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January 2026

## A Note From Stacey Smith

MoDOT's Project Director



Happy New Year! Welcome to the third edition of the Forward 44: U.S. 50 Interchange Improvements Project Newsletter.

As we move into 2026, I want to thank everyone who participated in our public meetings and surveys this past year. Your feedback has been critical in helping MoDOT determine community priorities and shape the final project goals.

MoDOT is planning potential long-term improvements at the I-44/U.S. 50 interchange and U.S. 50/Route AT intersection. The project aims to increase safety and reliability while improving roadway conditions.

In the coming year, we will start the process to hire a design-build contractor, selecting the team that can provide the best value for a fixed price. MoDOT will define the "best value" based on the project goals described below. Any cost savings identified by the selected team will allow for additional improvements at the interchange and intersection. It also enables some construction to start while design work is still underway, helping to shorten the overall project schedule.

**Since our last update, we have:**

- Held a public meeting to gather feedback on the draft goals and introduce the Design-Build process.
- Finalized project goals and schedule based on public feedback and engineering data.
- Conducted analyses for traffic and safety, right-of-way, environmental factors, and utilities.
- Evaluated potential design concepts, including Standard Diamond, Diamond with Roundabouts, Dogbone Interchange, and Diverging Diamond.
- Secured \$125 million in funding for the project.

As the project progresses, we look forward to keeping you informed every step of the way. MoDOT is committed to creating a safe, reliable, long-lasting, and expandable transportation system that supports all road users. Keep reading to learn more!

## Your Feedback Made a Big Impact!

In November, we held a public meeting and asked for community input on the draft project goals. We had more than **100 attendees** as well as over **140 survey responses**. All future decisions made during this design-build project will be based on the **final goals** you helped shape:

1. ***Improve safety and reliability within the I-44/U.S. 50 interchange, U.S. 50/Route AT intersection and entire project limits within the program budget.***
2. ***Provide a long-lasting and expandable transportation system that minimizes maintenance and future traffic impacts.***
3. ***Safely construct a project that minimizes impacts to the public.***
4. ***Deliver the project by 2030.***

### The Community Strongly Supported the Project Goals



**84%** of respondents think  
**Improving Safety is Very Important**



**80%** of respondents think  
**Increasing Reliability is Very Important**



**84%** of respondents think  
**Building Long-Lasting Pavement is Very Important**



**56%** of respondents think  
**Allowing for Future Expansion is Very Important**



**61%** of respondents think  
**Minimizing Traffic Delays During Construction is Very Important**



**56%** of respondents think  
**Completing the Project On-Time is Very Important**



*Community members complete the survey  
during the public meeting.*



*Community members engage in discussions  
and review project boards during the public  
meeting.*

In addition, **80% of respondents** agreed that addressing the top three identified needs for the interchange would result in a successful project:

## Pavement Conditions

## Frequency of Major Shutdowns

## On/Off-Ramp Configurations

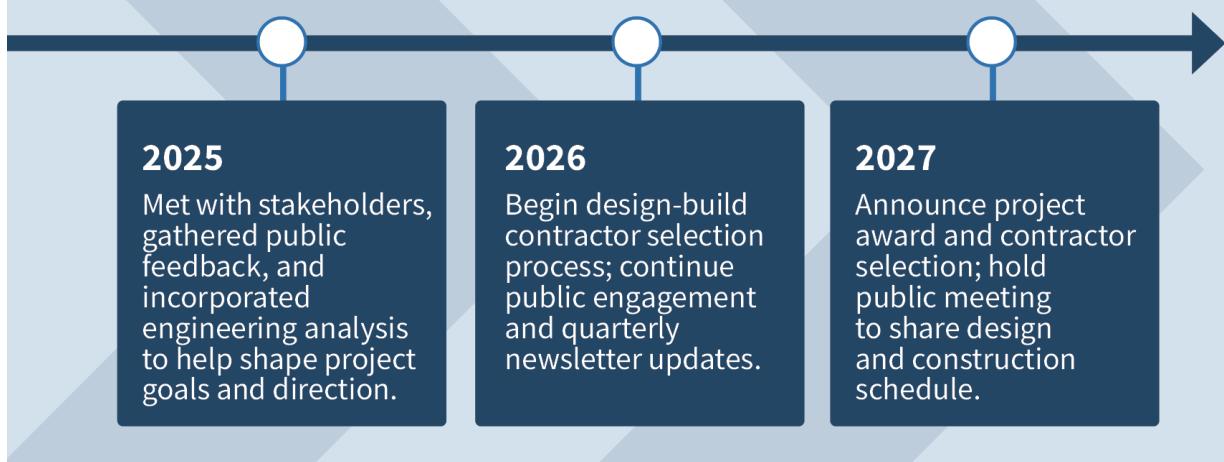
# What's Next?

**In 2025**, we met with stakeholders, gathered public feedback, and incorporated engineering analysis to help shape the project goals.

**This year**, we will begin the process to hire a design-build contractor, while continuing public engagement and providing quarterly newsletter updates.

**Looking ahead to 2027**, we will announce the project award and contractor selection, and hold a public meeting to share the design and construction schedule. Your feedback helped shape the project goals, which will underpin all future decisions that MoDOT makes for this critical interchange.

## Project Timeline



You can learn more about the **Forward 44: U.S. 50 Interchange Improvements** project by clicking [here](#) to visit the project website.

Have a question? Email the project team [here](#)!



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