



NEWS

**From the Office of
Representative Charlie Denison
135th District**

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Representative Charlie Denison's House Bill 359 Receives Final Approval from Missouri House *Bill will ensure Missouri is able to utilize maximum amount of federal dollars*

Jefferson City- House Bill 359, sponsored by Representative Charlie Denison (R-Springfield), has passed the Missouri House of Representatives by a vote of 155-3. The bill, which will enable the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to complete 2% of their annual projects with a design-build contract, will now move to the Senate.

Design-build, which is a process where all aspects of a project are awarded in a single bid, rather than separate bids for different parts of a project, has been used successfully by the Missouri Department of Transportation on a number of projects since 2002. The bill will expand the Highways and Transportation Commission's authority to enable them to use design-build on as many as 15 projects per year.

The authority to use design-build will become increasingly important due to "use it or lose it" provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Under these provisions, states that are unable to utilize their stimulus dollars may lose their funding. This money would then be re-appropriated to states that have projects ready for construction. House Bill 359 will ensure that, should this funding become available, Missouri is able to quickly identify, bid, and begin work on highway projects.

"We have worked hard to make sure that Missouri is in a position to utilize these federal transportation dollars. This is an important step in ensuring that we are able to capitalize on funds that other states fail to use," Denison said shortly after the passage of the bill. "This bill will streamline bureaucracy, save our state money, but most importantly, put Missourians to work."

"I applaud Representative Denison's leadership on this issue as we work to secure stimulus dollars for highway projects that will be of great benefit to the people of Missouri," said House Speaker Ron Richard (R-Joplin). He added, "We are committed to using these dollars for one-time projects that won't create a recurring cost to our state. The highway dollars are a perfect example of the appropriate use of this funding and it is because of the efforts of Representative Denison that we were able to send this bill to the Senate before our legislative spring break."