INTERSTATE MISSOURI 270 NORTH Environmental Assessment

Fact Sheet

Study Overview

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting a study called the *I-270 North Environmental Assessment* (EA). I-270 is a vital commuter and commercial corridor that connects five interstates and numerous other routes throughout the St Louis Metropolitan Area. The study is intended to address safety, mobility, congestion, accessibility, and aging infrastructure along I-270 in North St. Louis County. **If nothing is done to improve I-270, the current safety, traffic, and infrastructure conditions will continue to worsen.**

Study Process and Timeline

The *I-270 North Environmental Assessment* will identify proposed improvements, analyze their potential social, economic, and environmental impacts and recommend actions for avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating them. The FHWA requires an environmental assessment to determine whether the alternative selected at the end of the process will meet the study's goals while considering the community's needs, and respecting the human and natural environment. The study will conclude with either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or the decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS is required when a proposed alternative has significant impacts to the environment. If FHWA issues a FONSI, then MoDOT can move to the design phase. At this time, the agency has identified partial funding for the I-270 North Corridor in the 2017-2021 State Transportation Improvement Program. This partial funding can be used for design, right-of-way, and construction.

Spring 2013	Summer 2013	Late 2013	Early 2014	Spring 2014	Winter 2015 - Spring 2016	Summer 2016	Fall 2016	Late 2016
Study Begins	Public Meeting #1	Reasonable Alternatives Developed	Public Meeting #2	Alternatives Evaluation	Study Hiatus Due to Funding Constraints	Environmental Document	Public Hearing	Study Complete

Previous Planning

The *I-270 North Environmental Assessment* follows the I-270 North Corridor Study, which focused on a portion of the interstate between James McDonnell Boulevard and Route 367. It was completed in late 2012. The North Corridor Study was a feasibility study that identified numerous existing operational and safety constraints. Among these constraints are: limited capacity on I-270; congested and closely-spaced interchanges; lack of and poor access for pedestrians and bicyclists; confusing two-way cross-over slip ramps from I-270 to Dunn Road; and aging infrastructure. In recent years, MoDOT has installed signs, striping, and raised medians along Dunn Road at the two-way slip ramps as interim safety improvements.

(Previous Planning Continued)

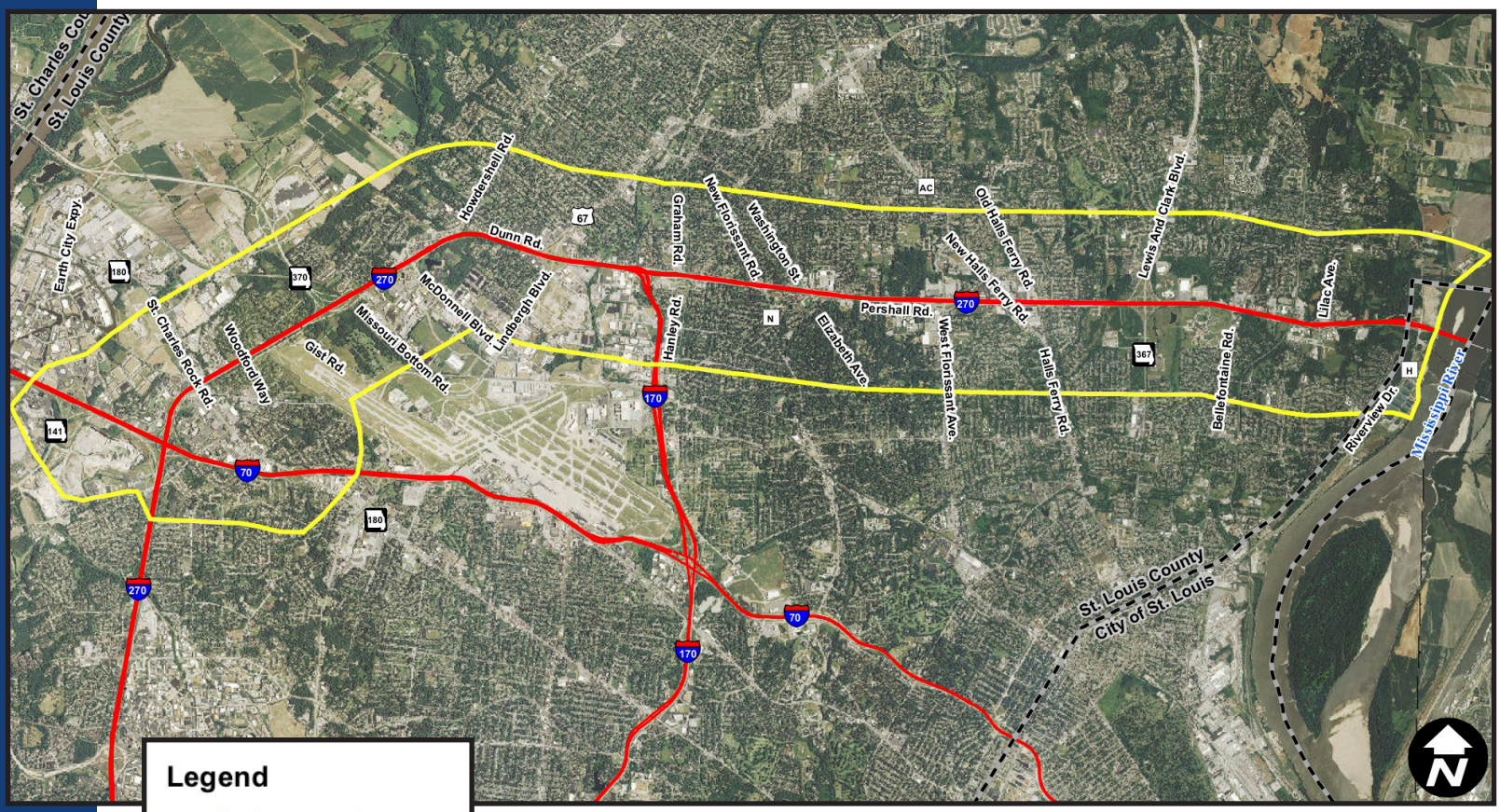
The North Corridor Study developed short-term and long-term concepts to address the constraints. The preliminary long-term concepts included:

- Maintaining and improving existing two-way outer roads;
- Creating a one-way outer road system; and
- Improving several stand-alone interchanges.

The *I-270 North Environmental Assessment* incorporates the information and the preliminary concepts developed during the I-270 North Corridor Study and is conducting a more detailed analysis. This includes developing and studying alternatives for the main corridor, as well as each of the 16 interchanges between the I-270/I-70 interchange and the Mississippi River. The design of the preferred alternative will be flexible enough to allow MoDOT to pursue innovative methods for financing final design, construction and operations, which could minimize costs and save time.

Study Area

The study area for the I-270 North Environmental Assessment is the I-70 interchange on the west to the Chain of Rocks Bridge on the east. The corridor is approximately 15 miles in length with 16 interchanges, including Lindbergh Boulevard (Route 67), I-170, New Florissant Road, West Florissant Road, New Halls Ferry Road, and Route 367. The municipalities within the corridor are: Bridgeton; Hazelwood; Florissant; Calverton Park; Ferguson; Dellwood; and Bellefontaine Neighbors.



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