums. Since then, two public forums were held, including October 11, 2005, when four different design concepts were presented. The concept of building islands connected by floating walkways to the shore of the Mississippi River in front of the Gateway Arch was developed by Balmori Associates, the New York-based architectural design firm leading the design, and HOK Planning Group of St. Louis, which is providing project management.

As alternative concepts are developed, additional public forums will be held, although no specific dates have been scheduled at this time. It is anticipated that Riverfront improvements between the Poplar Street Bridge and Eads Bridge will be completed in 2015, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the Gateway Arch.

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ST. LOUIS RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN UPDATE III

February 2007, St. Louis – The Great Rivers Greenway District and its partners are continuing work on an exciting new Master Plan design for the St. Louis Riverfront between the Eads and Popular Street bridges.

The design will emphasize a dynamic, innovative public space that provides something for everyone, from area residents to tourists and conventioners. In accordance with preferences for amenities expressed by the public at a series of open forums, the plan will incorporate play areas for children, gathering spots for river viewing and performance venues, as well as walkways, dining and refreshment spaces, recreation facilities and opportunities for rotating activities.

In terms of engineering, the emerging Master Plan design will be more conventional than the floating islands concept that initially was being considered. While engineering solutions could have addressed various hurdles, including navigational issues and safety concerns caused by debris and dangerous cross-currents, the aesthetics were not acceptable.

Several design elements proposed for the floating island concept will be incorporated into the emerging plan for land-based improvements. These elements include enhanced connectivity between the Arch Grounds and the Riverfront, featuring a series of pedestrian ramps from the top of the Arch Grounds to Lenore K. Sullivan Blvd. and Washington Ave. to improve accessibility for families with strollers and persons with limited mobility.

“We are continuing to work on plans that address the goals we heard from citizens to improve the riverfront with exciting and interactive spaces for special events, family-oriented activities and recreational amenities,” said David Fisher, Executive Director for The Great Rivers Greenway District.

In addition to the Great Rivers Greenway District, partners for the St. Louis Riverfront Master Plan include the Danforth Foundation, the City of St. Louis, the National Park Service, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Downtown St. Louis Partnership and Metro. To date, funding for the planning process has been provided by the Great Rivers Greenway District, the Danforth Foundation and the Port Authority of the City of St. Louis.

The design team is managed by the St. Louis office of HOK Planning Group with Balmori Associates, a New York-based architectural design firm leading the design effort. Additional St. Louis-based firms involved in this phase of the project include CDG Engineers and Vector Communications.

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As part of the preliminary planning process and feasibility of the project, a field exploration program will be conducted consisting of 10 borings spaced along the area between Leonor K. Sullivan Blvd. and the river's edge to evaluate the underlying bedrock, soil and other conditions.

The process of developing a Master Plan for the Riverfront, announced in May 2005, was anticipated to take 12 months and include several public forums. Since then, two public forums were held, including October 11, 2005, when four different design concepts were presented.

Alternative design concepts have been part of the scope of the project since the outset. A public forum this spring will be held to present an update of the ongoing design process. It is anticipated that Riverfront improvements between the Poplar Street Bridge and Eads Bridge will be completed in 2015, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the Gateway Arch.

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