

APPENDIX B
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
AND
MEETINGS



U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement

Study Purpose

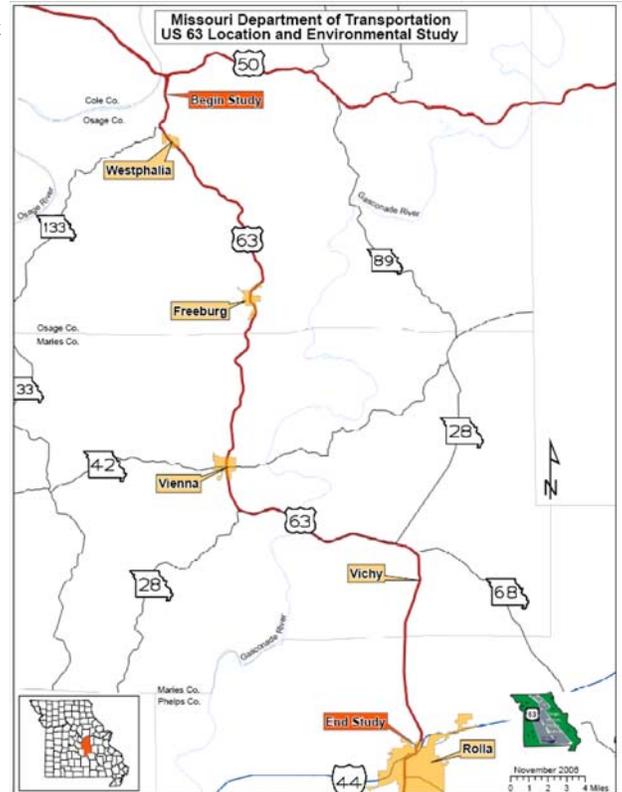
Welcome to the first issue of the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about progress related to the MoDOT's environmental and location study of U.S. Route 63 in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties.

This study is being conducted to evaluate current and potential future transportation needs along a 47-mile stretch of U.S. Route 63, from 1/2 mile south of the Route 50/63 junction to just north of Rolla. The study objectives include improving safety, traffic flow, and continuity on the north/south corridor.

This particular environmental study is known as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It is required by the Federal Highway Administration under the National Environmental Policy Act before a major highway project can be constructed. An EIS is an objective process to help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve the transportation needs of the area.

Study recommendations come from technical analysis combined with public insights and preferences. Solutions will be developed to balance community needs with technical and regulatory constraints such as cost, feasibility and environmental protection.

The U.S. Route 63 EIS study will be completed in the fall of 2009. Currently, there is no funding for construction or acquisition of right of way for this project.



Second Round of Public Meetings Scheduled

Please join us for the second round of open-house public meetings on May 1 and 2 from 4-7 p.m. See back page for meeting details. After the first round of meetings in November, the study team conducted further analysis. The team examined what realistic options, if any, might address the needs. This included reviewing technical data and public input. A range of alternative alignments that potentially address the study's purpose and need will be shared at the upcoming public meetings.



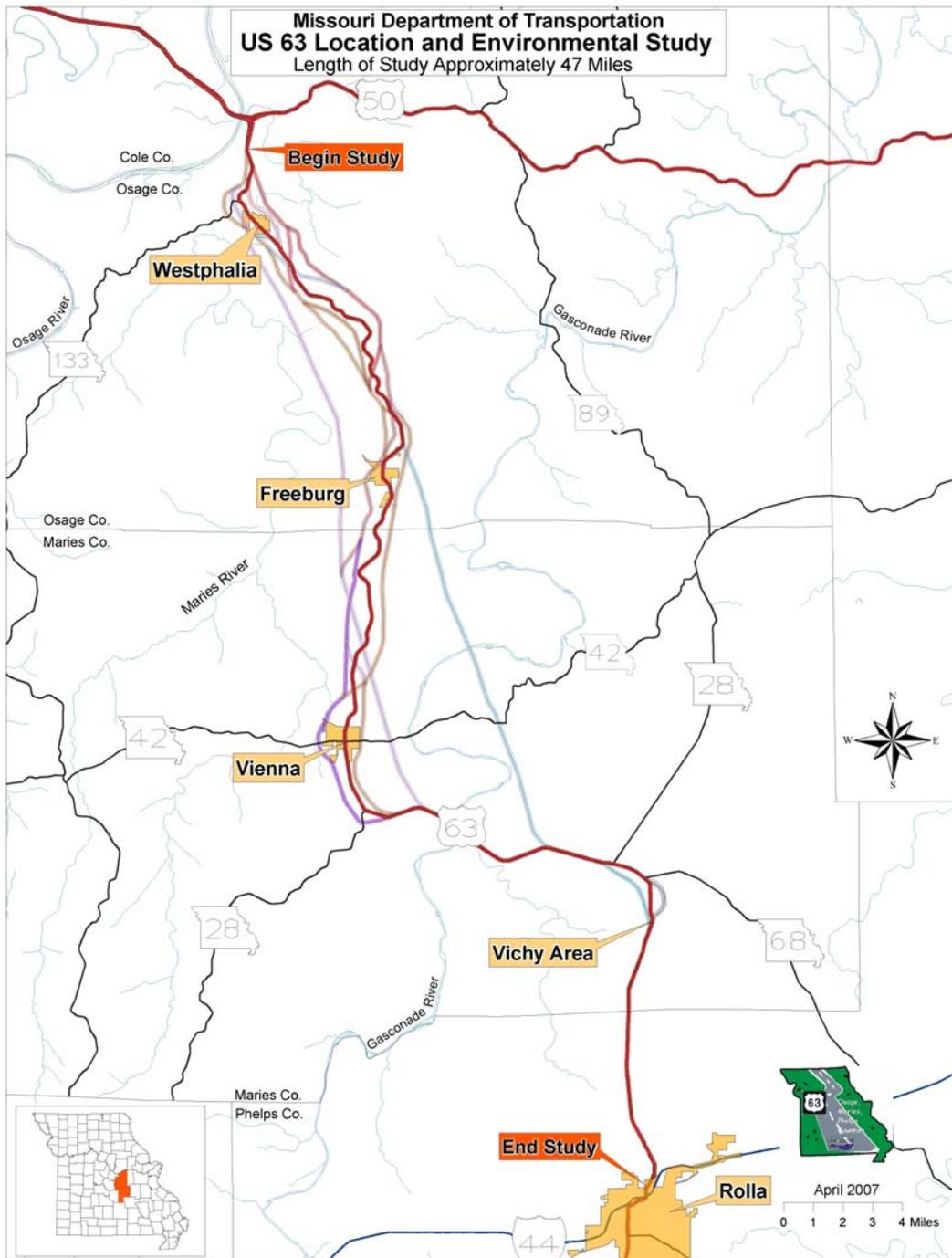
Public meetings will be held to share study findings and gather comments. We encourage the public to contact us to ask questions, make comments or share related information.

Inside this issue:	
Where Are We Now	2
Study Schedule	3
How Can I Learn More	3
Public Meetings Planned	4

Where Are We Now— Preliminary Range of Alternative Alignments

The study team has spent the last few months developing a preliminary range of alternative alignments to address the study's purpose and need. This range includes corridor alignments to the east, west, and along the existing route. The team analyzed technical data as well as incorporated comments received at the first public meetings when they developed these alternatives.

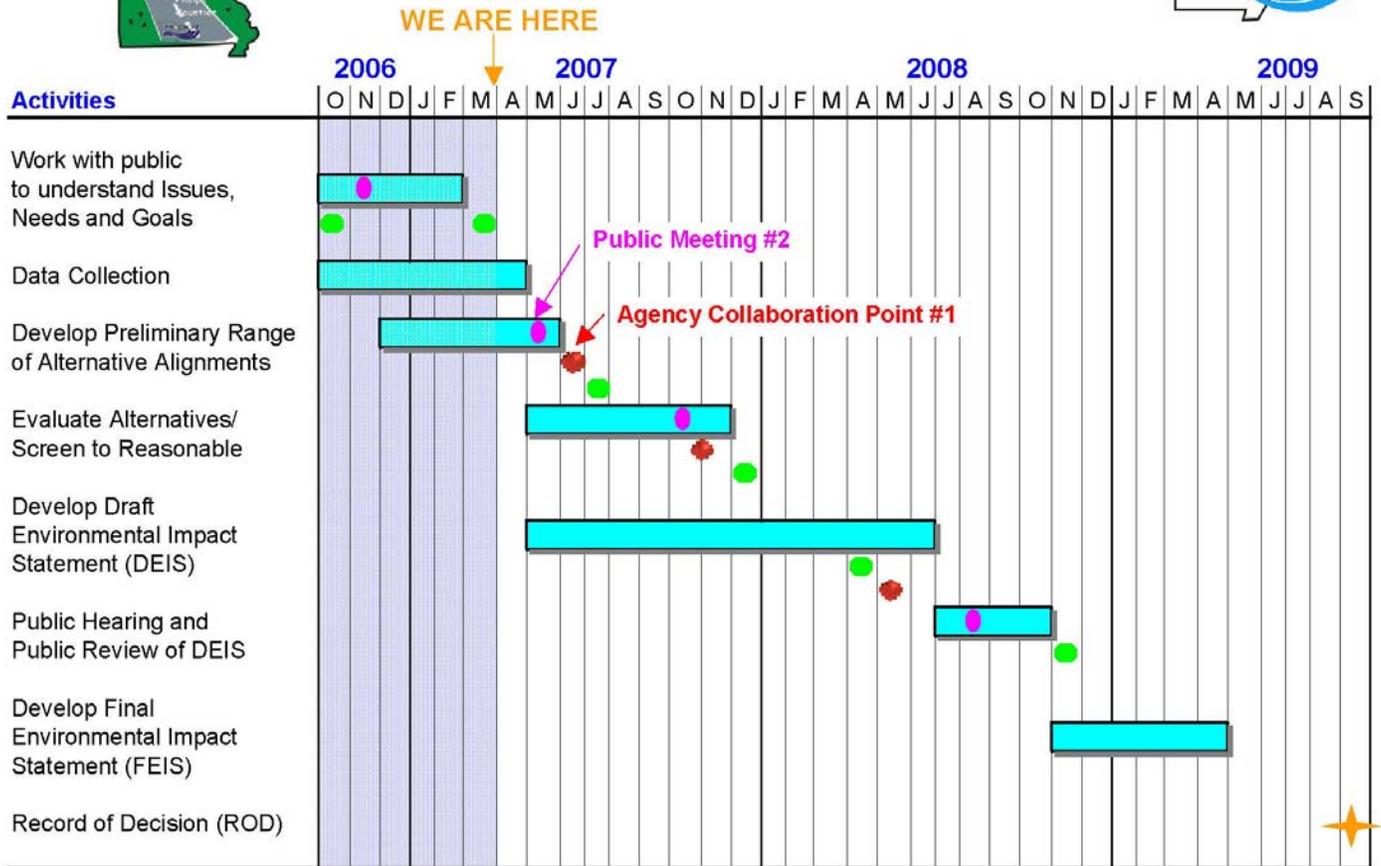
The May 1 and 2 public meetings will include detailed displays that show the preliminary range of alternative alignments for the 47-mile stretch of the study area. These displays will actually show lines on a map where the future route could go, and we need your input to help determine which alignments we should consider. Do you think the future roadway should go to the east or west of the existing corridor, or should it follow the existing alignment? Should the highway continue to route through the communities of Westphalia, Freeburg, Vienna and Vichy? Please attend the next round of meetings and give us your input.



Study Schedule



Route 63 Environmental Study Schedule



- Agency Collaboration Points
- Public Meetings
- Route 63 Advisory Committee

How Can I Learn More?

You can learn more about the study by:

- Visiting the project Web site at www.modot.org/central
- Attending future public meetings about this study
- Calling 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636)



Call us at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT to obtain study information or share comments. Representatives are available Monday–Friday from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Study information is also available on the Web.



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

1511 Missouri Blvd., P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

U.S. Route 63 Environmental Study Public Meetings Planned May 1 and 2, 2007



We encourage you to attend the upcoming open-house public meetings. You are welcome to visit at anytime during the advertised hours to provide input and ask questions. The content for each of these meetings is the same. Please join us at either location listed below.

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

4–7 p.m.

Westphalia Knights of Columbus
One mile south of Rte. 50/63 junction, Westphalia, MO

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

4–7 p.m.

Vienna Knights of Columbus
206 Sixth Street, Vienna, MO

For more information, contact us at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636) or visit us on the Web at www.modot.org/central.



In November 2006, MoDOT Route 63 Study Team Members met with area residents to gather input about the study and answer questions. Approximately 235 people attended meetings held in Westphalia and Vienna. MoDOT received 47 written comments about the study. Meeting summaries are on the Web.



U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement

Where We Are in the Process— Presenting A Reasonable Range of Alternative Alignments

In May 2007, the study team presented the public with a preliminary range of alternative alignments to address the Purpose and Need of the U.S. Route 63 environmental and location study. Nearly 450 people attended public meetings to view the information, ask questions and provide comments. Based on evaluation of the input received from those meetings, as well as technical, cultural and environmental data gathered so far, the study team has narrowed the preliminary range of alternatives to a reasonable range of alternative alignments.

The reasonable range of alternative alignments will be presented at open-house public meetings on Oct. 25 and Oct. 30, 2007. See back page for meeting details.

It is important to know that as the study progresses, the study team continues to gather data to help make determinations about the future location of the highway. Throughout the summer, MoDOT has been hand counting the number of vehicles using the highway within the study area. This data is still being collected and will help us make study determinations about current and future highway traffic volumes. MoDOT also partnered with the Missouri Department of Economic Development to conduct an economic impact study. The purpose of the study was to evaluate what impact an improved highway would have on area businesses. The findings of the economic study will be available at the October public meetings.



MoDOT traffic technicians are hand counting the number of vehicles using U.S. Route 63 within the study area.

Environmental (human and natural) and historic preservation matters are also being addressed. Known environmental and historic information were used to help screen the preliminary alternatives to the current reasonable range. Further analysis of environmental and historic preservation constraints, which includes some fieldwork, is currently taking place. The findings will aid in determining the alternative alignment that provides the best solution, when balanced with engineering and cost considerations. In addition, federal and state agencies were consulted for input at the preliminary alternative screening point.

About the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Study

The Missouri Department of Transportation is conducting this environmental and location study of U.S. Route 63 in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties to evaluate current and potential future transportation needs along a 47-mile stretch of U.S. Route 63, from 1/2 mile south of the Route 50/63 junction to just north of Rolla. The study objectives include improving safety, traffic flow, and continuity on the north/south corridor.

This study is required by the Federal Highway Administration under the National Environmental Policy Act before a major highway project can be constructed. It is an objective process to help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve area transportation needs.

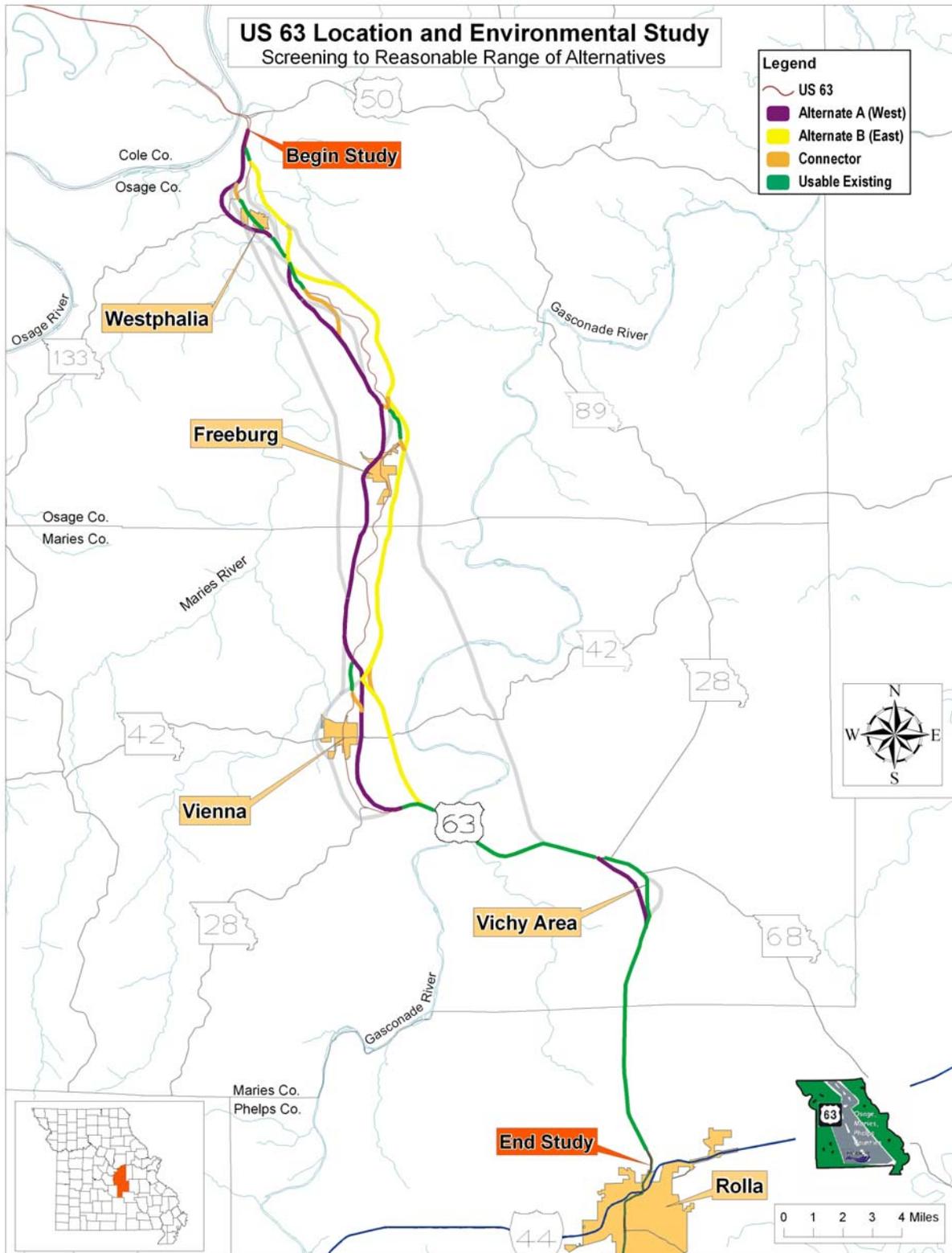
Study recommendations come from technical analysis combined with public insights and preferences. Solutions will be developed to balance community needs with technical and regulatory constraints such as cost, feasibility and environmental protection.

The U.S. Route 63 environmental and location study will be completed in the fall of 2009. Currently, there is no funding for construction or acquisition of right of way for this project.

Inside this issue:	
Reasonable Alignments	2
How Can I Participate	3
Study Schedule	3
Public Meetings Planned	4

From Preliminary to Reasonable Range of Alternative Alignments

The display below shows the preliminary range of alternative alignments presented at the spring 2007 public meetings. The lines shown in grey along the route represent which alignments are not currently moving forward for further consideration. Detailed maps relating to the communities of Westphalia, Freeburg, Vienna and Vichy will be available at the public meetings.



How Can I Participate in this Process?

We want to hear your comments, suggestions and questions. Please join us at the upcoming public meetings on Oct. 25 and 30, 2007. *See back for meeting details.* You may leave your written or recorded oral comments with us during the public meeting. You may also mail or e-mail your comments to the study team following the meeting.

Feel free to visit our Web site at www.modot.org/central to view past meeting displays, handouts and summaries. Displays and handouts from the October public meetings will be available for viewing online following the conclusion of the meetings.

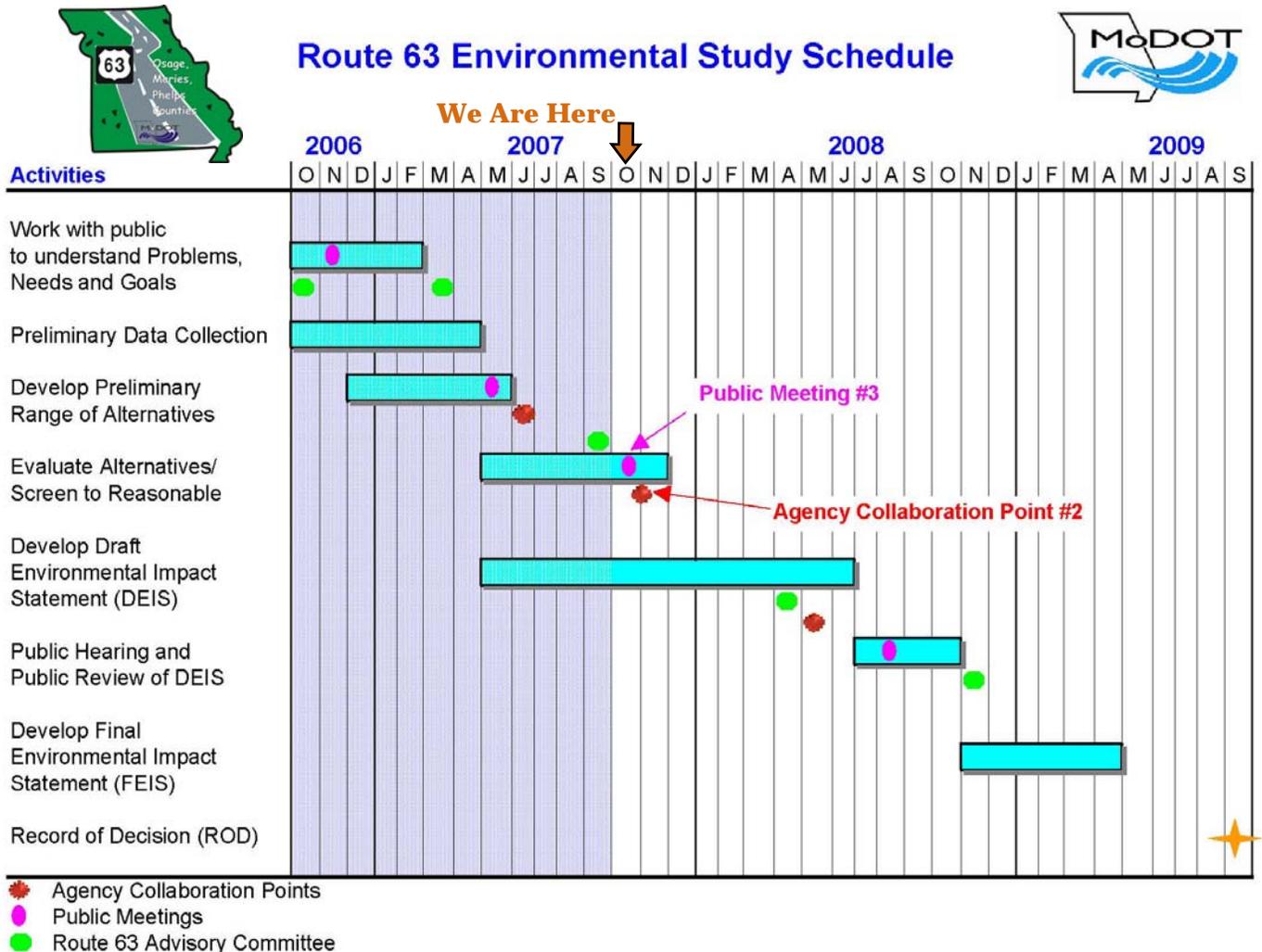
If you wish to speak to a member of the study team, please call us toll free at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636). Study team members are generally available during normal business hours, Monday—Friday from 7:30 a.m.—4 p.m.



Study Schedule

What's next?

Following the fall public meetings, more detailed analysis of the reasonable range of alternative alignments will begin and eventually, a preferred alignment determined. A public hearing will be held late next summer to share the information gathered and gain input on the preferred alignment.





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1511 Missouri Blvd., P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

U.S. Route 63 Environmental Study

Public Meetings Scheduled October 25 and 30, 2007



We encourage you to attend the upcoming open-house public meetings. You are welcome to visit at any time during the advertised hours to provide input and ask questions. The content for each of these meetings is the same. Please join us at either location listed below.

Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007

4–7 p.m.

Vienna Knights of Columbus
206 Sixth Street, Vienna, MO

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2007

4–7 p.m.

Westphalia Knights of Columbus

One mile south of Rte. 50/63 junction, Westphalia, MO

For more information, contact us at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636) or visit us on the Web at www.modot.org/central.



Nearly 450 citizens attended two public meetings held in May 2007 to comment on the preliminary range of alternative alignments. MoDOT received 114 written comments following those meetings. Meeting summaries can be found on our Web site at www.modot.org/central.

**The reasonable range of alternative alignments will be shared during these meetings.
MoDOT is interested in your comments.**



U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement

Where We Are in the Process— Detailed Analysis of the Reasonable Alternatives

A Closer Look At Environmental Factors

When MoDOT plans a roadway improvement, there are federal environmental laws that must first be addressed. One of these laws is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Section 106 of this Act requires MoDOT identify and evaluate historic properties, which includes archaeological sites, and determine effects the proposed project will have upon them.

In late May, “Right of Entry” agreements and related informational materials about field work were mailed to some property owners within the study area who might be directly impacted by an improved U.S. Route 63. With permission, MoDOT representatives will access local properties this spring and summer to identify important environmental factors like prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, important architectural structures, endangered species, unique natural

communities and wetlands. Some initial contacts and screenings were also conducted earlier this spring.



MoDOT representatives evaluate area properties to determine the potential environmental and cultural impacts of a highway improvement.

Allowing MoDOT access to private property is voluntary. However, allowing us to do so gives study team members a complete picture of what needs to be evaluated and helps to determine where highway improvements would have significant environmental and cultural impacts.

MoDOT thanks property owners for their support during this process. For more information about right of entry, please contact us at **1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636)**.

Noise Analysis

A noise analysis is also being conducted to assess potential traffic-related noise impacts along the study corridor. Results from the analysis will be available at the public hearing in late 2008 and in the draft study document.

About the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Study

The Missouri Department of Transportation is conducting this environmental and location study of U.S. Route 63 in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties to evaluate current and potential future transportation needs along a 47-mile stretch of U.S. Route 63, from 1/2 mile south of the Route 50/63 junction to just north of Rolla. The study objectives include improving safety, traffic flow, and continuity on the north/south corridor.

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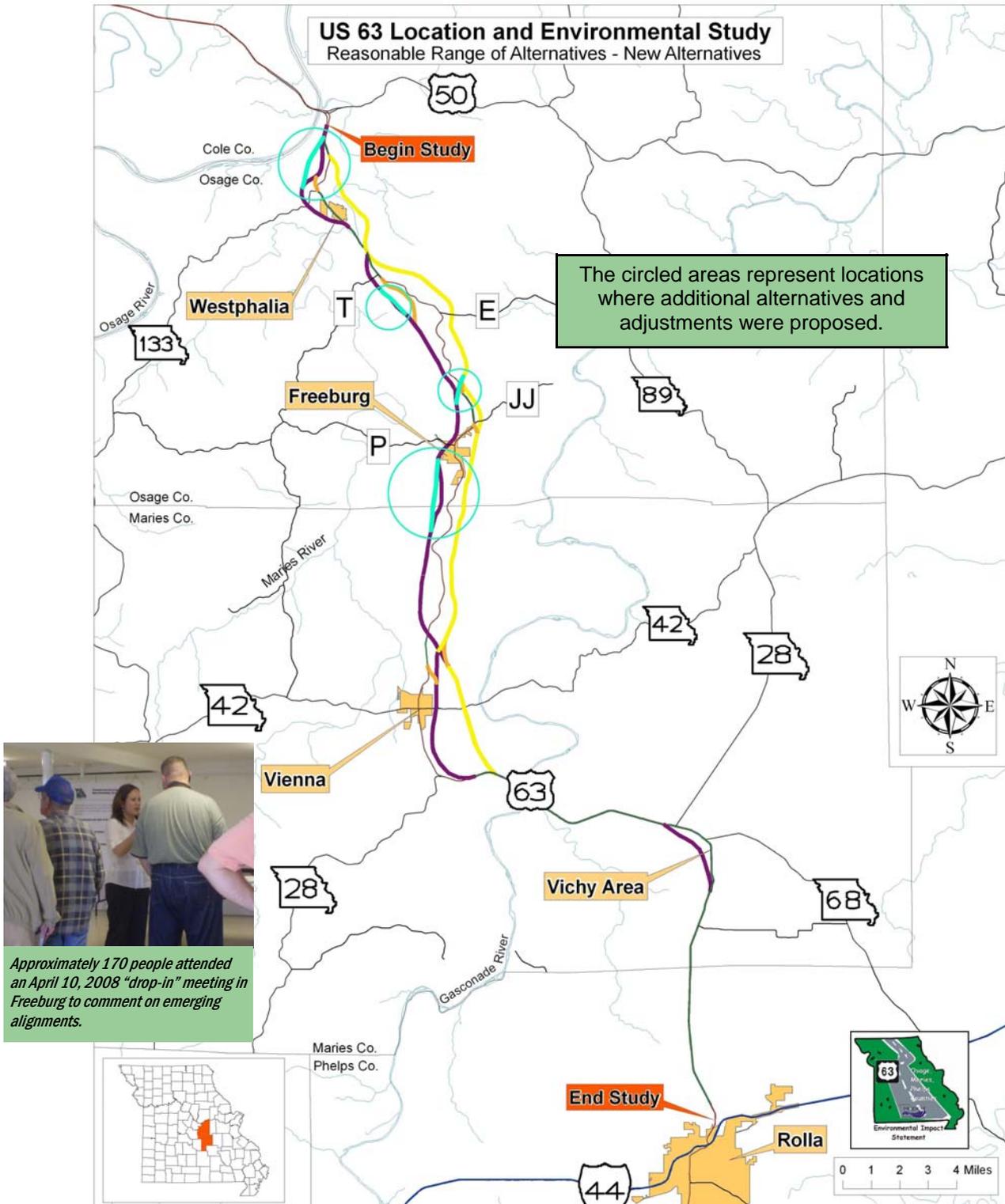
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Inside this issue:	
Reasonable Alignments	2
How Can I Participate	3
Study Schedule	3
Public Hearing In Late '08	4

Reasonable Range of Alternative Alignments

After a series of public meetings held in Fall 2007, the MoDOT study team made some adjustments to the reasonable range of alternative alignments. Based on technical data and public comment, new alignments emerged at four locations. Following a “drop-in” open-house meeting on April 10 in Freeburg, Mo., the study team continues to analyze these alignments and are working toward developing a recommended preferred alternative.



How Can I Participate in this Process?

We want to hear your comments, suggestions and questions!

If you wish to speak with a member of the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement study team, please call us toll free at **1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636)**. Study team members are generally available during normal business hours, Monday—Friday from 7:30 a.m.—4 p.m.

A public hearing is planned in late 2008 to share the recommended preferred alternative. We encourage you to attend to view the information presented and provide us with your feedback. Be watching for public hearing dates, locations and times, which will be shared later this year.

Please visit our Web site at www.modot.org/central to view past public meeting displays, hand-outs and summaries related to this study. While visiting the Web site, you may also sign up for e-mail updates related to state transportation matters in your area.

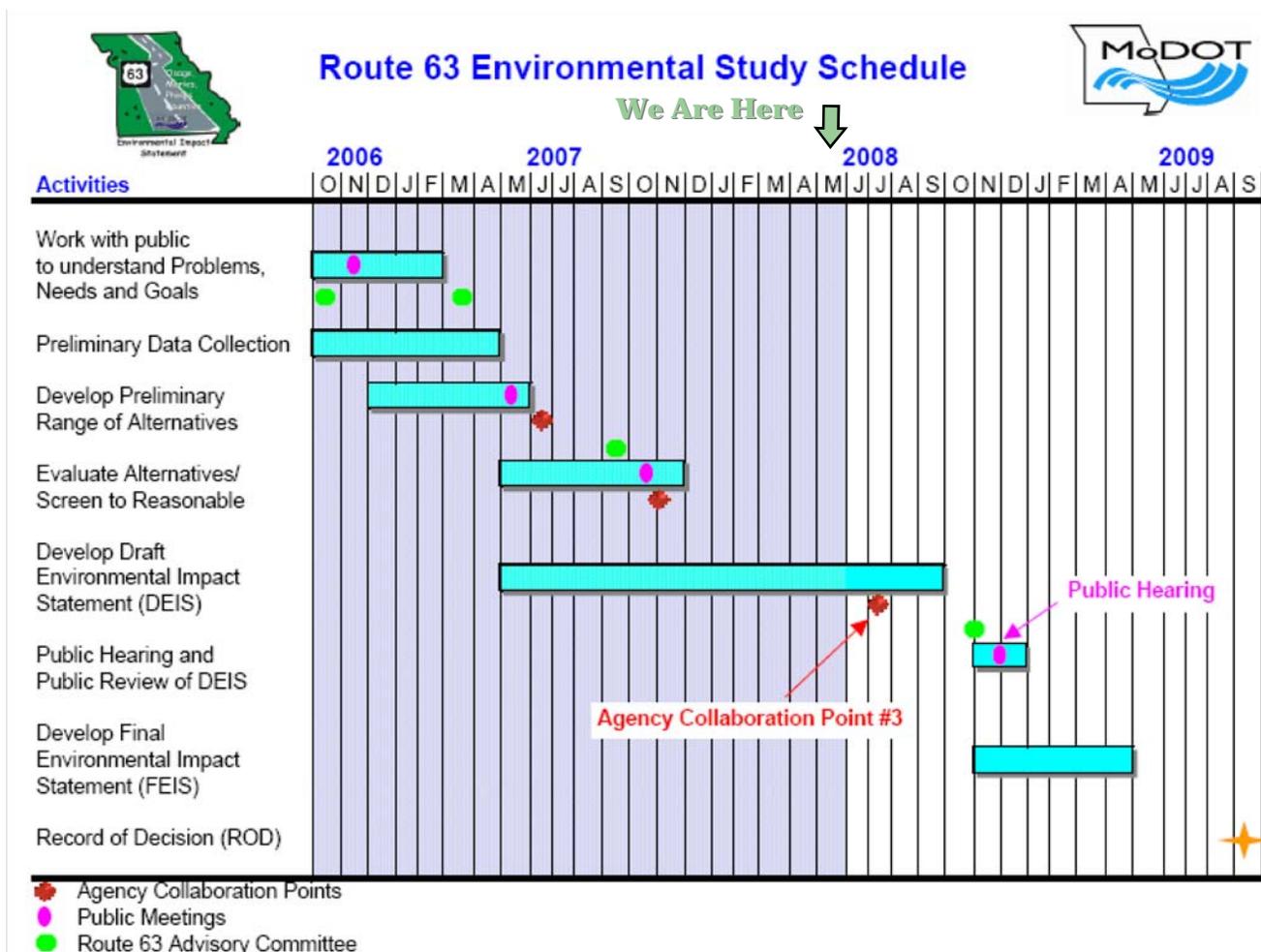


MoDOT customer service center representatives are available to assist you with your comments, suggestions and questions. Representatives can also place you in touch with study team members for detailed study matters.

Study Schedule

What's Next?

The study team is completing a detailed analysis of the reasonable range of alternative alignments and a draft U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared. The draft environmental document will be shared during the upcoming public hearing. It will include a recommended preferred alternative, along with preliminary costs, potential displacements, and environmental impacts. A conceptual provision of access along the corridor will be analyzed after the hearing.





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U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing Planned in Late 2008



MoDOT continues detailed analysis of the reasonable range of alternative alignments as additional environmental field work gets underway. A public hearing to present a recommended preferred alternative will be held in late 2008. Please watch for meeting notifications in the coming months. You may also visit www.modot.org/central to access study information.

