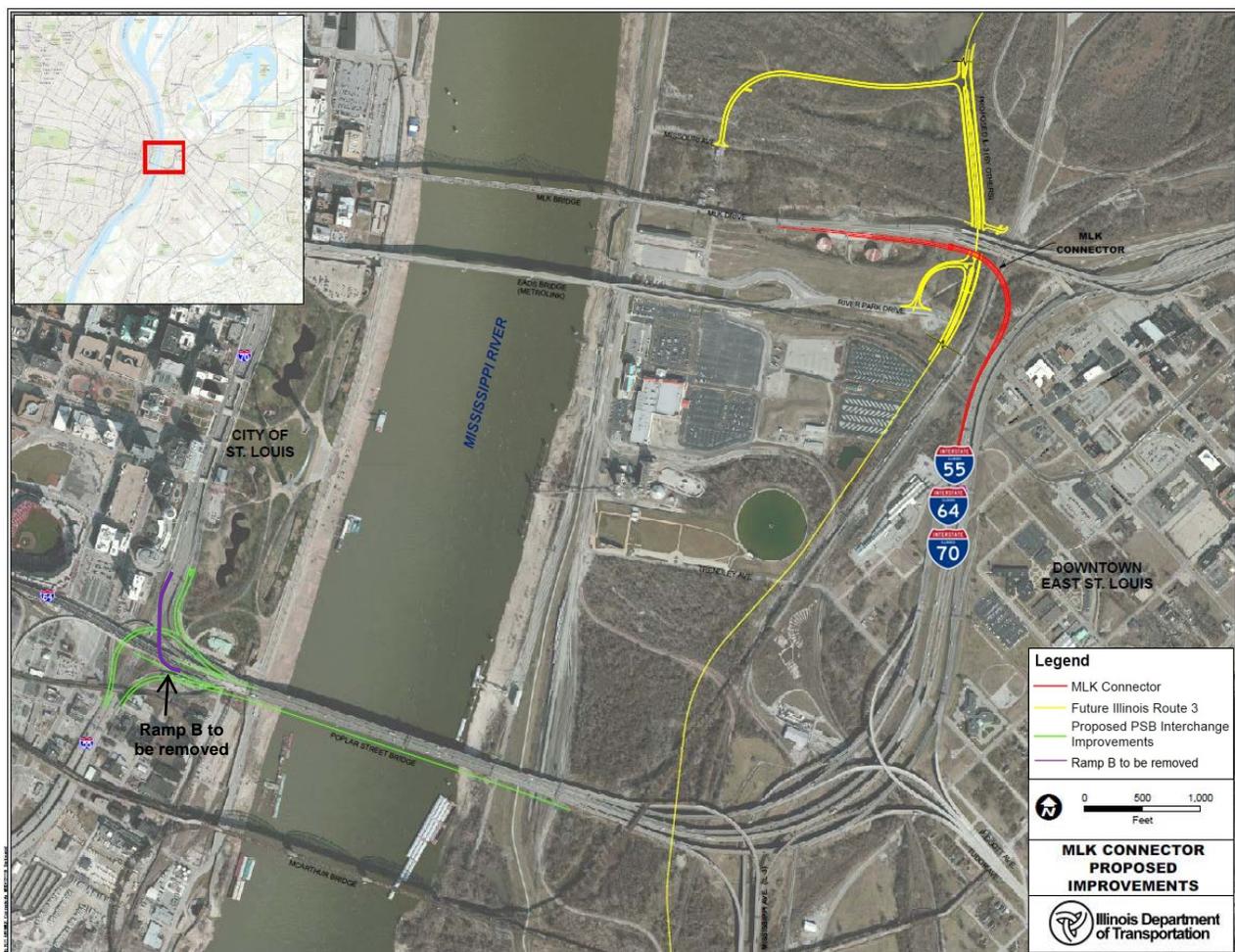




MLK Bridge Connector Public Meeting – December 5, 2013

Thank you for attending tonight's Public Meeting for the Martin Luther King (MLK) Bridge Connector. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) scheduled this meeting to provide you with important information about this project, which is one of several roadway improvements in the area associated with the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge project. The MLK Connector ramp allows for additional access from downtown St. Louis to southbound IL Route 3 in St. Clair County. The MLK Connector will allow traffic on the eastbound lanes of the MLK Bridge to have direct access to westbound I-55/64 and southbound IL Route 3, which will also provide access to Piggott/Tudor Avenue.



Purpose of this Project

In the early 1990s, the St. Louis region's leaders were concerned about the traffic issues in downtown St. Louis. MoDOT and IDOT performed a study to determine the best solution to improve safety and reduce congestion. The study recommended building a new river bridge to the north and making substantial safety changes to the Poplar Street Bridge (PSB) including the removal of the existing eastbound I-70 ramp to the PSB (Ramp B). The removal of this ramp is required to allow adequate space to construct dual lane exit and entrance ramps from the PSB to I-55/44. The removal of the existing ramp will eliminate the closest access from downtown St. Louis across the Mississippi River to



MLK Bridge Connector Public Meeting – December 5, 2013

IL Route 3 heading south in St. Clair County. The new ramp, the MLK Connector, along with the new river bridge, replaces the function of Ramp B.

Travel Routes without MLK Connector (“No-Build” Option)

A “no-build” option was also considered. Although the no-build alternative provides access from downtown St. Louis to St. Clair County, it would cause a shift of Illinois *eastbound* traffic to other existing roadways, which would likely increase over time.

The no-build alternative would introduce adverse travel for motorists and would require complex signage along the routes due to numerous decision points.

Schedule and Cost

The MLK Connector construction is scheduled for Spring 2015. The programmed construction cost for the MLK Connector is approximately \$17 million.

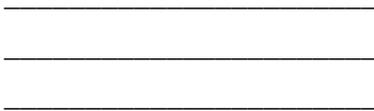
Traffic

Anticipated Average Daily Traffic (ADT) for the MLK Bridge Connector is 5,000 vehicles, with the morning peak of 100 vehicles per hour (vph) and the evening peak of 500 vph in 2035.

Questions? Comments?

Jeffrey W. Church
Project Implementation Engineer
IDOT District 8
1102 Eastport Plaza Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234-6198
(618) 346-3116
Jeffrey.Church@illinois.gov

(Fold on dotted line)



Place
Stamp
Here

**MR. JEFF KIERN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS
REGION 5 ENGINEER
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1102 EASTPORT PLAZA DRIVE
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234**

ATTN: JEFFREY W. CHURCH



(Fold on dotted line)

(Please tape)