



# Rex Whitton Expressway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS)

The Rex Whitton Expressway Draft EIS focuses on relieving congestion, as well as improving safety and access between the Rex Whitton Expressway and key local sites, including the Missouri State Penitentiary redevelopment site, Lincoln University and Jefferson City High School.

## Public Hearing

4:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010 - Kertz Hall at Immaculate Conception Church, 1206 E. McCarty St., Jefferson City, Mo. or, starting February 3, see exhibits and comment online at [www.modot.org/central](http://www.modot.org/central)

## Why are Improvements Needed?

The Rex Whitton Expressway is an important roadway for the Jefferson City region, and it will be more so in the future as traffic increases. The goals for improvements are to:

- Reduce traffic congestion;
- Improve safety; and
- Enhance access from Rex Whitton Expressway to key locations such as the Missouri State Penitentiary redevelopment site, Lincoln University and Jefferson City High School.

## Study Area

The study area includes the U.S. Route 50/63 Rex Whitton Expressway from just east of the U.S. 50/54/63 Tri-level interchange, east through Jefferson City to the Eastland Drive Interchange. It extends to McCarty Street to the north, and approximately to Dunklin Street on the south, including those areas that link to downtown Jefferson City and the prison site.



## The Draft EIS

The Draft EIS includes detailed information about the concepts and their potential impacts. It is available in several locations in Jefferson City, including:

- MoDOT Central District Office, 1511 Missouri Blvd.
- Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St.
- City of Jefferson City, Missouri City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 320 E. McCarty St.
- Cole County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, 301 E. High St.
- Lincoln University, Page Library, 820 Chestnut St.

The document is also available online at: [www.modot.org/central](http://www.modot.org/central).

## Submitting Comments

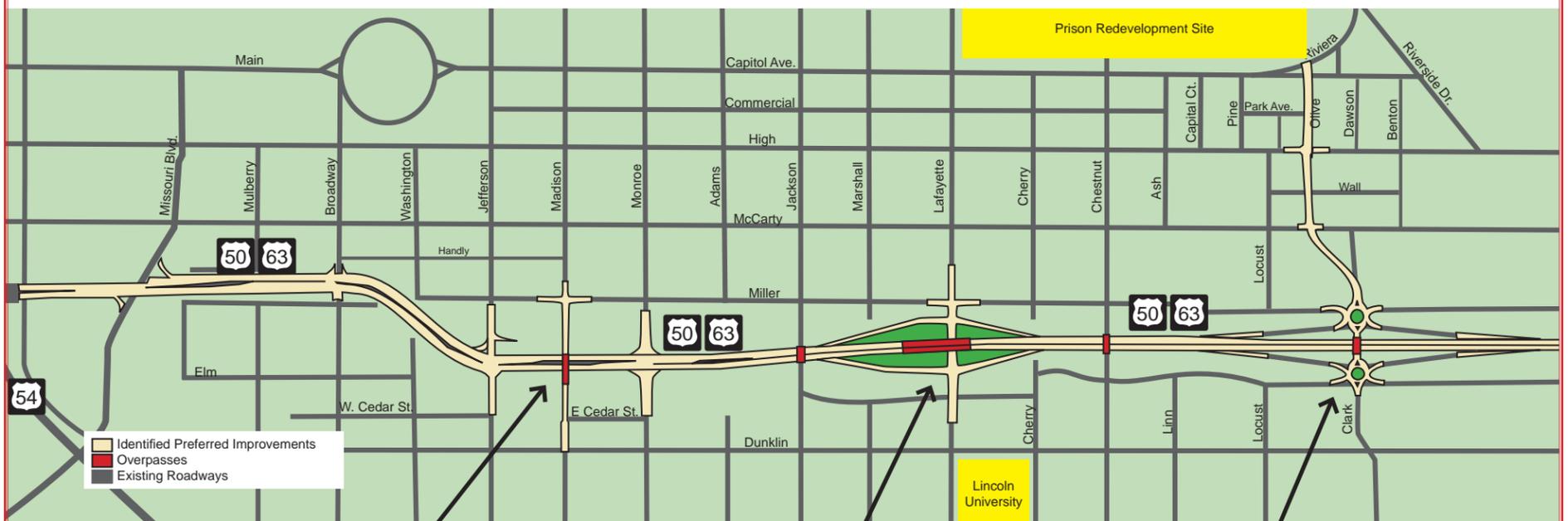
A final decision on recommendations will include a review of public and agency comments. **The comment period ends February 22, 2010.** To make a comment, you may:

1. Submit a written or verbal comment at the public hearing from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Kertz Hall at Immaculate Conception Church, 1206 E. McCarty St.; or
2. Submit a written comment to: Whitton Draft EIS, c/o MoDOT, P.O. Box 718, Jefferson City, MO 65102; or
3. Click on "Contact Us" at: [www.modot.org/central](http://www.modot.org/central).

## Finding a Solution

The City of Jefferson City, Cole County and MoDOT have worked together on a long-term plan for improvements. They started with a wide range of ideas - more than 17 initial concepts. After reviewing the ideas and talking with the community, the team identified six of the ideas for further study. Those six concepts were evaluated to see how well they could meet the community's transportation needs and how they would affect neighborhoods, buildings, businesses, historic sites and the environment. The study team also gathered feedback from property owners, community leaders and public agencies like the local State Historic Preservation Office. Based on the evaluation documented in the Draft EIS and community input, the identified preferred alternative is shown below. The alternative is a combination of two earlier concepts, and provides:

- Reduced congestion and greater safety;
- Access to the prison redevelopment site — which may create significant traffic in the future;
- Access to Lincoln University and Jefferson City High School — current sources of significant traffic; and
- Construction flexibility — improvements could be built in phases as traffic increases and funding becomes available.



A Madison Street overpass would separate north- and south-bound traffic from the expressway. Monroe and Jefferson would continue to provide access to the Rex Whitton Expressway.

A full-diamond interchange at Lafayette would impact several properties, but would also reduce congestion and improve safety and access in the corridor.

Constructing roundabouts at Clark Avenue offers travelers on the east side of the study area increased safety and improved traffic flow.

## Property Impacts

The Study Team understands that the potential for impacts is a serious concern for property owners. As a part of the Draft EIS, the Study Team has made specific commitments to the community to help address project impacts.

MoDOT staff specializing in helping property owners through the property acquisition process will be at the public hearing to answer questions. If you cannot attend the hearing and have questions, call MoDOT at 1-888-Ask-MoDOT (275-6636).

## Construction Schedule

The Draft EIS lays out a long-term strategy for future improvements. No design or construction can begin until funding has been identified and secured. It is likely that some parts will be built before others. Improvements may occur first at Lafayette and Clark, along with improvements to Rex Whitton Expressway between Jackson and Clark. Other improvements outlined in the Draft EIS — including improvements at Madison and an extension of Clark Avenue — will occur when traffic in the area increases and as funding becomes available.