

FEEDBACK REPORT

1st Input Session: I-44 / Meramec River Crossing

PROJECT OVERVIEW

During an informational open house in October 2017, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) received substantial feedback from the community on their thoughts about a connection between the east and west sides of the Meramec for cyclists and pedestrians. The majority of that feedback was in support of some form of a cyclist/pedestrian crossing near I-44. Since that time, MoDOT has partnered with Great Rivers Greenway and the surrounding municipalities to come to an agreement about constructing a shared-use path across the river.

On March 13, 2018, MoDOT came to a formal agreement with Great Rivers Greenway about a partnership to construct a 12-foot protected path for walking and biking on the bridge. At this time concepts are being explored to guide the design of trail connections and amenities associated with the bridge.

As the project continues toward the start of construction, Great Rivers Greenway, MoDOT, and the cities of Fenton, Kirkwood, and Sunset Hills have continued public engagement by planning two public input sessions in August 2019 and October 2019.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project has several goals:

- Provide people with a safe and accessible way to cross the Meramec River while walking, running or riding a bike.
- Connect to the Meramec Greenway, parks, trails, businesses, neighborhoods and other destinations on either side, including possible new trailheads with amenities like a restroom, benches and parking.
- Allow people to connect to the Meramec River itself; inviting people to enjoy nature leads to ownership and opportunities to be good stewards of these natural resources for the health and long-term sustainability of our watershed and communities.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

BACKGROUND

Residents and stakeholders of Kirkwood, Fenton and Sunset Hills were invited to share their feedback on the initial concepts for the shared-use path along the new Interstate 44 Bridge over the Meramec River. Participants were able to share their feedback with the municipalities of Fenton, Kirkwood and Sunset Hills along with project partners Great Rivers Greenway and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) during this early planning phase.

The following report summarizes the feedback that was received from the first input session on August 18, 2019 at Sunset Hills Community Center.