



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.

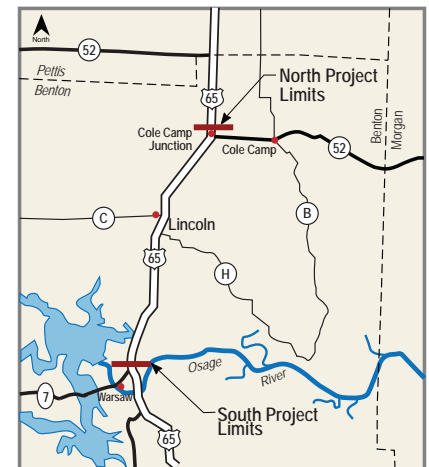
MoDOT selected CH2M HILL, a St. Louis based engineering firm to conduct this study of Route 65. The study began in October 2005 and will last through January 2007. During this time you will receive more newsletters, be invited to public meetings and have many opportunities to offer opinions and ask questions.

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.

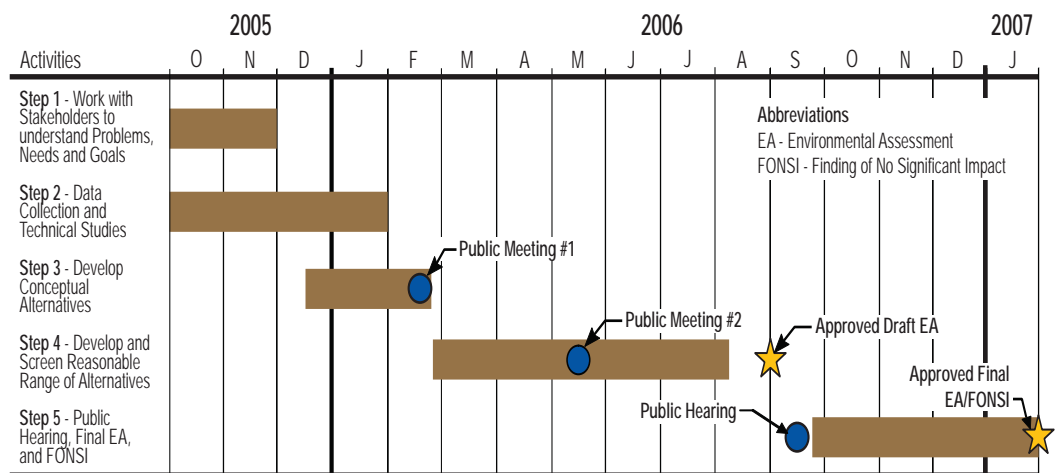


US 65 Project Location Map

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.

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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

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