



Section 106 Process

The Missouri Department of Transportation must consider how transportation improvements impact the environment, including cultural resources such as buildings, structures (i.e., bridges), objects, archaeological and historic sites, and historic districts. Those that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are called “historic properties.”

A systematic process is used to identify these resources, evaluate potential effects to them, and determine what action will be taken to eliminate or mitigate those effects. This is referred to as the “Section 106 Process,” named after the portion of the National Historic Preservation Act that requires agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties. Besides the National Historic Preservation Act, historic properties are protected by other laws such as the Department of Transportation Act. In accordance with that law, it is the specific policy of the United States Government that:

Special efforts be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public parks and recreation lands, wildlife, and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites of the United States.

MoDOT hopes you, the public, will inform us of any properties you consider important. Suggestions for the identification of historic properties, as well as measures that might avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to them are welcome.

Please leave comments on the Public Meeting Response Form.

1) Initiation of the Section 106 Process

During this initial step, agencies determine when Section 106 applies to projects, identify appropriate consulting parties, and plan public involvement. MoDOT seeks the views of the public regarding historic preservation and welcomes input from the community throughout the Section 106 process.

2) Identification of Historic Properties

This step defines the area of potential effects (APE), the area in which the project might affect historic properties. Archival research and field surveys are conducted to identify historic properties in the APE. Their significance and integrity are evaluated and discussed with staff of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and others interested in cultural resources, potentially including tribal governments.

3) Assessment of Project Effects

The study team determines how the project might affect historic properties within the APE, considering direct and indirect effects. If a resource is adversely affected, options for eliminating or mitigating those effects are proposed.

4) Resolution of Adverse Effects

Alternate ways to accomplish the project that negate or minimize the impact on historic properties are considered to resolve adverse effects on historic properties. If no avoidance alternatives are available, a formal agreement will be implemented which means all concerned parties accept the project effects to the historic property and agree to measures that lessen the impact.



Additional information on historic preservation and the Section 106 process can be found at:
<http://www.modot.org/ehp/HistoricPreservation.htm>

