U.S. 50 Corridor Safety & Operational Improvements

Factsheet | Fall 2026

Improving Safety Along the U.S. 50 Corridor

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is evaluating U.S. 50 corridor from Lake Lotawana in Jackson County to Sedalia in Pettis County to identify opportunities to improve safety, access, and traffic operations. These studies will help determine future transportation investments and potential projects that may be considered for funding through future Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycles.

Study Goals

- Improve safety along U.S. 50.
- Evaluate intersections with a history of crashes or operational concerns.
- Review locations experiencing increased traffic growth.
- Identify future J-turn opportunities and other intersection improvements.
- Develop recommendations for projects that may be eligible for future STIP funding.

What are J-turns?

J-turn intersections are different than traditional roadway crossings on four-lane highways. Instead of drivers turning left directly onto the highway or driving straight across, drivers will turn right onto the highway, travel to the next median opening, make a U-turn and continue in the new direction. J-turns create safer, efficient and easier changes in direction for drivers through the utilization of a dedicated deceleration lane and merging section. Several benefits of J-turns include:

- fewer sharp angle crashes,
- decreased wait times when merging,
- improved safety at high-speed rural intersections,
- better through traffic flow.

This type of intersection is intended to reduce crashes and adds an extended deceleration line which allows traffic to safely exit mainline traffic and merge into the dedicated U-turn lane. Studies show that introducing J-turns on high-speed rural roads has reduced crashes and crash severity opposed to two-way stop controlled intersections.



The study area encompasses several key communities, regional hubs, and townships including Lake Lotawana, Lone Jack, Warrensburg, the University of Central Missouri, Knob Noster, the Whiteman Air Force Base, La Monte, and Sedalia.

J-Turns along U.S. 50 in Jackson, Johnson and Pettis Counties

MoDOT is analyzing safety concerns along U.S. 50 from Lake Lotawana in Jackson County to Sedalia in Pettis County. The study will identify locations where safety improvements may be needed, including potential J-turn intersections and other intersection improvements.

For Jackson County, potential safety improvements, including J-turn locations, have been identified. For Johnson and Pettis Counties, MoDOT would like a prioritized list of safety projects that can guide future improvements along U.S. 50 through 2040.

Safety improvements have been constructed in several locations including near 1601st Road and between Missouri Highway 58 and Missouri Business Highway 50.

Outer Road Connectivity Study – Lake Lotawana at MO 7/U.S. 50

As part of the study and where feasible, the project team is evaluating outer road connections between Missouri Highway 7 and Lone Jack to increase safety and reduce conflict points. The study will assess intersections and access points along U.S. 50, including connections with Easley Road, Herring Road, Old U.S. 50, Alley Jackson Road, Buckner Tarsney Road Noel Road, Lakota Road, Hutt Road, Lone Jack Lee's Summit Road, Bynum Road/U.S.150, Ragsdale Road/Lovers Lane, Route F, Al Gossett/Same Moore Road, and Route AA. The analysis will evaluate existing conditions and identify potential intersection and roadway improvements to address current and future transportation needs.

Study Timeline

MoDOT is reviewing projects along the U.S. 50 Highway corridor that qualify for current and future STIP and safety and operational funds. Funds for future projects must be determined before Spring 2027. Early stakeholder engagement is needed to advance this work to improve safety along the corridor.

This study will build upon previous analyses and current traffic and safety evaluations to identify future improvement opportunities through 2040 to collect feedback on a programmed project on U.S. 50 between MO 7 and Route AA in Jackson County and identify future improvement opportunities for Johnson and Pettis Counties.

Three public meetings are planned for November 2026, with opportunities for public comment available during and following the meetings. An additional public hearing specifically related to the outer roads is planned as part of the right-of-way acquisition phase.

Project Schedule

Activity	Fall/Winter 2026	Winter 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027	Fall 2027
MO 7 to Route AA* (currently funded)					
Stakeholder Meetings					
Public Meetings					
Jackson County to West of Sedalia (potential future funding)					
Stakeholder Meetings					
Public Meetings					

**Potential Public Hearing in Summer 2028*

How to Get Involved

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in upcoming public meetings, provide comments, and stay informed as the studies progress and future improvements are evaluated. The first set of meetings are occurring in November of 2026 and will include a public comment period. There will be a second set of meetings in 2027 to share projects moving forward. Additional public involvement opportunities will be scheduled in the future to keep the public informed as projects progress.

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Visit the project websites for the latest updates:

MO 7 to Route AA
www.modot.org/projects/us-route-50-safety-and-operational-improvements-jackson-county

Jackson County to West of Sedalia
www.modot.org/projects/us-route-50-safety-and-operational-study-johnson-and-pettis-counties