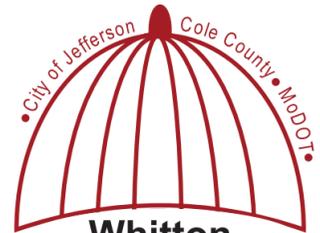
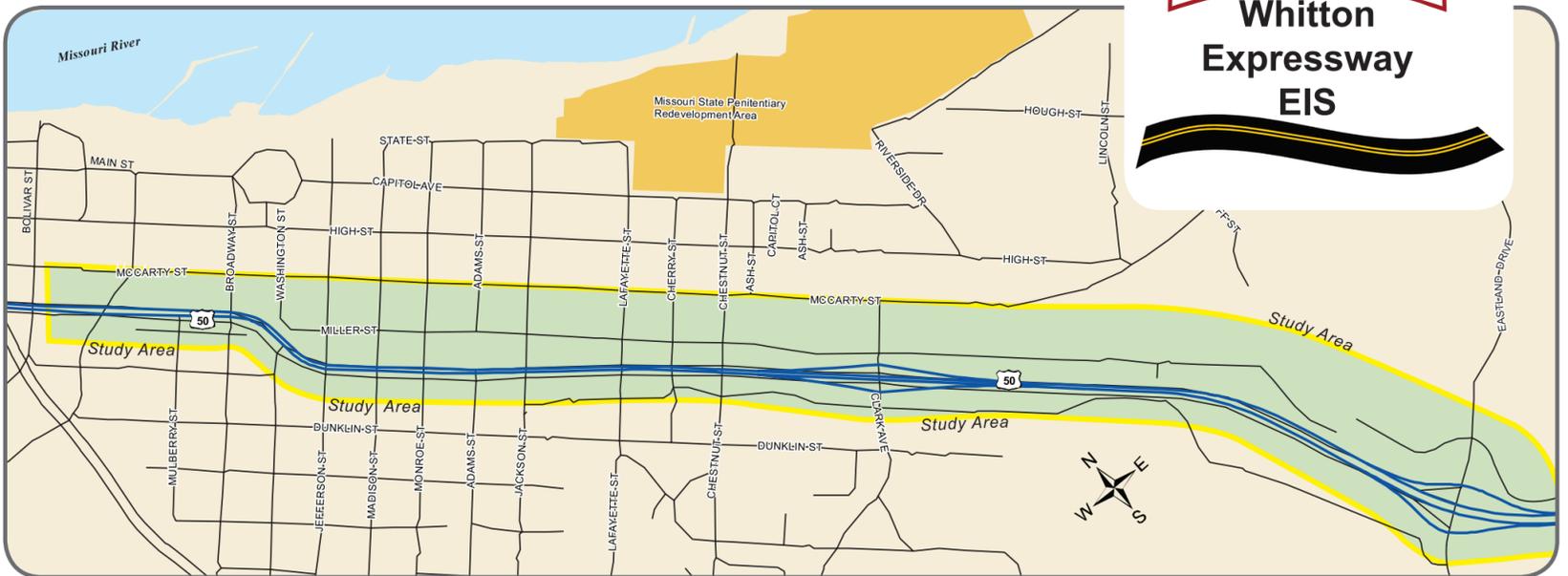


Whitton Expressway – Help us Plan for the Future!

Whitton Expressway is an important roadway for our community, and will be more so in the future. The local community, downtown businesses, and through travelers need to be able to travel safely and efficiently even as traffic increases. That's why Jefferson City, Cole County and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) have united to plan for improvements that meet future needs for safety and capacity – all while respecting the character of Jefferson City.



Whitton Expressway EIS



The Study Area includes the Rex Whitton Expressway, from just east of the US 54/US 63 Tri-level interchange, east to the Eastland Drive interchange. It extends to McCarty Street on the north, and approximately Dunklin Street to the south of Whitton Expressway. The EIS will also examine connectivity to the planned redevelopment at the Missouri State Penitentiary site.

Didn't We Already Agree on a Plan?

The April, 2006 Rex Whitton Expressway Problem Definition Study completed one of the first steps in the federally required process. The study identified traffic and safety concerns – both now, and likely in the future. It also outlined some of the challenges to addressing those problems. The Problem Definition Study also determined that the next step in the planning process would be for the community to complete an environmental study in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Environmental studies look at needs in-depth, propose likely solutions and evaluate how the solutions might impact the community, businesses, homes, historic sites and the environment. With that information, along with general costs, the local community can then identify the best approach to meeting those needs.



Do we need to plan improvements?

The Problem Definition Study answered that question: Yes.

1. Traffic on the Whitton Expressway is expected to double by 2035;
2. There is a need for improved access to the new development at the Missouri State Penitentiary; and
3. Access needs to be improved to help address downtown congestion.

Federally funded transportation projects (or those needing federal permits) must be conducted in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). This means that before design and construction, projects must be weighed in terms of impacts to both the natural and man-made environment. The Whitton Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will provide that evaluation and help the local community and leadership arrive at the best possible solution.



What are the impacts of each possible option?

The Environmental Impact Statement will look at a range of general solutions, including those proposed in the Problem Definition Study. The EIS process will enable MoDOT, Jefferson City and Cole County to answer these important questions:

- *How might the improvements impact the cultural and social environments?* How would different options impact historical or archaeological sites? Would they affect local homes and businesses or split existing neighborhoods? What about public spaces like parks? Would they impact access to jobs, schools or services such as shopping? Would they help or hurt the local economy?
- *How might the improvement impact the natural environment?* Would any of the options change air or water quality? Would they change how much water is in rivers or creeks? Would they impact wetlands or protected species?
- *How would the proposed improvement function?* How much traffic would it need to carry? What kinds of bridges and roadways might be built and where? In general terms, how much would it cost?



The EIS process will identify a "footprint" – the area in which future improvements might be built – and a general idea of what improvements might be constructed. Actual construction cannot begin, however, until funding for both design and construction is identified and secured.



We need your input!



Go to www.modot.org/central to fill out our survey, or join us at our public meeting from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 14, at Kertz Hall - Immaculate Conception Church, 1206 East McCarty Street

DRAFT Purpose and Need:

1. **Provide Sufficient Roadway Capacity and Improve Traffic Operations** – Whitton Expressway will need to safely serve local, regional and national traffic. There will also continue to be a need for local north-south connections – connections that will need to allow traffic to move safely and efficiently.
2. **Improve Traffic Safety** – As traffic increases, Rex Whitton will need to be improved to function safely.
3. **Address Road and Bridge Deficiencies** – There are locations where bridges or other structures need to be improved or replaced for better traffic flow and safety.
4. **Improve Access to Major Activity Centers and Encourage Development** – Access needs to be provided to key locations, including downtown and the Missouri State Penitentiary redevelopment.

Cultural Resources:

One of the important things that the EIS process does is collect information about the location of historic homes, archaeological sites and other places of community interest. During the completion of the EIS, the team will examine the project's impact on archaeological sites, buildings, bridges and other structures. The team will also work to avoid or minimize how the project might affect those resources. If you are aware of places, buildings or other resources that the team should be aware of, please let us know! Go to www.MoDOT.org, call 1-888-Ask-MoDOT (275-6636) or write to: Whitton EIS; c/o MoDOT; P.O. Box 718 Jefferson City, MO 65102

We need to hear from you! Join us at our public meeting from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 14, at Kertz Hall - Immaculate Conception Church, 1206 East McCarty Street