



The Future of Route 63

Vienna Public Meeting Comments

DATE: November 16, 2006

TIME: 4-7 p.m.

SUBJECT: Route 63 EIS/Location Study
Public Meeting

LOCATION: American Legion Hall
541 First Street
Vienna, MO 65582

Summary

Approximately 113 people attended the Route 63 Environmental and Location Study public meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2006, at the American Legion Hall in Vienna.

The meeting was held to gather public comment about potential future improvements to Route 63 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 throughout the area.

Participation

- There were 113 individuals who signed guest registers.
- There were 10 comments cards (2 with maps) completed at the meeting.
- There were 14 comments cards mailed or e-mailed in (3 with maps) after the meeting.
- Overall, the comments were positive toward something happening within the study area.

Comments/feedback about potential transportation solutions

1. Four-lane highway

- Two attendees said if Route 63 became a four-lane highway that it could potentially be a major north/south corridor. One said that it would be a good corridor for trucking commerce from Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, the Great Lakes, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico ports (included a map).
- Another attendee said that a new highway was needed between Freeburg and Westphalia.
- One attendee suggested using the existing highway until Freeburg, then make a new four-lane highway west of Freeburg, tie back in to existing route south of Freeburg, build a new four-lane just east of Vienna, and then tie back to the existing route again just south of Vienna. Another suggested using what existing sections were good and then a new alignment on the bad sections.
- One attendee wants Route 63 to be a “state of the art” four-lane highway and use part of the existing highway and right-of-way but to bypass the towns.
- One attendee expressed a need for the military to have better access to Ft. Leonard Wood and he thought a four-lane Route 63 could be the solution.

- One attendee suggested starting at County Road 331 in Vienna, going on the east side of town, staying east of the sewage station and west of the 100 acre lake, and then tying into existing improvements south of town. He said to make sure there are entrances and exits for local traffic.

2. Passing lanes, wider shoulders and turn lanes

- Three attendees suggested passing lanes on hills (climbing lanes) and more passing lanes might be an option.
- One attendee said the minimum that needs to be done is developing passing lanes and asphaltting the shoulders for truck traffic.
- One e-mail request said the intersections of Rtes. 63 and 42 and Rte. 63 and 10th Street in Vienna needs to be studied for possible turn lanes. She also requested that the 45 m.p.h. speed limit be lowered to 35 m.p.h. and the location of the sign (currently at 10th Street) be moved farther north due to a high number of accidents.

3. No changes

- One attendee said that any changes to Highway 63 are completely unnecessary. She said the most dangerous stretches are already improved.
- One attendee said that making Highway 63 a “bigger super highway” would add to the amount of accidents and unsafe driving conditions. She also said the worst stretch is from Route 28 West to Route 68 South.

4. Local business impact

- Five attendees expressed concern that a negative impact, i.e. loss in customers, would occur to local businesses if the highway bypassed the towns. One attendee said sales tax was the largest revenue source for the towns and relocating the highway will hurt that income.
- Another attendee said the expansion of Route 63 would allow the growth in population and economic infrastructure for the towns of Westphalia, Freeburg and Vienna because it gives greater access to Jefferson City, Columbia and Rolla.

5. Vichy

- One attendee said he did not want the highway to only be widened because he thought the shoulder widening currently being done in the Vichy area was a waste of money.
- One attendee said that the highway through Vichy ruined the town and would it would do the same to other towns if the new highway went through them.
- One mailed response said the terrain west of Vichy would be more difficult and cost more to construct a new road. He also sited some areas on a map of American Indian artifacts and some springs.

6. Property

- One attendee expressed deep concern for the property owners who could be affected by highway improvements. One said they did not want a new highway to come through or any closer to his property (map attached).
- Two attendees said they were concerned for the environmental impact if a four-lane highway were developed. One included a map of a known Osage Indian site, springs and arrowhead findings.

- Another attendee expressed concern for historical sites within the area of the study and hoped these would be taken into consideration when planning for alignments.
- One attendee suggested to buy all the right-of-way for a four-lane highway with clover leafs now because it would be cheaper than buying later.

7. Heavy truck travel

- Two attendees said there is an abundance of truck traffic. One said that Route 63 is a main road from I-44 to the 50-63 Junction and wants a new highway.
- One attendee requested an investigation for the turn-off at County Road 302 (Paydown Road). There is an increasing danger at the spot due to more truck traffic, especially Wal-Mart trucks, and school buses turning out and into this road.
- One attendee said the truck traffic has increased significantly since the new Wal-Mart distribution center was built.

8. Local camp with entrance on Route 63

- One attendee said an average of 400 to 500 cars visited the camp each week during the peak season and it would benefit the travelers if the highway was straightened and lanes added. He suggested the highway go east of Freeburg to eliminate a high accident area. He also suggested an access road to Freeburg on the north end of town at the junction of Route JJ and at the south end at County Road 638 or 639.
- One e-mail expressed an interest in having direct access to a new Highway 63 for the camp and a protected left turn lane for southbound traffic turning east onto County Road 638. They had a camper fatality at this entrance.
- One mailed request was to make sure the camp has access and if possible to have the highway run on the east side of Freeburg.

9. Eliminate curves on existing highway

- One attendee said there is a need to take curves out of the highway starting at Phelps County line and north to the airport because of the amount of wrecks in Vichy area. She said four lanes would be nice. Another attendee agreed on the need for the highway to be straightened.
- One mailed request was to straighten the curves because it is too dangerous to pass (attached a map).
- Another mailed request stated the road should stay the same with some of the worst curves straightened out, including the curve at Freeburg lookout tower between Freeburg and Vienna, the junction at Highway E, and the junction at Highway 28 toward Dixon.
- Three mailed comments stated that the curve at Maries Road 302 (Paydown Road) was a daily danger and needs to be addressed.
- One mailed comment requested the construction of a four-lane highway from the Junction of 50 and 63, following the current alignment through Westphalia, constructing a new bridge at the Maries River, going to Route T. Then break off of the existing alignment and go west of Freeburg and tie back in at either County Road 209 or 302. Continue following the alignment again to Route AA, where it could break off and go west of Vienna and connect back at the intersection with Highway 28. He also suggests an intersection at Rtes. 63 and 28 to serve local traffic and the traffic on Route 42.
- One mailed response expressed a need for some improvements, but did not specify any preference.