

APPENDIX V-A

Newsletters



Newsletter No. 1 January 2006

Welcome to the Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the Route 65 Study Newsletter. This publication is for people who live and work in the Route 65 corridor area and others who are interested in the location, design, and construction of the new improvements to Route 65 from just south of Cole Camp Junction to Highway 7 in Warsaw (see map).

First Public Information Meeting

The first public information meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, at Lincoln School. The meeting format will be open house. You may stop in any time between 4 and 7 p.m. The purpose of this first meeting is to get acquainted, discuss the purpose and need for the study, and obtain your comments on possible alternatives for the proposed widening.



U.S. 65 Study Begins

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) plans to widen Route 65 from two lanes to four lanes with construction beginning in 2009. The first step in the process is performing a location study and completing an environmental document to analyze alternate locations for the widening. With your help, MoDOT will conduct this study to identify the future location of U.S. 65 improvements.

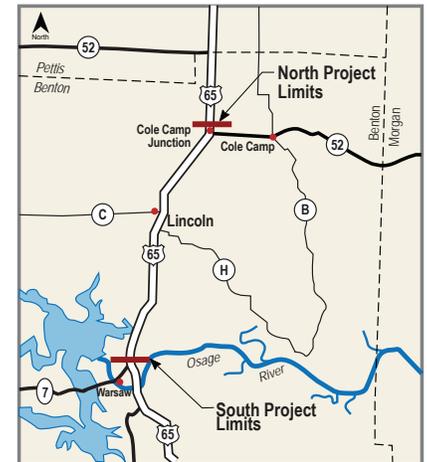
MoDOT selected CH2M HILL, a St. Louis based engineering firm to conduct this study of Route 65. The study began in October 2005 and will last through January 2007. During this time you will receive more newsletters, be invited to public meetings and have many opportunities to offer opinions and ask questions.

The project team will conduct a detailed environmental study that describes the potential environmental impacts of each alternative. Some of the factors that will be used to identify and evaluate project alternatives are:



- Highway design factors, such as appropriate roadway alignment and profile, adequate access to adjacent land uses, and safety.
- Environmental factors, such as avoiding wetlands, floodplains, sinkholes, and sensitive wildlife habitats.
- Social factors, such as relocation of residences, businesses, and farmland acquisition.
- Architectural and cultural factors, including maintaining historic facilities and archeological sites.
- Public comments and concerns.

MoDOT and the project team want the public to understand the various elements to be considered during the study so they will know how the final recommendations were determined.

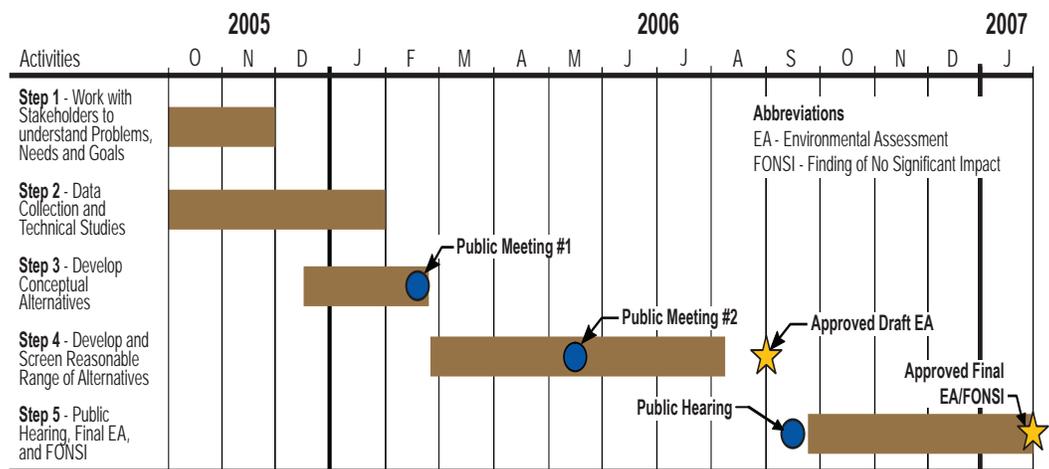


US 65 Project Location Map

Schedule

The project study began in October 2005 and will be completed by January 2007 (see Project Schedule below). The project staff is currently collecting data and developing preliminary alternatives for the proposed improvements. Throughout the study, residents

(over)



and business owners will be asked for their opinions and will be kept informed about the study progress. The study team will also work closely with agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources to avoid and minimize impacts to natural resources in the study area.

Public Involvement Activities

The public plays a very important role in developing, evaluating and refining potential alternatives for the widening of Route 65 through Benton County. To allow close contact with the public, the project team will conduct a wide range of public involvement activities including public meetings, newsletters, and interest group meetings. A more detailed description of the public involvement activities for this project will be provided at the first public information meeting.

First Public Information Meeting

The first public information meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22 at Lincoln School. The meeting format will be open house. You may stop in any time between 4 and 7 p.m. The purpose of this first meeting is to get acquainted, discuss the purpose and need for the study, and obtain your comments on possible alternatives for the proposed widening.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. People with special needs should notify the Missouri Department of Transportation, Central District, 1511 Missouri Boulevard, P.O. Box 718 Jefferson City, MO 65102. Phone (573) 751-3322, or the Missouri Relay System, TDD 1-800-735-2966 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Project Contact

If you have any questions about this study, please contact:

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FIRST CLASS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Newsletter No. 2 May 2006

Welcome to the second issue of the Route 65 Study Newsletter. This publication is for people who live and work in the Route 65 corridor area and others who are interested in the location, design, and construction of the new improvements to Route 65 from just south of Cole Camp Junction (Route 52) and Highway 7 North in Warsaw (see map at right).

Second Public Information Meeting

The second Public Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at Lincoln School. This will be an open house meeting. You may stop in any time between 4 and 7 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the full range of alternatives shown at the first public meeting, review the public input received on the study, review the remaining alternatives, discuss the ongoing environmental assessment and related studies, and obtain your comments on the reasonable range of alternatives for the proposed widening.



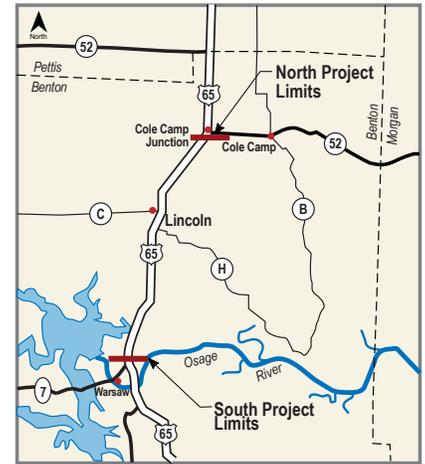
The U.S. 65 Study Continues

The Route 65 Study began in October 2005 and is expected to be completed in early 2007. Since the last newsletter, MoDOT and our consultant, CH2M HILL, have been evaluating the range of alternatives presented at the first public meeting in February. We are reviewing public comments and determining the preferred alternative, and will present our results at a second public information meeting on May 24th.

In addition to the screening of alternatives, the study team has initiated work on the environmental assessment, or EA. This is the formal document that will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration at the end of the study for ultimate approval. The EA is composed of five key sections:



- Section 1: Purpose and Need
- Section 2: Alternatives
- Section 3: Affected Environment
- Section 4: Environmental Consequences
- Section 5: Public Involvement

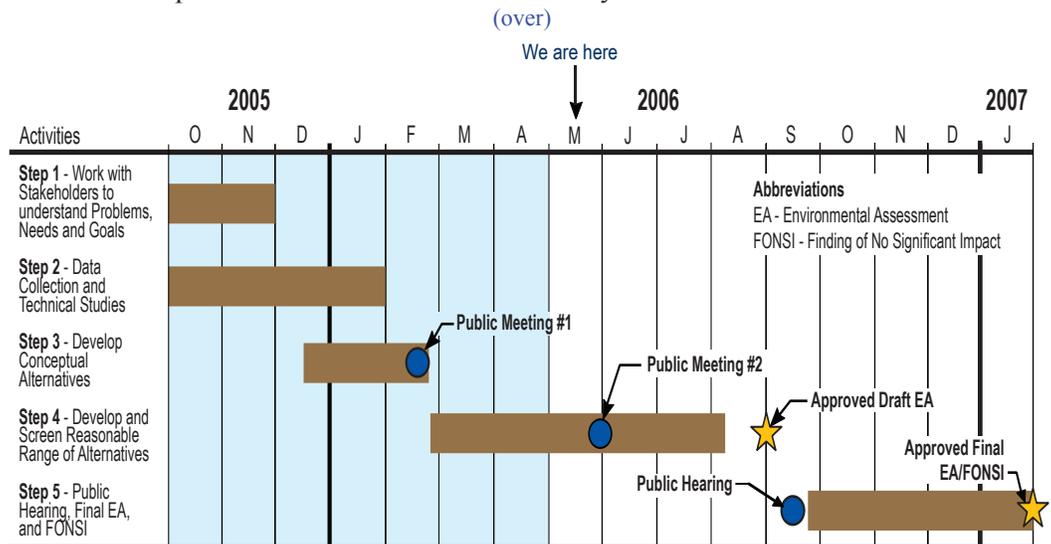


US 65 Project Location Map

MoDOT and the study team want the public to understand the various elements considered during the study so you will know how the project's preferred alternative is ultimately determined.

Schedule

The project study began in October 2005 and will be completed by early 2007. The project team is currently refining and analyzing alternatives for the proposed improvements. Through the remainder of the study, the public will continue to be asked for their opinions and will be kept informed about the study progress. The study team is also working closely with agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources to avoid or minimize impacts to natural resources in the study area.



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Public Involvement Activities

The public continues to play a very important role in developing, evaluating and refining potential alternatives for widening Route 65 through Benton County. More than 200 people attended the first public meeting this past February. In addition, the study team received nearly 200 written comments.

We encourage you to stay involved as your comments are extremely valuable to the study team.

Project Contact

If you have any questions about this study, please contact:

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