



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

DATE: September 28, 2007

SUBJECT: Route 63 Advisory Committee
Minutes from Meeting #3
Maries County Courthouse

COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCE: Stephen Weber, Commissioner Larry Stratman (for Randy Verkamp),
Richard Cavender, James Kleffner, Commissioner Glenn
Dressendofer, Presiding Commissioner Russell Scheulen, Leonard
Weidinger, Presiding Commissioner Ray Schwartze, Representative
Tom Loehner, Therese Roberson, Richard Spacek, Darryl Haller,
Chris Dickneite, Roger Schwartze, Matt Burcham, Emma Jones,
Nicole Kolb Hood

Absent: Keith Beck, Connie Schmeideskamp

OBSERVERS: N. P. Sandbothe, Les Volmert, Art Sandbothe

- I. The meeting started with introductions. Roger thanked everyone for their attendance and also welcomed the representatives from the communities of Westphalia, Freeburg, and Vienna who were invited to attend.
- II. Nicole did a presentation sharing the status of the study with the committee. The study is one-third complete with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2009. During the past several months, MoDOT has been busy evaluating comments received from the public meetings. They have also spent time in the field gathering various data to be used in the study. A summary of comments from the public meetings can be found on the Web at www.modot.org/central.

Based on evaluation of input received from the public, 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. Nicole reviewed the reasonable range of alternatives with the advisory committee and described the data and reasoning behind the elimination of links from north to south. She also shared some displays of the communities showing impacts if the highway was widened along the existing corridor. The advisory committee had general discussion regarding the alternatives.

Matt Burcham gave an update on the environmental and historic preservation activities to this point in the study. He stated that up to this point no show-stoppers have been found but that specialists will be doing ground level reconnaissance work in the coming weeks.

Nicole and Emma then updated the committee on an economic development study being conducted for the Route 63 environmental and location study. MoDOT partnered with Department of Economic Development to analyze future issues, both positive and negative, with regards to the potential relocation of Highway 63. The study will evaluate historic information and impact data for various communities that have been bypassed in the past. It will also include an analysis of survey data from license plate observations at various businesses in the communities involved with the 63 study. Some of the maps and data from the license plate surveys were shared with the committee. The committee thought this would be useful information to display at the upcoming public meetings. They thought it would be helpful to evaluate the anticipated number of people who would no longer go to the businesses if the highway were relocated. They also thought it would be helpful to evaluate historical data from communities along Route 63 that have been bypassed. MoDOT will try to include this with the economic development study.

The next round of public meetings for the study will be Thursday, October 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Vienna Knights of Columbus Hall and Tuesday, October 30 at the Westphalia Knights of Columbus Hall from 4 to 7 p.m. The purpose of the meetings is to gather input on the reasonable range of alternatives.

- III. The following were questions and general discussions during the meeting:
- i. Questions about the distance of some of the alternatives from the existing route.
 - ii. For the next public meetings, we need to make it very clear the preferred alternative can be a combination of Alternative A (west), Alternative B (east), connectors and “usable” existing. The displays and comment forms need to explain this.
 - iii. Comment about the near east alternative around Vienna splitting more farms.
 - iv. The study is evaluating a 750' corridor that should accommodate most possible options for a future Route 63 corridor.
 - v. Committee agreed we should have a display at our upcoming meetings representing what a five-lane might look like going through the communities.
 - vi. Maries County has the highest commuting rate in the state – around 65 percent of all workers leave their home county for employment.
 - vii. New east Wal-Mart at City View could potentially impact the businesses in the various communities along Route 63.
 - viii. Concern expressed about the speed limit on the southern end of Vienna.
 - ix. Someone commented the future highway should not go through the communities; need to get trucks out of town.
 - x. Question posed regarding significance of good access to businesses and manufacturing plants. Some indicated it is extremely important to have good access. Others commented that it's important to have good

access and be convenient as possible; however, trying to retain a good workforce is a higher priority.

- xi. Need to keep availability of land in mind when screening to a preferred alternative. Rolla is having problems with availability of land for new businesses. It helps to have available land close to the communities – allow for some room to grow.
- xii. Question asked about when construction would begin. Roger emphasized there is no funding for construction.

IV. The committee then reviewed some of the larger maps displayed on the tables and the meeting concluded.