



Purpose & Need Study News

PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

Issue #1

What is the I-44 P&N Study?

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has initiated the I-44 Purpose and Need Study as one of the first steps to gather detailed information on I-44. As part of this step, MoDOT seeks to gain input from the general public, state groups and federal agencies.

The area examined in the Purpose & Need Study is the stretch of I-44 from the Oklahoma state line on the western end to Route 100 (roughly the Franklin/St. Louis County line) on the eastern end. The goal of the study is to conduct a thorough analysis of the I-44 corridor in the following areas:

- Crashes in the corridor
- Environmental characteristics and demographic history along the corridor
- Detailed analysis of the traffic flow (both on the main line and through interchanges)

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Public Meetings and Public Attendance

Receiving input from the public about how the I-44 corridor is utilized and how it can be improved is an essential component of the I-44 Purpose & Need Study. Public meetings are one way to collect input. Persons attending provide MoDOT with a wide variety of perspectives and help identify the issues important to a community. (For more on how public input will be used in the study, see the Q & A section on p.3.)

The Purpose & Need Study is designed to identify deficiencies in the I-44 corridor and prioritize areas into short-term and long-term needs in terms of future potential improvements. This study does not propose to determine solutions to those problems, but simply to identify and prioritize locations for more detailed study in the future.

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MoDOT will host eight public meetings throughout the I-44 corridor during summer 2007. The meeting times and locations will be announced soon. Meeting notices will be found in your local newspaper and on www.modot.org/i44planningforprogress.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let your opinion be heard by visiting our online comment center at www.modot.org/i44planningforprogress, or write it below and mail to I-44 Planning for Progress, Attn: Charles Pursley, 105 W. Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: WHY ARE YOU ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PURPOSE & NEED STUDY?

A: We are encouraging the public to get involved so that we can receive a broad range of input from the people whose lives are affected by I-44. Thousands of drivers and many different groups use I-44 every day. These groups range from school districts to businesses to the emergency medical community. Even people who do not drive on I-44 benefit from the timely and economical delivery of consumer goods. Public participation in any study, especially a Purpose & Need Study, is critical if MoDOT is to make informed decisions about the future of Missouri's transportation system.

Q: WHAT WILL THE STUDY ACCOMPLISH?

A: The Purpose & Need study is the first phase of any future improvements that may be developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The study will give us a thorough analysis of how the corridor from the Oklahoma state line to St. Louis County is utilized by the traveling public. MoDOT and its partners will review traffic crashes, trends seen in the historic data, traffic flow (both on the mainline and through the interchanges), bridge conditions and pavement conditions in the corridor to identify areas that may need improvement. The study will also look at the elements beyond the physical attributes of the roadway to set the stage for subsequent decision-making, including NEPA. These additional elements include forward-looking data such as growth in population centers, projected growth in commerce, citizen input and resource agency coordination.

Public participation is critical if MoDOT is to make informed decisions about the future of Missouri's transportation system.

Q: WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STUDY, PROVIDE COMMENTS AND FIND OUT ABOUT UPCOMING MEETINGS?

A: To learn more about the study, or to submit comments, you can:

- Visit the Study website for more information: www.modot.org/i44planningforprogress
- Email MoDOT: i44planningforprogress@modot.mo.gov
- Call MoDOT: 1-888-ASK-MODOT
- Write MoDOT:
I44 Planning for Progress
Attn: Charles Pursley
105 W. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

Q: WHEN DOES THE STUDY BEGIN AND END?

A: The study began in January 2007 and will conclude around the beginning of 2008.

Q: WHAT WILL MODOT DO WITH THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY?

A: After the study concludes around the first of next year, a Purpose and Need Statement will be written to summarize the findings and identify deficiencies in transportation, commerce, recreational access, tourism, agriculture and similar uses associated with the I-44 corridor. The study will also prioritize areas with greater and lesser needs in terms of future potential improvements, but will not make recommendations on what those future improvements will be. Further environmental review will be required by NEPA before a solution can be chosen for an area and ultimately become a funded project.



Q: HOW WILL I-44 CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THIS STUDY?

A: This study does not involve making improvements or expansions to I-44.

Q: CAN I RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES?

A: Yes, visit www.modot.org/i44planningforprogress. Simply complete the form and you will receive the next update.

Q: HOW CAN I MAKE SURE I RECEIVE THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

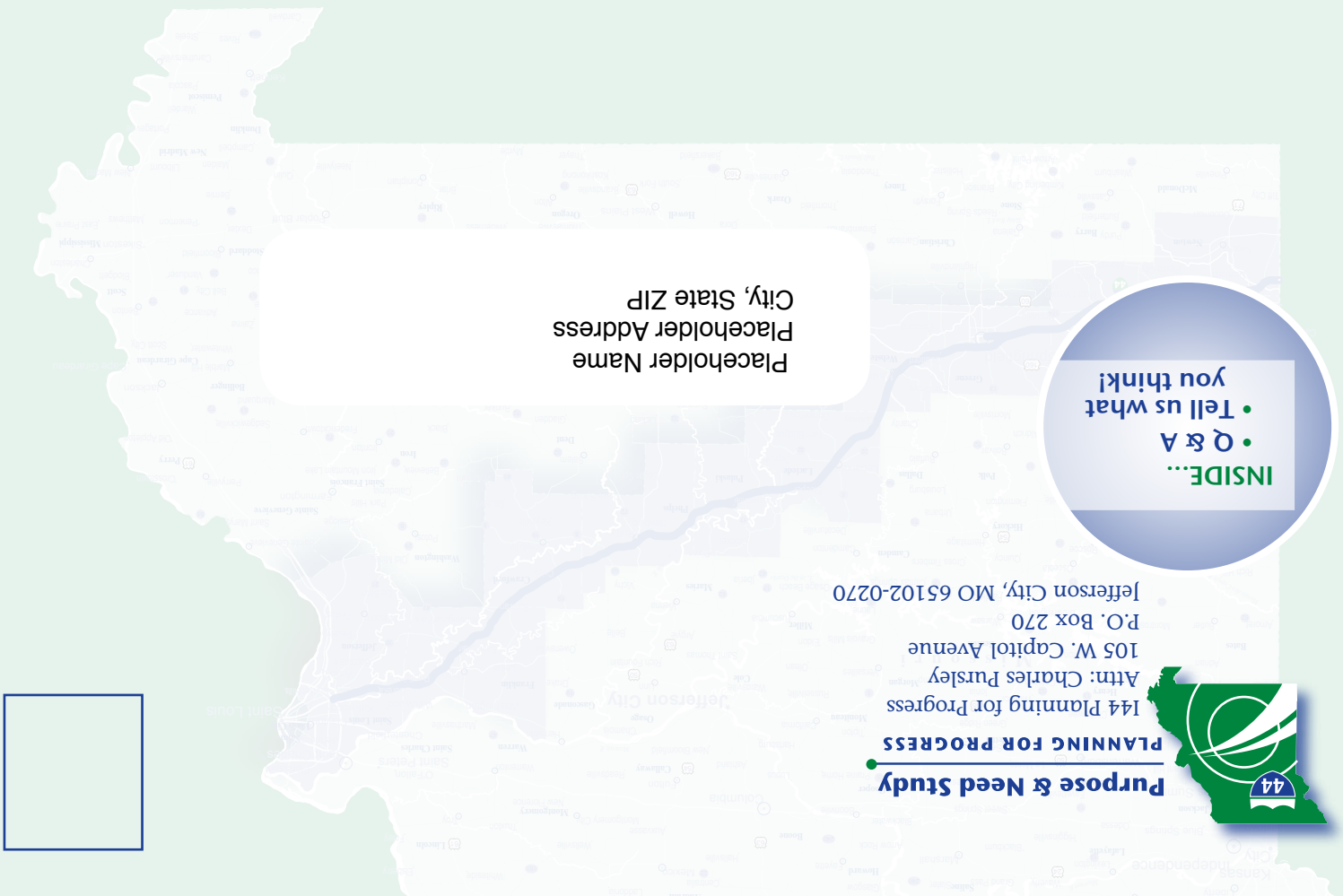
A: Visit www.modot.org/i44planningforprogress. Simply complete the form and you will receive the next newsletter.

Public Meetings and Public Attendance *(continued from p. 1)*

MoDOT representatives will be on hand at each of the meetings to provide information and record all public input.

MoDOT will host eight public meetings throughout the I-44 corridor during summer 2007. The meeting times and locations will be announced soon. Meeting notices will be found in your local newspaper and on our website at www.modot.org/i44planningforprogress. The MoDOT website will also provide general information about the study and provide an opportunity for feedback via e-mail.

The Purpose & Need Study will NOT propose solutions. The Study will analyze the transportation issues along the I-44 corridor and prioritize areas into short-term and long-term needs for future improvements.



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- Full accounting of all bridges in the corridor and their conditions
- Pavement conditions and history
- Roadway characteristics, including interchanges, as it relates to current design standards
- Prepare for subsequent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements

The Purpose & Need Study will be performed under the requirements of Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Section 6002 requires involving

the public and agencies in the determination of a proposed project's purpose and need.

This study will not propose solutions – rather, at the conclusion of the study, an analysis will be performed on the information gathered to create a Purpose and Need Statement. The Purpose and Need Statement will be written to summarize the findings and identify deficiencies in transportation, commerce, recreational access, tourism, agriculture and similar uses associated with the I-44 corridor. The study will also prioritize areas into short-term and long-term needs in terms of future potential improvements, but will not make recommendations on what those future improvements will be.