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**Ribbon-cutting to celebrate opening of the Katy Trail Railroad bridge over the Missouri River in Boonville Missouri.**

Boonville Missouri. For Immediate Release

After more than a decade of steadfast commitment and countless volunteer hours, the Katy Trail Bridge Coalition, along with the city of Boonville, is preparing to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the Katy Trail railroad bridge restoration project.

A ribbon cutting ceremony it will be held Saturday, April 2 11 am at the Katy railroad bridge in Boonville. The celebration is expected to draw a large crowd and will include remarks from state and local elected officials including Governor Jay Nixon.

The historically significant Boonville railroad bridge, completed in 1932, was at one time the longest liftspan bridge in the world. In 2005, the bridge was at great risk of being taken down and removed on order from the US Coast Guard. Litigation assistance provided by the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center of St. Louis Missouri and the Missouri Attorney General's office succeeded in preventing the removal of the Boonville bridge until a political solution to save the bridge could be found.

Kathleen Henry, President of the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center said she is proud of the role that the Law Center played in saving this historically significant bridge across the Missouri River. "On Saturday, April 2, Missourians will celebrate the opening of the Boonville bridge to public use as part of Missouri's famous Katy Trail," said Henry. "Members of the general public are welcome to attend the ribbon-cutting celebration and be among the first to walk on this newest section of the Katy Trail."

The celebration will commence in Boonville at the location of the historic depot along the Katy Trail at 320 1st St. in Boonville Missouri. The depot is currently the home of the Boonville Chamber of Commerce.

*Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free and reduced-fee legal services to those working to protect the environment and public health. Its web address is: [www.greatriverslaw.org](http://www.greatriverslaw.org).*