

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ROLE



Safe and efficient transportation plays an extremely important role in our lives, including the transport of vital goods, recreational travel and emergency access. MoDOT is responsible for providing this safe and efficient transportation system within the state of Missouri. MoDOT must maintain the existing system as well as respond to changing travel demands and future needs. This must be done to provide for and enhance the overall quality of life for both residents and visitors of Missouri.

PROJECT HISTORY

In February 2003, a Congressional caucus was formed to promote the completion of Interstate 49 from New Orleans, La. to Kansas City, Mo. In March 2003, the following agencies formed the I-49 Coordinating Committee in order to better coordinate I-49 development activities:

- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
- Missouri Department of Transportation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The projects presented at this meeting convert existing Highway 71 into a freeway called I-49. In order to become a freeway, intersections are replaced with interchanges. Residents who currently access the highway directly will have access to the new interchanges by way of frontage roads, service roads or county roads. Existing right-of-way will be used for most of the projects, but a few projects might require the purchase of additional right-of-way.

CONSTRUCTION DATES AND COSTS

Preliminary estimates to upgrade Highway 71 to interstate standards were \$200 million. MoDOT will lower these projected costs by using the "Practical Design" concept. Practical Design means building our projects to meet "the need only" so we can build more improvements that add to the benefits we can deliver to our customers. With Practical Design MoDOT does not compromise safety. MoDOT is committed to collaborating with its customers on the solutions.

Our Practical Design solutions are presented in these displays. There is not enough funding to upgrade the Highway 71 corridor to interstate standards. By utilizing practical design we will maximize the funds that are available and also pursue other funding. It is anticipated that construction of some projects will begin as early as 2011. No specific construction dates have been established for these projects.

Maps of the projects are available at www.modot.org/southwest.