



## **ROUTE 47 BRIDGE**

### *at Washington* Environmental Impact Study

**T**hank you for coming to our first public meeting.

This meeting is one of the very first steps toward improving the Route 47 bridge over the Missouri River near Washington. The focus of tonight's meeting is to help us learn from you the environmental and cultural issues in the area that might be impacted should a new bridge be constructed. Please keep in mind there is no funding for a new bridge. However, MoDOT will continue to keep those interested informed through public involvement including meetings, media, personal visits, and email.

#### **YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT TO THIS PROCESS!**

After hearing tonight's presentation, reviewing the displays, and discussing the various topics with MoDOT representatives, please share with us any thoughts and ideas you have about environmental and cultural issues, along with thoughts about a new bridge. Comments sheets are available at the meeting, or you can submit a comment online at [www.modot.org/northeast](http://www.modot.org/northeast).



If you have email and would like to receive updates on this project, please subscribe to our free e-update system by visiting our website at [modot.org/northeast](http://modot.org/northeast) or call us, and we'll subscribe for you!

#### **WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED?**

While MoDOT is excited to continue to improve Missouri's transportation system, rest assured the Route 47 bridge is safe. Since a new bridge is unlikely for several years, MoDOT is rehabilitating the existing bridge next summer, and these improvements will allow the bridge to remain safe. As traffic increases and the bridge ages, the existing structure eventually will need to be replaced. A new bridge will improve safety, add capacity, improve reliability and contribute to the continued growth in the area.

#### **HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET A NEW BRIDGE?**



Because of several factors that contribute to bringing an "idea to reality," it is impossible to predict how long it will be before a new bridge is built. MoDOT is just beginning the environmental and location studies on the bridge. Before a project can move forward, MoDOT works with key stakeholders, area residents, planning partners, and the Federal Highway Administration to determine the environmental and cultural impacts to the area should a new bridge be built. Another significant issue is how to pay for the bridge. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond earmarked three million dollars to help support the project, but most of this money has been used for rehabilitation of the existing bridge, to keep it usable until sufficient funds become available for the bridge's replacement. There is about \$200,000 remaining.



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## What are our options?

*These are OUR ideas to replace the existing bridge...*

1. Build a new bridge as far west as Marthasville on new Route 47 alignment following Route 100. Locating a new Missouri River crossing west of Washington at Marthasville was an option investigated during the Major Transportation Investment Analysis. We could consider any location to the west that minimizes impacts to environmental and cultural resources, while meeting the purpose and need of the project.
2. Build a new bridge on Route 47 alignment as far **east** crossing into St. Charles County following Route 100. Locating a new Missouri River crossing east of Washington into was another option investigated during the Major Transportation Investment Analysis. We could consider any location to the east that minimizes impacts to environmental and cultural resources, while meeting the purpose and need of the project.
3. Build a new bridge adjacent to the existing one.
4. Build a new bridge adjacent to the existing bridge, but replacing the existing bridge's truss with steel girders, so it could continue to be used. The condition and load carrying ability of the concrete piers would need to be evaluated for this use.

*We are also considering these ideas to improve the reliability of Route 47 north of the river during flooding by adding lanes from the new bridge across the floodplain...*

1. New lanes from either bypass option would likely connect to Route 94.
2. New lanes from an adjacent bridge could either parallel the existing Route 47 alignment, or could extend south of the airport to Route 94.

**Please consider other options and share those with us when completing the comment forms provided at the meeting or online. Thank you for your input and your interest!**

## HOW MANY VEHICLES CROSS THE BRIDGE EACH DAY?

Traffic on the Route 47 bridge is at a "Level C," which means it's still flowing fairly well with few accidents. About 11,000 vehicles travel over the bridge each day.

## HOW CAN WE MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO THE AREA?

During the environmental and location study, MoDOT needs public input on potential environmental and cultural issues. MoDOT wants to avoid or at least minimize impacts whenever considering a new project, and many times this information comes directly from residents in the area.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?



While a lot has already been done locally through the Highway 47 Bridge Committee, now that MoDOT has begun the environmental and location study process, there will be more formalized meetings and discussions about the potential impacts of constructing a new bridge, what that bridge will look like, and where it will be located. MoDOT will continue to keep area residents informed through mailings, meetings, personal visits, local media and email.

