Appendix F: Public Involvement

# ROUTE 19 SHANNON COUNTY

#### **Project Description**

This project will include finding a permanent solution to provide a safe and reliable Route 19 crossing over Sinking Creek in Shannon County.

A temporary bridge was put into place in May 2015 after a weight restriction and lane reduction were necessary on the existing structure. The temporary bridge allows heavy truck traffic to avoid lengthy detours. The Missouri Department of Transportation is currently looking for a more permanent solution.

#### Timeline

Construction is anticipated in spring 2017.

#### Traffic Impacts

MoDOT is currently examining six options for providing a crossing over Sinking Creek. Four of the alternates include building the structure on a new alignment, with two proposed alternates designed on the existing alignment.

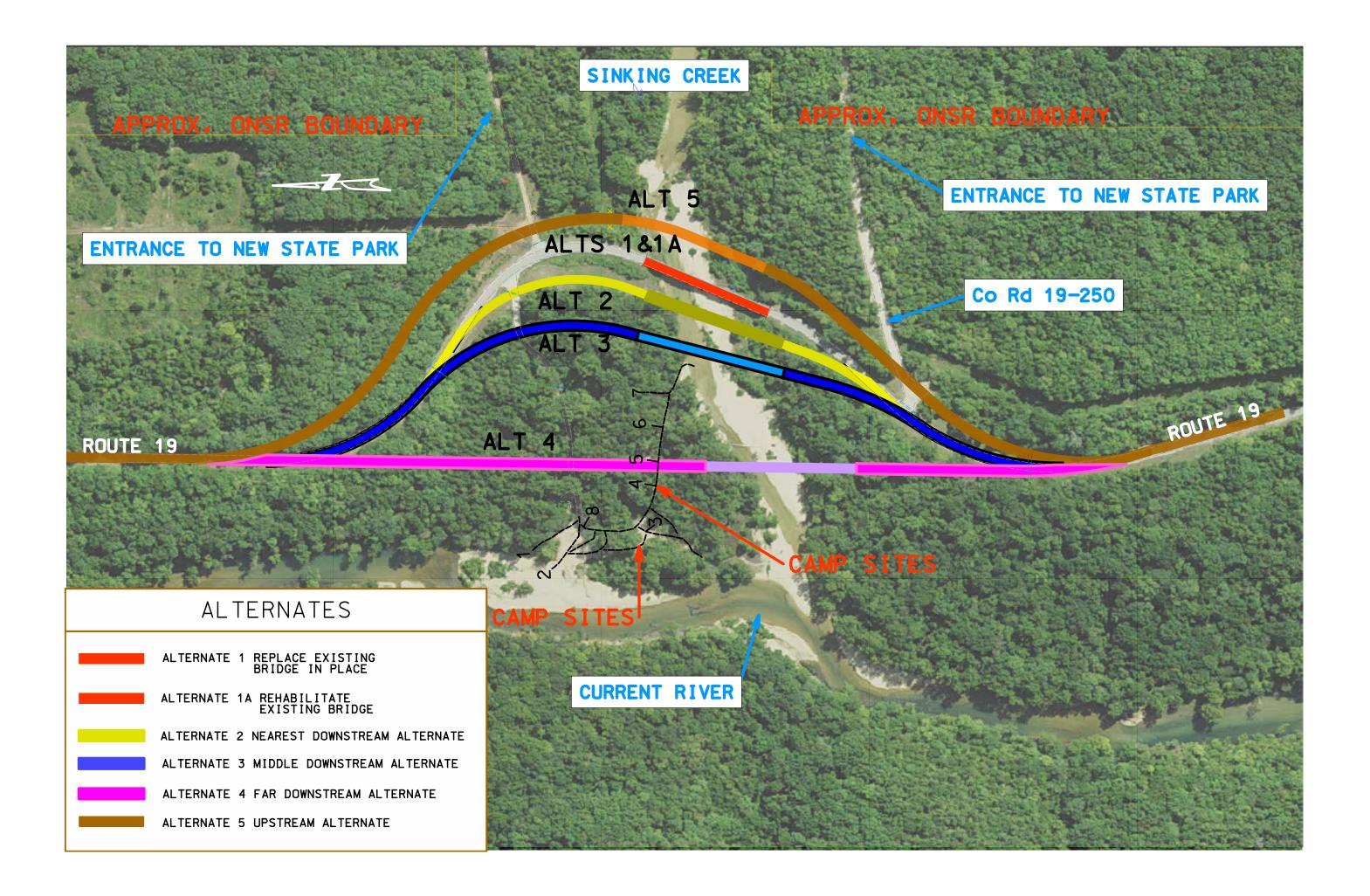
#### **Contact Information**

For more information, please contact Project Manager Pete Berry at (417) 469-6242 or Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge at (417) 469-6239.





Missouri Department of Transportation I Southeast District I 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636) I www.modot.org/southeast I 2675 N. Main St. I Sikeston, Mo.



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SIGN-IN SHEET Route 19 Sinking Creek Bridge Shannnon County October 5, 2015

Southeast District 2675 North Main Street P.O. Box 160 Sikeston, MO 63801 (573) 472-5333 Fax (573) 472-5342 Toll free 1-888 ASK MoDOT www.modot.org

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SIGN-IN SHEET Route 19 Sinking Creek Bridge Shannon County October 5, 2015

Southeast District 2675 North Main Street P.O. Box 160 Sikeston, MO 63801 (573) 472-5333 Fax (573) 472-5342 Toll free 1-888 ASK MoDOT www.modot.org

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Please share your comments regarding plans to improve the Route 19 bridge over Sinking Creek in Shannon County. Please submit your comments by October 19. Thank you for your input.

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Name: 14R/05L002 Phone: 573-247-4543
Address: 702 Swater St., Splem, MD, 105560
Email Address: clopez@geaceconmunitysalem.oog
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<b>Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?</b>
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Please share your comments regarding plans to improve the Route 19 bridge over Sinking Creek in Shannon County. Please submit your comments by October 19. Thank you for your input.

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-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 2:03 PM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

Name: Dean Fry

Address1: 10727 Saint Matthew Lane

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: Saint Ann

State: MO

Zip: 63074

Phone Number: 314-428-3312

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: ddfryccc@gmail.com

Comments: Route 19, Sinking Creek.

I have driven this route a few times and have felt these bridges fit the surroundings well.

Since there is a temporary bridge in place, I think that Alternative 1 makes the best sense. Depending on how the new park is developed and how much traffic is generated as a result, a three lane bridge, or a bridge expandable to three lanes, should be considered. Also to be considered is the potential of a pedestrian overlook on the bridge, maybe each side, and connections to any trail systems that may be developed. Both of which are very good reasons to work closely with MoDNR on this project. Finally, I would like to see the design of the new bridge not stray too far from the open spandrel arch style of the current bridge, especially if it can be built with patterned forms.

Thanks,

MARISSA VAN ROBEY-ROBERTSON Senior Communications Specialist Missouri Department of Transportation Southeast District - Communications PO Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 573.472.5311 www.modot.org

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 6:42 PM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

Name: Michael Sutton

Address1: 5544 CR204

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: Annapolis

State: MO

Zip: 63620

Phone Number: 573-546-2864

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: haganandsutton@gmail.com

Comments: Re: Route 19 Sinking Creek Bridge.

As you know, the Sinking Creek bridge is within the authorized boundaries of Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and construction of the new bridge, should be sensitive to the nature of a National Park - i.e it should be as unobtrusive as possible with the least impact on the surrounding environment. Therefore, I strongly advocate either alternatives 1 or 1A - building in the same location as the old bridge without altering the approaches. The only rationale for the other alternatives would be to straighten the road, allowing for faster travel, but I would reiterate that this is a road in a National Park, where high speed travel is not appropriate.

You should also be aware that a significant ONSR cave - Ditch Cave - stands to be seriously affected or destroyed by rerouting, especially if alternative 5 is implemented. The cave entrance is literally in the highway ditch a short way north of Sinking Creek, and any road widening here would almost certainly destroy the entrance. Several of the

rerouting alternatives would pass directly over the cave, threatening its ecosystem with road run-off pollutants and putting it at risk from spills. The cave is home to several species of state concern - the grotto salamander and at least two species of bat, and its biology is still the subject of an active investigation by the Cave Research Foundation.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 8:20 PM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

Name: Charles Stewart

Address1: HC 1 Box 156B

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: Eminence

State: MO

Zip: 65466

Phone Number: 573-226-5695

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: jastewie@gmail.com

Comments: In viewing the alternates, and being a lifelong resident of the Round Spring area, I highly recommend the option #4. I feel this would be the safest and most direct route eliminating the curves, hills, blind areas greatly reducing the chance of accidents especially with the expected increase in traffic in this area. Feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss further.

From:	<u>Marissa V. Robey</u>
To:	Pete Berry; Chris Rutledge
Subject:	Facebook CommentRoute 19 Shannon County
Date:	Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:23:01 AM

Please see the comment below from Ms. Akers. I don't think we need to respond. I just wanted to share this prior to Monday's meeting. Thanks!

#### Margaret Akers

To plan an expensive NEW park when they knew the roads weren't adequate was putting the cart before the horse!! Let the new park build the NEW Highway 19 Bridge. It's my understanding that the park plans a bridge over Sinking Creek INSIDE that park .... guess we'll just have go into the park & use that bridge. No sense using State Money TWICE to build TWO bridges. If they are begging for money again then they'd ALL better start using the money MORE WISELY! Go revisit the plans!! All of the traffic can stay north of there as far as I'm concerned ... Shannon County wouldn't benefit enough in 5 generations from the new park or anything else that happens up there.. So let the road stop at the north of side Sinking Creek ... The people who want to visit the park can stay in Salem ... The ones from St Louis would have a better trip driving to Poplar Bluff to Winona then to Eminence if the are looking to visit Jacks Fork. OR go to Rolla, Houston to Summersville to Eminence!! Like · Reply · 1 · 17 hrs · Edited

#### MARISSA VAN ROBEY-ROBERTSON

Senior Communications Specialist

#### **Missouri Department of Transportation**

Southeast District - Communications PO Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 573.472.5311 www.modot.org Good morning,

Here are a few more comments from Facebook.

**Jim Anderson** MoDOT found federal funding for a new bridge. Highway 19 is the only North/South freight corridor through Shannon County, and tourism is a secondary benefit. The old bridge failed, so here's a positive development without footing the entire bill. If you feel differently about it, then come to the meeting and voice your opinion. That's what these meetings are all about.

**Margaret Akers** 100% federal funding? If not is the balance being paid for by the new Million dollar park? The state can't even keep the lights on at the intersections on at the Hwy 19 & Hwy 60 in Winona ... plus they haven't painted lines to help keep it safer! WE didn't ask them for a 4 lane highway with 2 unsafe crossing AND NO NIGHT TIME LIGHTING! It's gonna be mighty scary when they can't keep the traffic lights & lighting at the intersections in Mtn View because of the cost of the bridge! Which cost came first????

 $\underline{\text{Like}} \cdot \underline{\text{Reply}} \cdot \underline{\text{October 3 at 10:51pm}} \cdot \underline{\text{Edited}}$ 

Margaret Akers Attending the meeting to be heard will be useless as always.

#### MARISSA VAN ROBEY-ROBERTSON

Senior Communications Specialist

#### **Missouri Department of Transportation**

Southeast District - Communications PO Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 573.472.5311 www.modot.org From:Marissa V. RobeyTo:Pete BerrySubject:FW: District 10 Contact Us Form--Route 19 ShannonDate:Monday, October 05, 2015 10:18:00 AM

MARISSA VAN ROBEY-ROBERTSON Senior Communications Specialist Missouri Department of Transportation Southeast District - Communications PO Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 573.472.5311 www.modot.org

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2015 10:08 AM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

Name: George Bilbrey

#### Address1: 3020 HiGHWAY DD

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: Salem

State: MO

Zip: 65560

Phone Number: 573 729-6835

Fax Number: N/A

Email: gbrb@embarqmail.com

Comments: I'd like to add my comments on the Shannon County Route 19 Sinking Creek Bridge reconstruction, to those of Dr Michael Sutton which you recently received via this website. Dr Sutton has a PHD in biology, specializing in cave biology. He is recognized both in the United States and some foreign countries, having discovered and reported on several previously unknown species of cave life.

I completely agree with his comments. Most especially about the necessity to protect the entrance and underground features of Ditch Cave. I helped survey part of Ditch Cave several years ago. I am a Fellow with Cave Research Foundation, having been a member since 1960.

In my opinion it would be a travesty to alter the features of Ditch Cave. I support the recommendation to use either alternative 1 or 1A. Thank you for your consideration

George Bilbrey

From:	Marissa V. Robey
To:	Pete Berry
Subject:	FW: District 10 Contact Us FormSinking Creek Project Comment
Date:	Saturday, September 19, 2015 10:25:52 PM

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2015 3:25 PM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

Name: Geoffrey Gilbert Havens

Address1: 2131 S. Todd

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: Springfield

State: MO

Zip: 65807

Phone Number: 4173505525

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: geoffrey.havens@umontana.edu

Comments: I'd like to express a few short opinions on the Sinking Creek Bridge Project. I urge MODOT to avoid selecting the far downstream alternate, as that would directly impact the NPS Sinking Creek Campground, a place that both many locals and visitors view as a special spot with many memories. I would further encourage MODOT to consider the options that repair and improve the current bridge structure, or move the new traffic bridge slightly upstream of the existing structure. The old bridge is a wonderful historic structure and could remain useful as a hiker/biker structure.

#### Good morning,

Please see my response to Mr. Skwiot below. Here is the comment I received this morning:

Name: paul skwiot

Address1: 7027 Dale Ave #1

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: Saint Louis

State: MO

Zip: 63117

Phone Number: \* no value given \*

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: <a href="mailto:soundslikequiet@gmail.com">soundslikequiet@gmail.com</a>

Comments: I saw an article regarding the Rt 19 bring online with a map of proposed changes. Please repost article on your website as the map isn't visible, or are you hiding it?

One way to improve quality: bring in KC or Western Region engineers and architects. Their work is much superior to the work St Louis region engineer and architects do.

#### MARISSA VAN ROBEY-ROBERTSON

Senior Communications Specialist

#### **Missouri Department of Transportation**

Southeast District - Communications PO Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 573.472.5311 www.modot.org

From: Marissa V. Robey Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 9:38 AM To: 'soundslikequiet@gmail.com' Subject: MoDOT--Shannon County Route 19

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting us regarding the Route 19 bridge over Sinking Creek in Shannon County. We certainly want you to have all of the information regarding the alternates.

The map you are referencing is included on the second page of the link below. http://www.modot.org/southeast/news\_and\_information/public\_meetings/documents/Handout\_ShannonCounty\_Route19\_SinkingCreek\_October2015.pdf

In addition, these are links to the historical and environmental information that will also be shared during the meeting. http://www.modot.org/southeast/news\_and\_information/public\_meetings/documents/historical.pdf http://www.modot.org/southeast/news\_and\_information/public\_meetings/documents/Environmental\_Tri-fold.pdf

If you have issues viewing the links to the documents included above or if you have any questions pertaining to this information, please let me know. I will be happy to provide the map in a different format or get you in contact with our project manager to discuss your concerns.

Thank you,

MARISSA VAN ROBEY-ROBERTSON Senior Communications Specialist

Missouri Department of Transportation Southeast District - Communications PO Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 573.472.5311 www.modot.org

From:	Marissa V. Robey
To:	Pete Berry
Subject:	Project CommentShannon County Route 19
Date:	Monday, September 21, 2015 8:56:43 AM

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 8:53 AM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

> Name: Kathryn Love Address1: 1623 Univesity Ave Address2: \* no value given \* City: columbia State: MO Zip: 65201 Phone Number: 573-875-7918 Fax Number: \* no value given \* Email: lovekat68@gmail.com

Comments: I favor rehabilitating the existing bridge to preserve its beautiful and historic architecture. This is an exceptional and fragile setting, of possible archeological significance. The best solution will disturb the land, creek and river the least, while preserving the aesthetic features of the existing bridge.

Name: Dent County Commission Phone: 573-729-3044 20 N. Main Address: H alem. Mo. (05560 Email Address: How did you hear about the meeting? newspaper radio 2 website/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ facebook/twitter \_\_\_\_\_ message board \_\_\_\_\_ other (please specify) Were your questions answered by the MoDOT project team?  $\underline{\sqrt{es}}$ Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? Comments may also be submitted online at: www.modot.org/southeast/news\_and\_information/public\_meetings/ Country (ammissi Comments: AN (additional space on reverse side)

Name: be DevALL Phone: 573-729-7373 Address: 52 HWY. WW SALEM MO Email Address: How did you hear about the meeting? newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ radio \_\_\_\_\_ website/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ facebook/twitter \_\_\_\_\_ message board \_\_\_\_\_ other (please specify) Yes Were your questions answered by the MoDOT project team? \_ Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  $\frac{925}{2}$ Comments may also be submitted online at: www.modot.org/southeast/news\_and\_information/public\_meetings/ **Comments:** OPTIONI# THE 15 INK rest NEUL FOR SOLITION E WOULD SINKING CROCK RINGE BF ADDED RAING ANF Too (additional space on reverse side)

Please share your comments regarding plans to improve the Route 19 bridge over Sinking Creek in Shannon County. Please submit your comments by October 19. Thank you for your input.

Name: BOB FOSSEY Phone: 573-858-3343 Address: HC 62 Bx 495 SALEM MO 6556 Email Address: bubbas peace @ gmail.com How did you hear about the meeting? newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ radio \_\_\_\_\_ website/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_ (facebook/twitter \_\_\_\_\_ message board \_\_\_\_\_\_ other (please specify) Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? SomEwith T Comments may also be submitted online at: www.modot.org/southeast/news\_and\_information/public\_meetings/ RESERVING THE OMGINAL BRINGE AND Comments: DNE LANE SEEMS THE MUST (051 PLAN, SINCE THE WEAT BRINKE SOUTH 19 15 ONE LANE. THIS ALLOWS THE HISTORIC STRUCTURE TO CONTIVUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO HERITALE UNIQUE THAT SCHEES F-XISTS TIS AREA. THE MONEY SAVED USING THIS OACH COULD THEN BE USED TO REHABILITATE otten Two BRIDGES IN THIS STRING (ROUND CURRENT RIVEN. MADOT NEEDS XD WIKREVEN IT CAN

(additional space on reverse side)



#### Hi Pete,

I tried to submit a comment through the web interface but after a long delay it responded with a server error message.

Here's my thoughts on the project and alignments:

With the new park, maybe the camp grounds below the bridge are not that important. I know I would not like to camp near a noisy roadway.

Please do not interpret that meaning I prefer the straight alignment.

I think it is important to preserve the scenic and rural character of the bridge and roadway and therefore prefer an alignment that includes a curve.

I also like seeing the river below when I drive over the bridge. The old bridge made that possible. Modern bridges often include high Jersey barriers and wide shoulder lanes making the creek below impossible to see.

Landscape is what makes the Ozark National Scenic Riverways beautiful. Not just the rivers, but the entire region, including the roads leading to the area.

It's been my observation that often modern roadway construction and maintenance seems to be intent on destroying scenic beauty. Road widening, broad shoulders, trees and outcroppings bulldozed into sloping aprons. It's my fear that the new bridge construction will be combined with "roadway improvements" and scenic destruction.

Please, try to preserve the character of the existing roadway: where the asphalt ends at the white line, where there are occasional rock outcroppings in the right-of-way, and where trees overhang and shade the roadway. This is the scenic character of the Ozarks and a large part of the attraction to tourists. Destroying this character will hurt tourism and the local economies.

Sincerely,

Brian Rasche Orlando, FL

On Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 3:29 PM, Pete Berry <<u>Pete.Berry@modot.mo.gov</u>> wrote:

Brian,

Thanks for your inquiry. Please see the following link for more information. Please give me a call if you have any questions. We have not selected a preferred alternate yet but are still in the process of going through the study.

Thanks!

http://www.modot.org/southeast/news\_and\_information/public\_meetings./Route19\_SinkingCreek\_Shannon\_Oct2015.htm

#### Pete Berry, P.E.

Transportation Project Manager | MoDOT • Southeast District | <u>417-469-6242</u> |

From: Brian Rasche [mailto:brasche@gmail.com] Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 2:21 PM To: Pete Berry Subject: Sinking Creek Bridge and Road Alignment

Hi Pete,

We own property in the area but live in Florida and are unable to attend the meetings. If available, will you please send us information on the proposed alignments.

Thanks,

Brian Rasche

Orlando, FL

BTW, a quick comment on recent road right-of-way tree trimming. It is a disaster for the scenic beauty of the region. Specifically, the stretch of Hwy. 160 from Eminence to H. It was once a delightful canopied and shaded drive with light flickering through the leaves. Today it is a barren alleyway and will take decades re-grow. 8-(

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:55 AM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

#### Name: Scott House

Address1: 1606 Luce

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: Cape Girardeau

State: MO

Zip: 63701

Phone Number: 573-651-3794

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: scott\_house@hotmail.com

Comments: Alternative 1 or 1a (if feasible) are the only alternatives that do not involve major destruction in the form of roadway creation.

Otherwise, enlarged or new roadways will impact species of conservation concern residing in Ditch Cave, plus have impacts on the visual integrity of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:46 AM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

Name: Daniel Lamping

Address1: 4946 Seibert Avenue

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: St. Louis

State: MO

Zip: 63123

Phone Number: 314-775-8584

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: daniellamping@att.net

Comments: The present footprint for Hwy 19 should be utilized and no new path should be created. A temporary bridge is currently constructed which would allow for the construction of a new bridge at the site of the old one. There are significant caves nearby, one of which, Ditch Cave, is biologically significant. One of the proposed routes, the Brown, ALT 5 would go over this significant cave and would likely have adverse effects. Any of the other proposed routes, aside from ALT 1, which uses the current route would contribute to erosion and necessitate the clearing of forest in addition to greater costs associated with changing the landscape. I urge you to follow the current footprint for the Highway 19 bridge over Sinking Creek. It is the only responsible course, both fiscally and environmentally.

From:Marissa V. RobeyTo:Pete BerrySubject:Route 19 Sinking Creek Shannon County CommentDate:Friday, October 02, 2015 12:04:36 AM

MARISSA VAN ROBEY-ROBERTSON Senior Communications Specialist Missouri Department of Transportation Southeast District - Communications PO Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 573.472.5311 www.modot.org

-----Original Message-----From: no-reply@modot.mo.gov [mailto:no-reply@modot.mo.gov] Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 5:45 PM To: SECRRep; SECR Subject: District 10 Contact Us Form

Name: Esther D Stroh

Address1: 807 LEAWOOD TER

Address2: \* no value given \*

City: COLUMBIA

State: MO

Zip: 65203

Phone Number: 5753032130

Fax Number: \* no value given \*

Email: edstroh@gmail.com

Comments: I prefer alternative 2, the nearest downstream site, and keeping the historic bridge for pedestrians. Fixing the historic bridge for pedestrians and bicycles only will not require as much work as restoring it for heavy vehicles. The historic bridge should NOT be removed or replaced. This is a beautiful and historic bridge. The upstream sites will be more environmentally harmful, as they require more tree removal, etc. Also, closer proximity to the new park will negatively affect park experience as more noise from bridge traffic will be audible from the upstream sites. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.