

Whitton Expressway – A Plan for the Future

Traffic on the Whitton Expressway is expected to double by 2035, affecting through and local travelers. To address those needs, and in particular, to address the need for improved connectivity to the Missouri State Penitentiary redevelopment site, Jefferson City, MoDOT and Cole County are working together to plan a future transportation system that is safe, reliable, accessible, and enhances the quality of life in Jefferson City.



We need your input!

Public Meeting
Tuesday, January 29, 2008
4:30 – 7 p.m.
(come and go as your schedule permits)
Kertz Hall
Immaculate Conception Church
1206 E. McCarty Street

Can't join us?
Call 1-888-Ask-MoDOT (275-6636)
write to
Whitton EIS; c/o MoDOT
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102
or click on
www.modot.org/central

Whitton Expressway EIS

The Whitton Expressway Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will help Jefferson City choose a plan that meets local transportation needs. The EIS process will:

- Create a range of concepts to improve access between Whitton Expressway and the Missouri State Penitentiary redevelopment site,
- Evaluate how those concepts might impact historic or other cultural sites, as well as neighborhoods and commercial districts,
- Evaluate how those concepts might impact the natural environment, including Wears Creek,
- Identify a preferred alternative, and
- Satisfy requirements to pursue federal funding and necessary permits.

A Plan for Jefferson City

Local input is a critical component of the planning and evaluation process. The study team held a public meeting this past August to hear feedback on the project's formal Purpose and Need and to gather information on other key community concerns. In addition, over the past months, the study team has been meeting with the Whitton Expressway EIS Community Advisory Group, made up of representatives from Jefferson City neighborhoods and businesses located near the Expressway and the Penitentiary site, as well as with the many governmental agencies whose cooperation and input is critical. Based on the input received at and since the first public meeting, the study team has (1) revised the project's formal Purpose and Need, and (2) identified a range of alternative concepts.

Purpose and Need

The updated Purpose and Need states: "The Jefferson City community needs this project to safely and reliably improve personal and freight mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance access to the prison redevelopment site. That is why the study team is working together to plan for improvements that meet future needs for access, mobility, safety and capacity – all while respecting the character of Jefferson City."



Range of Reasonable Alternatives

As the team has created alternatives to improve access to the Missouri State Penitentiary Redevelopment site, they have had to consider a range of criteria, including:

- minimizing negative impacts to the neighborhoods between the Rex Whitton Expressway and the Penitentiary site,
- minimizing negative impacts to the businesses, churches, homes and public facilities located on or near Whitton Expressway,
- minimizing negative impacts to the natural environment, including air and water quality,
- providing appropriate pedestrian and bicycle access, and
- respecting the unique character of Jefferson City.

The plan must also be realistic in terms of engineering and costs. As MoDOT and local governments look to maximize taxpayer investments, practicality is critical to securing the necessary funding to move forward with final design and construction.

With these challenging conditions, there are some difficult trade-offs to be evaluated and decisions to be made before identifying a preferred alternative. To begin those discussions, the Whitton Expressway study team has developed a range of alternative concepts. **Each has strengths and weaknesses. Community input will play a significant role in the development and selection of the final alternative.**

To see examples of the alternatives being considered, click on www.modot.org/central

The Whitton Expressway EIS study area includes the U.S. Route 50/63 Rex Whitton Expressway from just east of the U.S. 54/63 Tri-level interchange, east through Jefferson City to the Eastland Drive Interchange. It extends to McCarty Street on the north, and approximately Dunklin Street on the south. The EIS will focus on connectivity between the Rex Whitton Expressway and the planned redevelopment at the Missouri State Penitentiary site.