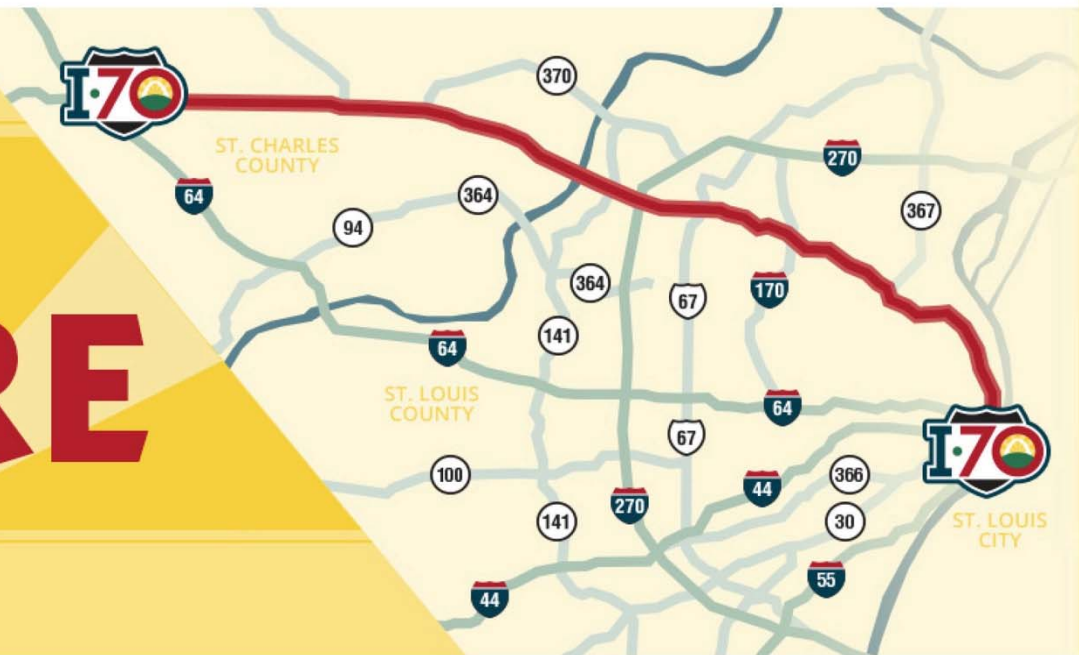# ENVISION I·70

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

I-70 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (I-70 PEL) STUDY

Public Input: MetroQuest Survey Report

SUMMER 2017

Background

MetroQuest is an online engagement tool, designed to educate and collect useful input from thousands of people. Used by hundreds of cities, government agencies, and public involvement, planning, and engineering firms, MetroQuest was

perfect for engaging with the citizens of the greater St. Louis area in regards to improving I-70, and for collecting and analyzing these responses.

This tool offers a wide range of screen templates to ensure the collection of a variety of data, and allows its users to pick and choose the options that best suit their project. Templates are customized by project to allow the public to rank priorities, respond to questions, rate images or scenarios, select their preferences for any subject with accompanying visuals, place markers on maps and leave comments, and much more. Once the templates are selected, each screen can be customized according to the needs of the study while retaining its easy-to-use format. All responses are accessible via an online dashboard where public input can be monitored, evaluated, analyzed, and reported.

Methodology

Gathering data with MetroQuest online survey tool

The PEL consulting team initially met to discuss what was knowable from the public and how to best request that information via MetroQuest. Content was refined, images selected, and submitted to MoDOT for approval.

The MetroQuest I-70 tool launched in February 2017 and ran for a consecutive 90 days, ending on May 24, 2017. Outreach efforts included: traditional media (press release), social media, the project website, newsletter content shared with stakeholders, social content shared with stakeholders, fliers (see image) at local public libraries, and a public meeting.

The following report details the content of the tool, the data and findings and key comments from our public.

A demonstration of the site can be seen by visiting: https://i70r-demo.metroquest.com.
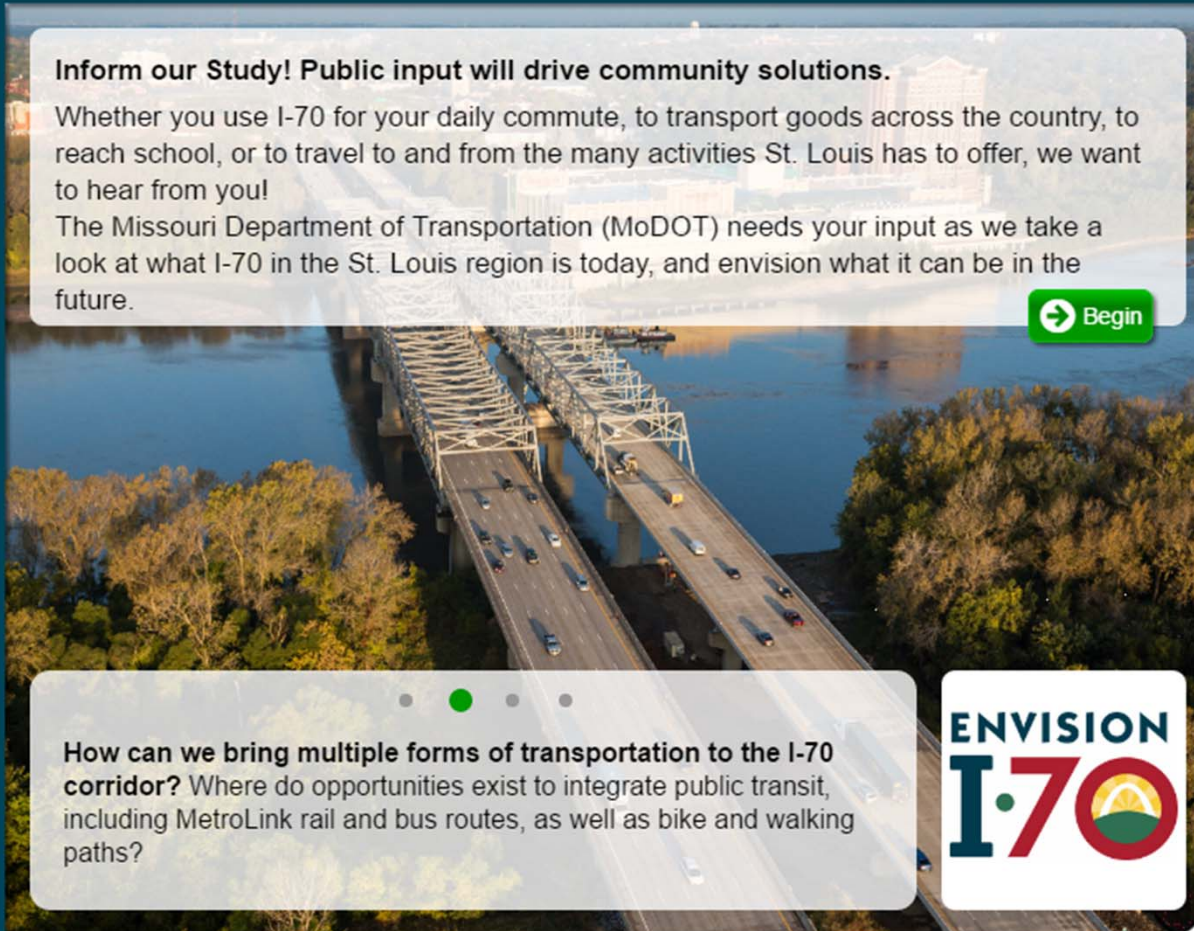
SCREEN 1: WELCOME

Welcome Screen – Visitors and Participants
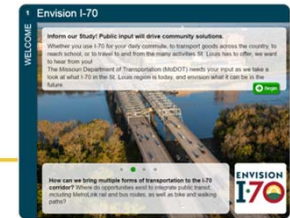
From more than 4,200 total visitors we received more than 2600 completed surveys. We know from empirical feedback that the site generated some buzz that had people going back and opening the survey again, which may account for the difference in numbers.

A total of 2601 individual participants was considered a success by the project team.

SCREEN 2: YOUR PRIORITIES

Screen 2 Instructions

- Participants were asked to prioritize 5 of 8 possible needs/opportunities

Your Priorities
What to do

Help us prioritize the needs and opportunities for I-70 corridor based on your point of view.
Click on an item in the list to see a definition.

Please drag 5 of the items above the line in your preferred order.

❌ Done   ➡ More

Your Priorities
What to do

➜ Rank the items by dragging them above the line, in order, with your top pick at the top.

➜ Click the items to learn more about each one.

➜ You can add an optional comment about each item.

➜ You may suggest another item for consideration.

⬅ Back   ➡ Start

Your Priorities

DEFINITIONS

Congestion: I want the study team to focus on transportation projects that reduce congestion in the region.

Traveler Safety: I want the study team to focus on transportation projects that reduce the number of lives lost and injuries sustained on the region's roads.

Highway Improvements: I want the study team to focus on improvements such as removing curves and hills, and utilizing express lands for existing roadways.

Rail and Bus Transit: I want the study team to focus on expanding existing transit (both bus and rail) service within the region.

Accessibility: I want the study team to focus on transportation projects that support the ease and efficiency of accessing all the places you want to go.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Access: I support the regional plans to improve access for bike and pedestrians throughout the corridor.
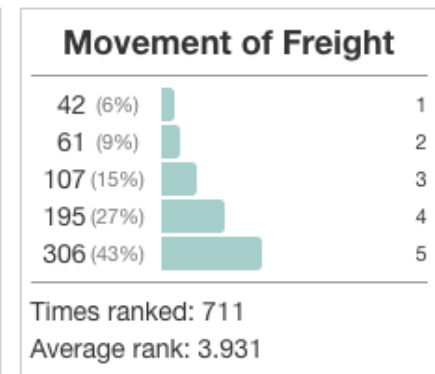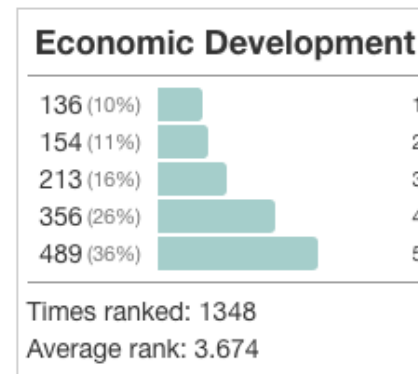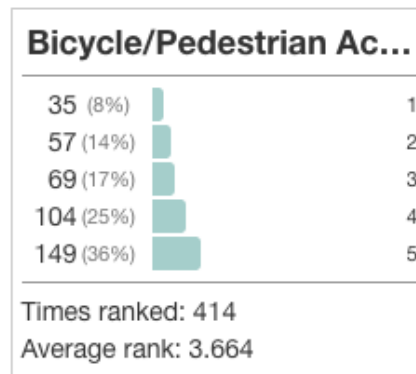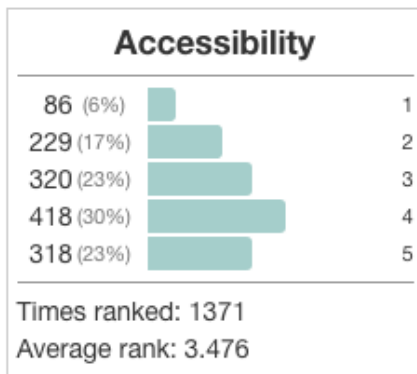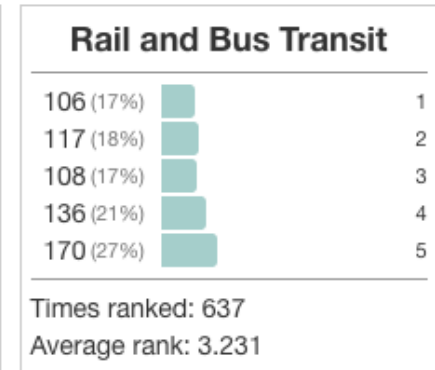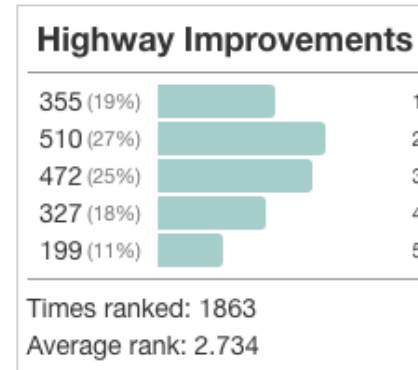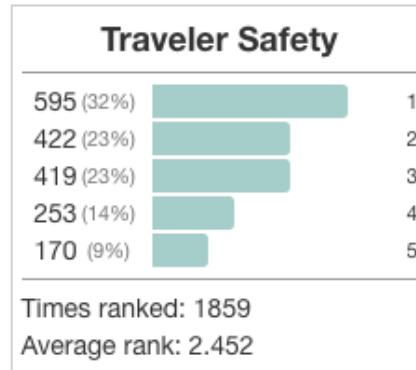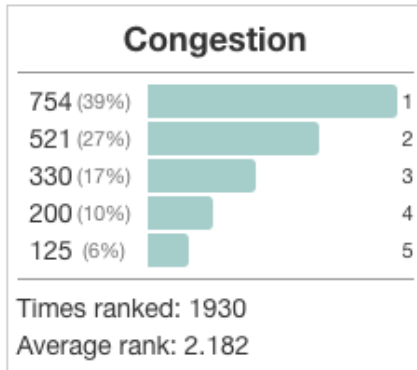
Economic Development: I want the study team to focus on transportation projects that support the development and attraction of new jobs and businesses within the region, which would in turn support community vitality.

Movement of Freight: I want the study team to focus on transportation projects that support the movement of freight throughout the region.

Your Priorities – How often each was ranked

↓ Below: Each ranking item, showing show often each item was ranked in each position, ordered by average. Note that 1 is the highest rank.

Congestion

754 (39%)	1
521 (27%)	2
330 (17%)	3
200 (10%)	4
125 (6%)	5

Times ranked: 1930
Average rank: 2.182

Traveler Safety

595 (32%)	1
422 (23%)	2
419 (23%)	3
253 (14%)	4
170 (9%)	5

Times ranked: 1859
Average rank: 2.452

Highway Improvements

355 (19%)	1
510 (27%)	2
472 (25%)	3
327 (18%)	4
199 (11%)	5

Times ranked: 1863
Average rank: 2.734

Rail and Bus Transit

106 (17%)	1
117 (18%)	2
108 (17%)	3
136 (21%)	4
170 (27%)	5

Times ranked: 637
Average rank: 3.231

Accessibility

86 (6%)	1
229 (17%)	2
320 (23%)	3
418 (30%)	4
318 (23%)	5

Times ranked: 1371
Average rank: 3.476

Bicycle/Pedestrian Ac…

35 (8%)	1
57 (14%)	2
69 (17%)	3
104 (25%)	4
149 (36%)	5

Times ranked: 414
Average rank: 3.664

Economic Development

136 (10%)	1
154 (11%)	2
213 (16%)	3
356 (26%)	4
489 (36%)	5

Times ranked: 1348
Average rank: 3.674

Movement of Freight

|	
42 (6%)	1
61 (9%)	2
107 (15%)	3
195 (27%)	4
306 (43%)	5

Times ranked: 711
Average rank: 3.931

Congestion, traveler safety and highway improvements not only received the most rankings, they had the highest average ranking. Notable: Economic Development and Accessibility were ranked by more than half the responders, just at a lower level of importance.

Your Priorities – Distributions

Top 5 Rankings Bar Chart
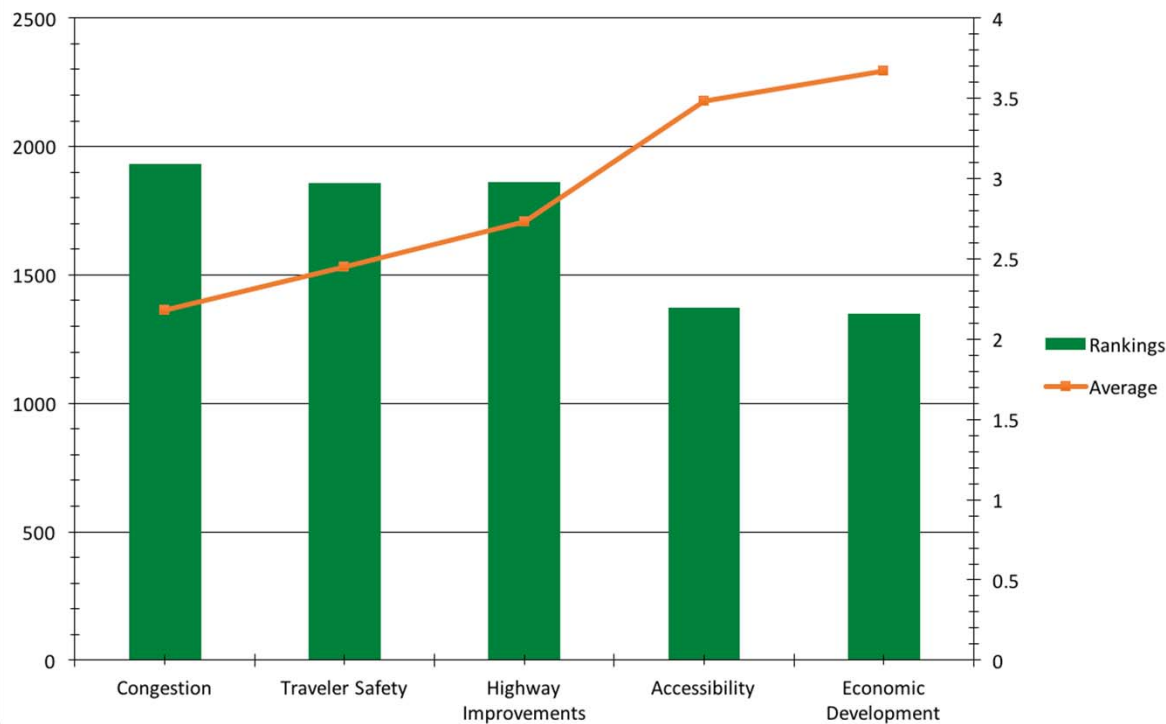
Filter #1: Popularity. The vertical bar chart shows the top five rankings from participants.

Filter #2: Rankings. The orange line shows the average rankings as people sorted their top five choices.
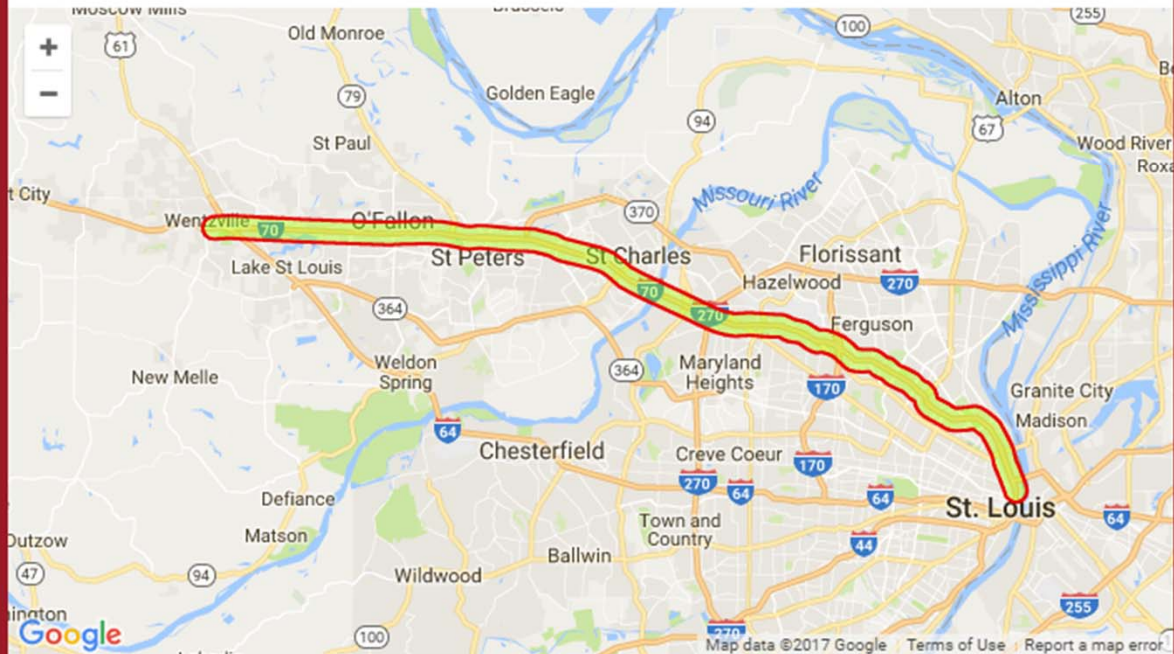
SCREEN 3: TRANSPORTATION MAP

Transportation Map – Instructions
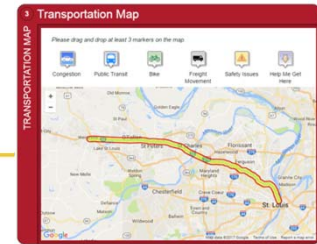
- Participants were asked to drop markers on map to show where improvements need to be made

Transportation Map
What to do

Within roughly one-half mile on either side of the highway, please show us where you would like to see changes or improvements to traffic routes along I-70.

Please drag and drop at least 3 markers on the map.
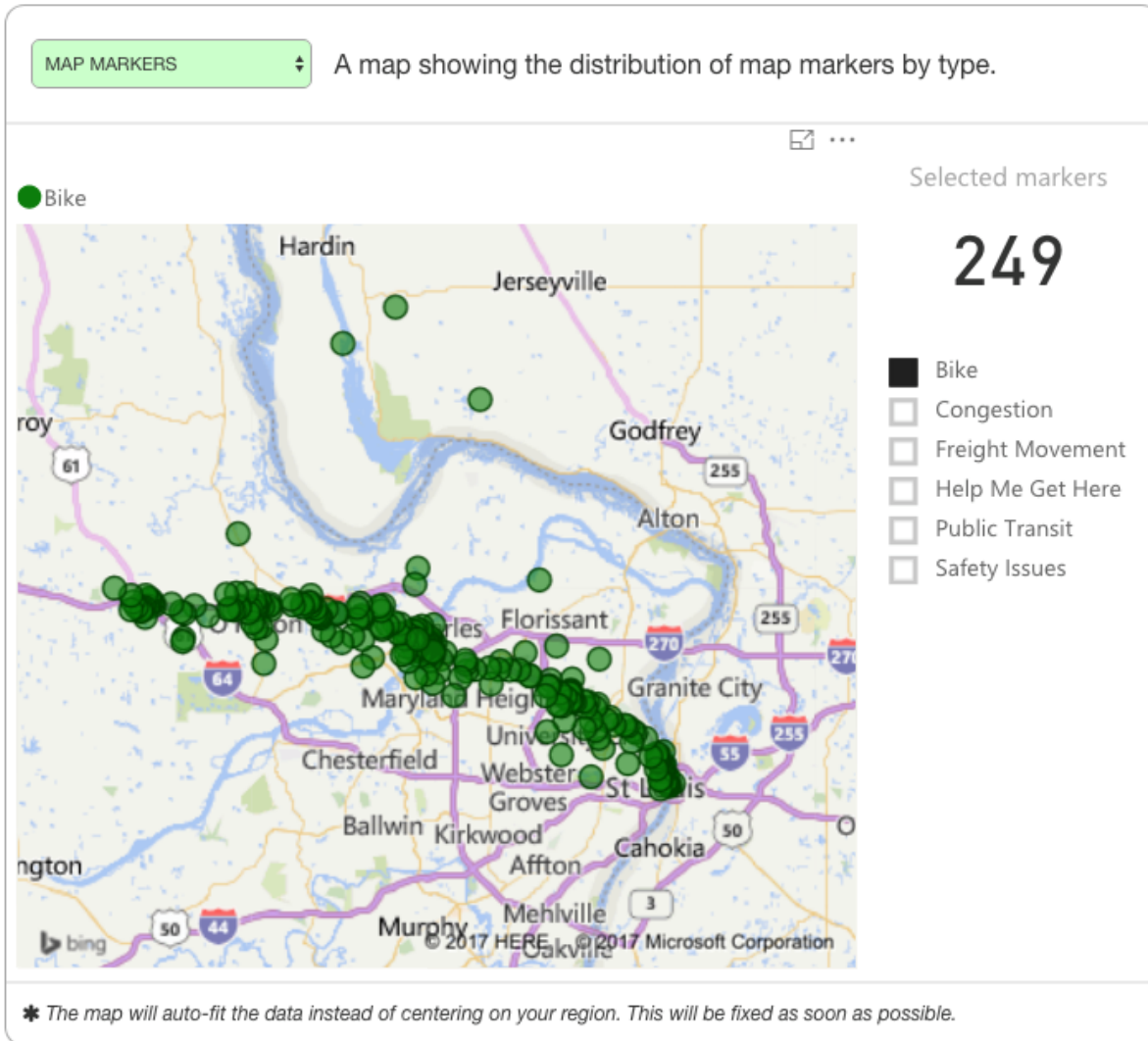
Done   More

Transportation Map
What to do

→ Zoom in to the map to be more accurate.

→ Drag the markers on to the map. Drag them again to improve accuracy.

→ In the balloons, give more optional detail.

→ Click the markers again if you wish to reopen the balloons.

Back   Start

Transportation Map Markers – Bike
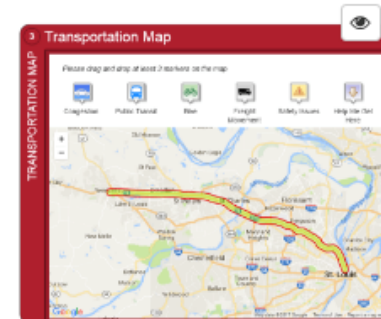
Marker Data and Comments – <u>Bike</u>

- When the Bike marker was chosen, participants were asked, "What would you like to see here?"

- A dropdown menu appeared, and participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - Add Bike Lane: 38
  - Add Bike Trail: 39
  - Improve Bike Lane or Trail: 2

- 249 total markers / 102 comments

Summary of Key Comments – <u>Bike</u>


- Need more signage/wayfinding along the regional trail

- Bike lane(s) to get across Missouri River

- More ways to travel between St. Charles and St. Louis County on bike

- Connect Katy Trail to Earth City Levee, UMSL (similar to Page extension)

- Bike crossings at Cave Springs, Zumbehl

- Improve bike crossings

  - i.e. crossing I-70 on Lindbergh

- Bike access from St. Charles to Riverport

- Better access points for bikes to safely cross over/under the interstate
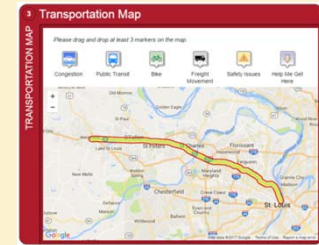
Transportation Map – <u>Congestion</u>

Marker Data and Comments – Congestion

- When the Congestion marker was chosen, participants were asked, "What type of congestion?"

- A dropdown menu appeared, and participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - East morning rush: 278
  - West morning rush: 39
  - East evening rush: 73
  - West evening rush: 538
  - Truck Traffic: 51
  - Event Traffic: 37

- 2,894 total markers / 966 comments

Summary of Key Comments – <u>Congestion</u>
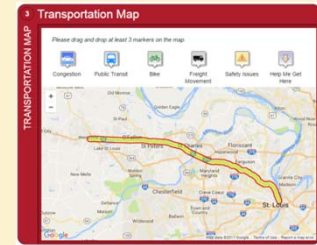
- Add HOV lanes

- Increase number of lanes

    - From 370 to 1st Capitol

    - From Highway Z to Wentzville

    - Through Wentzville to Warrenton

    - Between Zumbehl and Cave Springs

    - Highway K and Bryan Rd.

- Widen/fix "S" curve railroad underpass

- Church St. should not go from 3 lanes down to 2

- More signs for exit only lanes

- Problematic entrance and exit ramps from 270 to 70

    - Extend right lane to St. Charles Rock Road

- Improve 64/70 interchange

    - More lanes

- Entrance/exit ramps

    - Longer entrance from Cave Springs

    - Additional exit lanes getting off 70

- Additional exits

    - North/South Pointe Rd.

    - Woodson Rd.

Transportation Map – Freight Movement

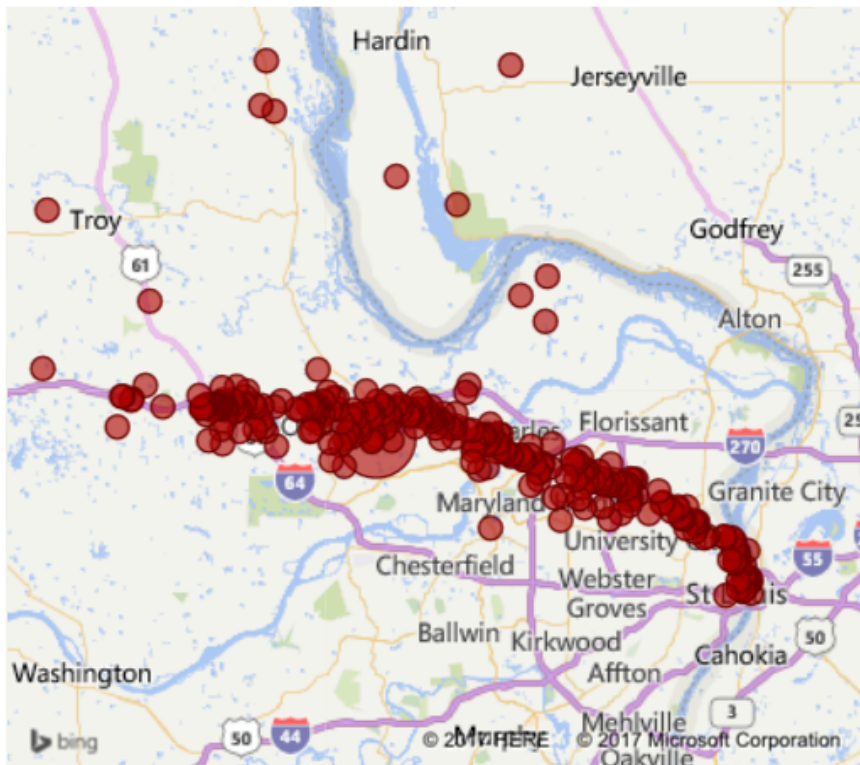ENVISION I·70

MAP MARKERS ⇕   A map showing the distribution of map markers by type.

⬤ Freight Movement

Selected markers

310

- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Congestion
- ◼ Freight Movement
- ☐ Help Me Get Here
- ☐ Public Transit
- ☐ Safety Issues

Troy · Hardin · Jerseyville · Godfrey · Alton · Florissant · Granite City · Maryland · University · Chesterfield · Webster Groves · Kirkwood · Ballwin · Affton · Cahokia · Washington · Mehlville · Oakville

bing · © 2017 HERE · © 2017 Microsoft Corporation

✳ *The map will auto-fit the data instead of centering on your region. This will be fixed as soon as possible.*

3: TRANSPORTATION MAP
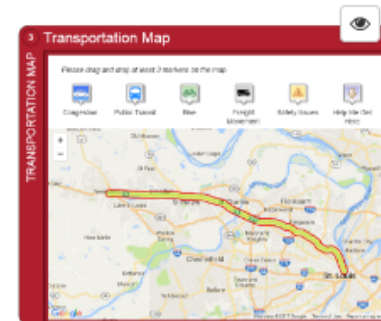
Transportation Map

Type: 🔻 Map Marker Screen

Data points for this Screen:

Markers: **5874**

Marker attributes: **19608**

Marker comments: **2357**

⬇ Excel downloads:

⊞ Screen Data   May 25

Marker Data, Comments – <u>Freight and Movement</u>

ENVISION I·70

- When the Freight and Movement marker was chosen, participants were asked, "What would you like to see here?"
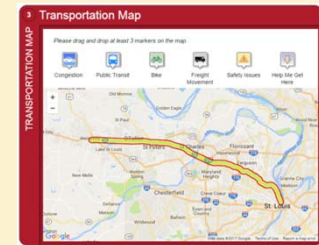
- A dropdown menu appeared, and participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - Delays in Movement: 18
  - Need Alternative Route: 39
  - Improve Access: 33
  - Intermodal Connections: 20

- 310 total markers / 112 comments

Summary of Key Comments – <u>Freight Movement</u>

- Dedicated lanes for trucks/other heavy vehicles between the city limit and St. Charles County

- Widen the ramp from SB 61 to EB 70

- Remove left lane exits and entrances

- Reduce sharpness of ramps

  - i.e. NB I-170 to EW I-70 ramp

- Create express lanes for semis

Transportation Map – Help Me Get There

3: TRANSPORTATION MAP
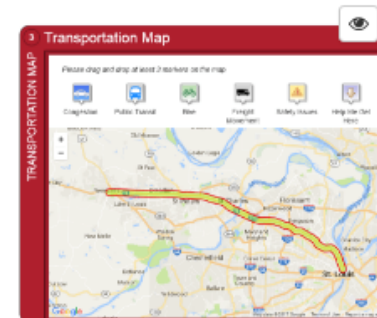
Type: Map Marker Screen

Data points for this Screen:
Markers: 5874
Marker attributes: 19608
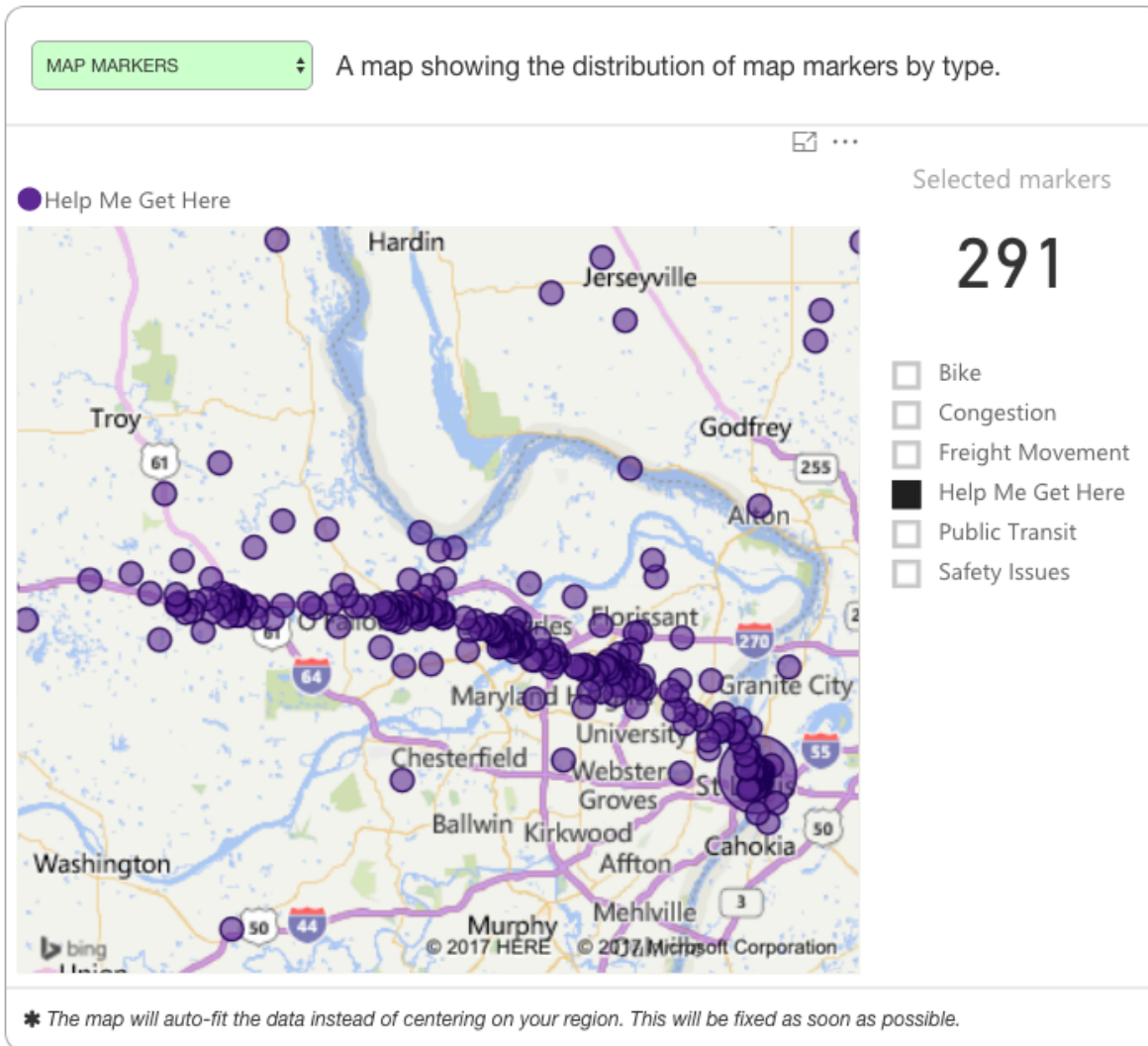Marker comments: 2357

Excel downloads:
Screen Data   May 25

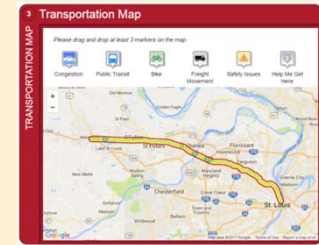# Marker Data, Comments – Help Me Get There

- When the Help Me Get There marker was chosen, participants were given the opportunity to make a comment in addition to placing a marker

- 291 total markers / 161 comments

Summary of Key Comments – Help Me Get There

- Improve airport access

- Improve signage for downtown exits

- Need pedestrian access from airport/MetroLink to the other side of I-70

- Tucker from I-70 West

- Better transportation to Florissant Valley Community College

- Confusing interchanges

  – US 61, Pitman Ave., Pearce Blvd., I-70

  – Broadway, Cole, I-70

- Straighten out I-70 at Wentzville

- Extend ramp to and from Wentzville Parkway

- Make I-70 three lanes until Foristel
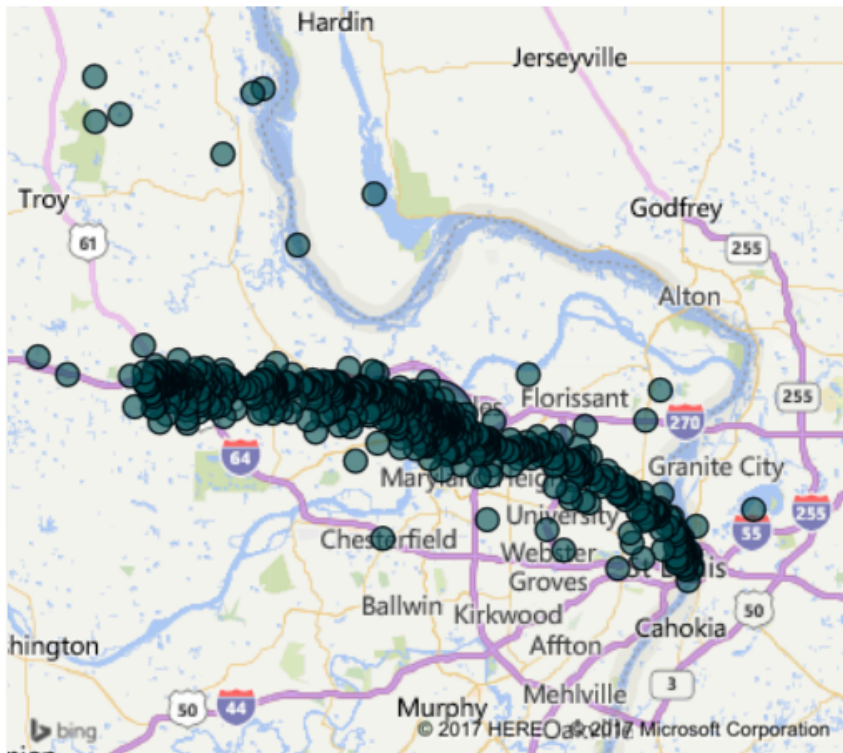
Transportation Map – <u>Public Transit</u>

Marker Data and Comments – <u>Public Transit</u>

- When the Public Transit marker was chosen, participants were asked, "What would you like to see here?"

- A dropdown menu appeared, and participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - Add Bus Stop: 7
  - Add Bus Service: 38
  - Enhance Bus Service: 13
  - Add Rail Service: 187
  - Enhance Rail Service: 15

- 657 total markers / 287 comments

Summary of Key Comments – Public Transit

- Better public transit from N. Hanley to St. Charles county

- Public transit from 1st Capitol or Fifth Street into the Hanley Metro station

- Extend MetroLink to St. Charles

  – Stop at DePaul hospital

  – Stop at Maryland Heights

- Connect rail to STL International Airport red line

- Rail going south along Lindbergh

- Express rail for those commuting to the city every day

- Extend MetroLink to Wentzville and Lake St. Louis
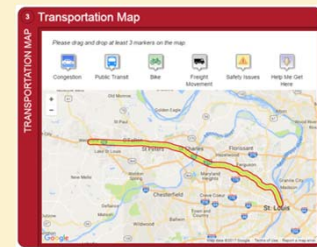
Transportation Map – <u>Safety Issues</u>
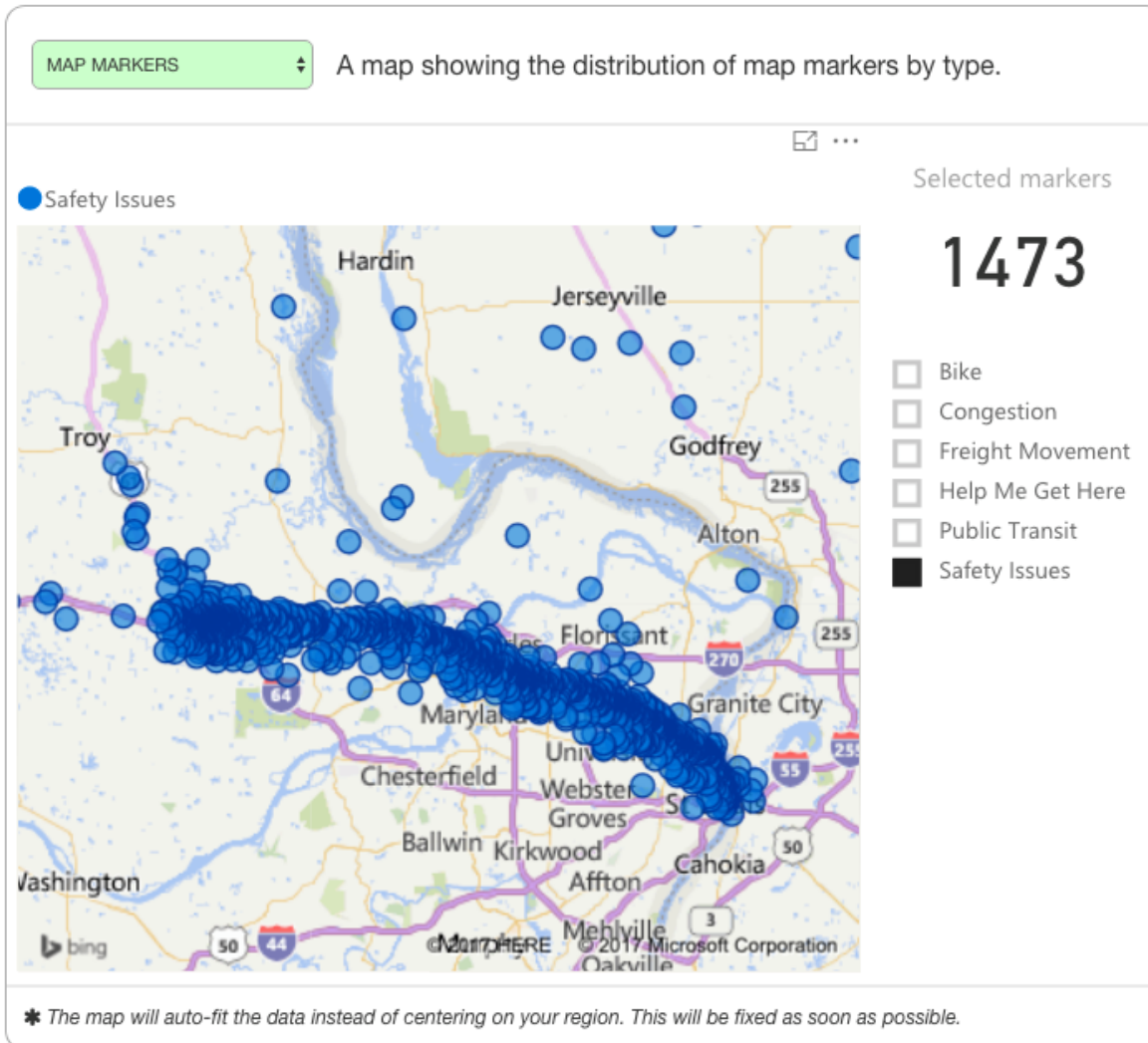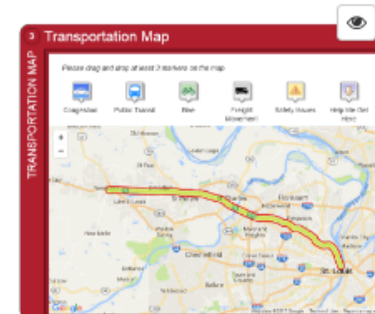
Marker Data and Comments – Safety Issues

- When the Safety Issues marker was chosen, participants were asked, "What type of safety issue?"

- A dropdown menu appeared, and participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:

  - Truck Traffic: 44
  - Speeding: 78
  - Frequent Accidents: 184
  - Bike/Pedestrian Conflict: 9
  - Ramp Backups: 121
  - Poor Sight Distance: 75

- 1,473 total markers / 729 comments

Summary of Key Comments – <u>Safety Issues</u>
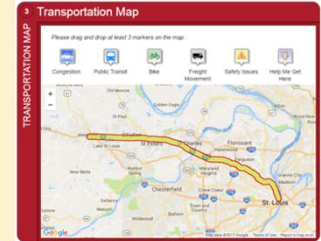
- Signage to identify lanes moving from I-70 to I-270 should be directly over the lane needed for finding the desired exit

- "S" curve under the railroad overpass: too narrow, straighten out

- Lengthen on/off ramps

- Mid-Rivers Mall interchange

  - At grade stop at traffic lights

  - Difficult to maneuver

- I-70 and I-170

  - Dangerous to exit E 70 and enter on N 170 on fast lanes

  - East 70 drivers need to be warned of merging traffic in right lane from 170

- SR79

  - No light at NB exit ramp for SR79

  - Blind spot for left turns due to EB 70 blocking visibility to SB SR79 traffic

- Widen I-70 past Wentzville Parkway

- On/off ramps getting onto I-70 from NB Maryland Heights/Earth City expressway

- I-70 narrowing to two lanes after Broadway

- Longer merge lane b/w Natural Bridge/Cypress and the current Lindbergh exit

- More signage to indicate the right lane heading WB is exit only onto 40/61

- Wentzville Parkway

  - Exit only lane from I-70W

  - Add another lane on ramp from Wentzville Pkwy to I-70E

SCREEN 4: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
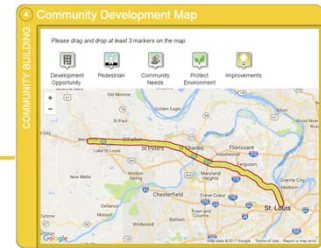
Community Development Map – Instructions

- Participants were asked to drop markers on map to show where they would like to see changes or improvements to the community along I-70

Community Development Map
What to do

Within roughly one-half mile on either side of the highway, please show us where you would like to see changes or improvements to community development along I-70.

Please drag and drop at least 3 markers on the map.

Done   **More**

Community Development Map
What to do

→ Zoom in to the map to be more accurate.

→ Drag the markers on to the map. Drag them again to improve accuracy.

→ In the balloons, give more optional detail.

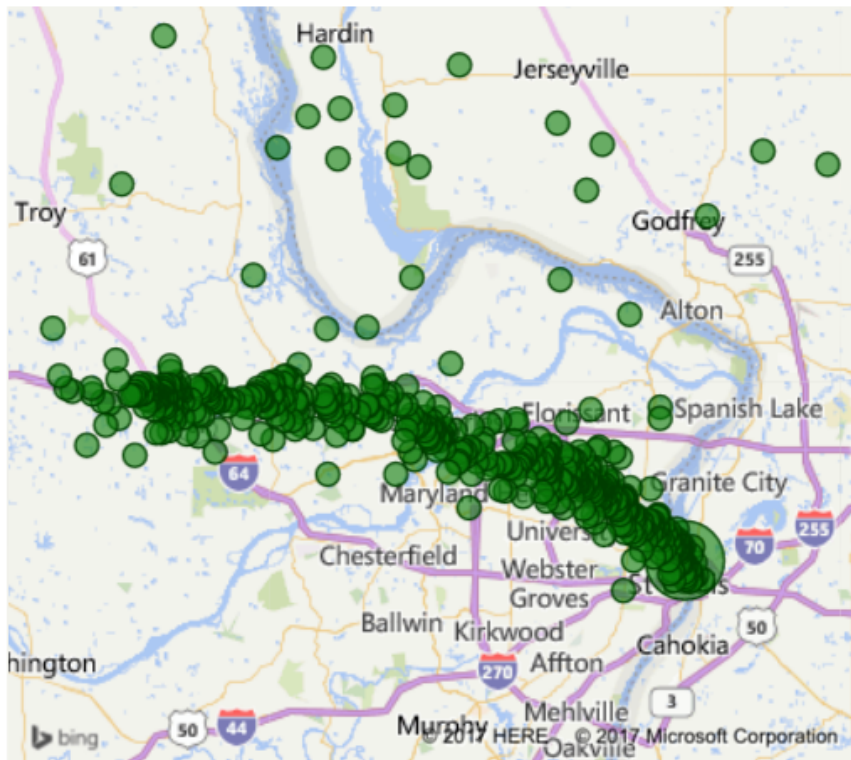→ Click the markers again if you wish to reopen the balloons.

Back   **Start**

Community Development Map Markers – Community Needs

ENVISION I-70

MAP MARKERS
A map showing the distribution of map markers by type.

● Community Needs

Selected markers

566

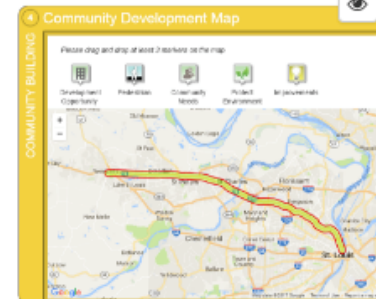- ■ Community Needs
- ☐ Development Opp...
- ☐ Improvements
- ☐ Pedestrian
- ☐ Protect Environment

✱ The map will auto-fit the data instead of centering on your region. This will be fixed as soon as possible.

4: COMMUNITY BUILDING

Type: Map Marker Screen

Data points for this Screen:
Markers: 4148
Marker attributes: 14402
Marker comments: 1313

↓ Excel downloads:
Screen Data   Jun 23

Marker Data and Comments – Community Needs

- When the Community Needs marker was chosen, a dropdown menu appeared with a number of choices

- Participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - Connections to Services: 65
  - Connections to Businesses/Jobs: 49
  - Connections to Neighborhoods: 48
  - Connections to Shopping/Dining: 79

- 566 total markers / 154 comments

Summary of Key Comments – Community Needs

- Programs to sustain local communities instead of emphasizing support for outside people coming in

- Expand MetroLink

- Bus service to connect St. Charles to St. Louis

- Make exits to service roads between Zumbehl and Mid Rivers for easier access to businesses

- Create local access roads alongside the expressway

- Create overpasses in Wentzville to connect south and north sides and alleviate congestion on Parkway overpass

- Update Highway K interchange

- Build bridge at North/South Pointe Prairie

Community Development Map Markers – Development Opportunity

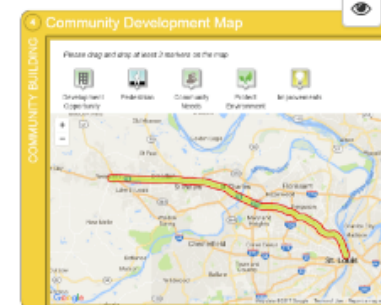MAP MARKERS ▲▼   A map showing the distribution of map markers by type.

● Development Opportunity
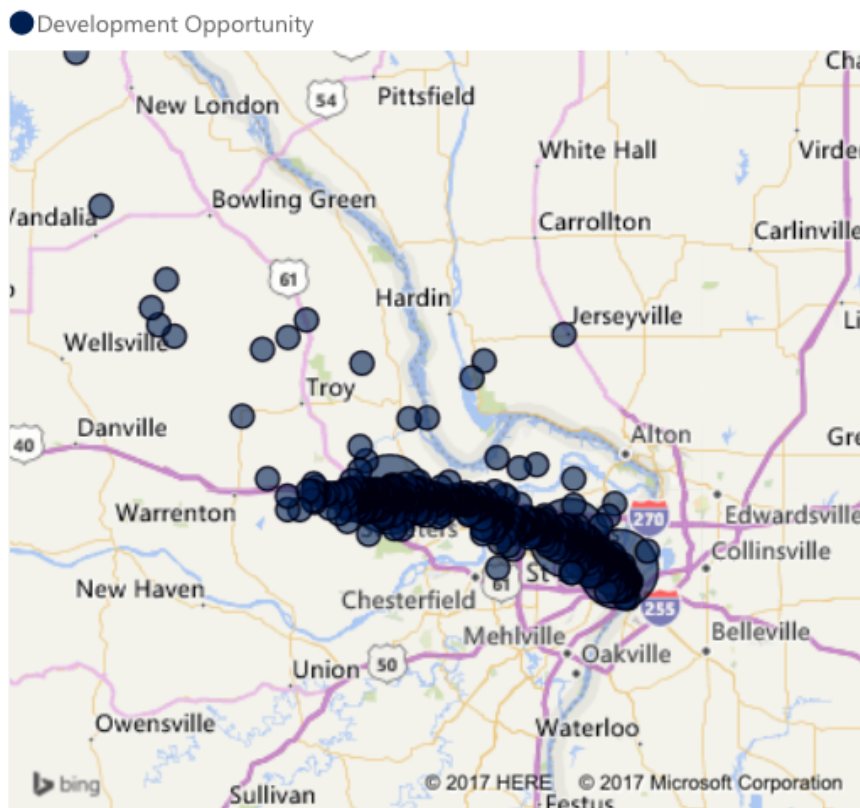
Selected markers

1056

☐ Community Needs
■ Development Opp...
☐ Improvements
☐ Pedestrian
☐ Protect Environment

❋ The map will auto-fit the data instead of centering on your region. This will be fixed as soon as possible.

4: COMMUNITY BUILDING

Type: 🔻 Map Marker Screen

Data points for this Screen:

Markers: **4148**

Marker attributes: **14402**

Marker comments: **1313**

⬇ Excel downloads:

▦ Screen Data   Jun 23

Marker Data and Comments –
<u>Development Opportunity</u>

- When the Development Opportunity marker was chosen, a dropdown menu appeared with a number of choices

- Participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - Current Development Site: 53
  - Future Development Site: 122
  - Redevelopment Site: 170
  - Underutilized Site: 182
  - Other (Please specify): 27

- 1,056 total markers / 349 comments

Summary of Key Comments – Development Opportunity
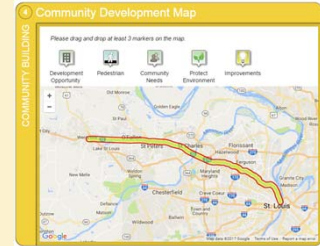
- Pay attention to underserved/underutilized communities along I-70

- Neighborhoods bordering interstate from airport to downtown are struggling

- Develop retail at Hanley MetroLink station

- Better access to outer roads for business and future development

- Open space near Hwy DD/Winghaven off I-70

- Second and/or expanded overpass to alleviate congestion from Pierce overpass

- Easier access to the airport and surrounding community/businesses

- Complete overpass at Pointe Prairie Rd

- Tear down vacant properties

- Build more sit-down restaurants along corridor between downtown and airport

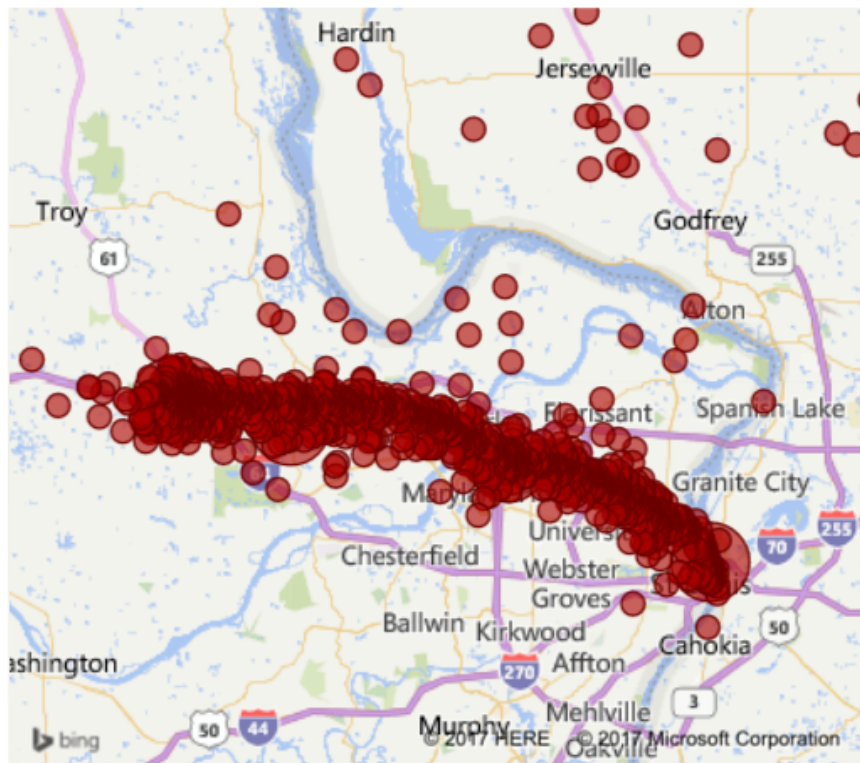- Develop on south side of I-70 b/w TR Hughes and Hwy K

Community Development Map Markers – Improvements

ENVISION I-70

A map showing the distribution of map markers by type.
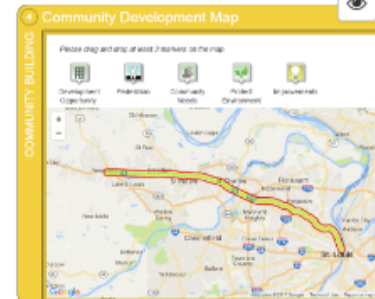
MAP MARKERS ⇕

● Improvements

Selected markers

1555

☐ Community Needs
☐ Development Opp...
☑ Improvements
☐ Pedestrian
☐ Protect Environment

✱ *The map will auto-fit the data instead of centering on your region. This will be fixed as soon as possible.*

4: COMMUNITY BUILDING

Type: Map Marker Screen

Data points for this Screen:

Markers: **4148**

Marker attributes: **14402**

Marker comments: **1313**

↓ Excel downloads:

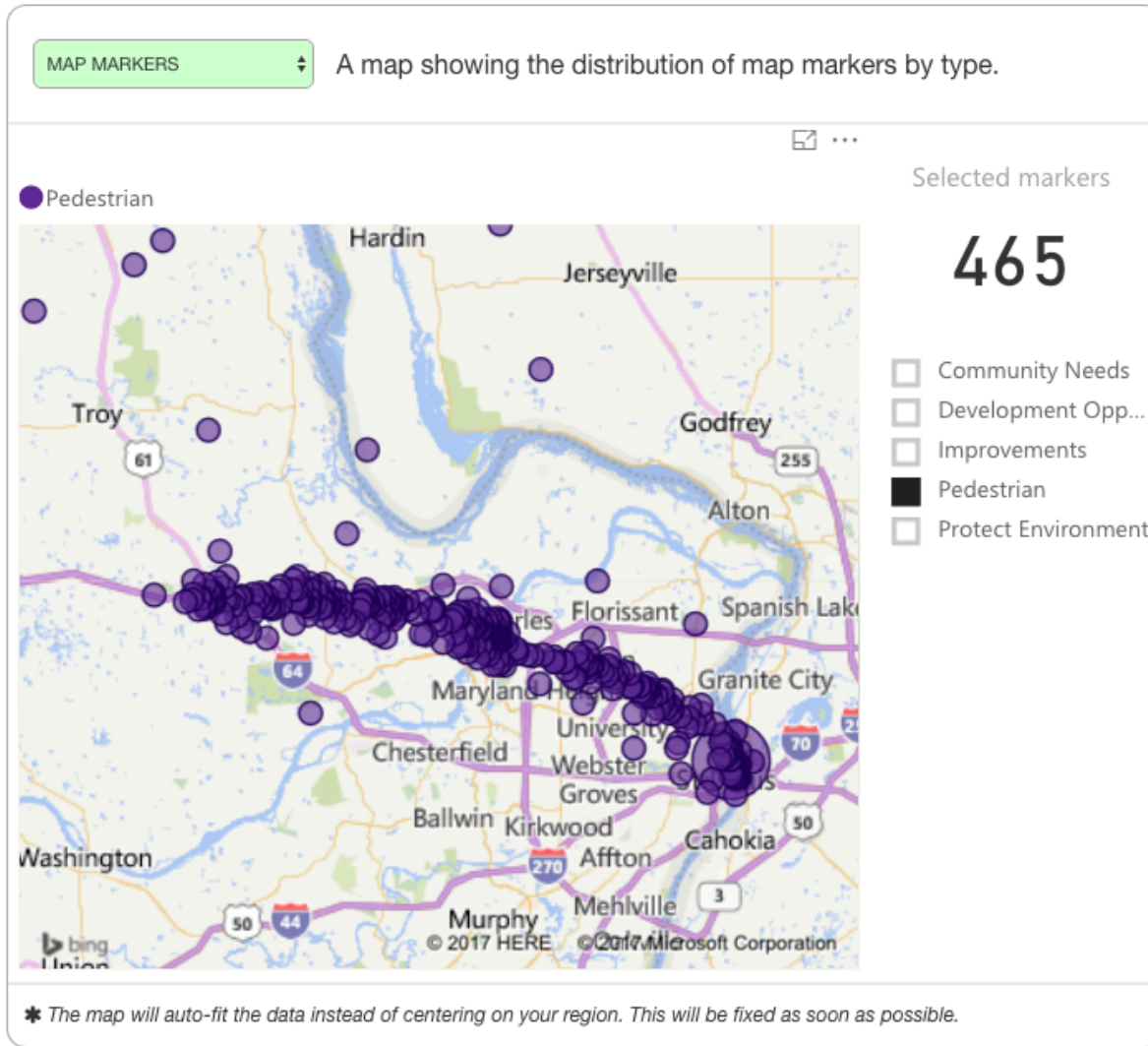⊞ Screen Data   Jun 23

Marker Data and Comments – Improvements

- When the Improvements marker was chosen, a dropdown menu appeared with a number of choices

- Participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - Fix Pavement: 129
  - Fix Interchange: 391
  - Remove Hill: 23
  - Decrease Curve: 138

- 1,555 total markers / 489 comments

Summary of Key Comments – Improvements
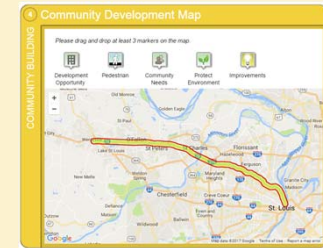
- Improve I-70 to I-270 interchange

- Improve 70 and 94 interchange, more effective signage

- Fix "S" curve under railroad overpass

- Redo paving between I-70E Salisbury exit to I-70 exit at 11th and Destrehan

- Improve Cave Springs interchange

- Improve I-70/I-270/St. Charles Rock Rd interchange

- Improve Hwy 79 interchange

- Exit ramp from Spencer Rd. to I-70E

- Exit ramp on Pointe Prairie

- Additional lanes from Wentzville to Warrenton

- Add exit between Wentzville and Foristell

- Create more accident pull-offs

Community Development Map Markers – Pedestrian
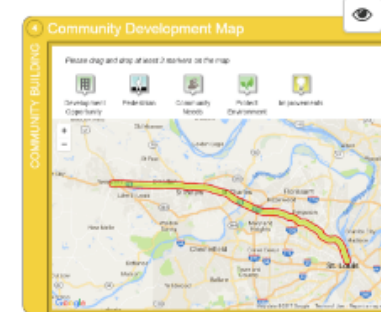
Marker Data and Comments – Pedestrian

- When the Pedestrian marker was chosen, a dropdown menu appeared with a number of choices

- Participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - New Sidewalk: 34
  - Improve Sidewalk: 32
  - Add Walking Trail: 51
  - Improve Walking Trail: 9
  - Add Pedestrian Bridge: 115

- 465 total markers / 156 comments

Summary of Key Comments – Pedestrian
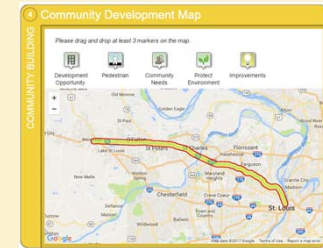
- Pedestrian connectivity from N. Hanley MetroLink station to the north

- Pedestrian bridge from Arch North River Outlook to Eads Bridge Walkway

- Pedestrian bridge across river

- Better N/S access for pedestrians on Hwy K and M beneath I-70

- Connect Great Rivers Greenway and Dardenne Greenway trail across I-70

- Multi-use trail connecting O'Fallon, Penrose Parks and Bellefontaine Cemetery

- Add trail/bridge from Earth City area to Riverport

- Add pedestrian bridge between Lucas and Hunt and Goodfellow

- Pedestrian bridge from airport terminals to parking lots, hotels, etc. on other side of I-70

- Pedestrian/bike lane on Blanchette bridge

- Pedestrian bridge/lane from Florissant Rd to Bermuda Rd

- Sidewalk/bridge at I-70 and Hwy K

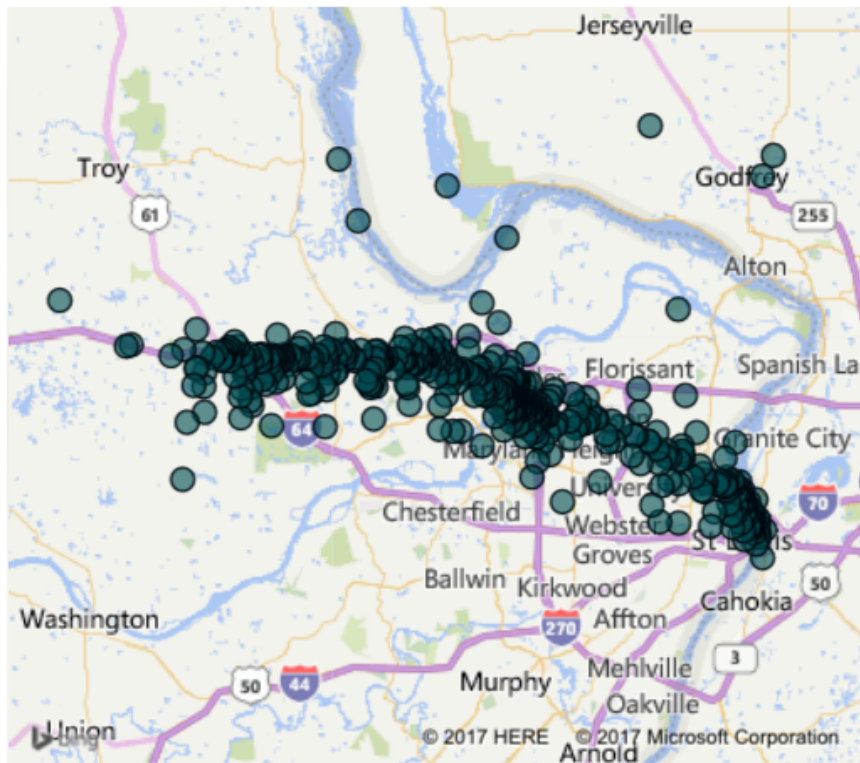- Access to Bluffs area/Quail Ridge park from I-70 and Hwy Z

Community Development Map Markers – Protect Environment

ENVISION I-70

MAP MARKERS ▲▼   A map showing the distribution of map markers by type.

● Protect Environment

Selected markers

506

☐ Community Needs
☐ Development Opp...
☐ Improvements
☐ Pedestrian
☑ Protect Environment

✱ *The map will auto-fit the data instead of centering on your region. This will be fixed as soon as possible.*

4: COMMUNITY BUILDING

Type: 💬 Map Marker Screen

Data points for this Screen:

Markers: **4148**

Marker attributes: **14402**

Marker comments: **1313**

⬇ Excel downloads:

⊞ Screen Data   Jun 23

Marker Data and Comments –
Protect Environment

- When the Protect Environment marker was chosen, a dropdown menu appeared with a number of choices

- Participant could choose to add a marker without tagging it, or tag it with one of the following choices:

- Choices given with number of responses:
  - Green Space: 106
  - Water Resources: 43
  - Historical Landmark: 13
  - Ecosystems: 76

- 506 total markers / 165 comments

Summary of Key Comments – Protect Environment

- Protect the few green spaces that currently exist

- Plant more trees along highway

- Add plantings/foliage/flowers along highway

- Plant trees in open space around I-70 and 370 interchange

- Fix trash from Lucas & Hunt flowing into community pond via storm sewers

- Stop building in/polluting floodplain

- Lots of concerns about burning landfill near the nuclear plant

  – Smell, in particular

SCREEN 5: THANK YOU (DEMOGRAPHICS)

Demographics: Who participated
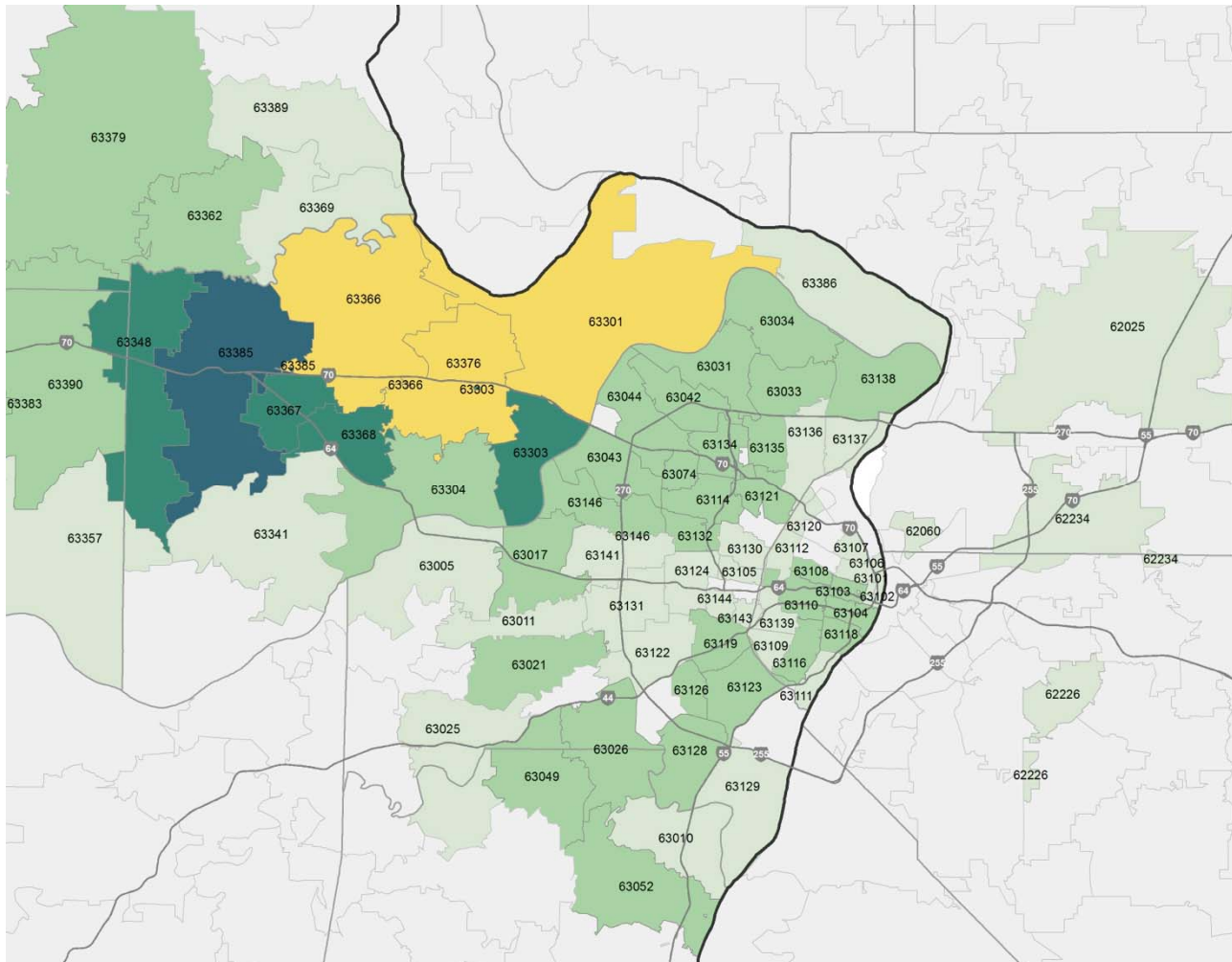
Participation was gathered from the majority of zip codes in the region, as shown by those opting to respond to this question. Higher numbers in some areas may be influence by comparative population density, by level of encouragement and sharing of data by local stakeholders and by frequency of corridor use.