

Welcome to the East Columbia-Environmental Impact Statement Drop-In Center January 8, 2008

Welcome! Thank you for visiting the drop-in center. Your participation tonight and at future public events is vital to improving transportation in Eastern Columbia.

The purpose of tonight's drop-in center is to seek your input on more detailed roadway alignments that have been developed since proposed transportation improvements for East Columbia were presented to the public in October.

At the late October open-house public meeting, the project team demonstrated how four proposed transportation alternatives and "corridors" – at least 600-foot bands where roadway improvements could occur – could reasonably address traffic congestion and safety concerns, more efficiently connect the major highways between Eastern Boone County and Columbia and improve access to Eastern Columbia.

Comments gathered during and after the public meeting, as well as additional technical and environmental analysis, guided project engineers as they developed more detailed roadway alignments that are now ready for public review and input.

Study team members are available around the room to provide information, answer questions and listen to your comments. Please take the time to visit with them, and provide your comments in writing and submit them in the provided comment box. If you prefer, written comments can be e-mailed or mailed back to us by January 15th.

Please e-mail or mail your comments by **January 15, 2007** to:

E-Mail: EastColumbiaEIS@ch2m.com

Mail: EC-EIS Study

CH2M HILL

727 North First Street, Suite 400

St. Louis, MO 63102

Further adjustments will be made based on your feedback and additional technical work. A Preferred Alternative will be presented at a public hearing in spring of 2008. Please look for updates and announcements for this meeting early next year.

For more information:

www.EastColumbiaEIS.com

1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636)



East Columbia-Environmental Impact Statement

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

A. An EIS is a full disclosure document that details the process through which a transportation project was developed, includes consideration of a range of reasonable alternatives, analyzes the potential impacts resulting from the alternatives, and demonstrates agreement with other applicable environmental laws and executive orders. The EIS process is completed in the following ordered steps: Notice of Intent (NOI), draft EIS, final EIS, and record of decision (ROD). Essentially, an EIS is part of a federally mandated process to determine what actions, if any, will best address a community's transportation needs.

Q. Why is this EIS necessary?

A. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to prepare EISs for major Federal actions that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Q. What is the purpose of this study?

A. The study was initiated to identify and evaluate options to improve transportation in the rapidly growing area between Interstate 70 south to New Haven Road, and U.S. Highway 63 East to State Highway Z. Working closely with the public, resource agencies and technical experts, state and local officials are evaluating alternatives that would most effectively address traffic congestion and safety concerns, connect the major highways between Eastern Boone County and Columbia and improve access to Eastern Columbia.

Q. How will my input be used in the process?

A. Study recommendations come from technical analysis combined with public insights and preferences. Solutions are developed that balance community needs with technical and regulatory constraints such as cost, feasibility and environmental protection.

Q. What happens after today's meeting?

A. The study team will further analyze the emerging alignments based on the balancing of many issues (e.g. cost, right-of-way acquisition, potential home displacement, environmental impacts). Your input tonight will help the study team better understand which alignment fits with the needs of East Columbia. In 2008, a Preferred Alternative will be presented in a Draft EIS, which will be shared with the community at a public hearing in late spring.

Q. How can I keep updated on the study?

- Visit the project web site at www.EastColumbiaEIS.com;
- Sign up for electronic updates by sending an email with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line to EastColumbiaEIS@ch2m.com; or
- Call **1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636)** for more information.