



Appendix A

Comment Letters



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION VII
Iowa, Kansas,
Missouri, Nebraska

901 Locust Street
Suite 404
Kansas City, MO 64106
816-329-3920
816-329-3921 (fax)

November 30, 2004

Ms. Peggy J. Casey, P.E.
Environmental Project Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
209 Adams Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

DEC 23 2004

Re: Review of Environmental Analysis
Documentation for I-70 SUIs 2, through 6

Dear Ms. Casey:

We have reviewed the Environmental Analysis Documentation for I-70 study area segments 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Based on our review, we have no additional comments. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important study process.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Joni Roeseler at (816) 329-3936.

Sincerely,

Mokhtee Ahmad
Regional Administrator

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District

1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2832
Staff Symbol: obr
Phone: (314) 539-3900, Ext 2382
Fax: (314) 539-3755
Email:

16591.6/185.01 MOR
6 December 2004

12/16/04
cc'd to
no DOT
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Casey".

Ms. Peggy J. Casey, P.E.
Environmental Projects Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
209 Adams Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Subj: ROCHEPORT HIGHWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT. MILE 185.01, MISSOURI RIVER

Dear Ms. Casey:

Please refer to your letter dated October 19, 2004 inviting our comments on the second tier Environmental Assessment (EA) for SIU 3 of the I-70 corridor. The Coast Guard reviewed the document from the perspective of assessing the impacts of bridge construction on navigation and the environment. The following comments should be addressed in the final environmental document:

- a. A statement that the Coast Guard has served as a cooperating agency for NEPA purposes when evaluating impacts of the proposed bridge project on navigation and the environment should be included in the document.
- b. Add a section entitled Navigation Impacts. The EA should address the Missouri River in terms of the river transportation it supports and the impact a new bridge will have on river traffic during and after its construction. Include data on the number, size, and types of vessels currently using the waterway as a basis for evaluating impacts to navigation and describe cofferdam, falsework bents and associated construction impacts to navigation and mitigation measures proposed to minimize those impacts. This information should be compared with past records and projected future trends for the waterway to better understand how the new bridge will not compromise navigational safety and efficiency.
- c. Since a bridge permit is required for the project the Coast Guard will need a Water Quality Certificate from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which states that the project complies with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. This certificate is separate from the Section 404 permit required by the Corps of Engineers.
- d. If the old bridge is to be demolished, the impacts to the environment and navigation must be addressed. For pier removal, the Coast Guard will determine river and land pier cutoff elevations.
- e. On page III-61, change "...Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act permit..." to read "...Section 9 Rivers and Harbors Act permit..."

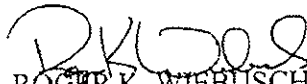
Subj: ROCHEPORT HIGHWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT.
MILE 185.01, MISSOURI RIVER

16591.6/185.01 MOR
6 December 2004

Please provide the above requested additional information in order that this document will be acceptable to the Coast Guard. We will also need a signed copy of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project in this early stage. Please contact Mr. David Orzechowski at the above telephone number if you have questions regarding our comments or requirements.

Sincerely,



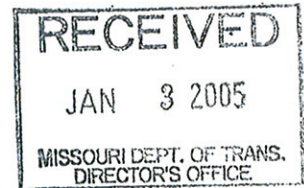
ROGER K. WIEBUSCH
Bridge Administrator
By direction of the District Commander

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bob Holden, Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director

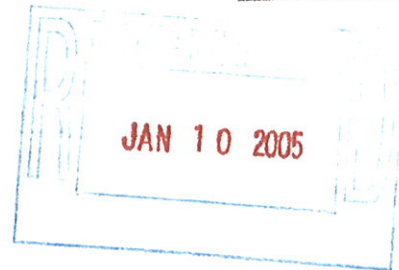
www.dnr.state.mo.us

DEC 28 2004



Mr. Don Neumann
Programs Engineer
Federal Highways Administration
209 Adams Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mr. Kevin Keith
Chief Engineer
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102



Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Interstate 70 Corridor, Boonville to
Rocheport, Missouri, Second Tier Section 3

Dear Messrs. Neumann and Keith:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Interstate 70 Second Tier study for Section 3. The department's comments on this DEA are provided below. We ask that these comments be addressed as part of our comments on the DEA.

Water Resources

The document references impacts to Petite Saline Creek, which is a biocriteria reference stream (page III-37). More stringent best management practices (BMPs) will be needed to protect this stream. These BMPs should be similar to what is required in the R109 general permit for land disturbance activities near valuable resource waters.

Impacts to other jurisdictional streams are clearly identified in the document, and mitigation for these impacts (including mitigation ratios) is referenced in general terms. It is noted that a conceptual wetland mitigation plan is being developed for the entire I-70 Corridor. The department would be glad to discuss specifics related to any mitigation plan developed for this project with the project planners.

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Page 2

Geology

The department's Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division (GSRAD) suggested the following issues be addressed prior finalization of this Assessment. With the presence of coal in the area, there is potential for small undermined areas to be encountered. The coal geologist with GSRAD, David C. Smith, indicates that there are, at a minimum, 5000 coal mines in the state that are not in GSRAD's databases. The potential for areas undermined by coal mining must be considered as project planning continues.

Also, in this same paragraph on page III-29, seismicity is not adequately addressed. The potential for damage is much greater in the portion of the study area that crosses the floodplain. This issue should be addressed as the project moves into the design phase.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this transportation project. We ask that these comments be included as part of the Final EA, in order to better formalize the comment process. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact me or Ms. Jane Beetem, phone number 573-522-2401. Her address for correspondence is Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Stephen Mahfood
Director

/jb