Appendix A

APPENDIX A

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE
AND
COORDINATION PLAN

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
STATE REGULATORY PROGRAM OFFICE - MISSOURI
221 BOLIVAR STREET, SUITE 103
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

October 27, 2008

RECEIVED
OCT 2 9 2008
MISSOURI DEPT. OF TRANS.
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Missouri State Regulatory Office
(2007-00171)

Missouri Department of Transportation
Attn: Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Keith,

This is in response to the request by the Missouri Department of Transportation for our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Route 63 in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties. We have reviewed the Draft EIS and offer the following comments:

1. In accordance with the January 1996 Interagency Agreement for surface transportation projects in Missouri and Kansas, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) are to be integrated, including integration of compliance with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines and NEPA in the transportation planning, programming, and implementation stages. Avoidance of adverse impacts to waters of the U.S. and associated sensitive resources is the preferable alternative in consideration of environmental concerns and should be employed when practicable. Whenever avoidance of waters of the U.S. is not practicable, minimization of impacts will be achieved, and unavoidable impacts will be mitigated to the extent appropriate and practicable. The Draft EIS does not adequately address the matter of practicable alternatives. In Chapter 2 (Alternatives), there should be a detailed discussion of the reasonable alternatives that were considered, including the environmental impacts for each of the alternatives that were considered along with other factors, a detailed analysis on how the recommended proposed preferred alternative was selected from the reasonable alternatives and the reasoning why the other reasonable alternatives were not selected/not considered to be practicable. Please note that reference to a matrix in Appendix C is not sufficient to address the 404 (b)(1) Guidelines.

2. The identified preferred alternative in the Draft EIS has more impacts to waters of the U.S. (streams and wetlands) than the other identified reasonable alternatives based on the matrix, however, there is no detailed information in the Draft EIS that addresses the environmental impacts for the reasonable alternatives (this needs to be addressed in Chapter 2). We recognize the need to consider non-water related impacts, and acknowledge that these environmental impacts may affect the decision on the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.

3. A preferred alternative should be selected after evaluating the reasonable range of alternatives (at the end of the process). In Chapter 2 (page 27), it is indicated that the preferred links from each section were connected together to form the preferred alternative for the entire 47-mile length of the study and that the remaining links were then connected to form Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. We recommend that the reasonable alternatives should be identified and referred to in the draft EIS with numbers and/or letters and not referred to as the preferred alternative until the evaluation process has been completed.

4. There are options identified within the preferred alternative near Westphalia and Freeburg. We recommend that these options be identified in the document as reasonable alternatives or reasonable sub-alternatives.

5. The preliminary range of alternatives matrix (discussed in Chapter 2 and provided in Appendix C) should have included/considered stream impacts with the environmental impacts.

6. There is no discussion of environmental impacts (streams and wetlands) in Chapter 2 (page 29) in comparing the totals of the matrix (see recommendations in items 1 and 2 above).

7. On pages 50 and 51 for the Vienna and Vichy Sections it is indicated that access to Highway 65 would also be improved? Please explain or revise accordingly.

8. The draft EIS includes information on potential compensatory stream mitigation costs for the reasonable alternatives. Please note that a determination regarding compensatory mitigation cannot be addressed until avoidance and minimization of impacts have first been addressed. Also, please note that the cost of compensatory mitigation can also vary depending on whether the proposed compensatory mitigation is on site, within the watershed, or proposed through a mitigation bank or in-lieu-fee program.

9. On Page131 under Cultural Resources it is indicated that each alternative has a footprint encompassing more area than necessary, sometimes twice as much, to construct the new alignment and thereby allow room for adjustments, that this additional width affords some flexibility for determining the final location within the broader boundary and therefore enables efforts to minimize impacts to adjacent historic resources. Please note that we assume that this additional width also lends flexibility in avoiding and minimizing other impacts as well.

10. The tables in Appendix F for water resources are for the preferred alternative only (no tables or comparisons are provided for the other alternatives).

11. We previously informed MoDOT that the Gasconade River was a Section 10 water body (navigable water of the U.S.) to Jerome, Missouri during a scoping meeting on February 27, 2007, and that authorization would be required from Corps of Engineers under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for any work activities that involved fill, excavation, or for any structure located in, over or under the Gasconade River. Please include this information under the permits section on page 135. A Section 404 permit would be required from the Corps for any fill activities in waters of the U.S.

12. For flow, you may want to consider moving the summary to the end of the document instead of preceding Chapter 1.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to write or call me at 573-634-2248 extension 3833.

Sincerely,

Kenny Pointer
Regulatory Project Manager
Missouri State Regulatory Office

Copy Furnished:

Federal Highway Administration
Attn: Allen Masuda, Division Director
3220 West Edgewood, Suite H.
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

Missouri Quality Award 2007 Missouri Quality Award Winner

November 18, 2008

Gary W. Lenz, Missouri State Program Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Missouri State Regulatory Office
221 Bolivar Street, #103
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Attn: Kenny Pointer

Dear Mr. Lenz:

Subject: **Design - Environmental Unit**
Route 63 EIS
Response to comments

This letter pertains to your comment letter dated October 27, 2008. Please look for the following additional information in the Draft EIS pertaining to your comments.

Comments 1 and 2: A new question/answer paragraph will be added in Chapter 2 (Alternatives) titled: **How does the alternative analysis comply with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines?**

Comment 3: We concur the preferred alternative should be selected after evaluating the reasonable range of alternatives. Pages 24 thru 27 highlight the process the study team used to analyze the alternatives. The preferred alternative was not recommended until after the evaluation process was completed. MoDOT uses public input information and resources from agencies to help guide the proposal of a preferred alternative in the draft document.

Comment 4: Clarification regarding these options being considered will be added during the next document stage.

Comment 5: Regarding the location of the stream impacts in the alternatives matrix, the item will be moved to the environmental impacts section.

Comment 6: Regarding discussion of environmental impacts in Chapter 2 when comparing the totals of the matrix, a comparison of the stream and wetland impacts will be added.

Comment 7: The comment regarding access to Highway 65 was revised accordingly.

Comment 8: We concur that mitigation cannot be addressed until avoidance and minimization has first been addressed and that the cost of compensatory mitigation may vary. Considering the cost of the project, avoidance of waters of the U.S. is not entirely possible, therefore cost of an alternative is dependent on how much mitigation is involved, and so an estimate is included.

Comment 9: The same statement under Cultural Resources regarding room within the alternatives for adjustments in determining the final location in order to enable efforts to minimize impacts will also be placed in the Water Resources section.

Comment 10: The additional tables in the appendix will be added.

Comment 11: Information regarding Section 10 designation of the Gasconade River will be added.

Comment 12: Typically, the Executive Summary is placed at the beginning of the document and this is what FHWA prefers.

Thank you for your comments regarding the Route 63 pDEIS.

Sincerely,

Gayle A. Unruh for

Buck Brooks
Wetlands Coordinator

cc: Nicole Hood – d5
Tim Redmond – de
Allen Masuda – FHWA
Matt Burcham – de

Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT
10/20/2008 08:19 AM

To Steven W Engelbrecht/D5/MODOT@MODOT, Laurie E Wyrick/D5/MODOT@MODOT
cc Kelly R Cox/SC/MODOT@MODOT
bcc
Subject Fw: Comments on Route 63 Preliminary Draft EIS

Nicole Kolb Hood, P. E.
Transportation Project Manager
Missouri Department of Transportation
Work: (573) 526-6997
Fax: (573) 751-8267
Email: nicole.hood@modot.mo.gov
----- Forwarded by Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT on 10/20/2008 08:18 AM -----

Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT
10/17/2008 04:21 PM

To Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT@MODOT
cc
Subject Fw: Comments on Route 63 Preliminary Draft EIS

fyi

Matt

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri
----- Forwarded by Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT on 10/17/2008 04:21 PM -----

"Noel, Gary - Palmyra, MO" <gary.noel@mo.usda.gov>
10/17/2008 03:15 PM

To <Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov>
cc "Lee, Clayton - Columbia, MO" <clayton.lee@mo.usda.gov>
Subject RE: Comments on Route 63 Preliminary Draft EIS

Matt,

I looked through the report and the found the information regarding farmland, wetlands, soil & erosion control, wildlife, cultural resources and water resources to be very good and compatible with our agency and policy regarding these resources and protection of them. The report appears to be thorough and accurate.
Gary Noel

From: Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov [mailto:Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2008 2:10 PM
To: Cothern.joe@epa.gov; Doyle.Brown@mdc.mo.gov; Charlie_Scott@fws.gov; Randy.Scrivner@sema.dps.mo.gov; Jason.Schneider@sema.dps.mo.gov; Noel, Gary - Palmyra, MO
Cc: jane.beetem@dnr.mo.gov
Subject: Comments on Route 63 Preliminary Draft EIS

Gentlemen;
Please provide any comments you may have on the Route 63 preliminary DEIS (delivered mid-September) by the end of next week, October 24. Any agency comments requiring revisions in the document will be made before we get approval on the document from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Draft EIS will be available to the public and agencies following that approval. We are now in receipt of FHWA comments and are beginning to revise the document to address their concerns. We hope to address all comments and get approval of the document by mid-November.

Thank you, please let me know if you have any questions.

Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist
573-526-6679 (phone)
573-526-3261 (fax)

Letters: P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Parcels: 1320 Creek Trail Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri

Janie Monks
Office of the Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
(573) 751-3195 voice (573) 751-7627 fax

janie.monks@dnr.mo.gov R1921-Rt. 63 PDEIS comments 10-3-08-signed.pdf

STATE OF MISSOURI
Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
www.dnr.mo.gov

October 3, 2008

Mr. Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: U.S. Highway 63 Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Keith:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (department) has reviewed the Preliminary Draft EIS (PDEIS) for the U.S. Route 63 project, and has the following comments. The department provided data from the department's GIS system during the study's scoping phase, and we are pleased that the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) appears to have avoided the majority of the environmental, natural and cultural resources in the proposed corridor based on this data. The Highway 63 project is the first one where we have used this approach, which we plan to continue in the future.

Even though the proposed project is 47 miles long, use of existing right of way for a sizeable portion of the corridor significantly reduced the potential environmental impact of the project. The department commends MoDOT for using existing right of way in this section of the corridor, therefore minimizing environmental impacts. The department would like more information on the possible use of detention basins to capture runoff near stream crossings and reduce contamination of waterways, mentioned on page 97. Also, the department would be interested in reviewing the long-term inspection and maintenance plan for these detention basins to better understand how the structures will function properly in perpetuity.

On page 96, the PDEIS refers to two public water supply wells northwest of Westphalia that may be impacted by the preferred alternative. There are also several residences and businesses identified that may be impacted by Highway 63 improvement. It is not clear whether water wells associated with these residences and businesses have been identified. Wells that are not properly plugged and abandoned may provide a conduit for contaminants to enter the groundwater aquifer. Also, please be aware that prior to 1987, registry of private drinking water wells was not required, therefore some existing older wells may not be included in DNR's database. The locations of wells in our GIS system need to be independently verified. Therefore, all wells that may be impacted by Highway 63 project should be identified, properly abandoned and plugged.

The department reviewed the description of the project in the PDEIS for potential impacts to State Parks and/or parks that have received Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies. Based on this review, it appears that the project will not have impacts to any of these resources.

Recycled Paper

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the U.S. Highway 63 Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact me or Ms. Jane Beetem, phone number 573-751-3195. Her address for correspondence is Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

H. Floyd Gilzow
Deputy Director for Policy

HFG/jb

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

Pete K. Rahn, Director

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

September 23, 2008

Mr. Joe Cothern
NEPA Program Manager
ENSV/IO
U.S. EPA, Region VII
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. Cothern:

Subject: Route 63
Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (pDEIS)

As a cooperating agency in the Route 63 corridor study we are sending you a copy of the (pDEIS). We appreciate and value your input in the evaluation of potential impacts along this corridor. Please return your comments to our office no later than Friday, October 24, 2008.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via phone at (573) 526-6682 or by e-mail. Thanks for taking time to be a valuable member of our team.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cox
Senior Environmental Specialist

Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT
01/18/2008 09:08 AM

To Kevin Mchugh/SC/MODOT@MODOT
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: MDC Tower Site near Route 63

History: This message has been replied to.

I sent this to you earlier but in case you misplaced, this may help if the recommended preferred remains on that side of 63

Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist
573-526-6679 (phone)
573-526-3261 (fax)

Letters: P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Parcels: 1320 Creek Trail Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri
----- Forwarded by Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT on 01/18/2008 09:06 AM -----

"Doyle Brown" <Doyle.Brown@mdc.mo.gov>

08/14/2007 10:26 AM

To <Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov>, <Nicole.Hood@modot.mo.gov>
cc
Subject Re: Fw: MDC Tower Site near Route 63

Nicole,

Here are the highlights of the Freeburg tower. We are trying to pull in all the records in case, this corridor is the preferred route.

Bulk of land purchased and tower built in 1949. Tower would be approximately 58 years old. Checking the records to verify this. It may have a radio relay antenna on the structure, however it is currently not used for any other purpose. Has only been staffed once (fire suppression activities) in the last three years and no long range plans for the tower or the site.

A one acre tract of land was donated by the Commission in the December 1995 meeting to Maries County Water Supply District #1 for a 110 foot tall water tower. It is believed that the water tower was not initiated. Disposition of this tract is currently unknown and has not been removed from our land tract information.

Let us know if you have additional questions.

Doyle

Doyle F. Brown
Policy Coordinator
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
2901 West Truman Blvd.5
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 522-4115 Ext 3355
Doyle.brown@mdc.mo.gov

>>> <Nicole.Hood@modot.mo.gov> 08/06/07 3:00 PM >>>

Good Morning Mr. Brown-

One of the preliminary alternatives for the Route 63 EIS would impact one of MDC's towers located down County Road 209. Just curious what the tower is used for and what the plans are for this site? Do we need to be concerned about impacting this tower as we work through the study?

Please see the additional correspondence below as well.

Thanks,

Nicole Kolb Hood, P. E.
Transportation Project Manager
Missouri Department of Transportation
Work: (573) 526-6997
Fax: (573) 751-8267
Email: nicole.hood@modot.mo.gov

----- Forwarded by Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT on 08/06/2007 08:20 AM -----

Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT

08/06/2007 07:48 AM

To Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT@MODOT
cc
Subject Re: MDC Tower Site near Route 63Link

It might not hurt just to see what MDC's plans are for these sites. They might be very okay with us taking it.

Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist
573-526-6679 (phone)

Kelly

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

Pete K. Rahn, Director

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

September 14, 2006

Mr. Allen Masuda, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
3220 W. Edgewood
Suite H
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Dear Mr. Masuda,

Subject: EIS Notification
Route 63
Osage, Maries, and Phelps Counties
Job No. J5P0950

The intent of this letter is to notify FHWA about an upcoming project and to request that FHWA initiate the environmental review process. The project is located on Route 63, starting approximately 0.5 mi south of the Route 63/50 intersection in Osage County and terminates in Phelps County approximately 5.0 miles south of the Maries County line. The goal of this project is to complete an upgrade to Route 63, which is a major north-south roadway in Missouri, and to improve safety conditions along this predominately hilly and curvy facility. This project will also alleviate some congestion problems associated with some of the smaller communities along Route 63 and provide adequate access for future economic development. The total length of the project will be dependent upon which alternate is selected and approved. The length from the northern to southern termini points is approximately 47 miles; however, given the geographic location of the project, the overall length could exceed 50 miles.

Given the topography of the project area, it is anticipated that a Section 404 permit will be required. Potential participating agencies include the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

Sincerely,

Kevin Keith, P.E.
Chief Engineer

kc

Gayle A Unruh/SC/MODOT
02/12/2007 11:09 AM

To Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT@MODOT, Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT@MODOT, Kelly R Cox/SC/MODOT@MODOT
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: MDC Participation - US Route 63 EIS

----- Forwarded by Gayle A Unruh/SC/MODOT on 02/12/2007 11:07 AM -----

"Mike Smith" <Mike.Smith@mdc.mo.gov>
02/09/2007 03:54 PM

To <gayle.unruh@modot.mo.gov>
cc "Doyle Brown" <Doyle.Brown@mdc.mo.gov>
Subject MDC Participation - US Route 63 EIS

Gayle:

RE: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS (Letter to John Hoskins, MDC Director January 18,2007)

MDC will participate, as needed, in the development of the EIS.

MDC contacts:
Osage and Maries County, Doyle Brown, Policy Coordinator
Phelps County, Mike Smith, Policy Coordinator

In addition, one or both of us will attend your February 27th meeting.

MS

Michael S. Smith
Policy Coordinator
Missouri Department of Conservation
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
573-522-4115 x3152 (voice)
573-526-4495 (FAX)

Missouri Department of Conservation

Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy

Conservation Opportunity Areas

Opportunities to conserve Missouri's wildlife treasures are all around us–on the farm, in the city, at the edges of Ozark forests, in tall grasslands and in the current of Missouri's many rivers and streams.

Supporting Conservation in Our Communities

The Conservation Department will encourage and support partnerships between communities, local governments and developers to reduce the impact of Missouri's growth upon our fish, forest and wildlife resources.

Next Generation – Community Conservation

Recently the Missouri Department of Conservation joined with partners to take an "all wildlife conservation" approach. This framework of Conservation Opportunity Areas identifies the best places where partners can combine technology, expertise and resources for all wildlife conservation. Focused efforts in these conservation opportunity areas will ensure that Missourians continue to enjoy a rich and diverse natural heritage.

Conservation Opportunity Areas are priority places for all wildlife conservation. Even so, conservation remains important across all of Missouri.

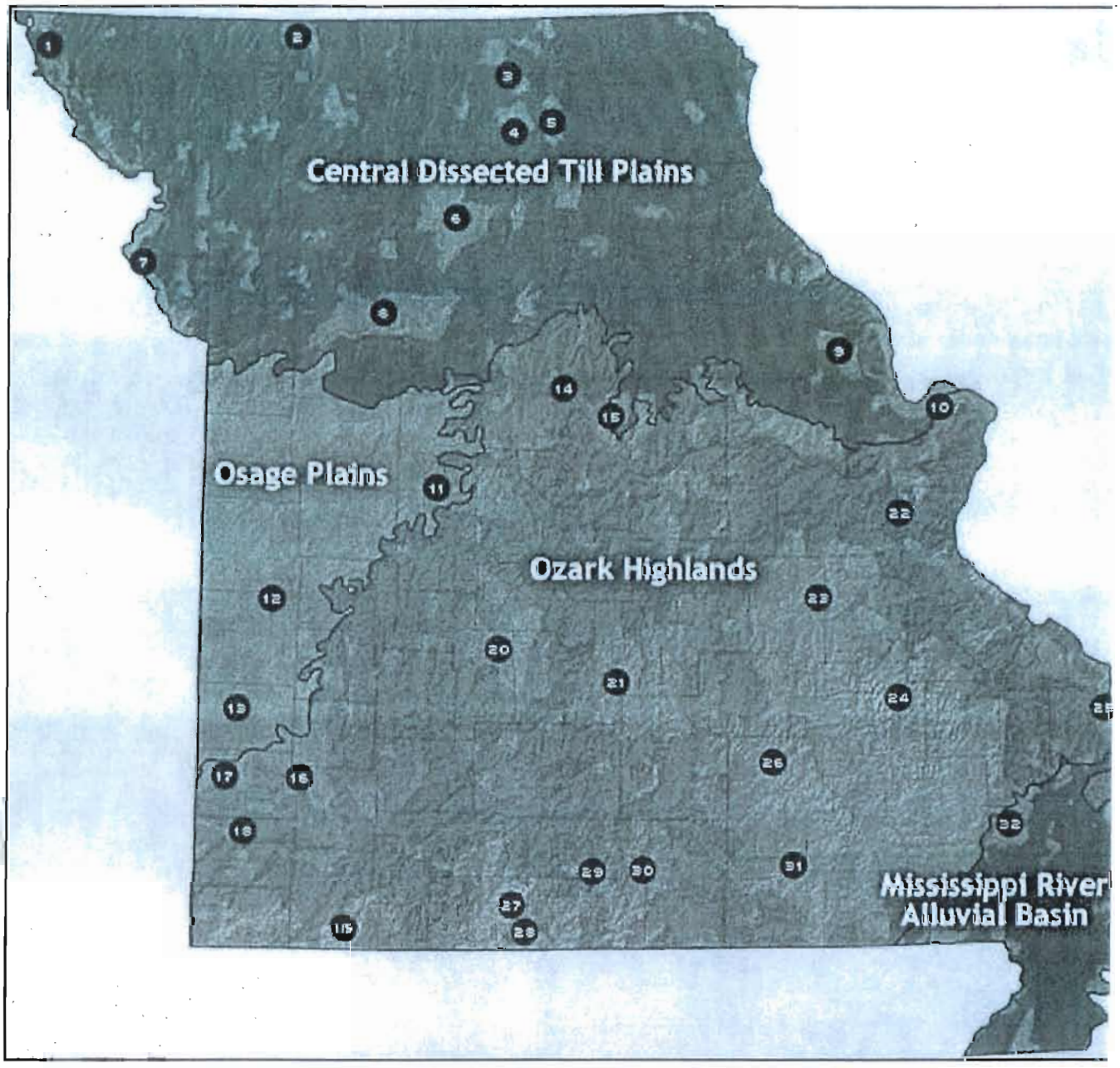
Each Conservation Opportunity Area has a stakeholder team that developed a Conservation Opportunity Area profile. Teams determine goals and conservation actions. They also have resources available for public and private landowners interested in joining their local Conservation Opportunity Area efforts.

For more information about a specific Conservation Opportunity Area or stakeholder team, click on the map or contact Dennis Figg (dennis.figg@mdc.mo.gov).

Some of the statewide partners involved in identifying Conservation Opportunity Areas include:

- American Fisheries Society
- Audubon Missouri
- Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Ducks Unlimited
- Grasslands Coalition
- Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Missouri Natural Areas Committee

- Missouri Prairie Foundation
- Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership
- National Park Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Ozark Regional Land Trust
- Quail Unlimited
- The Nature Conservancy (Missouri Chapter)
- United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
- United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region VII
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114-3372

FEMA

February 16, 2007

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2007
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION
MO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Gayle A. Unruh
Manager
Environmental & Historic Preservation
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Ms. Unruh:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Thank you for your January 29, 2007, letter to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA declines your invitation to participate on the U.S. Route 63 EIS. Under Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficiency Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users, FEMA declines the invitation for the following reasons:

1. FEMA has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
2. Any issues relevant to FEMA regulations will be addressed as the Missouri Department of Transportation complies with Missouri Executive Order 98-03; and
3. FEMA does not intend to submit comments on the project.

If you should have any questions, please contact Connie Wisniewski at (816) 283-7013.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Bissell
Director
Federal Insurance & Mitigation Division

cc: Randy Scrivner, MO SEMA

ROUTE 63 AGENCY SCOPING MEETING MINUTES

GROUP NAME: Route 63 Core Team and Participating/Cooperating Agencies
DATE OF MEETING: Feb. 27, 2007 **TEAM LEADER:** Nicole Kolb Hood **PHONE NUMBER:** 573-526-6997
LOCATION OF MEETING: District 5 Parrish Room
ATTENDEES: Kevin Kelly - FHWA, Robert Stout - DNR, Matt Burcham - MoDOT, Doyle Brown - MDC, Kristin Gerber-MoDOT, Laurie Wyrick - MoDOT, Alan Trampe - MoDOT, Mary Ridgeway - FHWA, Peggy Casey - FHWA, Bob Reeder - MoDOT, Llans Taylor - MoDOT, Bill Graham - MoDOT, Kelly Cox - MoDOT, Toni Prawl - MoDOT, Kenny Pointer - USACE, Jacob Ray - MoDOT, Steve Engelbrecht - MoDOT

SUMMARY OF ITEMS COVERED THIS MEETING:

Introductions: Nicole, MoDOT Project Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions while the sign-in sheet was being passed around.

Mary Ridgeway from FHWA opened the meeting with a presentation on SAFETEA-LU and the new 6002 Process Requirements and Environmental Review Process Provisions. MoDOT is currently meeting the new process requirements. 1.) MoDOT has *previously initiated* the project by contacting FHWA prior to the start of NEPA. 2.) *FHWA is the lead Federal agency* and MoDOT, a state government receiving federal funds, has taken on the position as a *joint lead agency*. 3.) MoDOT is in the process of including and inviting all Federal, State, regional, and local government agencies having an interest in the project, to be a *participating agency*. In addition, the Osage tribe will be notified about the project, provided information about the project limits and timelines, and invited to consult about the project or to participate in its development. No non-governmental agencies are included as participating agencies. Interested participating agencies have 30 days to reply to the invitation. 4.) MoDOT is developing a *coordination plan* for public and agency participation and comments during the review process. 5.) Participating agencies and the public are being given the *opportunity for input* in the development of the *purpose and need and the range of alternatives* and MoDOT is collaborating with the participating agencies on the appropriate *methodologies* to be used.
Detailed explainations of these requirements were handed out to meeting participants. Peggy Casey - FHWA reported the EPA is interested in being a participating agency.

Nicole presented Rte. 63 as a roadway following a ridge between the Maries and Gasconade River basins and consisting primarily of 2-12' lanes with 4' shoulders. Hills, substandard curves, numerous entrances, large volumes of truck traffic and high accident statistics characterize the route. Nicole showed a typical section and photographs of existing Route 63. An overview of the Draft Purpose and Need was presented. Participating agencies were sent a copy prior to the meeting and comments were encouraged. Most were pleased with the "reader friendly" format of the Purpose and Need document.

Questions directed to Jacob Ray, MoDOT Sr. Traffic Studies Specialist, were: How the per mile accident data compared to the data of the entire corridor. Nicole explained that since the corridor was so long, the corridor was divided up into sections with towns being looked at separately. Why was it the newly constructed portions of the study area in Phelps County had high accident statistics? The combination of increased driving speeds, high fills and the increased truck traffic at the quarry could be accountable for increased accidents along the straight stretches of highway. There was also discussion about the use of the sections of Route 63 that have been constructed within the last 20 years that already have improved alignments. It was agreed that our alternatives will reflect the utilization of these sections of Rte. 63. Also, why did the improved sections show only a Fair Traffic Flow Rating? If there were more categories to apply to the condition of traffic flow, then those sections of roadway bordering the category limits would show that the new sections would fall into the Good Traffic Flow category while other sections would fall into the Poor Traffic Flow category.

Bob Reeder of Cultural Resources plans to schedule a drive-through with SHPO officials in the near future. A more detailed study will be performed when the corridor is narrowed with the selection of alternatives. Areas of concern throughout the corridor include:

- Buildings on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and buildings that could be potential candidates for the NHRP (Toni Prawl, MoDOT Sr. Historic Preservation Specialist added there were two buildings in Vichy that were recently determined to be eligible for the NHRP based on their historic architecture.)
- Potential 4(f) impacts

•An archaeology site located along the r/w at the Gasconade River Bridge, previously examined during the construction of the newer section of roadway.
Additional information from the public concerning environmental and cultural resources has been received through visits at the public meetings held in November.

Matt Burcham of Environmental presented photos of the landscape along Route 63 showing homes, schools, churches, businesses, parks, historic sites, farmland, waterways, airports, potential hazardous waste sites(gas stations) that could be potentially impacted by new construction.

Matt Burcham also reviewed the Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement. Briefly, the plan covers the purpose of the coordination plan, the project background, initial coordination and identifying cooperating and participating agencies, local agencies and organizations, Section 106 requirements, agency coordination and agency roles and responsibilities. Specific opportunities for input are provided through the agency concurrence points defined in the Coordination Plan. There was further discussion to determine what additional agencies should be included in this plan. Cities and Counties were among the agencies suggested to be included as participating agencies. Fish and Wildlife will also be included as a participating agency. The Coordination Plan contains a schedule for the completion of the EIS. If the schedule in the coordination plan slips, modifications can be made.
Kristin Gerber of Public Affairs gave a brief presentation on the plan for public involvement as part of the Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement. The plan lists potentially affected interests and members of the Rte. 63 Advisory Committee. The plan details MoDOT's public outreach activities during the course of the EIS.

The status of the study was discussed. Design personnel are currently placing alternatives on the map. Design will be working with all the agencies to come up with reasonable alternatives that are cost efficient, satisfying to the participating agencies and to the public. There is a second round of public meetings scheduled for mid-April to early May of this year. Alternatives will be presented to the public at this time.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion.
Mary Ridgeway mentioned a new provision of SAFETEA-LU. After the publication of the ROD, the statute of limitations is 6 months.

MDC, DNR and USACE concurred on the following as concerns along the Rte. 63 corridor:
Impacts along the Maries and Gasconade Rivers to threatened and endangered species such as the Niangua Darter and the Pink Mucket (The Maries River basin is a major contributor of environmental and conservation concerns.)
•Wetlands and stream impacts, springs etc
•Habitat for the Indiana Bat
•Locations of sewage treatment facilities and other potential hazardous waste sites
Kenny Pointer from USACE mentioned the Gasconade River falls under Section 10 as a navigable river up to Jerome.

The Department of Conservation has a conservation plan and would like MoDOT to try and coordinate the alternatives with their conservation plan in mind throughout the study. A shape file will be e-mailed to the participating agencies to show where the study corridor lies along the existing Rte. 63 to determine what additional potential impacts lie within the corridor that we are unaware of. MDC will forward a copy of the Conservation Plan to MoDOT for review.

Participating agencies should respond to the constraints, Purpose and Need, and Coordination Plan to Nicole by March 30. Also include any recommendations for preliminary alternatives.

ACTION ITEMS:

FHWA and Participating Agencies: Review Purpose and Need, Coordination Plan and constraints. Send comments by March 30. Send in ideas for alternatives.
MoDOT: Send out shape files, review Conservation Plan when received, get ready for public meeting #2 with alternatives, create initial newsletter.

PREPARED BY:

Laurie Wyrick

DISTRIBUTION:

Kevin Kelly - FHWA, Robert Stout - DNR, Matt Burcham - MoDOT, Doyle Brown - MDC, Kristin Gerber-MoDOT, Laurie Wyrick - MoDOT, Alan Trampe - MoDOT, Mary Ridgeway - FHWA, Peggy Casey - FHWA, Bob Reeder - MoDOT,

Llans Taylor - MoDOT, Bill Graham - MoDOT, Kelly Cox - MoDOT, Toni Prawl - MoDOT, Kenny Pointer - USACE, Jacob Ray - MoDOT, Steve Engelbrecht - MoDOT, EPA, Fish and Wildlife

Environmental Impact Statement for Route 63 From Route 50/63 to North of Rolla

COORDINATION PLAN FOR

AGENCY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

And

Missouri Department of Transportation

March 2008

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1.0 PURPOSE OF COORDINATION PLAN

This Coordination Plan is intended to define the process by which the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will communicate information about the Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project 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.

This Coordination Plan will:

- Identify the early coordination efforts;
- Identify cooperating and participating agencies to be involved in agency coordination;
- Establish the timing and form for agency involvement in defining the project's purpose and need and study area, the range of alternatives to be investigated, and methodologies, as well reviewing the preliminary Draft EIS (DEIS).
- Establish the timing and form for public opportunities to be involved in defining the project's purpose and need and study area and the range of alternatives to be investigated, providing input on issues of concern and environmental features, and commenting on the findings presented in the DEIS and the Final EIS (FEIS).
- Describe the communication methods that will be implemented to inform the community about the project.

The Coordination Plan will be updated periodically to reflect any changes to the project schedule and other items that typically require updating over the course of the project.

2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

MoDOT, in cooperation with FHWA has prepared the following coordination plan as required by SAFETEA-LU 6002 for the proposed Route 63 EIS. This is a corridor improvement project proposed in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties. MoDOT and FHWA are advancing this project through an EIS. The proposed project is approximately 47 miles and begins south of the Route 50/Route 63 interchange in Osage County and ends near Rolla in Phelps County (See Figure 1).

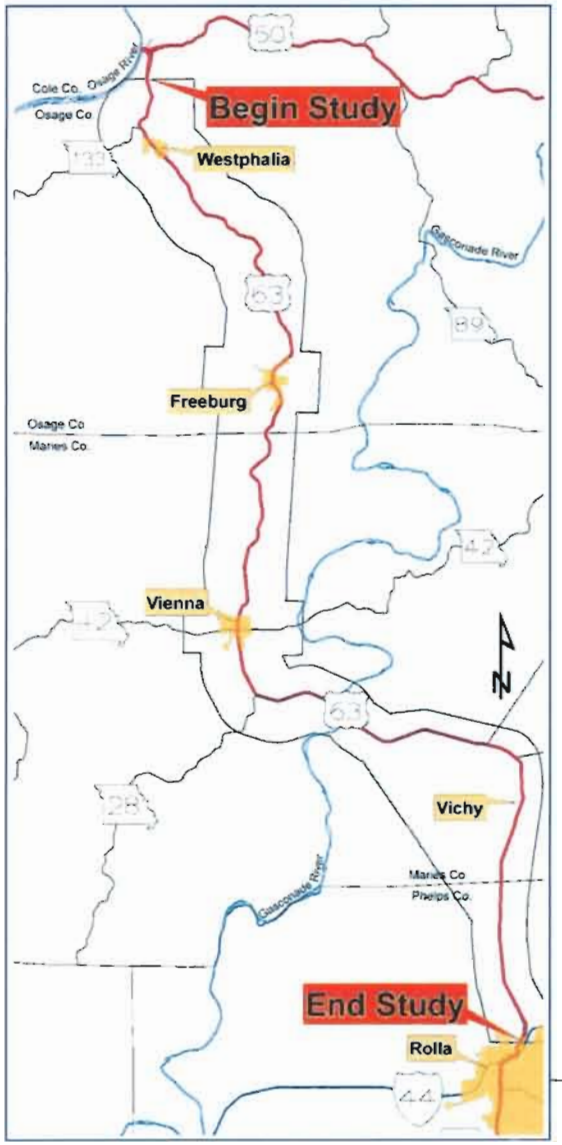
As a part of this study, a Purpose and Need Statement is being developed and refined based on input from agencies and the public during the initial coordination/scoping period. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve the operational efficiency and safety of the existing route for both through and local traffic. Proposed improvements will take into account the needs of neighboring communities and residents, along with the consideration of the social, environmental, economic and cultural resource impacts of these improvements.

Specifically, the project is needed to:

- Improve safety on U.S. 63
- Improve traffic flow on U.S. 63
- Improve north-south corridor continuity.

Alternatives to be evaluated are expected to include: (1) No-Build; (2) Transportation System Management (TSM) activities; (3) Upgrades to the existing roadway; and/or (4) one or more alternatives that would construct a new roadway on new location. Ultimately, the Selected Alternative may include a combination of elements of the options given above. The alternatives to be investigated in the EIS will be developed/refined based on input from agencies and the public during the initial coordination/scoping period and subsequent agency and public involvement opportunities.

Figure 1 Study Area Map



3.0 PROJECT COORDINATION

This section outlines the formal activities to initiate the study, definitions of the agencies coordination responsibilities, other organizations involvement and early coordination requirements of Section 106.

Tracking of coordination efforts will be documented in Table 2. As this Table is periodically updated it will be sent to agencies.

3.1 Project Initiation

On September 14, 2006, in conformance with the requirements of SAFETEA-LU, MoDOT formally notified FHWA in writing of its intent to initiate the NEPA EIS process for this project. The initial coordination/scoping process was initiated in order to obtain comments and input from agencies and the public to help determine the purpose and need for the project, alternatives to be evaluated and the issues that will be examined as part of the EIS process.

3.2 Notice of Intent

Following the project initiation, FHWA with assistance from MoDOT prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, as required by CEQ regulations 40 CFR 1501.7. The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on November 29, 2006.

Notification of the preparation of the EIS along with the announcement of two public Scoping Meetings was published in project area newspapers.

3.3 Cooperating and Participating Agencies

3.3.1 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating Agencies are those governmental agencies specifically requested by the lead agency to participate during the environmental evaluation process for the project. FHWA's NEPA regulations (23 CFR 771.111(d)) require that those federal agencies with jurisdiction by law (with permitting or land transfer authority) be invited to be Cooperating Agencies for an EIS. A letter invitation to the US Army Corps of Engineers was sent on January 18, 2007. They subsequently agreed on February 5, 2007, by letter to be a Cooperating Agency for this project. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is also designated a Cooperating agency due to their obligations under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act amended. According to the provisions of the environmental review process outlined in SAFETEA-LU's Section 139, Cooperating Agencies meet the definition of participating agencies.

If new information reveals the need to request another agency to serve as a Cooperating Agency, then MoDOT in consultation with FHWA will issue that agency an invitation.

3.3.2 Participating Agencies

SAFETEA-LU (Section 6002) created a new category of agencies to participate in the environmental review process for EISs. These are federal and non-federal governmental agencies that may have an interest in the project because of their jurisdictional authority, special expertise and/or statewide interest. These potential participating agencies are formally invited to participate in the environmental review of the project. A total of nine federal, state agencies have been invited by letter (January 18, 2007) to be participating agencies for this project. Those accepting the invitation are listed in Table 1.

The Coast Guard declined since the project does not involve bridges over navigable waters of the United States and therefore, a Coast Guard bridge permit is not required.

If, during the progress of the project, new information indicates that an agency not previously requested to be a Participating Agency does indeed have authority, jurisdiction, acknowledged expertise or information relevant to the project, then MoDOT, in consultation with FHWA, will promptly extend an invitation to that agency to be a Participating Agency. MoDOT and FHWA will consider whether this new information affects any previous decisions on the project.

3.3.3 Non-Governmental Organizations

These are private organizations to whom the DEIS will be sent. A complete list will be included in the Appendix.

Table 1 Lead, Cooperating and Participating Agencies

Agency	Agency Role	Contact Person/Title	Phone	E-mail
Federal Highway Administration	Lead	Ms. Peggy Casey, environmental coordinator engineer	573-638-2620	Peggy.Casey@fhwa.dot.gov
Missouri Department of Transportation	Co-Lead	Ms. Nicole Kolb Hood, Project Manager Mr. Matt Burcham, Environmental Contact	573-526-6997 573-526-6679	Nicole.Hood@modot.mo.gov Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Cooperating	Mr. Kenny Pointer	573-634-2248 ext 104	James.k.pointer@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Cooperating	Mr. Joe Cothern, NEPA Director	913-551-7148	Cothern.joe@epa.gov
U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife	Participating	Mr. Charlie Scott, Supervisor	573-234-2132	Charlie_Scott@fws.gov
USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service	Participating	Mr. Roger A. Hansen, State Conservationist	573-876-0901	Roger.Hansen@mo.usda.gov
Missouri Department of Natural Resources	Participating	Ms. Jane Beetem, Deputy Director for Policy	573-522-2401	Jane.Beetem@dnr.mo.gov
State Emergency Management Agency	Participating	Mr. Randy Scrivner, Floodplain Management Branch Chief.	573-526-9141	Randy.Scrivner@sema.dps.mo.gov
Missouri Department of Conservation	Participating	Mr. Doyle Brown, Policy Coordinator Mr. Mike Smith, Policy Coordinator	573-522-4115 ext 3355	Doyle.Brown@mdc.mo.gov

3.3.4 Section 106 Early Coordination

The agency official (FHWA) or its designee (in this case, MODOT) may use its procedures for public involvement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to satisfy the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or Section 106 requirements for public involvement as well, providing they offer adequate opportunities for public involvement. The NHPA requires the federal agency or its designee to seek the participation and consider the opinions of interested and appropriate parties throughout the Section 106 process including the identification and evaluation of cultural resources potentially affected by the project, the evaluation of project effects to historic resources, and the development of appropriate mitigation plans as needed. This "involvement" is referred to as "consultation." MoDOT shall consider the nature of the project and the kinds of historic resources potentially affected to identify the appropriate individuals, organizations, and entities with whom MoDOT will consult. Because MoDOT considers Section 106 requirements early in the NEPA process, compliance with both statutes is coordinated throughout the project.

4.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

The participating agencies for this project have roles and responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in the NEPA process starting at the earliest possible time, especially with regard to the development of the purpose and need statement, range of alternatives, and impact methodologies;

- Identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, historic preservation or socioeconomic impacts. Participating agencies are also allowed to participate in the issue resolution process;
- Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues; and
- Reviewing and providing comment on the preliminary draft of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The participating agencies will have defined opportunities for meaningful participation in the decision-making process for the project. Specific opportunities are provided via the agency collaboration points that have been defined for this project. The lead agencies are not required to revisit project decisions associated with specific collaboration points after the project has moved on to the next collaboration point.

4.1 Environmental Streamlining Collaboration Points

SAFETEA-LU incorporates changes aimed at improving and streamlining the environmental process for transportation projects. Lead and participating agencies have legal and general governmental obligations to work cooperatively to improve the environmental review process. The roles and responsibilities specified in Section 6002 for lead agencies and participating agencies form a part of those obligations.

As issues arise during the environmental review process, USDOT will intervene with the appropriate parties to facilitate a resolution.

The intent of the Collaboration points are to set a deadline for agency input in order to move the project study forward. They are not meant to be points where there is total agreement. At the end of any Collaboration point the lead agencies will make a decision about the changes or revisions that are necessary based on agency and public input.

The agencies listed above in Table 1 will be participating in the collaboration points at the following three major milestones in the environmental review process for the Route 63 EIS:

1) Preliminary Alternatives, Purpose and Need;

2) Project Alternatives to be Evaluated in the DEIS and Methodologies for Evaluating Impacts;

3) Adequacy of the Pre-Draft DEIS.

The process for coordination associated with each of the major milestones (collaboration points) for this project is discussed below.

4.1.1 Collaboration Point 1 – Preliminary Alternatives, Purpose and Need

The draft purpose and need statement for the project was submitted to FHWA for internal review. Upon incorporation of comments from FHWA and based upon comments received during the scoping period from agencies and the public, MoDOT will prepare and forward to the participating agencies the revised purpose and need statement. A set of maps displaying the preliminary alternatives will be included for agency input for screening purposes. A revised Coordination Plan will also be sent to the agencies. Additionally, information that may be included is the following:

- Description of core objectives of the proposed action, and any secondary objectives;
- Explanation of the basis for the project objectives in terms of:
- Relevant Federal, state and/or local policies, which may include transportation, economic conditions, land use conditions, and other conditions;
- Relevant data that may include information on transportation conditions, economic conditions, land use conditions, and other conditions;
- Substantive Public and agency comments regarding the project's objectives.
- Demonstration of the project's logical termini and independent utility;
- A map detailing the study area.

The participating agencies will be given 30 days from receipt to review and provide a response; a reminder will be given to the agencies 7 days before the end of the review period. At the end of the 30-day period, MoDOT will consider agency input. A request can be made for a 15-day time extension. MoDOT will assume support from those agencies from whom it has not heard at the end of the 30-day period. The output of Collaboration Point 1 should include input from the participating agencies on:

- The purpose and need statement and the study area of the project;
- The coordination plan;
- Preliminary range of alternatives to be considered.

Additionally, the agencies should provide input on environmental features, resources, and issues of concern.

Based on the output of Collaboration Point 1, the joint leads will use agency input to screen preliminary alternatives, revise as appropriate the Purpose and Need statement, and coordination plan.

4.1.2 Collaboration Point 2 – Reasonable Alternatives to be evaluated

Based on the output of Collaboration Point 1 as well as the public meeting on purpose and need/preliminary alternatives, and preliminary alternatives analysis conducted during the project development process, MoDOT will prepare a Reasonable Alternatives to be Evaluated information packet. This information to be forwarded to the participating agencies may include the following:

- Revised purpose and need statement and study area;
- Results of the preliminary alternatives analysis and environmental screening (based on existing data sources and GIS inventories);
- Description of any other factors, besides purpose and need that will be considered in the screening of alternatives, such as cost and environmental factors;
- Revised coordination plan;
- Methodologies to be used to assess impacts and level of detailed required in the analysis of each alternative;
- A summary of all reasonable alternatives to be evaluated and their anticipated effectiveness in addressing the purpose and need of the project, as well as a map showing the location of the project alternatives;

The participating agencies will be given 30 days from receipt of the information to review and provide a response; a reminder will be sent to the agencies 7 days before the end of the review period. At the end of the 30-day period, MoDOT will consider agency input. A request can be made for a 15-day time extension. MoDOT will assume support from those agencies from whom it has not heard at the end of the 30-day period. The output of Collaboration Point 2 should include input from the participating agencies on

- Appropriate impact methodologies to be used and the level of detail required to screen to a preferred alternative;
- The reasonable alternatives to be carried forward into the DEIS;
- Any revisions to the purpose and need statement;
- Any revisions to the coordination plan.

The joint leads will decide on the range of alternatives after considering input from the agencies and the public. The decision by the joint leads on methodologies will be based on collaboration with the participating agencies. These project decisions made by the joint leads are to be made at the

"collaboration point" and are not required to be revisited later in the project if concerns are expressed later on.

4.1.3 Collaboration Point 3 – Preliminary DEIS Document

Based on the output of Collaboration Point 2 and the subsequent detailed investigation of alternatives and analysis of impacts, MoDOT will prepare a Preliminary DEIS document. Cooperating agencies will be sent a copy of the Preliminary DEIS for review. MoDOT will inquire of Participating agencies interest in reviewing and commenting on the Preliminary DEIS document.

The participating agencies wanting to review will be given 30 days from receipt of the document to provide a response; a reminder will be sent to the agencies 7 days before the end of the review period. At the end of the 30-day period, MoDOT will consider agency input. A request can be made for a 15-day time extension.

The output of Collaboration Point 3 should include input on the adequacy of the preliminary draft DEIS. The agencies will be asked to specify whether additional information is needed to fulfill other applicable environmental reviews or consultation requirements. In addition, the participating agencies will specify any additional information needed to comment adequately on the draft DEIS analysis of site-specific effects associated with the granting or approving by the agency of necessary permits, licenses, or entitlements.

Based on the output from this collaboration point, MoDOT will prepare the DEIS for submittal to FHWA. Based on FHWA's approval of the DEIS for circulation, one or more public hearings will be conducted in accordance with NEPA requirements and requirements in the project's Public Involvement Plan. The document will be made available for a minimum 45-day public and agency review period. Substantive comments will be addressed in the FEIS.

4.1.4 FEIS

Based on FHWA's approval of the FEIS, the FEIS will be made available for public and agency review for a minimum of 30 days. This period is the last period during which comments on the environmental evaluation process will be received from the public and agencies. Upon addressing the substantive comments received in the FEIS comment period, MoDOT and FHWA will prepare a request for a Record of Decision (ROD) indicating the Selected Alternative. FHWA approval of the ROD completes the NEPA process for the project.

5.0 SCHEDULE

The anticipated schedule for the completion of the EIS and issuance of a ROD for this project is shown on Page 17. This schedule will be revised/updated as the project moves forward and new information is revealed that may result in schedule adjustments.

6.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

As required by NEPA and by MoDOT's Public Involvement Plan, a project specific plan for public input has been developed and is documented in this overall coordination plan. This plan describes strategies for encouraging public input and describes the opportunities to be provided to the public to encourage early and ongoing involvement in the project development process. As required by SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, the public will be provided opportunities to provide specific input on the Purpose and Need and the range of alternatives. These opportunities will occur in conjunction with public meetings held for the purpose of discussing these specific topics. The Study Team will take comments at any point during the development of the EIS.

6.1 Introduction

The Public Involvement Plan has been prepared for the Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties. The plan documents the approach used by the MoDOT study team for identifying and engaging the communities, officials, local citizens, and other potentially affected interests along the Route 63 corridor through Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties.

The Public Involvement Plan is designed to provide a clear description of how the study team will solicit input, develop two-way communication with the public, document public opinions regarding improvements to the Route 63 corridor within the study area, and achieve informed consent for the study's findings and recommendation. The study area consists of 47-mile stretch of Route 63, from 1/2 mile south of the Routes 50 and 63 junctions to just north of Rolla.

6.2 Affected Interests, Issues and Key Messages

6.2.1 Potentially Affected Interests

The initial stakeholders in the Route 63 Study include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Route 63 Advisory Committee
- Meramec Regional Planning Commission
- Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission
- The communities of Westphalia, Vienna, Vichy, Freeburg

- Business owners
- Residents
- Civic organizations
- Environmental and cultural groups
- State and federal resource agencies
- Area emergency response (fire, police, sheriff, patrol, etc.)

6.2.2 The Route 63 Advisory Committee

The purpose of the committee is to provide more detailed input and comments on the study goals, methodologies, and recommendations. The following is a list of members:

Leonard Weidinger, Resident
P.O. Box 129
Vienna, MO 65582

Richard Spacek, Superintendent
Vienna R-1 School
P.O. Box 218
Vienna, MO 65582

Glenn Dressendofer, Commissioner
Maries County Courthouse
P.O. Box 205
Vienna, MO 65582

Representative Tom Loehner
State Capital Room 403-B
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Bonnie Prigge, Meramec Regional Planning Commission
4 Industrial Drive
St. James, MO 65559

Connie Schmiedeskamp, Resident
12140 Hwy. 63
Vienna, MO 65582

Keith Beck, Resident
305 Hwy. 63

Freeburg, MO 65035

Randy Verkamp, Presiding Commissioner
Phelps County Courthouse
200 North Main
Rolla, MO 65401

Tip Weber, Resident
P.O. Box 158
Westphalia, MO 65085

Richard Cavender, Meramec Regional Planning Commission
4 Industrial Drive
St. James, MO 65559

Russell Scheulen, Presiding Commissioner
Osage County Courthouse
P.O. Box 826
Linn, MO 65051

James Kleffner
12175 Highway 133
Brinktown, MO 65443

Ray Schwartze, Presiding Commissioner
Maries County Courthouse
P.O. Box 205
Vienna, MO 65582

6.2.3 Issues

- Safety
- Access and mobility
- System continuity

6.2.4 Key Messages

There are several key messages that will be emphasized and communicated to the public throughout the study. These messages are intended to support the goals of the Public Involvement Plan:

- MoDOT is conducting this study to evaluate future transportation needs along the 47-mile stretch of Route 63 from ½ mile south of the Routes 50 and 63 junctions to just north of Rolla.

- The study is an objective process to help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve the transportation needs of the area.
- Before a major highway project can be constructed, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the completion of an environmental study.
- This Route 63 Project is important because it includes improvements to a major north-south corridor through the central section of Missouri.
- This study is expected to be complete by Fall 2009.
- There is no funding for construction.
- MoDOT encourages the public's participation and will actively seek out and engage all who may be affected.
- The public has a voice in the decision-making process and MoDOT will listen to and consider all input.

6.3 Public Outreach Activities

6.3.1 Public Meetings and Public Hearing

Three public meetings and one public hearing will be held to communicate study objectives with the public as well as gather comments and recommendations about the study, possible impacts and potential solutions.

The public meetings will be held within the study area. The meetings will be held in an open-house format. Members of the study team will be present to speak one-on-one with meeting attendees. No formal presentations are planned, but meetings could utilize a formal presentation as part of the open-house format if the study team determines this method might best communicate study information to the public.

A summary of the meetings will be prepared following each public meeting. The summary will be posted on the MoDOT Web site and included in the environmental document.

In accordance with NEPA and MoDOT requirements, a public hearing will be held in conjunction with the identification of a preferred alternative and the publication of the Draft EIS. The public hearing will consist of an open-house format and members of the study team will be on hand to meet with the public. The study team will prepare an official transcript of the public hearing.

Notification of the public meetings and the hearing will be accomplished by mailing of the study newsletter, distribution of news releases and/or other materials to appropriate media.

Comment forms will be distributed at each public meeting and at the public hearing to gather written feedback from meeting/hearing attendees. A tape recorder will also be used to record any oral comments from attendees.

6.3.2 Newsletters

Newsletters will be produced and distributed to those included on the study mailing list. Newsletters will be published prior to both the second and third public meetings and prior to the public hearing. A final newsletter will be published and distributed at the end of the study.

6.3.3 The Media

News releases will be distributed to local newspapers, radio stations and television stations serving the study area prior to each public meeting and the public hearing.

The media list includes, but is not limited to, the following media: Belle Banner, Bland Courier, Jefferson City News Tribune, Maries County Gazette, Rolla Daily News, Unterrified Democrat, KMIZ-TV, KMOU-TV, KRCG-TV, KMNR-Radio, KTTR/KZNN – Radio, KJMO/KLIK-Radio, KTXY-Radio.

Display advertisements will also be developed and published in select newspapers prior to each public meeting and the public hearing. Flyers distributed in the study area may also be used. A legal advertisement will be published in select newspapers prior to the hearing.

6.3.4 Web Site

Information about the Route 63 EIS will be included on the MoDOT Web site (www.modot.org). The site will include contact information, a location sketch of the study area, news releases, public meeting displays and handout information.

6.3.5 Contact Information

The study will utilize the MoDOT toll-free phone number, 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636), to allow the public to contact members of the MoDOT study team. The phone number will be included as part of public meeting/hearing handout information, as well as on newsletters, and information sent to news media. The MoDOT Central District mailing address of 1511 Missouri Blvd., P.O. Box 718, Jefferson City, MO 65102 will be used for mailing correspondence.

6.3.6 Public Involvement Log

All public involvement activities will be documented in a log to be maintained by MoDOT. This log will include, but is not limited to, the following:

Purpose and Need Statement

Public Involvement Plan

Correspondence

Public comments

Summaries of public meetings

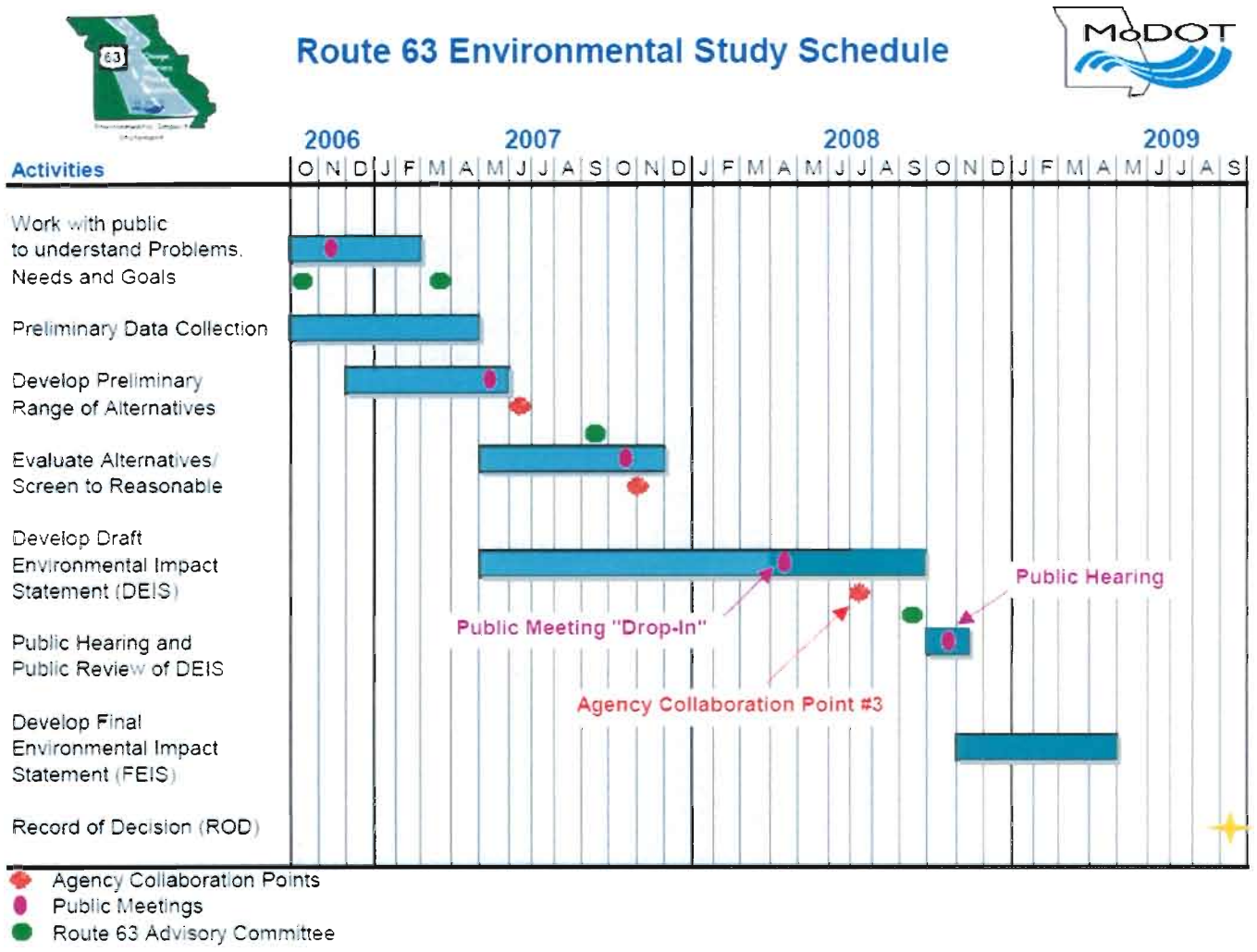
Public meeting/hearing handout materials

Media contacts

7.0 REVISION HISTORY

Identify changes to the Coordination Plan. Note: If a schedule was included in the original coordination plan and it is the item that requires modification, concurrence on the schedule change is required only if the schedule is being shortened and then only from joint lead agencies, not all participating agencies.

Version	Date	Document Name	Revision description and why it was needed.


Route 63 Environmental Study Schedule
MoDOT
2006
2007
2008
2009
Activities
O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S
Work with public to understand Problems, Needs and Goals
Preliminary Data Collection
Develop Preliminary Range of Alternatives
Evaluate Alternatives/ Screen to Reasonable
Develop Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
Public Hearing and Public Review of DEIS
Develop Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
Record of Decision (ROD)
Public Meeting "Drop-In"
Public Hearing
Agency Collaboration Point #3
Agency Collaboration Points
Public Meetings
Route 63 Advisory Committee

Appendix - List of Agencies and Organizations

Type: Cooperating Agency

Mr. Kenny Pointer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jefferson City RO
221 Bolivar, Ste. 103
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Joe Cothern
NEPA Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Type: Participating Agency

Mr. Charlie Scott
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A
Columbia, Missouri 65203-0057

Mr. Roger Hansen
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Parkade Center, Suite 250
601 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, Missouri 65203-2546

Mr. Doyle Brown, Policy Coordinator
Missouri Department of Conservation
2901 West Truman Boulevard
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Ms. Jane Beetem
Office of the Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
205 Jefferson Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Mr. Randy Scrivner
FM&M Branch Manager
State Emergency Management Agency
2302 Militia Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Type: Non-Governmental Organizations

(Library repository(ies), and private organizations and individuals who have shown an interest.)

Table 2 Coordination Tracking	**Agency(ies) Responsible**	**Completion Date**
Project Initiation letter to FHWA	MoDOT	September 14, 2006
Notice of Intent published in Federal Register	FHWA MoDOT	November 29, 2006
Invitation letter sent to cooperating and participating agencies	MoDOT	January 18, 2007
Purpose and Need	MoDOT FHWA	Draft approved January, 2007
Reasonable Range of Alternatives	FHWA MoDOT Participating agencies Public	December, 2007
Socioeconomic and environmental impacts	FHWA MoDOT	September 2007 – May 2008
Identify Preferred Alternative	FHWA MoDOT	

Table 2 Coordination Tracking	Agency(ies) Responsible	Completion Date
Circulation of DEIS	FHWA MoDOT	
Circulation of FEIS	FHWA MoDOT	
Issue ROD	FHWA MoDOT	
Issue Section 404 Permit	USACE	

Agenda
Agency Scoping Meeting
Route 63; Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties
Environmental Impact Statement/Location Study
February 27, 2007

1. Introduction of Route 63 Corridor

2. Overview of Draft Purpose and Need

3. Environmental Setting
   - Natural Environment
   - Cultural Resources

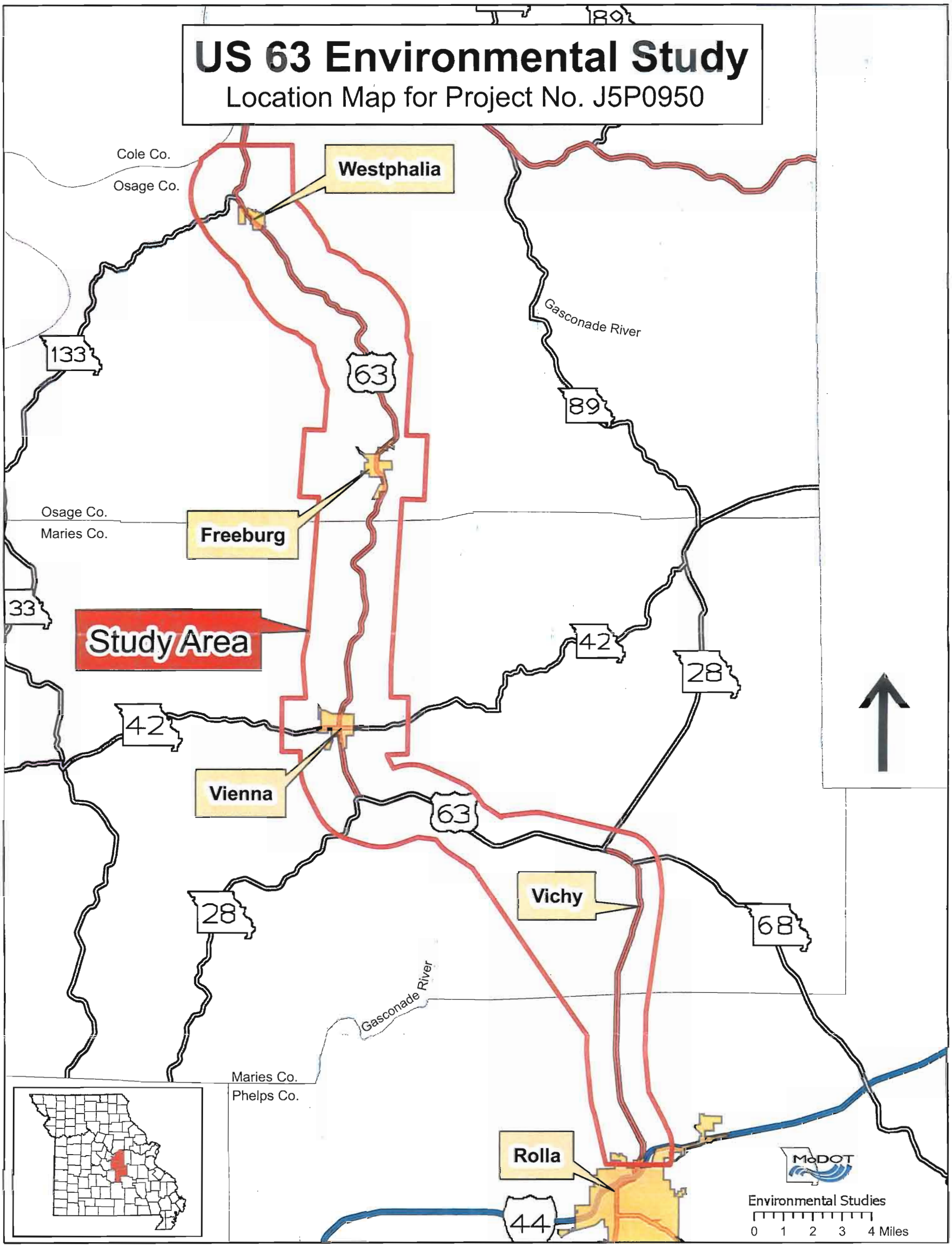
4. Agency Coordination and Coordination Plan
   - Participating Agencies
   - Cooperating Agencies

6. Community Involvement

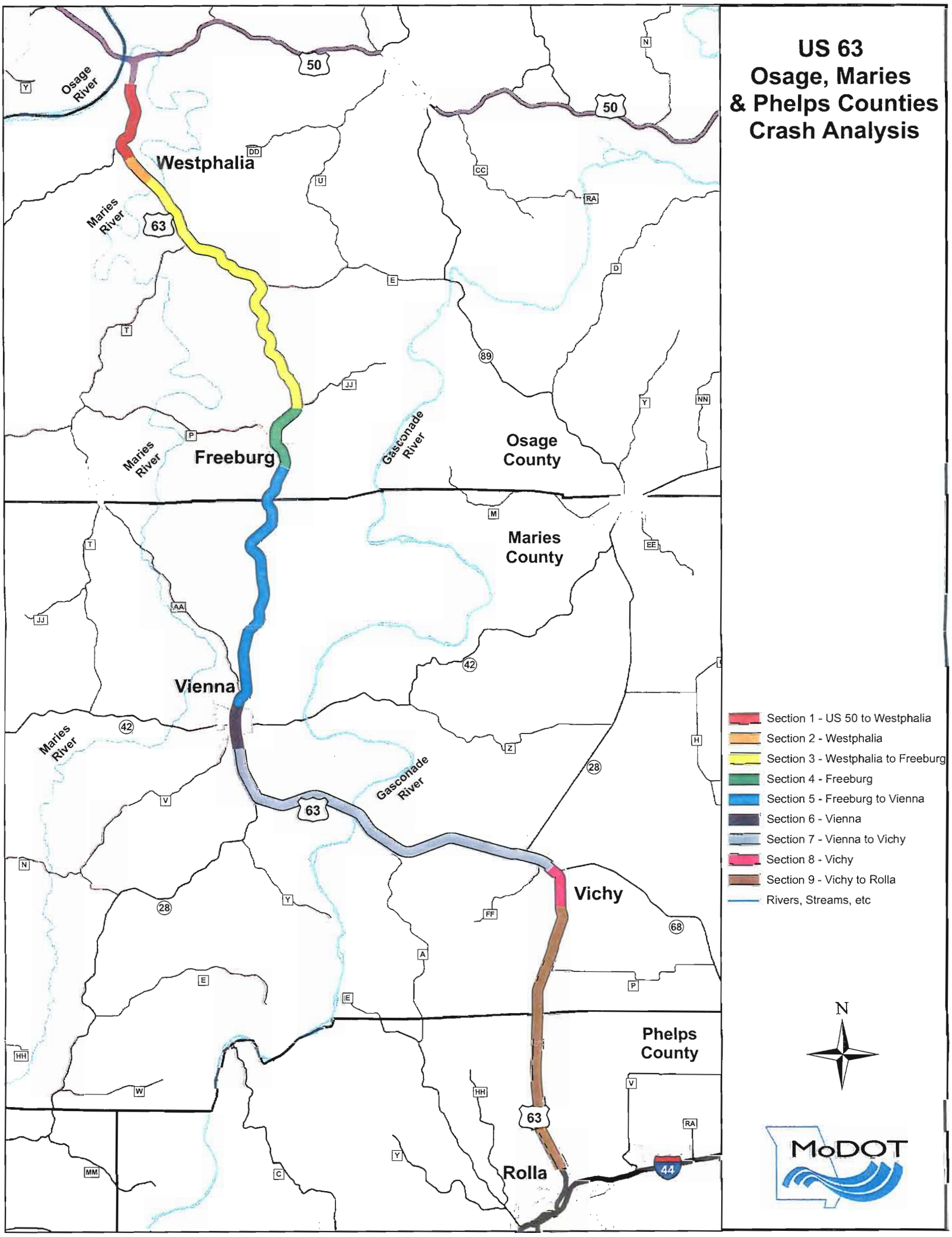
7. Open Discussion

US 63 Environmental Study

Location Map for Project No. J5P0950



US 63
Osage, Maries & Phelps Counties Crash Analysis



Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

Pete K. Rahn, Director

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

July 12, 2007

Jane Beetem
Office of the Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
205 Jefferson Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Ms. Beetem:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a lead agency with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Route 63 transportation needs in Osage County, Maries County, and Phelps County, Missouri. The project limits are south of the Route 63/Route 50 intersection, southward to a point in Phelps County, south of the Maries County Line, where roadway improvements already exist. The total length of the project is approximately 50 miles. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety conditions on Route 63, improve the traffic flow on Route 63, and improve the Route 63 north/south corridor. The potential improvements will address safety, roadway capacity, roadway deficiencies, congestion, transportation system linkages, and multi-modal transportation systems.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project to assist us in the planning process and provide information on rare, threatened and endangered species in the project area, aquatic or terrestrial resources, and/or hazardous waste/petroleum sites. With this letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a participating agency with the FHWA in the development of the EIS for the subject project. This designation does not hold your agency responsible to either support the proposal or does not require that you have legal jurisdiction or any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

As you may be aware in Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficiency Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

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3) Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

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Enclosed you will find a project location map and a tentative agenda for the scoping meeting. If you have questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please contact me at 573-526-6676.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

Missouri
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of Transportation

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Fax (573) 751-6555
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Pete K. Rahn, Director

July 12, 2007

Charlie Scott
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A
Columbia, Missouri 65203-0057

Dear Mr. Scott:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

Missouri
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July 12, 2007

John Hoskins
Missouri Department of Conservation
2901 West Truman Boulevard
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Dear Mr. Hoskins:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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Pete K. Rahn, Director

July 12, 2007

Joseph Hughes, OD-R
Regulatory Branch Chief, Room 7046
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
700 Federal Building
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

Missouri
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of Transportation

Pete K. Rahn, Director

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July 12, 2007

Richard Hainye
Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
2323 Grand Boulevard, Suite 900
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2670

Dear Mr. Hainye:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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July 12, 2007

Joe Cothern
NEPA Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. Cothern:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
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Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 18, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Weibusch:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
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Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Columbia Ecological Services Field Office
101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A
Columbia, Missouri 65203-0057
Phone: (573) 234-2132 Fax: (573) 234-2181

August 15, 2007

Mr. Matt Burcham, Senior Environmental Specialist
Missouri Department of Transportation
105 West Capitol Ave.
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Burcham:

This responds to your letter dated June 4, 2007, regarding the potential impacts of the proposed Route 63 EIS Study on species Federally listed, proposed for Federal listing, and candidate species occurring in Osage, Maries, and Phelps Counties, Missouri. In addition your project was evaluated with respect to wetlands and other important fish and wildlife habitat.

It is our understanding that the primary purpose of the Route 63 project is to improve the operational efficiency and safety of the existing roadway for both through and local traffic. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has provided the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with several maps of preliminary alternative routes, including the existing alignment as a viable alternative.

Our data indicates that the following species may occur in the project area:

(1) Listed Species:
Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) (see below for more information)
Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*)
Running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) (see below for more information)
Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) (see below for more information)
Niangua darter (*Etheostoma nianguae*)
Pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*)
Scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*)

(2) Candidate species:
Spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*)

Inasmuch as distributional information on many rare species is incomplete or imprecise, it is not currently possible to provide definitive information on the Indiana bat. Therefore, in situations such as this, where an endangered species is known to occupy similar habitats (forested and

riparian habitat), we recommend that a qualified (permitted) biologist complete habitat suitability surveys, and then mist-netting and acoustic surveys in good to optimal habitat for Indiana bats. Please contact Theresa Davidson (505-761-4768) for more information on bat surveys. If Indiana bats are captured or detected during survey efforts, please contact this office for informal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

There is incomplete information on the occurrence of the of the Hine's emerald dragonfly within the project area. If fens or similar wetland habitats exist within the project area, we recommend that a qualified (permitted) biologist complete surveys for this species. We recommend that a survey for running buffalo clover be conducted by a qualified (permitted) botanist during the proper season within any disturbed bottomland wetland meadows in the project area. Please contact Dr. Paul McKenzie (573-234-2132 ext. 107) for more information on proper survey methods for the Hine's emerald dragonfly and running buffalo clover.

In addition to the Maries River and Gasconade River, there are many wetlands within the project area. The Service recommends that the project be designed to avoid construction in these sensitive areas. These areas may provide habitat for one or more of the aquatic species listed above. In those instances where the impacts to sensitive habitats cannot be avoided or minimized, we recommend that MoDOT work with the Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, and other resource agencies in developing measures to compensate for the loss of these habitats. From the maps provided, it appears that segments 5, 6, 37, 48, and 51 will have the most potential for adverse impacts to stream and wetland resources. We recommend selecting one of the alternative alignments in these areas; we particularly suggest using the current alignment in as many sensitive areas as possible.

Forest fragmentation and permanent removal of forested habitat impacts many wildlife species, including migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. We recommend clearing the minimum amount of forest necessary for the project. With the exception of the current alignment, it appears that all proposed preliminary segments will impact some forested habitat.

If you have any questions regarding the species list or the recommendations listed above, please contact Theresa Davidson (505-761-4768). Thank you for including the Service in the early planning efforts for this project.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Scott
Field Supervisor

Cc: Theresa Davidson, USFWS/ES, Albuquerque, NM
Paul McKenzie, USFWS, Columbia, MO

O:\STAFF Folders\Davidson\FY07Actions\Rt63 EIS Study Species List.doc

Missouri
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105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 18, 2007

Roger Connell
Floodplain Management Officer
State Emergency Management Agency
2302 Militia Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Connell:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 19, 2007

Charlie Scott
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A
Columbia, Missouri 65203-0057

Dear Mr. Scott:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

Missouri
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Pete K. Rahn, Director

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
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January 19, 2007

John Hoskins
Missouri Department of Conservation
2901 West Truman Boulevard
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Dear Mr. Hoskins:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 19, 2007

Joseph Hughes, OD-R
Regulatory Branch Chief, Room 7046
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
700 Federal Building
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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P.O. Box 270
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(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 19, 2007

Roger A. Hansen
State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Parkade Center, Suite 250
601 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, Missouri 65203-2546

Dear Mr. Hansen:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 19, 2007

Richard Hainye
Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
2323 Grand Boulevard, Suite 900
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2670

Dear Mr. Hainye:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
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cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 19, 2007

Joe Cothern
NEPA Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. Cothern:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
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Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

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Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 18, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Weibusch:

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Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

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2) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

3) Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please respond to MoDOT in writing with an acceptance or denial of the participation invitation prior to February 19, 2007. If your agency declines, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline the invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state in the response that it:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

Your agency is invited to attend a project scoping meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007. The meeting will be held in the MoDOT District 5 Headquarters office, which is located at 1511 Missouri Boulevard in Jefferson City. The meeting will start at 12:30pm and is scheduled to end around 2:30pm. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Enclosed you will find a project location map and a tentative agenda for the scoping meeting. If you have questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please contact me at 573-526-6676.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA

Osage, Maries, Phelps
Route 63
JSP0950

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
STATE REGULATORY PROGRAM OFFICE - MISSOURI
221 BOLIVAR STREET, SUITE 103
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

FILE COPY

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

March 12, 2007

Missouri State Regulatory Office
(2007-171)

Missouri Department of Transportation
Attn: Nicole Hood
1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Hood,

This is in response to the February 27, 2007 meeting on the Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in which comments were requested on the draft of Chapter 1 that was distributed during the meeting. We have reviewed the draft of Chapter 1 and recommend that the specific purpose and need statement for the EIS be identified under its own heading instead of the format of a response to a question as it is presented on page 4 of the draft.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to write or call me at 573-634-2248 extension 3833.

Sincerely,

Kenny Pointer
Regulatory Project Manager
Missouri State Regulatory Office

Route 63/ Osage, Maries, Phelps, JSP0950

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

FILE COPY

0 1 MAR 2007

RECEIVED
MAR 0 5 2007
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION
MO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Gayle A Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Unruh:

RE: Participating Agency Request for the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7, will accept your invitation to be a participating agency in the preparation of an environmental impact statement for the U.S. Route 63 improvements in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties, Missouri.

As a participating agency, we will be happy to work with you to share our expertise and information that is available for the project area. We also look forward to participating in the coordination meetings and providing comments as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 913-551-7148 or cothern.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Joseph Cothern

Joseph Cothern
NEPA Team Leader
Environmental Services Division

RECYCLE
PAPER CONTAINS RECYCLED FIBERS

FILE COPY

STATE OF MISSOURI

Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

www.dnr.mo.gov

Osage, Maries, Phelps
Route 63
JSP0950

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2007
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION
MO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

February 20, 2007

Ms. Gayle Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Ms. Unruh:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources accepts the invitation from the Missouri Department of Transportation to act as a Participating Agency on development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for U.S. Route 63. This project is expected to extend approximately 50 miles south from Route 50 to the north edge of Rolla, Missouri.

The department understands that as a Participating Agency, we will work to

(1) provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need for the project, the range of alternatives for consideration, as well as methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis;
(2) participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate; and
(3) provide timely review and comment on environmental documents developed during this process. Such comments will include any concerns the department may have regarding the adequacy of the documents, the alternatives considered, and anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Thank you for inviting the department to participate in this process. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

H. Floyd Gilzow
Deputy Director for Policy

HFG:dbj

Recycled Paper

Osage, Maries, Phelps
Route 63
JSP0950

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District

1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2832
Staff Symbol: dwb
Phone: (314)269-2378
Fax: (314)269-2737
Email:

16591.1/Route 63
February 6, 2007

FILE COPY

RECEIVED
FEB 13 2007
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION
MO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Gayle Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager
Missouri Department of Transportation
105 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 62102

Subj: ROUTE 63 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dear Ms. Unruh:

Please refer to your letter of January 18, 2007. We have determined that pursuant to the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1982, the subject project does not involve bridges over navigable waters of the United States. Therefore, a Coast Guard bridge permit is not required for this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the project.

Sincerely,

ROGER K. WIEBUSCH
Bridge Administrator
By direction of the District Commander

Osage, Maries, Phelps
Route 63
JSP0950

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
700 FEDERAL BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106-2896

FILE COPY

February 5, 2007

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Regulatory Branch
(2007-171)

Missouri Department of Transportation
Attn: Gayle Unruh
105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Unruh,

This is in response to the Missouri Department of Transportation's January 18, 2007,invitation regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Route 63 in Osage County, Maries County, and Phelps County, Missouri. The Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers agrees to be a cooperating agency on the preparation of the Route 63 EIS with the Federal Highway Administration serving as the lead federal agency. Please direct any correspondence and information on meeting dates for the EIS to Kenny Pointer of our Missouri State Regulatory Office in Jefferson City.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to write or call me at 816-389-3664.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Frazier
Chief, Regulatory Branch
Operations Division

FILE COPY

STATE OF MISSOURI
Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
www.dnr.mo.gov

July 17, 2007

Mr. Matt Burcham
Missouri Department of Transportation
105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: Route 63 EIS, Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties, Missouri
Job Number: J5P0950

Dear Mr. Burcham:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (department) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the first portion of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project at the first collaboration point in the document development process.

The Purpose and Need chapter appears to adequately address the need for transportation improvements in the project area. We note one error in table 1 of the Coordination Plan. The title of the contact person listed for the department (Jane Beetem) should be "Transportation Coordinator."

The department is moving toward providing data on environmental resources related to transportation projects in electronic format, so that the document preparers can more easily access the data. We continue to work on this approach and will provide your agency with an electronic version of this data and information as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or need clarification, please contact me or Ms. Jane Beetem, phone number 573-751-3195. Her address for correspondence is Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

H. Floyd Gilzow
Deputy Director for Policy

HFG:jbj

Recycled Paper

Rte. 63, 35P0450
Osage/Maries

FILE COPY

Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT
07/12/2007 01:31 PM

To Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT@MODOT, Alan Leary/SC/MODOT@MODOT, Kelly R Cox/SC/MODOT@MODOT
cc Cindy L Kremer/D5/MODOT@MODOT
bcc
Subject Fw: Route 63 EIS First Collaboration Point Comments

fyi - Cindy Kremer and I left a voice mail to Doyle letting him know that he did not send the shape files.

Matt
----- Forwarded by Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT on 07/12/2007 01:29 PM -----

"Doyle Brown" <Doyle.Brown@mdc.mo.gov>
07/12/2007 01:03 PM

To <Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov>
cc
Subject Re: Route 63 EIS First Collaboration Point Comments

Matt,

I did not get to read the document through a second time, however you appear to cover the issues and present an adequate range of alternatives. I do need to remind you about MDC concerns about the watershed area of the Maries River considered as a Conservation Opportunity Area. Did I send you the shape files?

However, great read and the chapter appeared to cover the scope.

Doyle

Doyle F. Brown
Policy Coordinator
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
2901 West Truman Blvd.5
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 522-4115 Ext 3355
Doyle.brown@mdc.mo.gov

>>> <Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov> 07/09/07 10:32 AM >>>

Mr. Brown;
This is a reminder that your input on the Route 63 EIS preliminary alternatives and the documents sent on June 4, is very valuable to the study. It will help us to determine a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed for the rest of the study. We ask for your input by July 13, 2007. If you would like to meet with the study team to discuss concerns, we would be glad to

arrange a suitable time. If any specific assistance is needed, please contact me at (573) 526-6679.

Sincerely,

Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist

Letters: P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Parcels: 1320 Creek Trail Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri

Rt. 63, JSP0950, Osage/Maries

FILE COPY

Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT
07/12/2007 01:12 PM

To Nicole A Hood/D5/MODOT@MODOT, Kevin Mchugh/SC/MODOT@MODOT, Kelly R Cox/SC/MODOT@MODOT
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Route 63 EIS First Collaboration Point Comments

fyi - a response from SEMA.

Matt
----- Forwarded by Matthew L Burcham/SC/MODOT on 07/12/2007 01:11 PM -----

"Jason Schneider" <Jason.Schneider@sema.dps.mo.gov>
07/11/2007 09:05 AM

To <Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov>
cc "RANDY SCRIVNER" <RANDY.SCRIVNER@sema.dps.mo.gov>
Subject Re: Route 63 EIS First Collaboration Point Comments

Mr. Burcham

The State Emergency Management Agency has reviewed the Route 63 EIS preliminary alternatives and the documents. At this time we have no specific concerns that would effect which alternative is selected. SEMA only input would be that a permit would need to be completed for each location in which work is being done in the 100 year floodplain. If you have any further question please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Jason Schneider
Floodplain Management Engineer
State Emergency Management Agency
jason.schneider@sema.dps.mo.gov
phone (573) 526-9119

>>> <Matthew.Burcham@modot.mo.gov> 7/9/2007 10:48 AM >>>
Mr. Scrivner;
This is a reminder that your input on the Route 63 EIS preliminary alternatives and the documents sent on June 4, is very valuable to the

study. It will help us to determine a reasonable range of alternatives to
be analyzed for the rest of the study. We ask for your input by July 13,
2007. If you would like to meet with the study team to discuss concerns,
we would be glad to arrange a suitable time. If any specific assistance
is needed, please contact me at (573) 526-6679.

Sincerely,

Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist

Letters: P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Parcels: 1320 Creek Trail Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri

Osage/Maries/Phelps
J6P0950
Rte. 63

Missouri Department of Transportation

Roger Schwartze, District Engineer

Central District
1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3322
fax (573) 522-1059
Toll free 1-888 ASK MoDOT
www.modot.org

July 6, 2007

FILE COPY

Honorable Leslie Darr
City of Vienna
P.O. Box 196
Vienna, Missouri 65582

Dear Ms. Darr:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Route 63 transportation needs in Osage, Maries, and Phelps Counties, Missouri. The project limits extend from ½ mile south of the Route 50/63 junction to just north of Rolla, where roadway improvements already exist. The total length of the project is approximately 50 miles. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety, traffic flow and continuity on the north/south corridor. The potential improvements will address safety, roadway capacity, roadway deficiencies, congestion, transportation system linkages and multi-modal transportation systems.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project to assist us in the planning process and provide input during the study. With this letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a participating agency with the FHWA and MoDOT in the development of the EIS for the subject project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

Pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficiency Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1) Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

3) Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please respond in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation prior to July 31, 2007. If you have questions or would like to meet and discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please contact Nicole Kolb Hood at 573-526-6997.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Nicole Kolb Hood

Nicole Kolb Hood
Transportation Project Manager

Osage/Maries/[illegible] pg. 63, [illegible]

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Area Office, 1911 Boggs Creek Road, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Phone: 573 761-3105 Ext. 5

FILE COPY

June 15, 2007

RECEIVED
JUN 18 2007
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION
MO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist
Missouri Department of Transportation
105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Burcham,

This letter is in response to your invitation for input on preliminary alternatives for the Route 63 EIS Study, South of Routes 50/63 to North of Rolla.

Any large construction undertaking requires erosion control measures on the site, and protection of water quality in the affected watershed(s). Our agency can provide expertise and consultation for special situations that may be encountered. Each of the proposed corridor segments will take farmland out of production. Segments 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11 will involve prime farmland. NRCS can provide FPPA evaluations after proposed rights-of-way are established.

This is obviously a very technically complex project. Since our offices are both in Jefferson City, I will make myself available for whatever consultations you may need. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Keith Davis

Keith Davis
Area Resource Soil Scientist

Cc: Leslie Michael, Area Conservationist
Dennis Potter, State Soil Scientist

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

Pete K. Rahn, Director

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

June 4, 2007

Mr. Randy Scrivner
FM&M Branch Manager
State Emergency Management Agency
2303 Militia Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

LE C

Re: Route 63 EIS, South of Routes 50/63 to North of Rolla
Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties, Missouri
Job Number: J5P0950
First Collaboration Point

Dear Mr. Scrivner,

The enclosed information for the first collaboration point for the Route 63 EIS Study is provided for your input at this juncture in the study. This information consists of maps displaying the preliminary alternatives developed to improve Route 63, the purpose and need and coordination plan documents for the study. We ask for your review and input, which will help us consider the effects of the proposed action that would affect the quality of the human and natural environment.

The preliminary alternative corridors on new location are 750 feet wide. These corridors were developed taking into account known environmental and historic data, and engineering considerations such as terrain and logical river crossing locations. Existing Route 63 is a preliminary alternative being considered as a solution. The corridor width for the existing Route 63 alternative is 300 feet wide. If you would like to view them in an electronic form, where areas of interest can be zoomed into for more detail, they can be found at the web site address http://www.modot.org/central/.

Public input gathered during the public meetings will also be considered while screening preliminary alternatives to a reasonable range. The public meetings were held in Westphalia and Vienna in November 2006 and May 2007. Comment summaries from the public meetings can be found at the same web site as above.

Your input on the preliminary alternatives and the documents is very valuable to the study. It will help us to determine a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed for the rest of the study. We ask for your input by July 13, 2007. If you would like to meet with the study team to discuss concerns, we would be glad to arrange a suitable time. If any specific assistance is needed, please contact me at (573) 526-6679.

Sincerely,

Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist

Enclosures: (1) Preliminary Alternative maps
(2) Route 63 Purpose and Need
(3) Route 63 Coordination Plan

JSP0950
63 EIS
Osage/Maries/Phelps

City of Vienna

424 Eighth Street
P.O. Box 196
Vienna, Missouri 65582-0196
Ph. (573) 422-3549 Fax (573) 422-611

	Init	Copy	Assigned
DIST ENGINEER	✓	RAS	
ASST DIST ENG	✓	PBS	
DE - MAIN			
DE - CONST/MTLS			
AE - COLUMBIA			
AE - JEFF CITY			
AE - CAMDENTON			
PROJECT MGRS			✓
DESIGN			
PLANNING			
RIGHT OF WAY			
TRAFFIC			
LEGAL			
PUBLIC AFFAIRS			
GEN SERVICES			
SUPPORT SERV			
HUMAN RES			
BUS & BENEFITS			
INFORMATION SYS			
RISK MANAGEMENT			
CIRCULATE			
COPY ALL			

May 24, 2007

FILE COPY

MoDOT
1511 Missouri Blvd
PO Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: US Route 63 Environmental Study

The City Council of Vienna, Missouri expresses their opinion that Hwy. 63 should NOT by pass Vienna.

The City depends on its 1 cent sales tax and ½ cent transportation sales tax to fund 38% of the revenue for the General Fund and 45% of the revenue for the Street Fund.

Anyone associated with business economics knows the location of a business is its most valuable asset. To relocate Hwy 63 east or west of the city would be a crush to our sales tax revenue. We cannot afford to loose revenue.

Please consider our plea to improve the highway through Vienna but follow the existing alignment.

Sincerely,

Leslie S. Darr, Jr.

Leslie S. Darr, Jr., Mayor
Kevin Ousley, Alderman
Laura Stratman, Alderwoman
Rita Juergens, Alderwoman
Carol Miller, Alderwoman

Cc: Representative Tom Loehner
Senator Frank Barnitz

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

Pete K. Rahn, Director

FILE COPY

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

December 7, 2007

Mr. Joe Cothern
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 66101

Re: Route 63 EIS, South of Routes 50/63 to North of Rolla
Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties, Missouri
Job Number: J5P0950
Second Collaboration Point

Dear Ms. Cothern,

The enclosed information for the second collaboration point for the Route 63 EIS Study is provided for your input at this juncture in the study. A preliminary alternatives analysis was conducted from which MoDOT has determined a reasonable range of alternatives to be evaluated in the Draft EIS.

The reasonable alternative corridors on new location are 750 feet wide. These corridors were determined to be reasonable by taking into account the purpose and need, known environmental and historic data, public and resource agency involvement and engineering considerations such as terrain and logical river crossing locations. After the preliminary alternatives screening analysis, only limited sections of Existing Route 63 are considered as parts of a reasonable alternative. The corridor width for these sections is 300 feet. If you would like to view them in an electronic form, where areas of interest can be zoomed into for more detail, they can be found at the web site address http://www.modot.org/central/.

Also included are the impact assessment methodologies for this project. This document outlines the method for completing the work that will be presented in the DEIS. This document is for your review and information.

Your input on the reasonable range of alternatives and the impact assessment methodologies is very valuable to the study. It will help us determine a preferred alternative. We ask for your input no later than January 11, 2008. If you would like to meet with the study team to discuss concerns, we would be glad to arrange a suitable time. If any specific assistance is needed, please contact me at (573) 526-6679.

Sincerely,

Matt Burcham
Senior Environmental Specialist

Enclosures: (1) Reasonable Alternative maps
(2) Impact Assessment Methodologies

Nicole Hood

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

September 14, 2006

Mr. Allen Masuda, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
3220 W. Edgewood
Suite H
Jefferson City, MO 65109

FILE COPY

Dear Mr. Masuda,

Subject: EIS Notification
Route 63
Osage, Maries, and Phelps Counties
Job No. J5P0950

The intent of this letter is to notify FHWA about an upcoming project and to request that FHWA initiate the environmental review process. The project is located on Route 63, starting approximately 0.5 mi south of the Route 63/50 intersection in Osage County and terminates in Phelps County approximately 5.0 miles south of the Maries County line. The goal of this project is to complete an upgrade to Route 63, which is a major north-south roadway in Missouri, and to improve safety conditions along this predominately hilly and curvy facility. This project will also alleviate some congestion problems associated with some of the smaller communities along Route 63 and provide adequate access for future economic development. The total length of the project will be dependent upon which alternate is selected and approved. The length from the northern to southern termini points is approximately 47 miles; however, given the geographic location of the project, the overall length could exceed 50 miles.

Given the topography of the project area, it is anticipated that a Section 404 permit will be required. Potential participating agencies include the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

Sincerely,

Kevin Keith, P.E.
Chief Engineer

kc

Osage/Maries/Phelps
Route 63
JSP0950

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

Roger Schwartze, District Engineer

Central District
1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3322
fax (573) 522-1059
Toll free 1-888 ASK MoDOT
www.modot.org

November 9, 2006

FILE COPY

The Honorable Russell Scheulen
Presiding Commissioner
Osage County Courthouse
P.O. Box 826
Linn, MO 65051

Dear Commissioner Scheulen,

Enclosed are the minutes from our first Route 63 Advisory Committee meeting and a copy of the presentation I presented to the group.

Once I have summarized the comments from our first public meetings scheduled for November 14th and 16th, I plan to schedule a meeting with the advisory committee to share the public's comments and discuss the next steps involved with the study.

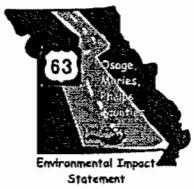
I look forward to working with you on this environmental and location study. Please feel free to call me anytime at (573) 526-6997 or 1 888 ASK MODOT with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Nicole Kolb Hood

Nicole Kolb Hood
Transportation Project Manager
Central District

Enclosures



Route 63 Environmental and Location Study
Osage/Maries/Phelps Counties

DATE: November 6, 2006

SUBJECT: Route 63 Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Maries County Courthouse

ATTENDANCE: Stephen (Tip) Weber, Randy Verkamp, Keith Beck, Connie Schmiedeskamp, Bonnie Prigge, James Kleffner, Decky Finn, Glenn Dressendofer, Richard Spacek, Roger Schwartze, Nicole Kolb Hood

Absent: Russell Scheulen, Leonard Weidinger

I. The meeting started with introductions. Roger then welcomed and thanked everyone for his or her participation on the advisory committee.

II. Roger explained the purpose of the Route 63 Advisory Committee. In essence, the group will be used as a "sounding board" during the study. Prior to the pubic meetings, MoDOT will ask them for input and comments regarding the information being presented to the public. After the public meetings, we will share the public's comments with them and ask for their feedback and guidance throughout the study.

III. Nicole did a presentation giving a basic understanding of an environmental and location study. She discussed the purpose and need of the Route 63 study, and highlighted some of the possible options that could result from the study.

The presentation also discussed the time, location and purpose of the upcoming public information meetings. Roger and Nicole shared some of the displays for the first meetings and asked the committee for any comments or suggestions they may have. The following were comments from the committee:

1) Decky asked for some more detail on the possible options,
2) Tip asked about the growth in traffic,
3) James asked about the percentage of truck traffic.

Due to the above comments, we have since estimated an approximate cost per mile for the possible options and will include this with the displays. We will also display the growth in traffic for the last ten years and the percentage of truck traffic on the Route 63 corridor.

IV. The group ended the meeting with general discussion regarding the study.

[Federal Register: November 29, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 229)]
[Notices]
[Page 69178-69179]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr29no06-102]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Osage, Maries, and Phelps Counties, MO

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

[[Page 69179]]

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for proposed improvements along U.S. 63 between the U.S. 63 and U.S. 50 interchange in Osage County to a point in Phelps County, south of the Maries County Line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Ridgeway, Environmental Review Engineer, FHWA Division Office, 3220 West Edgewood, Suite H, Jefferson City, MO 65109, Telephone: (573) 638-2620 or Mr. Dave Nichols, Director of Project Development, Missouri Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102, Telephone: (573) 751-4586.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), will prepare an EIS for a proposal for improvements along U.S. 63 between the U.S. 63 and U.S. 50 interchange in Osage County to a point in Phelps County, south of the Maries County line. A location study will run concurrently with the preparation of the EIS and will provide definitive reasonable alternatives for evaluation in the EIS. The proposed action will accomplish several goals: (1) Improve safety, (2) decrease congestion, and (3) support community regional development.

The proposed project will include improvements to be located within a study area defined by existing improvements just south of the U.S. 63 and U.S. 50 interchange on the north in Osage County and existing improved roadway facility in Phelps County, south of the Maries County line. The east and west boundaries will extend approximately 1 to 2 miles on either side of existing U.S. 63. The study area is approximately 1 to 2 miles on either side of existing U.S. 63. The study area is approximately 50 miles in length and 2 miles in width. Known potential impacts include residential and/or commercial relocations and access changes. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 104 permit and a floodplain development permit from the State Emergency Management Agency may be required.

Alternatives under consideration included (1) No build, (2) build

alternatives, (3) transportation system management options.

To date, substantial preliminary coordination has occurred with local officials. As part of the scoping process, an interagency coordination meeting will be held with all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. In addition, public information meetings and further meetings with public officials will be held to solicit public and agency input on the reasonable range of alternatives. A location public hearing will be held to present the findings of the Draft EIS. Public notice will be given announcing the time and place of all public meetings and the public hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or MoDOT at the addresses previously provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: November 20, 2006.

Mary Ridgeway,

Environmental Review Engineer, Jefferson City.

[FR Doc. 06-9449 Filed 11-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-27-M

Osage/Maries/Phelps, Route 63
J5P0950

Missouri
Department
of Transportation

MoDOT

105 West Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-2551
Fax (573) 751-6555
www.modot.org

Pete K. Rahn, Director

January 19, 2007

FILE COPY

Jane Beetem
Office of the Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
205 Jefferson Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Ms. Beetem:

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on the U.S. Route 63 EIS
Invitation to Project Scoping Meeting

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a lead agency with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Route 63 transportation needs in Osage County, Maries County, and Phelps County, Missouri. The project limits are south of the Route 63/Route 50 intersection, southward to a point in Phelps County, south of the Maries County Line, where roadway improvements already exist. The total length of the project is approximately 50 miles. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety conditions on Route 63, improve the traffic flow on Route 63, and improve the Route 63 north/south corridor. The potential improvements will address safety, roadway capacity, roadway deficiencies, congestion, transportation system linkages, and multi-modal transportation systems.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project to assist us in the planning process and provide information on rare, threatened and endangered species in the project area, aquatic or terrestrial resources, and/or hazardous waste/petroleum sites. With this letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a participating agency with the FHWA in the development of the EIS for the subject project. This designation does not hold your agency responsible to either support the proposal or does not require that you have legal jurisdiction or any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

As you may be aware in Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficiency Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1) Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2) Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

3) Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Please respond to MoDOT in writing with an acceptance or denial of the participation invitation prior to February 19, 2007. If your agency declines, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline the invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state in the response that it:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

Your agency is invited to attend a project scoping meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007. The meeting will be held in the MoDOT District 5 Headquarters office, which is located at 1511 Missouri Boulevard in Jefferson City. The meeting will start at 12:30pm and is scheduled to end around 2:30pm. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Enclosed you will find a project location map and a tentative agenda for the scoping meeting. If you have questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please contact me at 573-526-6676.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Gayle A. Unruh
Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager

Enc
cc Peggy Casey - FHWA