



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

Missouri Division
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3220 W. Edgewood, Suite H
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109
(573) 636-7104
Fax (573) 636-9283
Missouri.FHWA@fhwa.dot.gov

In Reply Refer To:
HAD-MO

Mr. Ed Hassinger, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Missouri Department of Transportation
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Subject: Route N

Dear Ed Hassinger:

This letter is to acknowledge the receipt of the Route N Planning Study and Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Questionnaire undertaken by The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), in partnership with St. Charles County and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA agrees that the public release of the 2020 draft Environmental Assessment (EA) remains infeasible, due to the inability to demonstrate fiscal constraint. However, the draft EA information and analysis gathered in support of the PEL questionnaire provides useful and relevant information for future corridor improvements.

The strengths of this planning study include a detailed investigation and identification of the transportation problems in the study area, as well as the potential strategies and options for improvements. In addition, the public involvement and agency coordination process undertaken was valuable, though additional public involvement and agency coordination will likely be necessary as future project(s) are identified and proceed through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

The completed PEL Questionnaire provides an effective summary of the work completed and the information that will be needed for a future project to enter the NEPA process. At that time, it may be necessary, depending on the circumstances, for FHWA to meet with MoDOT to determine the extent to which this information can be used during NEPA.

We appreciated the opportunity to comment on and actively participate in the development of this PEL Questionnaire. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Taylor Peters, Environmental Specialist, at (573) 638-2621 or by email at taylor.peters@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Raegan Ball
Program Development Team Leader
FHWA – Missouri Division

Cc: Melissa Scheperle, MoDOT
Wesley Stephen, MoDOT
Taylor Peters, FHWA