



KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

# Project Update

This issue provides an update on the East Columbia Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and previews the upcoming public meeting on Wednesday, October 24, from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. at the Elk's Lodge, 4747 East Elks Drive in Columbia. This meeting will seek input on the recommended Reasonable Alternatives for the project.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### Missouri Department of Transportation

Mike Dusenberg, Planning Manager  
 Phone: 1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636)  
 E-mail: Michael.Dusenberg@modot.mo.gov

### City of Columbia, Missouri

John Glascock, Public Works Director  
 Phone: 573-874-7250  
 E-mail: jdglasco@gocolumbiamo.com

### Boone County, Missouri

David Mink, Public Works Director  
 Phone: 573-449-8515  
 E-mail: dmink@boonecountymmo.org

### CH2M HILL

Buddy Desai, Project Manager  
 Phone: 314-335-3011  
 E-mail: Buddy.Desai@ch2m.com

### Website

[www.EastColumbiaEIS.com](http://www.EastColumbiaEIS.com)

### E-mail

[EastColumbiaEIS@ch2m.com](mailto:EastColumbiaEIS@ch2m.com)

## Public Invited to Review Most Promising Transportation Solutions

Over the past several months, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), City of Columbia, Boone County and their study consultant have been working to narrow down the initial range of alternatives (presented at the November 2006 public meeting) to the project's recommended Reasonable Alternatives. The Reasonable Alternatives, along with other pertinent project information, will be presented at a public meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. at the Elk's Lodge (4747 East Elks Drive).

The nine initial alternatives (shown on page 2) were developed with public and resource agency input to better serve the area's growing population. The study team has been assessing how each of the initial alternatives addresses the project's key Purpose and Need factors. These factors address traffic congestion and safety concerns, connect the major highways between Eastern Boone County and Columbia, and improve access to Eastern Columbia (see Study Area map below).

To determine which of the nine initial alternatives best meet the Purpose and Need, an evaluation matrix (see page 3) was developed. The study team analyzed how each of the initial alternatives measured up to the evaluation criteria in the matrix. Those that performed the best were recommended to be the Reasonable Alternatives.

The details of each of the Reasonable Alternatives will be shared with the public at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The community is encouraged to attend the meeting to provide informed input. Representatives from MoDOT, the City of Columbia, Boone County and the study consultant will be available to discuss the evaluation and the proposed alternatives. Because this is an open-house meeting, the informal setting allows community members to come and go as needed. Individuals can share thoughts on the proposed alternatives one-on-one with the project team.



**October 24, 2007:**

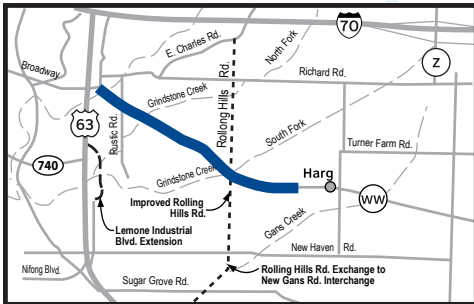
Public Involvement Meeting to solicit public comment on the Reasonable Alternatives.

**December 2007**

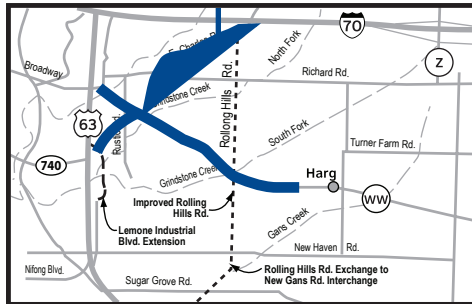
**Workshop:** MoDOT, Columbia and Boone County scheduled to review analysis and tentatively identify a Preferred Alternative.

**Proposed Alternatives to Address Growing Mobility Demands**

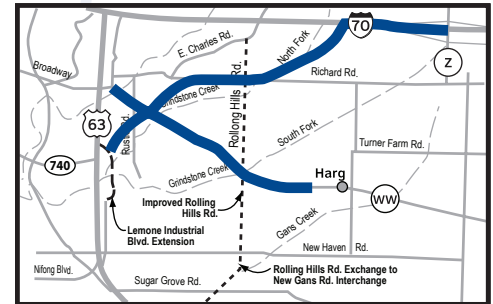
The following alternatives, shared at the November 2006 public meeting, are being evaluated based on public input and technical analysis. Findings will be shared at the public meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>.



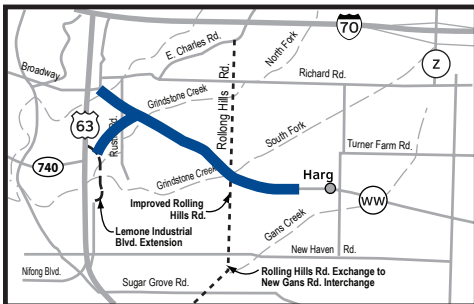
**Alternative WW-1 (formerly Alternative A)**  
Realign and widen Route WW



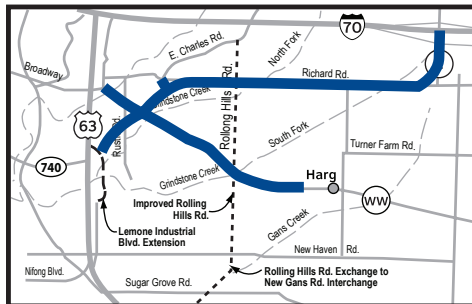
**Alternative SC-2 (formerly Alternative F1)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend Stadium Blvd. to Lake of the Woods Interchange  
Extend Ballenger Lane across I-70



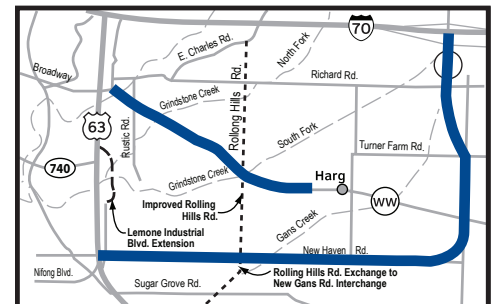
**Alternative RR-3 (formerly Alternative G)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend Stadium Blvd. to a new Interchange at I-70



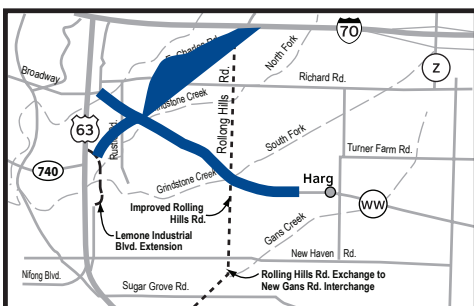
**Alternative WW-2 (formerly Alternative B)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend Stadium Blvd. to Route WW



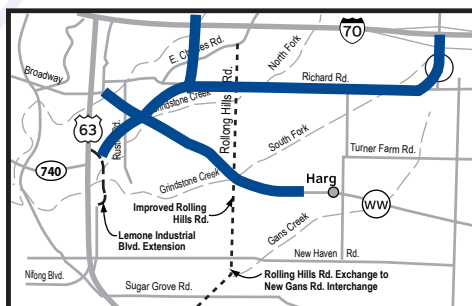
**Alternative RR-1 (formerly Alternative D)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend Stadium Blvd. to Route Z Interchange



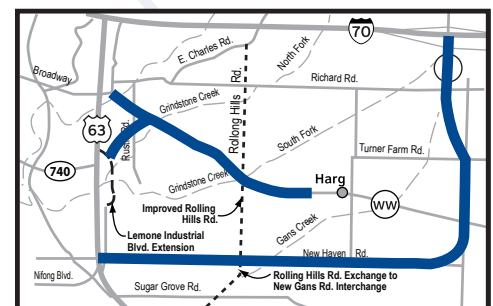
**Alternative NH-1 (formerly Alternative E1)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend New Haven Rd. to Rangeline Rd. and Route Z Interchange



**Alternative SC-1 (formerly Alternative C)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend Stadium Blvd. to Lake of the Woods Interchange



**Alternative RR-2 (formerly Alternative F2)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend Stadium Blvd. to Route Z Interchange  
Extend Ballenger Lane across I-70



**Alternative NH-2 (formerly Alternative E2)**  
Realign and widen Route WW  
Extend Stadium Blvd. to Route WW  
Extend New Haven Rd. to Rangeline Rd. and Route Z Interchange

**January 2008:**

Tentatively identified Preferred Alternative presented to the Senior Representatives of MoDOT, Columbia and Boone County for approval.

**Early Spring 2008:**

Public release of Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**Spring 2008:**

Public hearing to solicit public input on Preferred Alternative.

**What Transportation Issues are to be Addressed?**

Also known as the Purpose and Need of the project, the transportation issues to be addressed by the East Columbia EIS include:

1) **Address Traffic Congestion and Safety Concerns**—The current roadway network’s congestion and crash environment is expected to worsen over time. One of the goals of this project is to ease congestion and improve safety along the existing roadway network.

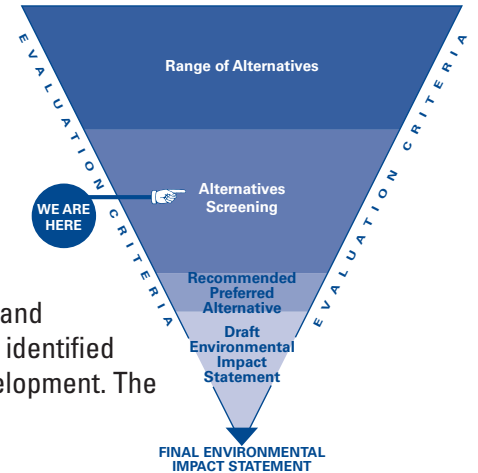
2) **Connect the Major Highway Linkages** between Eastern Boone County and Columbia—The existing roadway system has areas that do not connect. This project will investigate the appropriate roadway system needed for the future of Columbia/Eastern Boone County.

3) **Improve Access to Eastern Columbia**—In addition to the connectivity purposes discussed above, one of the purposes of this project is to provide the transportation infrastructure consistent with the creation of an eastern access point for Columbia.

**How will the Reasonable Alternatives be Selected?**

The purpose of this section of the newsletter is to describe how the initial alternatives will be screened down to the Reasonable Alternatives using evaluation criteria and standards.

The study team first created evaluation criteria and standards associated with the approved Purpose and Need. The evaluation matrix shown below identifies the three Purpose and Need elements and their associated evaluation criteria. The next step in the process is to measure how well each of the initial alternatives meets the criteria and standards in the matrix. This will be accomplished through preliminary engineering and planning analysis. The alternatives that meet the elements of the Purpose and Need are identified as the Reasonable Alternatives and will be carried forward for further analysis and development. The alternatives will be presented for review and comment at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.



**PURPOSE & NEED EVALUATION MATRIX**

Purpose and Need Element	Evaluation Criteria	Standard
Address Traffic Congestion and Safety Concerns	Is congestion on the existing roadway network improved compared to existing conditions?	An alternative should be an improvement over the conditions predicted for the no-build alternative.
	Are identified crash hotspots addressed?	An alternative should address each of the hotspots within its footprint.
	Are the design year Level of Service (ease of traffic flow) at the secondary roadway intersections adequate?	An alternative should be an improvement over the conditions predicted for the no-build alternative.
	Are emergency service response times hindered by traffic bottlenecks?	An alternative should have adequate pathways to the existing emergency response services.
Connect the Major Highway Linkages between Eastern Boone County and Columbia	Is the proposed roadway network consistent with the Major Roadway Plan?	An alternative must maintain the number of each roadway type.
	Does the proposed roadway system provide adequate connections to Routes 70, 63 and 740?	An alternative should provide connections to a majority of the interchanges (3 of 5).
	Is the alternative consistent with the applicable design criteria?	An alternative should have no significant deviations from the Transportation Plan standards.
Improve Access to Eastern Columbia	Does the alternative create a discernable community gateway?	An alternative should reasonably address each of the attributes of a successful gateway.
	Can the alternative accommodate adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities?	An alternative should: 1) have no obvious hindrance to constructing bridges that would accommodate all existing and proposed trails; and 2) have no clear right-of-way constraints that would prevent the roadway from being designed in a manner that would allow it to be designated as a “Green Route.”
	Will the alternative accomplish the area’s designated growth and development goals?	An alternative should not be classified as inconsistent with essential community goals by Columbia, CATSO or Boone County.



**CH2MHILL**

727 North First St. Suite 400  
St. Louis, MO 63102

**Please join us at our open-house public meeting to review transportation alternatives for East Columbia on**

**Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>,  
4 P.M. - 7 P.M.,  
Elk's Lodge,  
4747 East Elks Drive, (Highway WW and Daniel Boone Blvd.)  
Columbia, MO**

**To sign up for project updates, go to:  
[www.EastColumbiaEIS.com](http://www.EastColumbiaEIS.com)**

## **East Columbia EIS Project Update**

### **How are the Initial Alternatives Being Evaluated?**

In order to evaluate how well an alternative addresses the study area's transportation issues, evaluation criteria were developed. The alternatives that satisfy the project's Purpose and Need, or Reasonable Alternatives, will be identified for additional analysis.

### **What's Next**

- After this public meeting, the East Columbia EIS Study Team will review public input and finalize the alternatives that will be studied in greater detail. Additional detailed engineering and environmental analysis will be conducted on the Reasonable Alternatives. This work will provide cost estimates, displacement and right-of-way needs and details on the impacts to the man-made and natural environment. With this information, a Preferred Alternative will emerge.
- These findings will be summarized in a Draft EIS document and shared at a public hearing next spring. The EIS will ultimately be sent to the Federal Highway Administration for its review and approval. Once the Final EIS is approved, construction plans can be developed and funding sought.

## **Let Us Know What You Think**

In addition to attending the public meeting, read project updates and sign up for e-mail updates at:

**[www.EastColumbiaEIS.com](http://www.EastColumbiaEIS.com)**