



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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](http://www.modot.org/central).

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



*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](http://www.modot.org/central).*

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# 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.

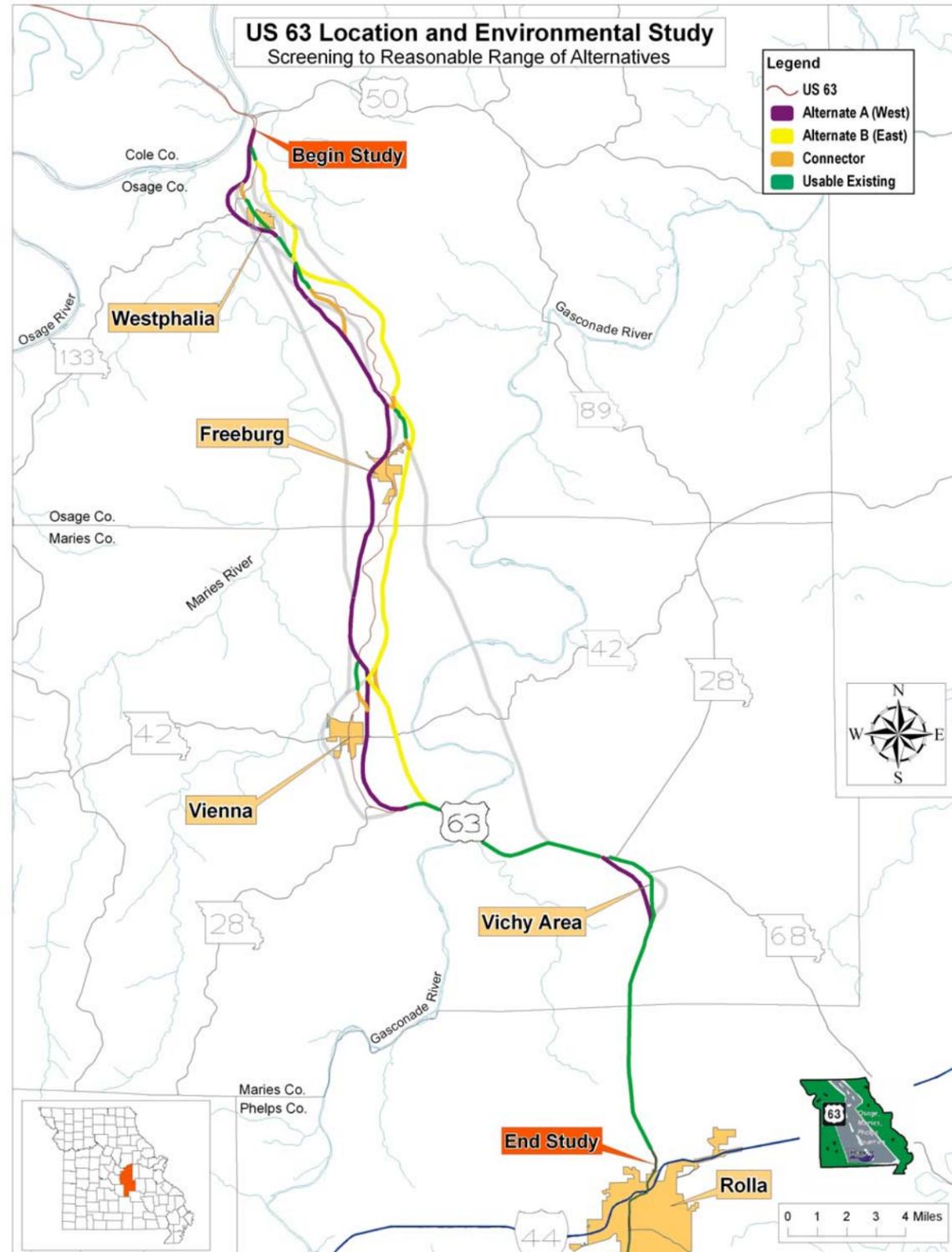
Study recommendations come from technical analysis combined with public insights and preferences. Solutions will be developed to balance community needs with technical and regulatory constraints such as cost, feasibility and environmental protection.

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.

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## 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](http://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.

