

Public Meeting Summary

The second public meeting for the U.S. Route 54 Mississippi River Bridge Environmental Assessment was held in Louisiana, MO on Thursday March 21, 2012 from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Twin Pike Family YMCA. Advertisements were placed in the Pittsfield Pike Press, the Bowling Green Times, and the Louisiana Press Journal. A news release was sent out March 21 highlighting the upcoming meeting and the website where the displays are available and comments could be made online at www.modot.org/northeast.

Displays available included “No Build and Rehabilitation Alternatives”, “Partial Replacement and Existing Location Alternative”, “Upstream Alternative”, “Downstream Alternative”, “Upstream Alternative with Improved Alignment”, “Skewed Downstream Alternative”, “Eliminated Alternatives” and “Environmental Assessment Process”. In addition two handouts were provided, the first was “Pros & Cons for each alternative” and the second was a comment form for the public to provide feedback regarding each alternative.

Five MoDOT staff attended the public meeting including four from the Northeast District and one from the Central Office Environmental Section. One representative from the Illinois Department of Transportation attended the meeting as well.

Sixty community members attended the public meeting. Local media in attendance included two television stations and two newspapers. Fifteen written comments were received at the meeting and seven comments were received by email. The Upstream Alternative (Red) and Downstream Alternative (Green) received the most support with the Adjacent Upstream with Improved Alignment Alternative (Yellow) also receiving supportive comments. One preferred the Partial Replacement Alternative and one preferred the Existing Location Alternative if a ferry could be provided during construction. Maintaining access across the river during construction was a consistent theme. Several in the community said addressing the Route 54 and Route 79 intersections were needed including bigger intersections for large trucks and maintaining access to the historic downtown area.