

## **4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY**

MoDOT has provided numerous specific and ongoing opportunities for public input during the Route 45 improvement project. Through the study's public involvement program, interested agencies, local units of government, property owners, and the general public have provided comments and input into the development and evaluation of the Route 45 alternatives. Public participation and input was accomplished through various means during the course of this project and is summarized in the following paragraphs. The public involvement transcripts, exhibits, and newsletters can be found in **Appendix D**.

### **4.1 Public Survey**

In April and May, 2006 approximately 350 surveys were sent to stakeholders and property owners adjacent to Route 45. One-third, or 117, of them were returned. (Typically, these types of surveys have a 10 percent or less return rate.) A summary of the survey results found that respondents generally thought Route 45 needed improvement, most said Route 45 does not meet their transportation needs currently and was unlikely to do so in the future, most see Route 45 as a roadway that should be focused on serving local transportation needs, most strongly emphasized the need for access to businesses along Route 45 versus mobility along the roadway, and most wanted to preserve property rights and existing community values rather than disrupt those.

### **4.2 Stakeholder Briefings**

Two sets of small group stakeholder briefings were conducted for this project. Attendees for these briefings included property owners, local officials, civic organizations, educators, business owners, developers, emergency management services personnel, and interested citizens.

The first set of small group stakeholder briefings included five briefings held May 16 and 18, 2006, at Parkville City Hall. Approximately 40 stakeholders attended these briefings. These briefings presented the existing conditions for the corridor, including an Existing Traffic Summary, an Existing Crash Occurrences Summary, and the Existing Environmental Conditions. The major themes to come out of these meetings were how access will be managed, how and when right-of-way acquisition will take place, how the Route 45/Route K roundabout project will be affected, and specific Route 45 traffic issues.

The second set of small group stakeholder briefings included five briefings held August 29 and 30, 2006, at the Platte County Community Center South in Parkville. Approximately 39 stakeholders attended these briefings. These briefings presented the reasonable alternatives for the Route 45 corridor. Also presented were two typical sections, one with shoulders and one without shoulders. The major themes to come out of these meetings were how median access will be managed, how and when right-of-way acquisition will take place, the need for shoulders, and specific Route 45 traffic issues.

### **4.3 Public Meetings**

Two public meetings were conducted for this project.

The first public meeting was held on May 25, 2006 at the Platte County Community Center South in Parkville. Approximately 120 people attended the first public meeting. This meeting presented the existing conditions for the corridor, including an Existing Traffic Summary, an Existing Crash Occurrences Summary, and the Existing Environmental Conditions. Key themes to come out of the meeting included concerns about the safety and construction timeline of the Route K roundabout, the need to include pedestrian and bicycle trails, and identification of specific traffic control and safety issues and specific community development projects.

The second public meeting was held on September 7, 2006 at the Platte County Community Center South in Parkville. Approximately 109 people attended the second public meeting. This meeting presented the reasonable alternatives for the Route 45 corridor. Also presented were two typical sections, one with shoulders and one without shoulders. Key themes to come out of the meeting included support for Alternative B to widen on existing to the north and south; inclusion of a shared-use path in the design; agreement with proposed realignments of North and South Crooked Road; concerns about safety conditions currently and during construction; and requests to widen Route 45 all of the way to Interstate 435.

An additional meeting for property and business owners adjacent to Route 45 was held on August 26, 2006. Approximately 22 people attended this meeting at the Platte County Community Center South in Parkville. This meeting presented information about the three reasonable alternatives for the Route 45 corridor. The meeting provided the opportunity for adjacent property and business owners to learn about and provide feedback regarding the alternatives. Key themes to come out of the meeting included the preference for minimizing displacements and access concerns including left turns.

#### **4.4 Newsletters**

Three newsletters were produced for this project.

The first issue of the newsletter, which described the Route 45 Location Study, was also sent to 350 stakeholders and property owners in early May 2006. The four-page publication began with an overview of the project and its goals. The second and third pages provided the project timeline, defined the location study process, and described the public meeting to be held on May 25, 2006. Also included was a map of the study area. The publication ended with a summary of opportunities for input on future roadway improvements, and contact information for the project.

The second issue of the newsletter, which described the Route 45 Location Study, was sent to approximately 350 stakeholders and property owners in August 2006. The four-page publication began with an overview of the project thus far, including the process to determine the five initial concepts and the narrowing to three reasonable concepts. Also included were a project timeline, a follow-up on the Existing Conditions public meeting, final results of the stakeholder and property owner survey, a map of the study area and promotion of the project web site and Reasonable Alternatives public meeting.

The third issue of the newsletter was distributed in late June 2007 near the conclusion of the Location/Environmental Study. This newsletter was sent to all of the stakeholders and property owners on the project contact list (approximately 350 contacts) and provided a follow up on the second public meeting, identified the preferred alternative, and outlined the remaining steps in the process to complete the project.

#### **4.5 Web site**

Information regarding the Route 45 project was made available on the MoDOT Web site, located at [www.modot.org/kansascity/major\\_projects.route45.htm](http://www.modot.org/kansascity/major_projects.route45.htm). A link to the MoDOT Route 45 Web site was also included on the City of Parkville's Web site. The Web site has been maintained throughout the study and includes: a project overview, purpose and need information, frequently asked questions and answers, news releases, public meeting announcements, project schedule, public meeting displays and handouts, copies of the newsletters, public survey results summary, and project contact information to submit questions or comments.

#### **4.6 Project Core Team Meetings**

A total of eight project core team meetings were held approximately on a monthly basis over the duration of the Route 45 study. The project core team members that participated in these meetings included representatives from MoDOT District 4, MoDOT Central Office, the consultant team, the City of Parkville, Platte County, and the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). These meetings were designed to provide updates on the status of the project, facilitate discussion between the interested parties, and to provide an opportunity for input and feedback from the project team.

#### **4.7 Future Public Involvement Activities**

Design for this project from Route 9 to Route K is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2007 with a Design Public Hearing scheduled to occur in the winter of 2008.