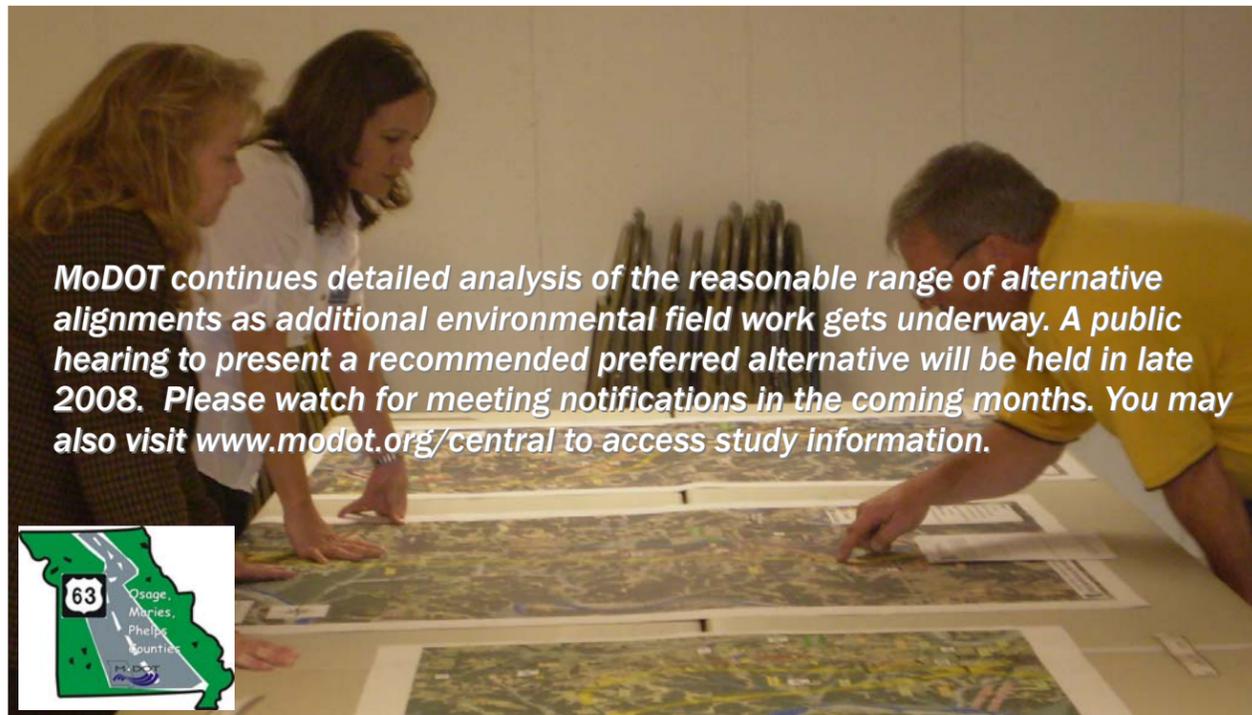




**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

1511 Missouri Blvd., P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing Planned in Late 2008



MoDOT continues detailed analysis of the reasonable range of alternative alignments as additional environmental field work gets underway. A public hearing to present a recommended preferred alternative will be held in late 2008. Please watch for meeting notifications in the coming months. You may also visit www.modot.org/central to access study information.



Issue 3

June 2008



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement

Where We Are in the Process— Detailed Analysis of the Reasonable Alternatives

A Closer Look At Environmental Factors

When MoDOT plans a roadway improvement, there are federal environmental laws that must first be addressed. One of these laws is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Section 106 of this Act requires MoDOT identify and evaluate historic properties, which includes archaeological sites, and determine effects the proposed project will have upon them.

In late May, "Right of Entry" agreements and related informational materials about field work were mailed to some property owners within the study area who might be directly impacted by an improved U.S. Route 63. With permission, MoDOT representatives will access local properties this spring and summer to identify important environmental factors like prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, important architectural structures, endangered species, unique natural communities and wetlands. Some initial contacts and screenings were also conducted earlier this spring.



MoDOT representatives evaluate area properties to determine the potential environmental and cultural impacts of a highway improvement.

Allowing MoDOT access to private property is voluntary. However, allowing us to do so gives study team members a complete picture of what needs to be evaluated and helps to determine where highway improvements would have significant environmental and cultural impacts.

MoDOT thanks property owners for their support during this process. For more information about right of entry, please contact us at **1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636)**.

Noise Analysis

A noise analysis is also being conducted to assess potential traffic-related noise impacts along the study corridor. Results from the analysis will be available at the public hearing in late 2008 and in the draft study document.

About the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Study

The Missouri Department of Transportation is conducting this environmental and location study of U.S. Route 63 in Osage, Maries and Phelps Counties 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 study is required by the Federal Highway Administration under the National Environmental Policy Act before a major highway project can be constructed. It is an objective process to help determine what actions, if any, are needed to best serve area transportation needs.

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.

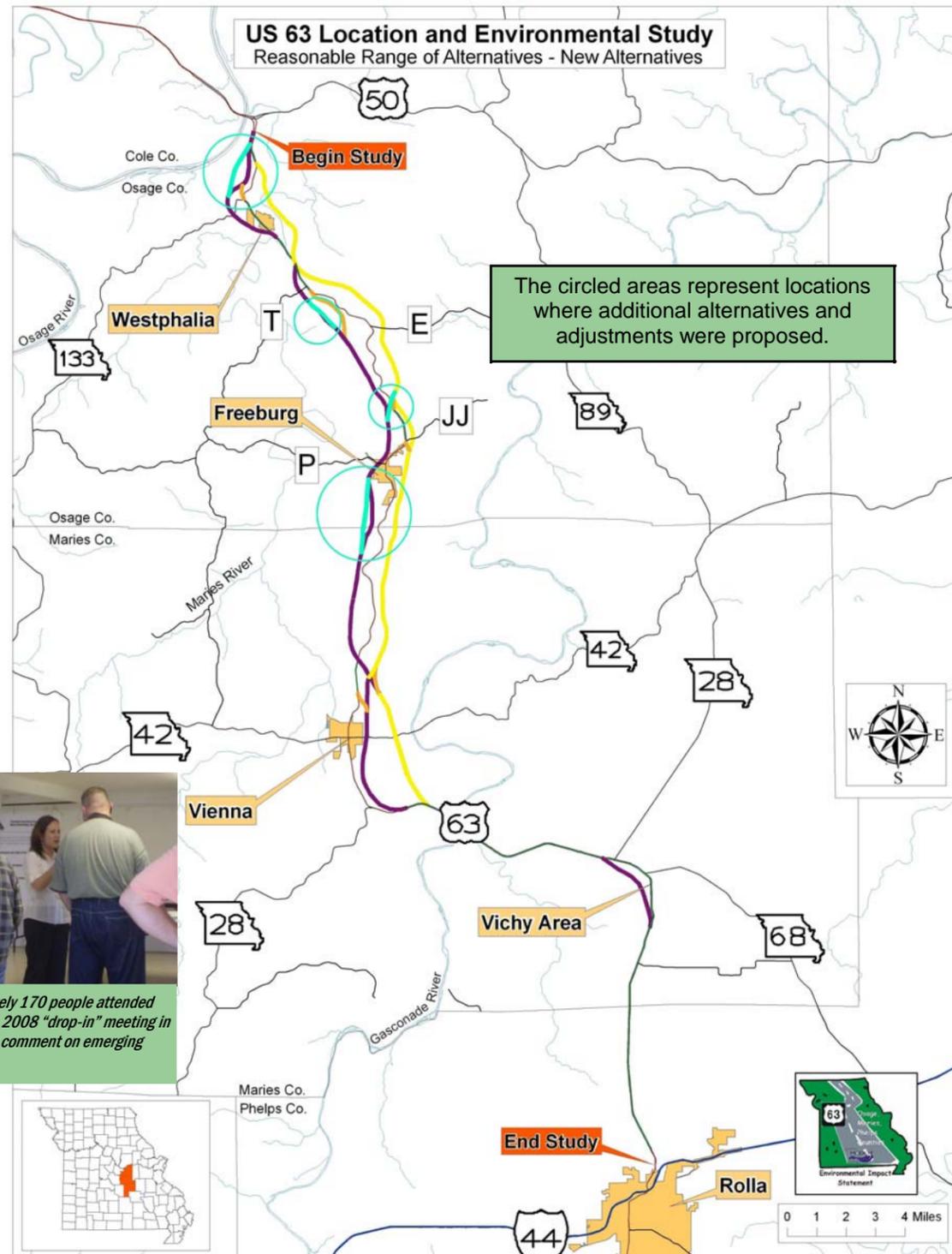
The U.S. Route 63 environmental and location study will be completed in the fall of 2009. Currently, there is no funding for construction or acquisition of right of way for this project.

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Reasonable Range of Alternative Alignments

After a series of public meetings held in Fall 2007, the MoDOT study team made some adjustments to the reasonable range of alternative alignments. Based on technical data and public comment, new alignments emerged at four locations. Following a “drop-in” open-house meeting on April 10 in Freeburg, Mo., the study team continues to analyze these alignments and are working toward developing a recommended preferred alternative.



How Can I Participate in this Process?

We want to hear your comments, suggestions and questions!

If you wish to speak with a member of the U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement study team, please call us toll free at **1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636)**. Study team members are generally available during normal business hours, Monday—Friday from 7:30 a.m.—4 p.m.

A public hearing is planned in late 2008 to share the recommended preferred alternative. We encourage you to attend to view the information presented and provide us with your feedback. Be watching for public hearing dates, locations and times, which will be shared later this year.

Please visit our Web site at www.modot.org/central to view past public meeting displays, handouts and summaries related to this study. While visiting the Web site, you may also sign up for e-mail updates related to state transportation matters in your area.



MoDOT customer service center representatives are available to assist you with your comments, suggestions and questions. Representatives can also place you in touch with study team members for detailed study matters.

Study Schedule

What's Next?

The study team is completing a detailed analysis of the reasonable range of alternative alignments and a draft U.S. Route 63 Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared. The draft environmental document will be shared during the upcoming public hearing. It will include a recommended preferred alternative, along with preliminary costs, potential displacements, and environmental impacts. A conceptual provision of access along the corridor will be analyzed after the hearing.

