

Public Meeting Summary

The first public meeting for the U.S. Route 54 Mississippi River Bridge Environmental Assessment was held in Louisiana, MO on Thursday November 8, 2012 from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Twin Pike Family YMCA. Advertisements were placed in the Pittsfield Pike Press, the Bowling Green Times, and the Louisiana Press Journal. A news release was sent out October 29 highlighting the upcoming meeting and the website where the displays are available and comments could be made online at www.modot.org/northeast.

Displays available included "Environmental Constraints", Existing Bridge Conditions", "Why Improvements are Needed", "Champ Clark Bridge Facts", "EA Process" and "Cultural and Environmental". In addition a handout was provided and cards was available that promoted the [ChampClarkBridge .com](http://ChampClarkBridge.com) website.

Six MoDOT staff attended the public meeting including four from the Northeast District and two from the Central Office Environmental Section. Two representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation attended the meeting as well.

Thirty-nine community members attended the public meeting as well as one television station and two newspapers. Seven written comments were received at the meeting and two comments were received by email. Maintaining access across the river during construction of a new bridge is essential for residents and businesses. There were several questions about the project including schedule, bridge location, potential right of way acquisition and project costs. Comments regarding bridge location included constructing a new bridge just north or just south of the existing bridge or locating a new bridge south near the railroad bridge. Other comments received at the meeting included inquiring if a ferry would be provided if the bridge were replaced in the same location, providing room for bicyclists and one encouraging MoDOT and IDOT to ensure the existing bridge is as safe as possible in the interim.