



Welcome!

The City of Jefferson
Cole County
and the
Missouri Department of Transportation
welcome you!





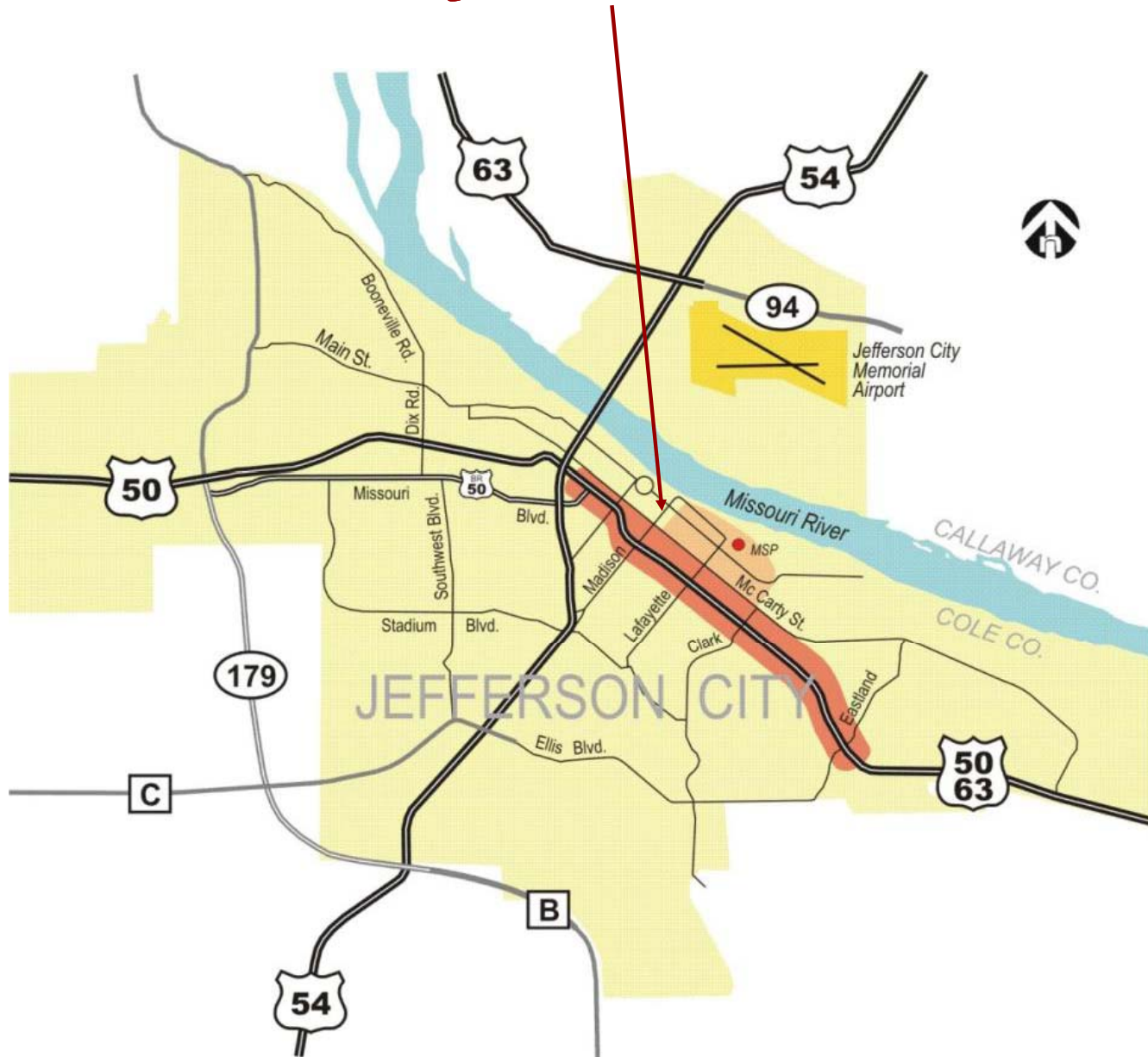
Please Sign In!

We're glad you're here!

At tonight's meeting, we need your input on the **identified preferred alternative** for long-term plans for improvements to the Rex Whitton Corridor in Jefferson City.

Your input will help the City of Jefferson, Cole County, MoDOT and the Federal Highway Administration make a decision about **long-term plans** for improvements.

Study Area



Road Map to Improvements



Plan

- 1. Feasibility Studies:** The planning process often includes an **early analysis** process. The *Whitton Expressway Problem Definition Study* provided an early evaluation of needs and issues.
Timeline: Completed in April 2006

- 2. Environmental Studies:** Projects that use federal funds or need federal permits, including most major highway projects, must be planned in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Based on federal law, MoDOT, Cole County and the City of Jefferson are completing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to identify **the best way to** meet future needs and avoid or minimize negative impacts to both the man-made and natural environment.
Timeline: Summer 2007 – 2010



DESIGN

- Design:** The design phase includes creating **preliminary** and **final designs** and developing detailed construction drawings.
Timeline: Only when funding is secured.

BUILD

- Construction:** Final project plans are completed, land purchased, construction contracts awarded and **construction begins**.
Timeline: Only when funding is secured.

What is an EIS?

(Environmental Impact Statement)



An EIS is one kind of environmental study. It helps government agencies and the public make well-informed decisions about the best way to meet future needs making investments in their community. The EIS documents the decision-making process and answers the following questions:

- What is the **purpose and need** for the improvement?
- How would the proposed improvement **function**?
- How might improvements affect the **natural environment**?
- How might improvements change the **cultural** and **social environment**?
- Which alternative **best meets the Purpose and Need** while minimizing impacts?



EIS Process

✓ **1. Purpose and Need**
 Summer 2007

- Current needs
- Future needs
- Project goals
- Public input



✓ **2. Screening Criteria**
 Summer 2007

- Design goals
- Functionality goals
- Unacceptable outcomes



✓ **3. Initial Alternatives**
 Fall 2007

- Environmental research
- New data and information
- Alternative development
- Preliminary screening



✓ **4. Reasonable Alternatives**
 Winter 2007-2008

- Detailed screening
 - Public input
- New data and information
- Refined alternatives



✓ **5. Draft EIS**
 Early 2010

- Draft document prepared for public review and comment



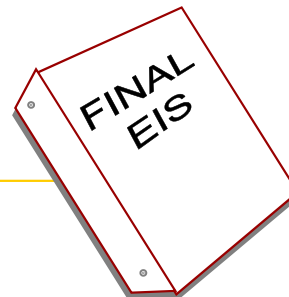
6. Formal Review Period
 Early 2010

- Public hearing, review and comments
 - Agency review and comments
- New data and information

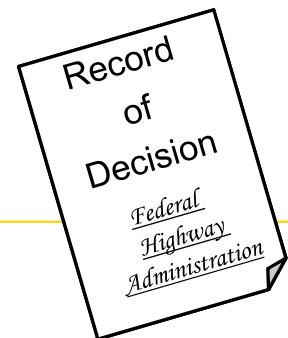


7. Final EIS
 Spring 2010

- Final document prepared



8. FHWA Approval
 Late 2010



1. Purpose and Need

Summer 2007

- Current needs
- Future needs
- Project goals
- Public input

Revised Purpose and Need



Based on community and agency input, the Draft EIS Purpose and Need states:

The community needs this project to safely and reliably improve personal and freight mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance access along the Whitton Expressway corridor. The proposed improvements need to:

Reduce traffic congestion:

- Whitton will need to serve local, regional and national traffic. There will also continue to be a need for north-south connections.

Improve safety:

- As traffic increases, Whitton Expressway will need improvements to function safely; and
- There are locations where bridges and other structures need improvement or replacement for better traffic flow and safety.

Improve access:

- To the Missouri State Penitentiary redevelopment site; and,
- To Lincoln University and Jefferson City High School.

