

# LINK

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MODOT - SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

## Public Comments On Ramsey Creek Project

Scott City residents got their first look at the plan to construct a bridge over Ramsey Creek and extend the outer road during a public hearing in late July. And, Project Manager Eric Krapf felt the comments were favorable.

“Most everyone I talked with was very pleased to see the project progress and really looking forward to some congestion relief in Scott City, especially during the morning and afternoon rush hours,” says Krapf.

Much of the comments from the previous meeting were



reflected in the plan for improvements. The project includes building a Ramsey Creek Bridge and extending the outer road from Nash Road

(Route AB) to Warner Avenue in Scott City. Mulberry Street would be resurfaced and connected to the outer



road as well.

“Most of the comments we heard at our previous public hearing in fall 2007 were to connect the outer road into Warner and Mulberry,” says Krapf. “We also took comments about improving the existing ramps at the interchange and widening Route K and we’re really excited to be able to move forward with some of those ideas as well. I want to thank everyone who came to both meetings and shared their suggestions and gave us their input through the process.”

For more on additional improvements in Scott City, take a look inside.

### Improvements Coming Soon

The goal of the project team is for Scott City residents to see the first of a string of improvements to relieve congestion as soon as possible. The right of way team will be buying the needed property later this year. Work on the Route 61 ramp and Route K is tentatively scheduled for next year and the outer road work is anticipated in late 2009.

“There’s a lot of work between now and when construction starts,” says Krapf. “We’re working through process and making progress as quickly as possible. This time frame is when we expect the improvements to get underway; however, it is subject to Federal Highway Administration approval of our plan.”

Check out page 2 for more information about the specific projects.

# Additional Improvements: Route 61 Ramp

As the project team focused on ways to provide congestion relief in Scott City, the amount of traffic utilizing the Route 61 ramp from Kelso became an area where improvements could be made.

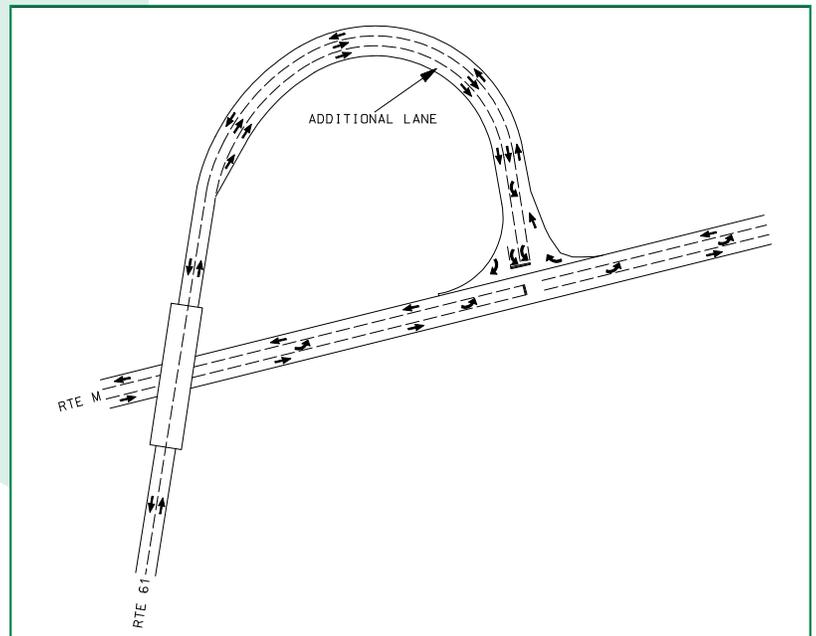
“What we found is most of the traffic is turning left to enter I-55,” says Project Manager Eric Krapf. “The remaining traffic is comparable between turning right to head to the school or going left into Scott City.”

During the public hearing in July, MoDOT provided traffic modeling to show the benefits a few smaller improvements could bring. One of those projects was adding a right turn lane on the Route 61 ramp to allow that traffic to proceed without waiting on the majority of left turners.

“After we have continued to look at the extra turn lane,” explains Krapf, “we’ve actually found that making the extra lane a dual use lane seems to be the answer.”

A dual use turn lane would mean that traffic in that lane could turn right or left; however, the left turns would be strictly for traffic heading into Scott City. The remaining left turn lane would be dedicated for traffic wanting to enter I-55.

“We’ll have advanced signing so traffic



on the ramp can determine in which lane they should be,” says Krapf. “This will allow us to get traffic separated into the direction it wishes prior to arriving at the intersection for more efficient movement. Plus, the addition of a turn lane will increase the number of cars that can pass through the intersection in an hour from around 50 to 120.”

Construction of the additional turn lane will have some traffic impacts. During the grading portion of the project, most work can be done without impeding the driving lanes;

however, paving will have some lane reductions.

“We’ll have to remove the existing shoulder so we can put thicker pavement down to widen for the new turn lane,” says Krapf. “With such heavy traffic in the intersection at the peak travel times, we’ll likely restrict work hours for the contractor to mid-day or evenings. We can’t remove all the inconvenience of road work, but as we structure the contract we’ll be mindful to couple reducing the inconvenience with appealing to contractors for good bids.”

## The Outer Road - What Do You Think? . . . . .

As MoDOT’s project team has analyzed the best fixes for congestion in Scott City, one question remained to be answered: does traffic utilize the existing outer road.

“We know that the outer road that will be constructed will extend to Warner Avenue and connect to Mulberry Street, offering traffic another route out of town,” says Krapf. “But what does that mean for the existing outer road that connects to a busy intersection with Route K, adjacent to the northbound I-55 on-ramp?”

The project team questions whether

the road’s intersection here actually works against efficient traffic flow.

“We are investigating the need for the road and what traffic is using it for currently,” says Krapf.

One of the ideas the project team discussed was to adjust it to be used as a free flowing right turn onto the northbound I-55 on-ramp only. An island would be constructed and the outer road would essentially be one-way.

Another idea was to temporarily close the outer road to determine if the intersection functions more efficiently.



# Additional Improvements: Route K (Main Street)

The final improvement MoDOT discussed with residents at the public hearing was the addition of a right turn lane on Route K (Main Street) from approximately Plaza Tire to Burger King.

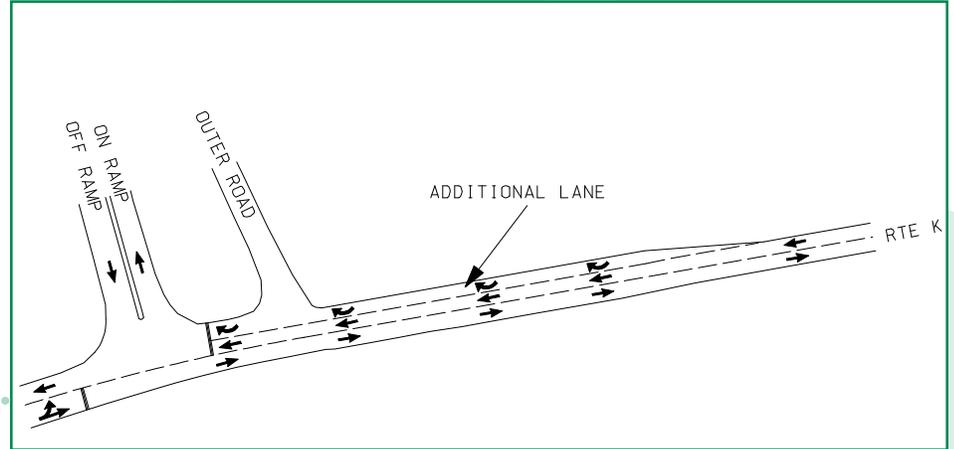
The plan is to construct the additional lane on existing right of way, meaning no

additional property will be purchased.

“With heavy traffic in Scott City in the mornings,

**Both Route K & Route 61 improvements are the results of comments gathered at last fall’s public hearings!**

we feel that a right turn lane can operate similarly to the additional lane on the Route 61 ramp by getting everyone who’s headed for I-55 into an appropriate lane and out of the way of traffic going straight through the intersection. By separating this traffic, we can have more efficient movement through the intersection and reduce congestion,” says Krapf.



The turn lane on Route K will be awarded in the same contract as the Route 61 ramp improvements.

“These are smaller projects that we’re hoping to have ready and under contract by spring 2009,” says Krapf. “Then we can follow later in the year with a contract for the larger Ramsey Creek Bridge and outer road extension project.”

Krapf says while it is exciting that construction is getting closer to reality, that drivers should be patient while waiting on the results.

“It is very important to keep in mind that all three of these projects--the outer road extension, the Route 61 ramp improvements and the Route K right turn lane--will work together to decrease traffic congestion in Scott City,” says Krapf. “We’re looking for all of these improvements to work in unison to give us the desired effect of smoother traffic flow. We ask for continued patience through the design process and during construction which could cause inconvenience and especially until all the improvements are complete and the true benefits can be reaped.”



*Mayor Tim Porch visits with residents at the public hearing.*

“We don’t want to remove the outer road’s function in the intersection if it is actively helping to move traffic,” says Krapf. “But if it is another factor in a congested traffic situation that isn’t needed or can be tweaked to function better, we want to take this opportunity to make improvements.

Krapf spoke met with the Scott City

agree.

“The biggest partner in any potential changes are the drivers who use the road,” says Krapf. “We want to hear from them regarding whether changes are necessary, suggestions for improvements or if the route is even needed.”

Krapf says the project team will

make no permanent changes until the necessary data and input have been gathered to determine the best solution at the intersection.

You can also contact MoDOT directly toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636) or submit a comment at [www.modot.org/southeast](http://www.modot.org/southeast). Krapf can be contacted directly at (573) 472-5261 or at [eric.krapf@modot.mo.gov](mailto:eric.krapf@modot.mo.gov).

Or, you can fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and let us know what you think.

