



U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement

Study Purpose

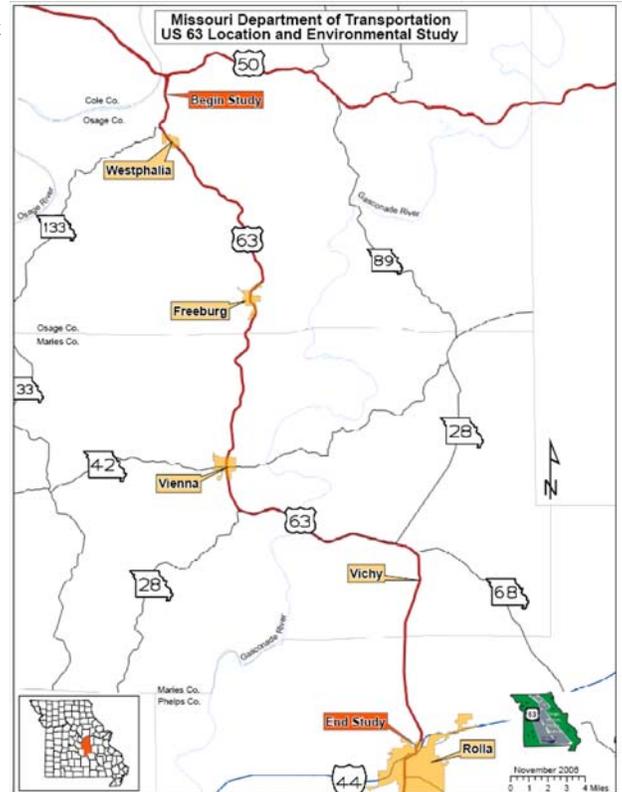
Welcome to the first issue of the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about progress related to the MoDOT's environmental and location study of U.S. Route 63 in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties.

This study is being conducted 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 particular environmental study is known as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It is required by the Federal Highway Administration under the National Environmental Policy Act before a major highway project can be constructed. An EIS is an objective process to help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve the transportation needs of the area.

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 EIS 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.



Second Round of Public Meetings Scheduled

Please join us for the second round of open-house public meetings on May 1 and 2 from 4-7 p.m. See back page for meeting details. After the first round of meetings in November, the study team conducted further analysis. The team examined what realistic options, if any, might address the needs. This included reviewing technical data and public input. A range of alternative alignments that potentially address the study's purpose and need will be shared at the upcoming public meetings.



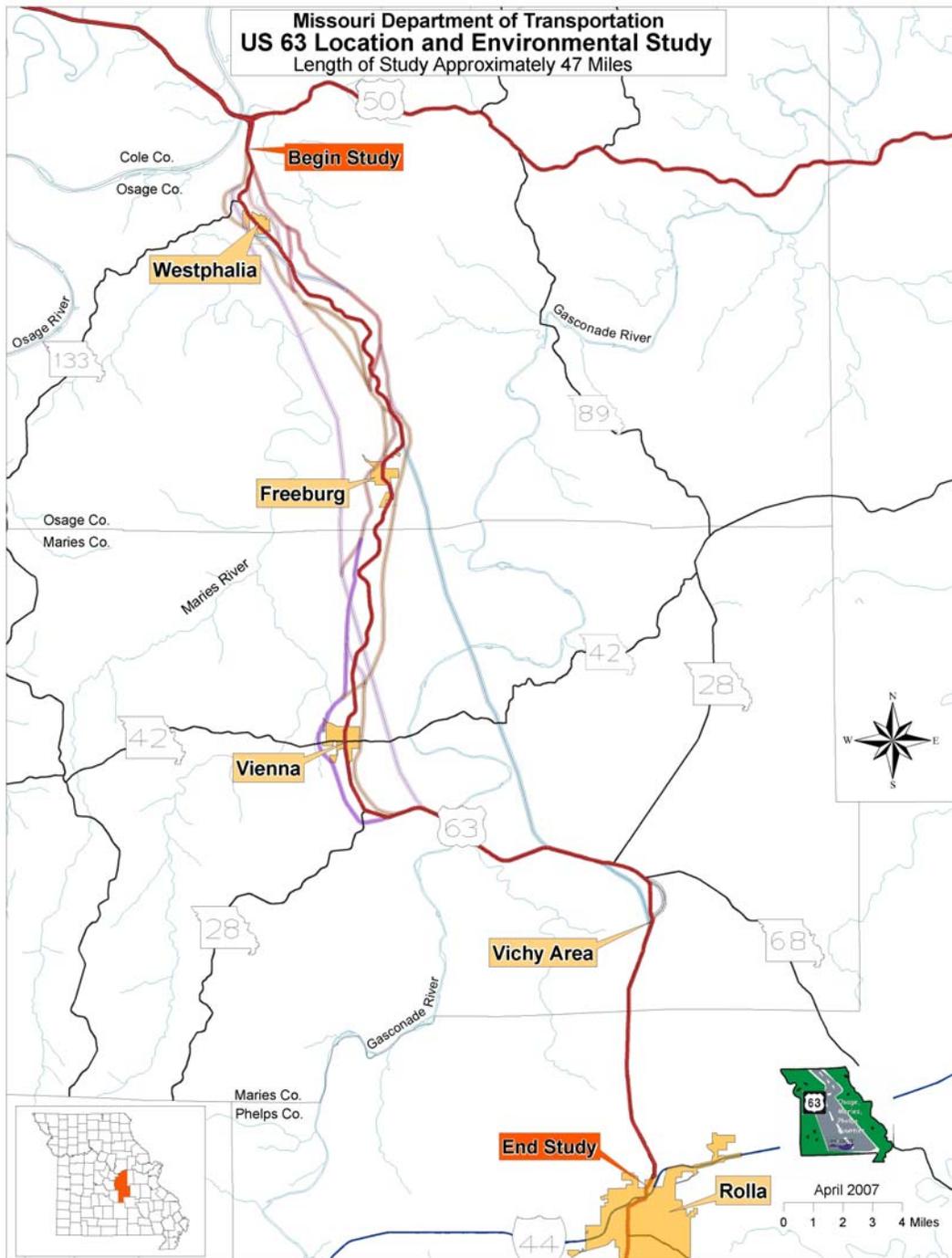
Public meetings will be held to share study findings and gather comments. We encourage the public to contact us to ask questions, make comments or share related information.

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Where Are We Now— Preliminary Range of Alternative Alignments

The study team has spent the last few months developing a preliminary range of alternative alignments to address the study’s purpose and need. This range includes corridor alignments to the east, west, and along the existing route. The team analyzed technical data as well as incorporated comments received at the first public meetings when they developed these alternatives.

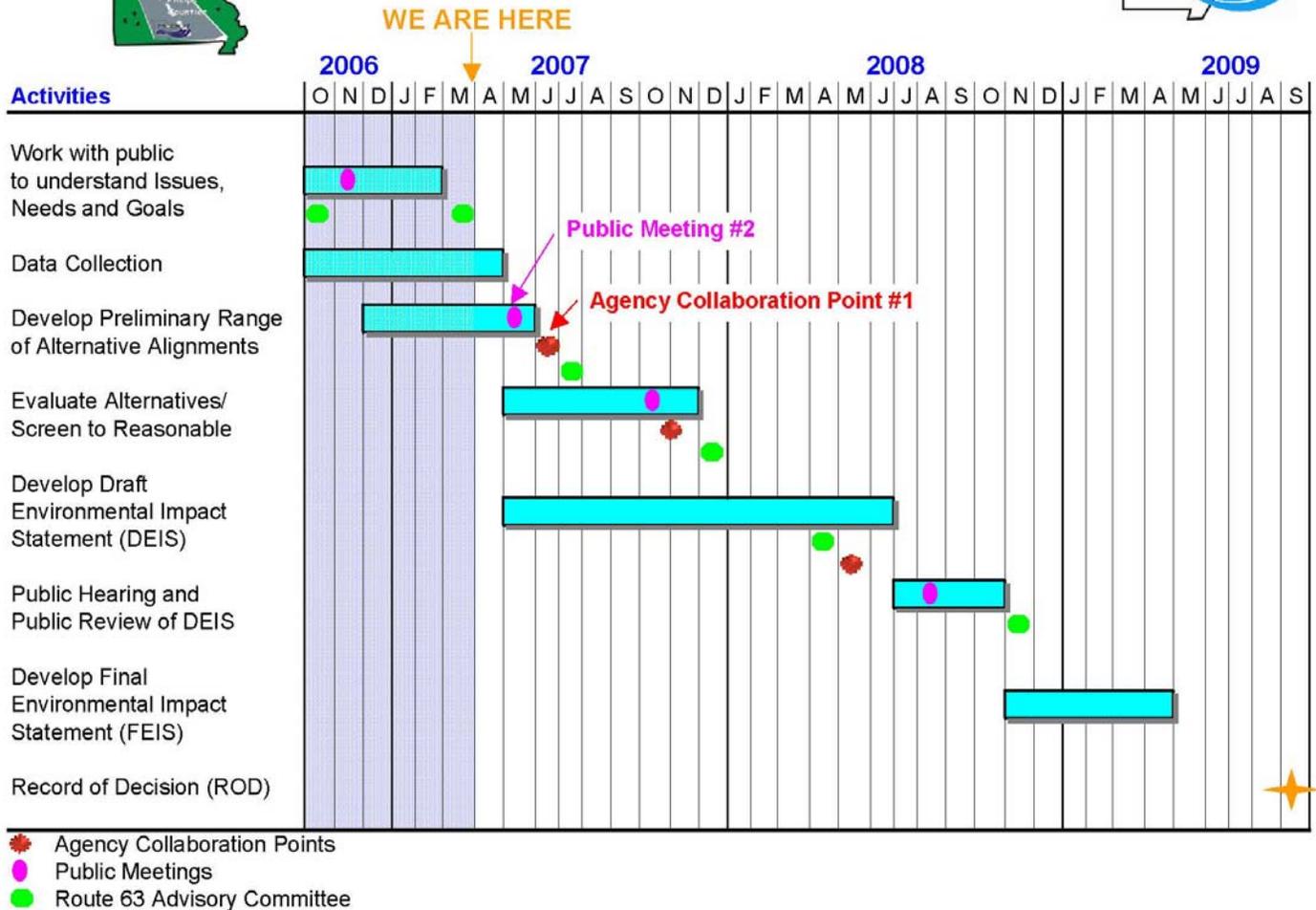
The May 1 and 2 public meetings will include detailed displays that show the preliminary range of alternative alignments for the 47-mile stretch of the study area. These displays will actually show lines on a map where the future route could go, and we need your input to help determine which alignments we should consider. Do you think the future roadway should go to the east or west of the existing corridor, or should it follow the existing alignment? Should the highway continue to route through the communities of Westphalia, Freeburg, Vienna and Vichy? Please attend the next round of meetings and give us your input.



Study Schedule



Route 63 Environmental Study Schedule



How Can I Learn More?

You can learn more about the study by:

- Visiting the project Web site at www.modot.org/central
- Attending future public meetings about this study
- Calling 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636)



Call us at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT to obtain study information or share comments. Representatives are available Monday–Friday from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Study information is also available on the Web.



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

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U.S. Route 63 Environmental Study Public Meetings Planned May 1 and 2, 2007



We encourage you to attend the upcoming open-house public meetings. You are welcome to visit at anytime 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.

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

4–7 p.m.

Westphalia Knights of Columbus
One mile south of Rte. 50/63 junction, Westphalia, MO

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

4–7 p.m.

Vienna Knights of Columbus
206 Sixth Street, Vienna, MO

For more information, contact us at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636) or visit us on the Web at www.modot.org/central.



In November 2006, MoDOT Route 63 Study Team Members met with area residents to gather input about the study and answer questions. Approximately 235 people attended meetings held in Westphalia and Vienna. MoDOT received 47 written comments about the study. Meeting summaries are on the Web.