



Ideas to Reality

*From planning
to pavement*

8

And the winner is ...

We determine funding specifics and announce the schedule as contractors bid for the project. MoDOT looks at all bids to make sure they meet requirements. Contracts are awarded and ...

10

Cut the ribbon and let's go!

The road surface is paved with asphalt or concrete. Signs are posted and stripes are painted. The road is now complete and ready for travel.

9

The dirty work begins

The area is cleared of rock and debris, and heavy equipment begins grading. Crews lay pipes under the roadbed and build bridges over ditches and rivers to provide drainage.

*The steps it takes
to build a road*



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Building a road is not easy. An army of designers, planners, community representatives, construction workers and citizens are needed to get from point A to point B. Depending on the road, it may take from two to 12 years to finish the job.

While no two projects face the same challenges, the following steps will give you a good glimpse of how an idea becomes a road.



Idea to Reality

1

Necessity inspires the idea

It all begins with an idea. MoDOT first looks at an area's safety concerns, growth, traffic patterns and transportation needs. When a need is identified, we meet with local government and community leaders to discuss the project.

2

So, what do you think?

The next step is letting the community in on what we have in mind – whether it's a new highway, interchange or bridge. They're the ones who use the roads and can give us critical information on the most important needs.

3

Putting it on paper

Where will the road go? How will it get there? After MoDOT selects several possible roadway locations, we evaluate them. The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission then reviews public comments and other information on the project.

4

What are the effects?

Will the road cross park lands? Does it affect wetlands or wildlife? Will it affect people's homes and businesses? Teams of MoDOT specialists tackle all of these issues and send their proposals to the Federal Highway Administration for approval.

Depending on the issues, other agencies – like the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Interior, Corps of Engineers and the Department of Natural Resources – may need to approve the project.

5

More from the public

MoDOT huddles with the community again at public hearings. The commission then gives final approval for the project location.

6

You may proceed

After commission and agency approval, MoDOT begins designing the new route. The department looks at how the project will be constructed including cost and the material to be used.

7

The lay of the land

MoDOT now begins contacting property owners and purchasing necessary land. At this stage, plans include the roadway's exact location and construction details.

