



The Future of Route 63

Westphalia Public Mtg. Comments

DATE: October 30, 2007

TIME: 4-7 p.m.

SUBJECT: Route 63 EIS/Location Study
Public Meeting

LOCATION: Knights of Columbus Hall
819 Highway 63
Westphalia, MO 65085

Summary

Approximately 258 people attended the Route 63 Environmental and Location Study public meeting on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, at the Knight of Columbus Hall in Westphalia, Mo.

The meeting was held to gather comment about a reasonable range of alternative alignments for Route 63 in Osage, Maries, and Phelps Counties, from ½ mile south of the Route 50/63 junction to just north of Rolla. To publicize the meeting, advertisements were placed in the *Rolla Daily News*, *Unterrified Democrat*, and the *Maries County Gazette*. A news release was sent to all local media and flyers were distributed at businesses along the highway. A newsletter about the study was also mailed to local stakeholders and attendees of previous public meetings.

Participation

- There were 258 individuals who signed guest registers.
- There were 15 comment cards (three with maps) completed at the meeting.
- There were 28 comment cards mailed or e-mailed (11 with maps) after the meeting.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

Westphalia

Alignment running on the east side of Westphalia:

1. Five attendees said this alignment stays away from the more populated area west of town and destroys fewer homes and properties.
2. Three attendees said this is a straighter path with fewer environmental concerns and better access possibilities.
3. Two attendees said this alignment would be better if there were a hazardous spill. The fumes and spillage would be carried away from town.
4. One attendee said this route would have less traffic noise for the town because of prevailing winds.

Alignment running along the existing route through Westphalia:

1. Two attendees said this was the most efficient route, with five lanes and a turning lane to move traffic and improve safety.
2. One mailed response said that both proposed alignments to bypass the town still have major curves and would disrupt people's farms and homes.
3. One response said there would be fewer homes affected with this route.

Alignment running on west side of Westphalia:

1. One attendee said this alignment would have the smallest impact on farmland and would make the best response time for the fire department.
2. Two attendees said the west alignment addressed the dangerous intersection of 133 and 63. It also uses the existing Maries River bridge and provides easy access to the City of Westphalia.
3. One mailed response said there would be fewer homeowners affected with this alignment and still would provide close access.
4. Two mailed comments said this alignment was a more direct route than the other options.

Freeburg

Alignment running on the east side of Freeburg:

1. Two attendees said this alignment decreases the overall length and travel time.
2. Two attendees said this alignment had the lowest community impact in regard to housing.

Alignment running on the west side of Freeburg:

1. One e-mail said the west alignment was better for businesses because of visibility issues and access.
2. Two mailed comments said this alignment had less rugged terrain.
3. One response said that less personal farm and housing damage would occur with this alignment.
4. One response said this alignment used more of the existing highway and then would carry on to the east side of Vienna.

Vienna

Alignment running on the east side of Vienna:

1. Three attendees said this alignment kept close to the original path but still cut down on distance.

Alignment running on the far east side of Vienna:

1. Two attendees said this alignment decreases overall length and travel time.
2. One mailed response expressed a concern for the east alignment, noting how close it is to the school and those access issues.

Vichy Area

Alignment running on existing through Vichy area:

1. One attendee said it would be better to use the existing route since there were major improvements just completed in this section.

Alignment running on the west side of Vichy area:

1. Two attendees said this alignment decreases overall length and travel time.
2. One mailed comment said this alignment takes out the curve and would be safer.

General comments

- One attendee said Connector 2 is too close to the existing highway. Point 7 to Point 8 has too many businesses along the highway with large trucks coming in and out every day. Alternate B through Westphalia would carry the vapors away from town if a hazardous waste accident occurred.
- One attendee suggested straightening out the curves and fixing the shoulders. They also said to put passing lanes through towns.
- One attendee said the using the existing route is better because MoDOT already owns the right-of-way and one bridge is already in place.

- One attendee asked that Segment 37 be re-examined because of cost-saving issues and reduced travel times.
- One attendee asked to leave Highway 63 as a scenic highway and make a connector from Route 50 to Interstate 44.
- One attendee suggested an alternating four lane through the area instead of a standard four-lane.