

# SIUE

## Native American Studies Presents:

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#### Building Bridges and Excavating Ancient Cities: IDOT Archaeology, Tribal Coordination, and the New Mississippi River Bridge Project



The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, is constructing a new bridge over the Mississippi River at St. Louis. From 2009 through 2012, teams of archaeologists uncovered the well-preserved remnants of an early Mississippian tradition city (A.D. 1000-1250). Nearly 6,000 habitation features were discovered beneath layers of rubble. The unexpected discovery of a mound remnant and associated human remains posed one of several challenges that were resolved through meaningful consultation among Native American tribes, archaeologists, and engineers. This presentation summarizes significant archaeological discoveries and the tribal consultation process.

Photo: The Exchange Avenue Figurine found during excavations for the Mississippi River Bridge project (photo courtesy of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey).

**Open to the public!**  
Thurs. Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, Peck Hall 0312