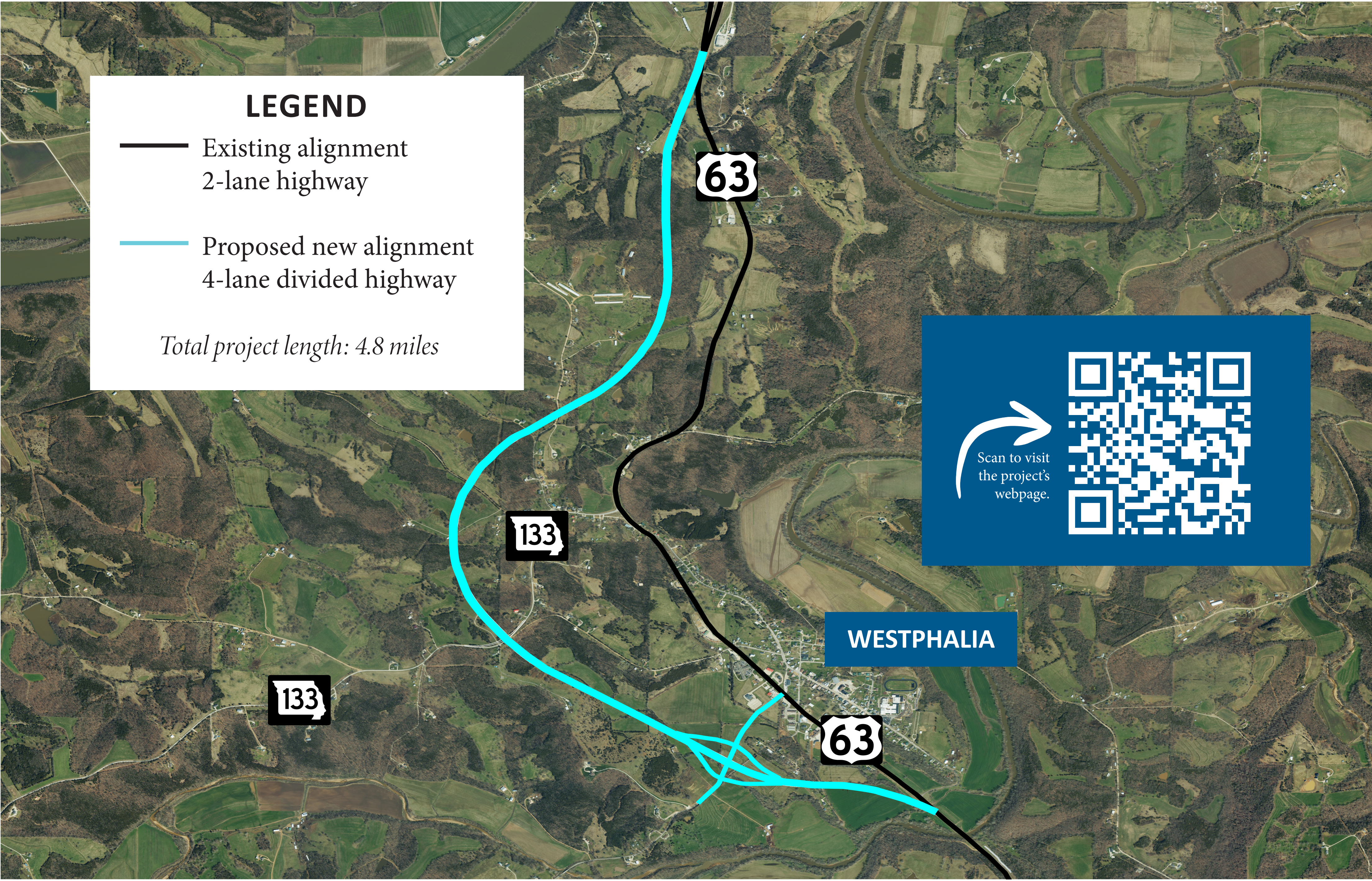


U.S. ROUTE 63 HIGHWAY REALIGNMENT IN OSAGE COUNTY



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The current U.S. Route 63 corridor from south of U.S. Route 50 to the Maries River has a history of fatal and serious injury crashes. Engineers with the Missouri Department of Transportation are evaluating design options to improve safety along a new alignment while minimizing the impact on people, property, and the environment. The estimated cost of engineering, right of way, and construction is \$83.7 million, subject to change.

The problem

In the past 10 years, this corridor has seen 190 crashes that have resulted in seven fatalities, 12 serious injuries, and 80 minor injuries.

The existing U.S. Route 63 is primarily a two-lane roadway with 12-foot driving lanes and 4-foot shoulders. The corridor studied is characterized by rolling hills with numerous sharp curves, driveways, and access points that contribute to uneven traffic flow, which increases the potential for high crash rates. Additionally, with more than 8,000 average daily travelers, the existing U.S. Route 63 has outgrown the capacity for a two-lane highway.

Proposed solution

MoDOT is in the early stages of designing a new alignment for U.S. Route 63 along the preferred alternative corridor, as identified in the 2009 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and reaffirmed in the 2025 EIS re-evaluation. The proposed new road would be a four-lane divided highway connected to Westphalia via an interchange.

This would improve safety by better handling the large volume of travelers, reducing the number of sharp curves, and minimizing the number of conflict points.



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