



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

DATE: March 30, 2007

SUBJECT: Route 63 Advisory Committee
Minutes from Meeting #2
Maries County Courthouse

ATTENDANCE: Stephen Weber, Commissioner Randy Verkamp, Keith Beck, Connie Schmiedeskamp, Richard Cavender, James Kleffner, Commissioner Glenn Dressendofer, Commissioner Russell Scheulen, Leonard Weidinger, Commissioner Ray Schwartz, Representative Tom Loehner, Roger Schwartz, Matt Burcham, Nicole Kolb Hood

Absent: Richard Spacek

- I. The meeting started with introductions. Roger welcomed and thanked everyone for his or her participation on the advisory committee. He informed them that the comments received at the first advisory committee meeting were useful and we included them in preparation for the first round of public meetings last fall.
- II. Nicole updated the group on the status of the environmental study. She summarized the outcome of the public meetings last fall. Overall the public is positive toward something happening – 60 percent of the comments we received referenced a four-lane. A summary of comments from the first round of public meetings has been sent to the Route 63 Advisory Committee. If anyone needs additional copies, please feel free to contact Nicole or visit the Web at www.modot.org/central.

Nicole informed the group that the Draft Purpose and Need for the study, Chapter 1 of the environmental document, has been written. Specifically the purpose and need of the project is to improve safety, traffic flow, and north-south corridor continuity on U.S. Route 63. The Draft Purpose and Need discusses some of the safety concerns along the route, summarizes the condition of traffic flow along the corridor and discusses why this project should provide system continuity. The study team has received concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration on the draft. Nicole had copies of the Draft Purpose and Need available for the group.

The next round of public meetings for the study will be Tuesday, May 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Westphalia Knights of Columbus Hall and Wednesday, May 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Vienna Knights of Columbus Hall. The purpose of the meetings is to gather input from the public on the preliminary range of alternatives. The Draft Purpose and Need will also be available at the meetings for the public to review and offer comments.

- III. Matt informed the group that the Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Input has been written. This plan acts as a “road map” for the study and identifies certain timeframes where the public and governmental agencies will be given the opportunity to offer input.
- IV. Nicole shared the preliminary range of alternatives with the committee. She explained to them that initially the alternatives have been developed to the east, west and along the existing route. When developing these preliminary alignments, the study team analyzed technical data as well as incorporated comments received at the first public meetings. The advisory committee had general discussion regarding the alternatives. The following were comments from the group:
- i. The question was asked about the number of times water went over the road at the Maries River Bridge south of Westphalia.
 - ii. Need to shade an alignment showing improvements to the existing roadway south of Westphalia where the climbing lanes are.
 - iii. Need to zoom out on some of the displays to show the entire number of alternatives.
 - iv. Some would like to see both the aerials and the topography maps for the upcoming public meetings.
 - v. There was a comment stating we are defeating the purpose and need of the project if we go through the towns. Studies have shown if you bypass close to the towns, the businesses won't have as much an impact. The closer we stay to the existing Route 63, the less impact.
 - vi. Visit with local newspapers to possibly have an article to encourage public to get involved.
 - vii. Have a display at the next public meetings showing the distance of the far east and west alternatives from the existing route, particularly the alignments bypassing the communities.
 - viii. Measure the length of the existing route versus the length of some of the straight-line alternatives.
 - ix. Brighten up some of the colors on the displays and label the various alternatives for the upcoming public meetings.
 - x. Be sure to use improved sections of the existing route.
 - xi. Estimate of a dollar figure to mitigate steam impacts.
 - xii. Questions regarding the existing route and access to it. We'll address these issues as we work through the study.

Nicole will incorporate the above comments for the next public meetings and have this information available for the public.

- V. The group ended the meeting with general discussion regarding the study.