



The Future of Route 63

Vienna Public Mtg. Comments

DATE: May 2, 2007

TIME: 4-7 p.m.

SUBJECT: Route 63 EIS/Location Study
Public Meeting

LOCATION: Knights of Columbus
206 Sixth Street
Vienna, MO 65582

SUMMARY

Approximately 197 people attended the Route 63 Environmental and Location Study public meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at the Knight of Columbus Hall in Vienna.

The meeting was held to gather public comment about a preliminary range of alternative alignments for Route 63 in Osage, Maries, and Phelps Counties, from ½ mile south of the Route 50/63 junction to just north of Rolla. To publicize the meeting, advertisements were placed in the *Rolla Daily News*, the *Unterrified Democrat*, and the *Maries County Gazette*. A news release was sent to all local media and flyers were distributed at businesses along the highway. A newsletter about the study was also mailed to local stakeholders and attendees of previous public meetings.

PARTICIPATION

There were 197 individuals who signed guest registers.

There were 7 comments cards (two with maps) completed at the meeting.

There were 40 comments cards mailed or e-mailed in (four with maps) after the meeting.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

Westphalia

Alignment running on the far east side of Westphalia:

1. Five attendees said this alignment is more direct, has fewer curves and fewer miles on an overall trip.
1. One attendee said this alignment would eliminate the intersection on the north side of Westphalia at County Road 609.
2. One attendee said the road should be as far out as possible because there is far too much congestion in the small towns.
3. One attendee said this alignment would not take as much developed land and would be less expensive.

Alignment running on the east side of Westphalia:

1. Two attendees said to use the existing bridge and save taxpayers money.
2. One attendee said to go through the bottomland where no homes will be involved, but it might need two bridges.

Alignment running on existing route through Westphalia:

1. One attendee said the existing route has a wide enough area to make improvements at the lowest cost.
2. Two attendees said there was no need for a new highway.
3. Two attendees said to keep traffic in front of businesses.
4. Two attendees said a “super two” highway with “hill passing lane” on the north side would handle traffic smoothly and for a lot less money.

Alignment running west of Westphalia:

1. One attendee said this is the best way to connect to segment 9.
2. One attendee said the “charm” of Westphalia lies on the east of town and this route would be less disruptive.

Alignment running on the far west side of Westphalia:

1. One attendee said this alignment had better terrain for road building.

Freeburg

Alignment running on the far east side of Freeburg:

2. Five attendees said this alignment is more direct, has fewer curves and fewer miles on an overall trip.
3. One attendee said this alignment would align Route 63 with Vichy and shorten the distance between Jefferson City and Rolla.
4. Three attendees said the towns need to be bypassed to promote smooth traffic flow through the area and this was the shortest, straightest route.
5. One attendee said this alignment would eliminate the intersection north of Freeburg at Route JJ.
6. One attendee said this alignment would have less need to take developed property and would cost less.

Alignment running on the east side of Freeburg:

1. One attendee said this alignment would cost less for right of way acquisition.
2. One attendee said there is less development in this area and it’s closer the existing highway.

Alignment running on existing route through Freeburg:

1. One attendee said that with high gas prices, traffic on the existing Route 63 would decrease.
2. One attendee said to keep traffic in front of businesses and not to take it past family farms.
3. One attendee said the highway does not need to be re-aligned.
4. Two attendees said that using the existing alignment would create less of an impact and would cost less.

Alignment running on the far west side of Freeburg:

1. Two attendees said this looked like the straightest alignment.
2. One attendee said this alignment would be the most desirable for Fort Leonard Wood.

Vienna

Alignment running on the far east side of Vienna:

1. One attendee said that segment 48 looks like the least populated area and the shortest route.

Alignment running on the east side of Vienna:

1. Two attendees said this alignment would cause fewer major changes.
2. One attendee said the terrain is better for this alignment and would require less property to acquire. This alignment would also stay closer to the existing highway for outer road use.

3. Three attendees said this alignment would not take away all the traffic for local businesses.
4. Two attendees said the Lake traffic would still have to drive through Vienna on this alignment.

Alignment running on existing route through Vienna:

1. Seven attendees said that just widening the road would impact fewer people and the cost would be minimal.
2. Two attendees said a turn lane and traffic lights would help the accident rate through Vienna.
3. Three attendees expressed a concern for the towns becoming “ghost towns” if the highway bypassed them.
4. Four attendees said the highway does not need to be re-aligned.

Alignment running east of the Gasconade River:

1. Four attendees said this alignment would protect residences of Vienna.
2. Five attendees said this alignment would shorten the distance between Jefferson City and Rolla and save taxpayer money.
3. One attendee said this alignment would allow Vienna to grow to the east and it saves six miles of driving time to Jefferson City.
4. Two attendees said this alignment would take only farmland and would eliminate traffic congestion.

Vichy Area

Alignment running on the east side of the Vichy area:

1. One attendee said this alignment has “more gently rolling land” and therefore should not cost as much.
2. One attendee said this alignment would be more direct to the airport and help remove traffic from Vichy.
3. One attendee said this alignment would cause less construction and would stay away from existing creeks.
4. One attendee said this is the shortest route and less damaging to people’s homes and farmland.

Alignment running on existing route through the Vichy area:

1. One attendee said to keep the traffic in front of the businesses.
2. Two attendees said the highway does not need to be re-aligned.

Alignment running west of the Vichy area:

1. Nine attendees said this route is a more direct route and there were no businesses to hurt in the process.
2. Three attendees said this route is better because of the airport on the other side.

General Comments

- One attendee said the speed limit from Gasconade River to north of Vienna should be changed to 45 or 50 miles per hour.
- One attendee said the junction of Route 63 and 28 needs a 90 degree approach.
- One attendee said that if we cut off six miles from the existing alignment (segment 37) that the cost overall would be more with road connections and maintenance.
- One attendee said that passing lanes would work on the northern half of the alignment and the southern half is fine as it is.
- One attendee said there were enough improvements through the Vichy area and wanted to improve the approach to Paydown Road (County Road 302) and straighten a few curves between Freeburg and Westphalia.

- Three attendees said not to acquire right of way for a four-lane highway but only build a “Super-2” at this time.
- One attendee said a new highway would improve economic development around Vichy and Belle.
- One attendee said that lake traffic stops at the junction of Routes 42 and 63 and causes problems.
- Two attendees said that if it seems like funding is not going to be available, to improve the present highway with turning lanes.
- One attendee expressed a concern for the number of traffic-related fatalities near Maries County Road 302 and the Freeburg Fire Tower stretch of Route 63.
- One attendee said the existing alignment should not be used and the new alignment should definitely be a four-lane highway.
- One attendee said there were only three curves that caused problems in the Vienna area, at Honse’s Café, Paydown Lookout Tower, and Paydown Road. Straightening these curves and resurfacing the existing route would have a less negative impact to local businesses.