



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Forest Park Traffic Relief Route and Trolley Service to Ease Traffic Congestion Starting Friday, April 1

Plans aim to alleviate severe congestion and public safety concerns at Hampton/I-64 during peak season

ST. LOUIS, March 29, 2011— Forest Park Forever, Park attractions, the City of St. Louis, Metro, the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission (CVC) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) today announced a new traffic relief route and a Metro Forest Park Trolley service to help manage vehicle traffic in the park on busy days. The new traffic routing system and Metro Forest Park Trolley service will be implemented on April 1 and aims to alleviate the extreme congestion at the Hampton/I-64 exit and inside the park on warm days and during major Forest Park events.

“Traffic congestion in and around the park is an issue we are continually addressing in new ways to assure our visitors can safely travel to the park and enjoy all it has to offer,” says Forest Park Forever President Lesley Hoffarth. “Together with our partners, we’re thrilled to introduce this new traffic routing plan and Metro Forest Park Trolley Service line, making it all the more fun and convenient to get around the park.”

The Metro Forest Park Trolley Service line will operate daily from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., seven days a week, from April 1 through Oct. 31 with extended summer hours, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. It will connect all park attractions, as well as the DeBaliviere MetroLink Station. Adult Trolley fares are \$2 per adult. Children 6-12, seniors and disabled passengers ride for \$1 – totaling less than most paid parking lots. Kids five and under ride free. Visitors can either park in the Visitor Center parking lot or in the upper Munny parking lot, and hop on the Forest Park Trolley for a lift to their desired attraction.

As a result of the new Traffic Routing Plan, drivers will make a circular path through the park, past many parking lots at The Munny, Visitor Center,



along Government Drive and past both Saint Louis Zoo lots. Drivers can expect the following changes to the current system to ensure smooth traffic flow:

- Access at the Hampton and Wells Drive roundabout will divert drivers onto the Relief Route to the right (east) on Wells Drive only during Relief Route hours.
- If drivers enter the park using northbound Hampton, no access will be allowed to Concourse and Washington Drives, only during Relief Route hours.

Relief Route hours and timing:

- 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., seven days a week starting April 1

Forest Park Trolley hours and timing:

- 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., daily, April 1 through October 31
- Extended Summer hours, 9:00 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day

Forest Park Forever encourages visitors to take note of the following tips when navigating to and around the park:

- **Use the other nine park entrances:** Forsyth or Lagoon Drive from Skinker; DeBaliviere, Cricket Drive or Union from Lindell, West Pine Blvd, Hospital Drive or Clayton Road from Kingshighway; Tamm Avenue from Oakland Avenue; Wells Drive from Skinker.
- Familiarize yourself with the street system in the park.
- Understand the new traffic route around the park.
- Note all the parking lot locations, and use the Forest Park Trolley.
- Take MetroLink to the DeBaliviere station, and use the Forest Park Trolley.

“Forest Park receives 12 million visitors per year, and 60 percent of them come by car through the Hampton entrance,” says MoDOT St. Louis City Area Engineer Deanna Venker. “The community’s adoption of the new Trolley line and traffic route around the park will help reduce backups and closures on the interstate at Hampton and keep people safe as they enter and exit the park.”



A map of the new traffic route around the park, as well as the Metro Forest Park Trolley Service line, are available at www.forestparkforever.org.

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About Forest Park Forever

In 1986, Forest Park Forever, a private, not-for-profit organization, was founded to work in partnership with the City of St. Louis and the department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry to restore, maintain and sustain Forest Park as one of America's great urban public parks for the enjoyment of all – now and forever.

About Metro

Metro is the operator of the Metro public transportation system for the St. Louis region, which includes the 87-vehicle, 46-mile MetroLink light rail system; 374-MetroBus vehicle fleet that operates on 69 MetroBus routes; and Metro Call-A-Ride, a paratransit fleet of 120 vans.

Metro also oversees the operations of the St. Louis Downtown Airport and surrounding industrial business park, the Gateway Arch Revenue Collections Center, the Gateway Arch Transportation System, the Gateway Arch Riverboats and the Gateway Arch Parking Facility.

About MoDOT

The Missouri Department of Transportation works to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri. The agency is responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining Missouri's transportation system - the seventh largest in the United States with 33,639 miles of highway and 10,335 bridges. Governed by a six-member, bipartisan commission, the agency also works to improve airports, river ports, railroads, public transit systems and pedestrian and bicycle travel.

About the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission (CVC)

The St. Louis CVC is the official destination marketing organization for St. Louis City and County for visitors of all types. The CVC also operates the America's Center® convention complex and Edward Jones Dome.

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