



Chapter 4

Public Involvement

As required by the NEPA and by the Missouri Department of Transportation's Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement, a project specific plan for public input was developed and implemented for this study and is documented in this publication. This chapter describes activities that were established to actively and continuously engage the state and federal agencies, as well as the public and encourage comment throughout the study process.

What is MoDOT's Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement?

The coordination plan is intended to define the process by which MoDOT will communicate information about the Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the lead, cooperating, participating and other agencies and to the public. The plan also identifies how input from agencies and the public will be solicited and considered.

Since the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expected to provide funding for this project, FHWA serves as the lead federal agency for the project. MoDOT, as the direct recipient of Federal funds for the project, is the joint lead agency.

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users of 2005 (SAFETEA-LU) requires that the lead agencies establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation and comment during the environmental review process.

How did the study team coordinate with federal and state agencies?

Agency Scoping Meetings: An agency scoping meeting was held on February 27, 2007 at the MoDOT District 5 Headquarters office. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Route 63 study, present an overview of the Draft Purpose and Need, and discuss the Coordination Plan. FHWA also presented information on SAFETEA-LU and the new 6002 Process Requirements and Environmental Review Process Provisions. Copies of the Draft Purpose and Need were sent to the agencies prior to the meeting and comments were encouraged. This meeting allowed the participating and cooperating agencies to offer input and discuss any issues pertaining to the study.

The Route 63 Advisory Committee: An advisory committee of local community members, business leaders, and governmental agencies was established to provide more detailed input and comments on the study goals, methodologies, and recommendations. A list of the members is included in the Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement. Advisory committee meetings were held in November 2006, March and September 2007.

What events were held to actively engage the public in the study process?

Public Meetings and Location Public Hearing: Three rounds of public meetings as well as one drop-in center were held to share information and gather feedback from the public during the study process. The meetings were open-house format and the public was invited to attend anytime during the advertised hours to speak with study team representatives.



The first round of public meetings was held in November 2006 in the communities of Westphalia and Vienna. The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the public to the study and gather feedback about what actions, if any, were needed to best serve the area transportation needs. A second round of meetings was held in May

2007 in the same communities to present the public with a preliminary range of alternative alignments and gather comments. And, by the fall of 2007, MoDOT had narrowed the alternatives to a reasonable range and held a third round of meetings in October 2007 to share the information and gather feedback from the public.

Table 26. Public Meetings

Meeting Date	Location	General Purpose	Number Attended
Nov. 14, 2006	Westphalia Knights of Columbus Hall (one mile south of the Rte. 50/63 junction), 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve the transportation needs of the area	122
Nov. 16, 2006	Vienna American Legion Hall, 541 First Street, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve the transportation needs of the area	113
May 1, 2007	Westphalia Knights of Columbus Hall (one mile south of the Rte. 50/63 junction), 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Present preliminary range of alignments and gather feedback	248
May 2, 2007	Knights of Columbus 206 Sixth Street Vienna, MO 65582, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Present preliminary range of alignments and gather feedback	197
Oct. 25, 2007	Knights of Columbus 206 Sixth Street Vienna, MO 65582, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Present reasonable range of alternative alignments and gather feedback	176
Oct. 30, 2007	Westphalia Knights of Columbus Hall (one mile south of the Rte. 50/63 junction), 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Present reasonable range of alternative alignments and gather feedback	258
April 10, 2008	American Legion on Route 63 in Freeburg, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Present new alignments and gather feedback	167

After continued evaluation of the technical data and public comment, the study team made adjustments to the Reasonable Range of Alternatives and new alignments emerged at four locations. A “drop-in” meeting was held on April 10, 2008 in the town of Freeburg to share the new alignments and gather additional feedback. The “drop-in” public meeting format is one tool used by the study team to share very specific study information or changes with the public, as well as gather feedback about that information. A “drop-in” public meeting is generally shorter in duration than a full public meeting. It is used as a bridge between planned public meetings if the study team believes additional public information and/or comment about a topic is necessary.

A final public hearing is planned for late 2008 when the Preferred Alternative will be shared with the public.

What methods did the study team use to keep the public informed of study progress and notify them of public meetings?

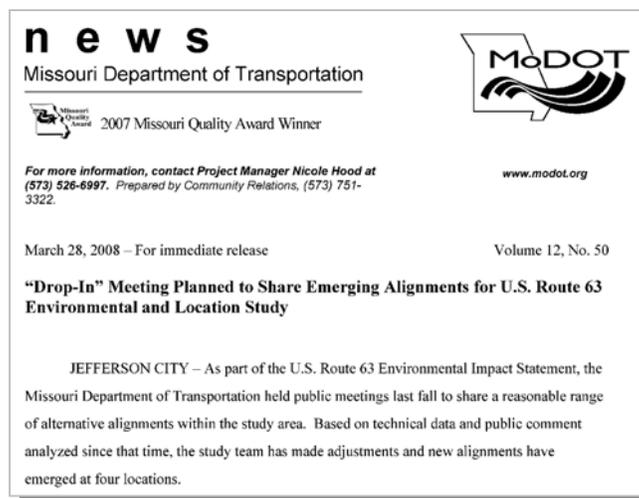
Newsletters: Newsletters were published in April and October 2007 to keep the public informed of study progress and announce upcoming public meetings. In addition to announcing the purpose of the meetings planned, both newsletters also included information about the study’s purpose, schedule, and information about how individuals can participate in the study process.

The Media: News releases were distributed to local media outlets serving the study area prior to each public meeting. The study’s media list included the Belle Banner, Bland Courier, Jefferson City News Tribune, Maries County Gazette, Rolla Daily News, Unterrified Democrat, KMIZ-TV, KOMU-TV, KRCG-TV, KMNR-Radio, KTTR/KZNN-Radio, KJMO/KLIK-Radio and KTXY-Radio.

Display advertisements were also published in the Maries County Gazette, Rolla Daily News and Unterrified Democrat prior to each of the three rounds of public meetings.

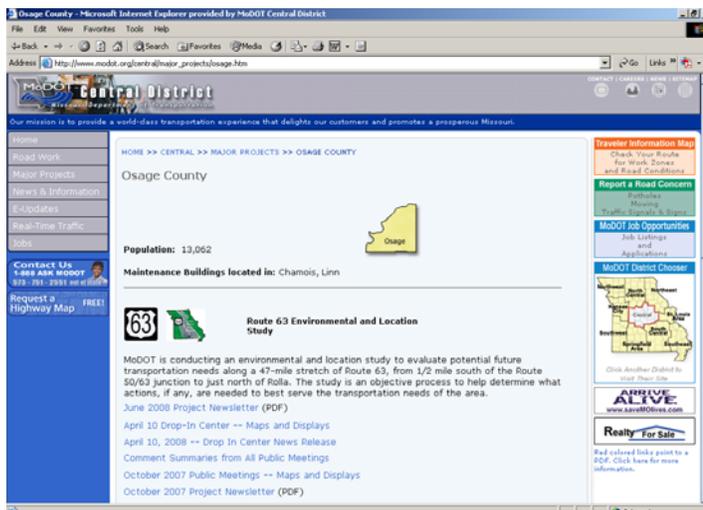
Members of the study team also contacted and visited with reporters from the Unterrified Democrat, Maries County Gazette and Rolla Daily News prior to the second and third rounds of public meetings to offer opportunities to update the papers about the status of the study and encourage the public to attend public meetings.

News releases were issued prior to each public meeting to provide updates and encourage the public to participate in the process.



Flyers and Changeable Message Boards: Other methods were used to notify the public of upcoming public meetings including the distribution of flyers in the local communities as well as portable lighted message boards placed near the public meeting location just prior the event.

Web Site: The study Web site could be found at www.modot.org/central. The site included general study information and was updated regularly throughout the study with meeting notices. Following each public meeting, displays from those meetings were placed on the Web. The displays for the “drop-in” meeting were placed on the Web site approximately a week prior the meeting so the public could be informed of the changes that would be presented at the meetings. The Web site also allowed the public to send comments to the study team via the site’s e-mail address. The public could access the study Web site at www.modot.org/central to learn about upcoming meetings, review study information or send comments to the study team.



How could the study team be contacted?

The study team made the effort to be easily accessible to the public throughout the study. The public was provided with MoDOT’s toll-free phone number, 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636). The line is answered by the department’s customer service center. Representatives could answer questions, take comments and/or put a customer in contact with a study team member. The public was also encouraged to send written comments to MoDOT at P.O. Box 718, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or via e-mail at comments@modot.mo.gov. Study team members were also available to meet with customers if needed.

List Of Preparers

Peggy Casey: FHWA (Division Office), Environmental Projects Engineer, 33 years experience with FHWA.

B.S. Civil Engineering: University of Wisconsin, Platteville, 1975.

Gayle Unruh: MoDOT (Central Office), Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager, 14 years with MoDOT

M.S. Biology: Western Illinois University, Macomb, 1989

B.A. Environmental Science: McPherson College, McPherson,

Richard Moore: MoDOT (Central Office), Environmental Compliance Manager, one year experience with MoDOT.

NEPA Certification: Utah State University, Logan, 2007.

B.S. Agriculture: Northeast Missouri State University, 1983.

Bob Reeder: MoDOT (Central Office), Historic Preservation Manager, 18 years experience with MoDOT.

Ph.D. Anthropology: University of Missouri, Columbia, 1988.

M.A. Anthropology: University of Missouri, Columbia, 1978.

B.S. Biology: Pennsylvania State University, 1973.

Michael Meinkoth: MoDOT (Central Office), Assistant Historic Preservation Manager, 15 years experience with MoDOT.

M.A. Anthropology: University of Illinois, 1993.

B.S. Anthropology: Southern Illinois University, 1980.

Buck Brooks: MoDOT (Central Office), Wetland Coordinator, 11 years experience with MoDOT.

M.S. Zoology: University of Arkansas, 1987.

B.S. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation: Northwest Missouri State University, 1985.

Llans Taylor: MoDOT (Central Office), Design Liaison Engineer, 12 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Civil Engineering: University of Missouri, Rolla, 1996.

Tim Redmond: MoDOT (Central Office), Design Liaison Engineer, 23 years experience with MoDOT.

M.S. Engineering Management: University of Missouri, Rolla, 1981

B.S. Civil Engineering: University of Missouri, Columbia, 1977.

Nicole Kolb-Hood: MoDOT (District 5), Transportation Project Manager, 12 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Civil Engineering: University of Missouri, Columbia, 1995.

Steve Engelbrecht: MoDOT (District 5), District Design Engineer, 19 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Civil Engineering: University of Missouri, Rolla, 1988.

Laurie Wyrick: MoDOT (District 5), Transportation Project Designer, 23 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Civil Engineering, University of Missouri, Rolla, 1985.

Cindy Kremer: MoDOT (District 5), Senior Design Technician, 3 years experience with MoDOT.

Associate Degree in Design Drafting Technology, Linn State Technical College, 2005

Roopa Banerjee: MoDOT (District 5), Senior Highway Designer, 2 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Civil Engineering: University of Louisiana, Lafayette, 1992.

Matt Burcham: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Environmental Specialist, 14 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Agriculture: Kansas State University, 1984.

Kelly Cox: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Environmental Specialist, 13 years experience with MoDOT.

M.A. Anthropology: Ball State University, Muncie, 1982.

B.S. Economics: Ball State University, Muncie, 1977.

Lance Livesay: MoDOT (Central Office), Environmental Compliance Manager, 7 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Wildlife Conservation and Management/Agronomy: Southwest Missouri State University, 1991.

Kevin Mchugh: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Environmental Specialist, 13 years experience with MoDOT.

M.A. Architectural History: University of Virginia, 1988

B.G.S. Art History: University of Kansas, 1982.

Melissa Schepferle: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Environmental Specialist, 5 years experience with MoDOT.

M.A. Biology: Missouri State University, 2002.

B.S. Biology, Avila University, Kansas City, 1999

Kyle Grayson: MoDOT (Central Office), Environmental Specialist, 3 years experience with MoDOT.

B.A. Environmental Science: Westminster College, Fulton, 2005

Brad Carter: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Environmental Specialist, 4 years experience with MoDOT.

M.B.A. Touro University, Cypress, 2002

B.S. Environmental Science Truman State University, 1978.

Kristin Gerber: MoDOT (District 5), Community Relations Manager, 10 years experience with MoDOT.

M.S. Corporate Communication: Lindenwood College, 1993

B.A. Mass Communication: Lindenwood College, 1991

Toni Prawl: MoDOT (Central Office), Historic Preservation Specialist, 15 years experience with MoDOT.

Ph.D. Art History (Historic Preservation Emphasis), University of Missouri-Columbia, 1994

M.A. Housing and Interior Design, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1986

B.S. Secondary Education (Vocational Home Economics), Northwest Missouri State University, 1984

B.S. Home Economics (Housing, Interiors, and Related Arts), Northwest Missouri State University, 1984

Randall Dawdy: MoDOT (Central Office), Historic Bridge Coordinator, 24 years experience with MoDOT.

M.A. History; Lincoln University (MO), 1997

B.A. Anthropology; Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1975

Larry Ayres: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Historic Preservation Specialist, 16 years experience with MoDOT.

M.A. Anthropology: University of Arkansas, 1988.

B.S. Education: University of Arkansas, 1987.

B.A. Antiquities: Southwest Missouri State University, 1980

Sue Olson: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Cartographer, 15 years experience with MoDOT.

Certification from Raymond J. Horn School of Drafting, Houston, TX, 1978.

Alexis Gardner: MoDOT (Central Office), Geographical Information Systems Specialist, 2 years experience with MoDOT.

B.A. Geography: University of Missouri, Columbia, 2005.

Alan Leary: MoDOT (Central Office), Senior Environmental Specialist, 6 years experience with MoDOT.

M.S. Biology: Boise State University, Boise, Idaho, 1996

B.S. Wildlife Management and Biology: University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, 1991.

Eric Curtit: MoDOT (Central Office), Long-Range Transportation Planning Coordinator, 13 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Business Administration: Columbia College, 1996.

Holly Dentner: MoDOT (District 5), Senior Community Relations Specialist, 3 years experience with MoDOT.

M.A. English, Pittsburg State University, 1996

B.A. English, Missouri Southern State University, 1995

Jacob Ray: MoDOT (District 5), Senior Traffic Studies Specialist, 9 years experience with MoDOT.

B.S. Civil Engineering, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1998.

Mailing List

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kenny Hulshof
U.S. House of Representatives
409 Cannon Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Federal Government Agencies

Colonel Roger Wilson, Jr., Dist. Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Northwestern Division
ATTN: Mark Frazier, Chief
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Mr. Joe Cothorn
NEPA Program Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Pearl Young, Office of Fed Activities
EIS Filing Section (Mail Code 2252-A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20044

Mr. Willie R. Taylor, Director
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building, MS 2340
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Don L. Klima, Exec. Dir.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Bldg., Suite 809
1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Environmental Health
Special Programs Group (F-29)
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Economic Analysis (RRP-32)
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Earl Bean, Area Manager
Department of Energy
Kansas City Support Office
911 Walnut Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Mr. John A. Miller, Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
2323 Grand Blvd., Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64108-2670

Mr. Charlie Scott, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Columbia Field Office
608 East Cherry, Room 207
Columbia, MO 65201

Mr. Lance Long, Environmental Officer
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
Kansas/Missouri State Office
Room 200, Gateway Tower II
400 State Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101-2406

Mr. Roger Hanson, State Conservationist
U.S. Department of Agriculture/NRCS
Parkade Plaza, Suite 250
601 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, MO 65203

Mr. Roger Wiebusch, Bridge Administrator
U.S. Coast Guard, Bridge Branch
Second Coast Guard District
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2832

Mr. Al Kemp, Regional Director
Department of Health and Human Resources
601 East 12th St., Room 210
Kansas City, MO 64106

Mr. William Schenk, Regional Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Midwest Field Area
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

State Government Elected Officials

The Honorable Matt Blunt
Governor of Missouri
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building, Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Frank Barnitz
State Senator
State Capitol Building Room 427
Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Tom Loehner
State Representative
201 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 403B
Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Don Wells
State Representative
201 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 236A
Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Bob May
State Representative
201 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 412-A
Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Jason Smith
State Representative
210 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 406B
Jefferson City, MO 65101

State Government Agencies

Ms. Lois Pohl, Coordinator
Missouri Federal Assistance Clearinghouse
Office of Administration
P.O. Box 809
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. Doyle Childers, Director
Missouri Dept of Natural Resources
Attn: Mr. Tom Lange
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. John D. Hoskins, Director
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Mr. Scott Samuels
State Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, MO 65102