

October 2008

Hannibal Expressway

UPDATE



PO Box 1067 - Hannibal, MO 63401
1-888-275-6636 or 573-248-2490
www.MoDOT.org/northeast

The Hannibal Expressway (Hannibal Bypass) has been identified as a need by MoDOT's planning partners and is included on the list of highway needs in the Conversation for Moving Missouri Forward plan. This plan considers what could be done if more money was available for transportation.

Now that the Avenue of the Saints is four lanes from St. Louis to St. Paul, MN, it is important that we continue to improve the corridor by addressing the only section of the Avenue that has traffic signals – through Hannibal.

Since there is no dedicated funding for building the Hannibal Expressway, MoDOT is moving ahead with low or no-cost processes that contribute to the preliminary design of the expressway. These opportunities include establishing a Citizen's Advisory Committee, resurveying the entire area, and determining if it is necessary to expand the environment impact statement to give taxpayers the best value for any future dollars that will be spent on the project.

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Citizen's Advisory Committee members are individuals who represent a variety of groups and perspectives. The basic function of this committee will be to provide ideas that will focus on a wide range of issues affecting the movement of people and goods. Committee members will gather input from local residents and bring this information back to the committee for evaluation. Committee members can bring new perspectives and fresh ideas to project teams. One of the main opportunities for the team will be to assist in the development of alternate concepts based on limitations presented due to local design, environmental impacts and funding.

Please sign the registration sheet provided tonight and include your email address if applicable. We will automatically subscribe you to the Hannibal Expressway news update service available through our website.

VALUE ENGINEERING

Being responsible for the state transportation system means MoDOT must consider several options when determining what projects are to look like. It is our responsibility to ensure that cultural and environmental impacts are carefully considered while we strive to provide the best value for every tax dollar spent. The environment impact statement (EIS) for the Hannibal Expressway was completed in 1996, and when the Expressway was identified as a need in 2007, MoDOT decided it was necessary to re-evaluate the options considered during the EIS since things can change a lot in 11 years.

Value engineering is a high level brainstorming session that looks for a second 'right' answer to provide more value for the dollars to be spent. As a result of the week-long study, there were several recommendations to modify the original location proposed to tie in near Route M, and there was also a suggestion to tie in near Trabue Lane. All these are ideas that need to be further researched using the most up-to-date information.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, commonly known as NEPA, created a requirement that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for all major federal actions significantly affecting the human environment. All highway improvement projects using federal dollars must comply with NEPA. As the lead federal agency, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is responsible for this but generally delegates the NEPA document preparation to MoDOT. An EIS was already completed for the Hannibal Expressway. Now that another alignment has been proposed, FHWA has decided that MoDOT needs to prepare a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) to thoroughly evaluate the social, economic, or environmental effects of this alignment. The SEIS process provides an opportunity for the public to voice their opinions about this new proposal. Selection of an alignment will not be final until FHWA issues a Record of Decision.

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Process

- Participating and cooperating governmental resource agencies with interest in the project are identified and invited to participate in the process.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issues a Notice of Intent (NOI), published in the Federal Register, that an SEIS is being prepared.
- Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) holds a public meeting to describe the project to the public and solicit comments.
- A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) is prepared to address all known environmental concerns associated with the proposed project.
- The DSEIS is then submitted to FHWA for review and approval.
- The DSEIS is circulated to all participating and cooperating agencies for review.
- A Notice of Availability (NOA) is published in the Federal Register and the document is made available for a 30-day comment period for everyone, public included.
- MoDOT holds a Public Hearing to solicit and document comments from the public.
- The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) is prepared.
- The FSEIS is submitted to FHWA, as well as participating, and cooperating agencies for review and FHWA approval. A draft Record of Decision (ROD) is also submitted for FHWA review.
- A NOA is published in the Federal Register and the document is made available for a 30-day public comment period.
- The ROD is submitted to FHWA for approval.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Proposed schedule for Preliminary Engineering:

- Winter '09/'10 Begin field survey of potential corridor; will use aerial photography, but surveyors will be on property to mark control points. Property owners will be contacted prior to MoDOT beginning the survey.
- Mid-Year 2009 Begin preliminary design of options based on field survey.
- Mid-Year 2010 Public involvement to discuss proposed alignment and impacts.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the proposed surveying and design or schedule, you may also contact MoDOT Transportation Project Manager Rick Domzalski, at 573-248-2579 or Richard.Domzalski@modot.mo.gov, or Transportation Planning Specialist Bob Manzke at 573-248-2634 or Robert.Manzke@modot.mo.gov.

Thank you for coming tonight. If you are interested in participating in the process as a Citizen's Advisory Committee member, please be sure to check the box provided on the sign in sheet.