

IMPROVE



Corridor Enhancements

Safety is MoDOT's first priority in widening and rebuilding I-70 across the state of Missouri. MoDOT also understands that the interstate - and its interchanges and overpasses - are major features in the landscape.

That's why MoDOT has developed an I-70 Corridor Enhancement Plan. The plan will ensure that, to the degree funding allows, major improvements to I-70 are attractive and result in a cohesive "look" across the entire corridor.

This fact sheet provides basic information about the I-70 Corridor Enhancement Plan. The plan itself provides much more detail, and is available on the project Web site at www.ImproveI70.org. You may request a copy of the plan on CD-ROM by calling the project office at 1-800-590-0066.

MoDOT will integrate corridor enhancements as it completes major reconstruction projects along I-70. Enhancements will not be a part of interim maintenance projects, such as resurfacing and bridge repair.

What Are Enhancements?

Enhancements are aspects of a transportation facility that give it aesthetic value. Landscaping, lighting, signs, and the shape, color and texture of bridge piers and retaining walls – these are some examples of transportation enhancements.

The location and basic design of a transportation improvement is determined by engineering, environmental, safety and cost factors.



Why Have a Corridor Enhancement Plan for I-70?

Having a corridor enhancement plan will help create a common visual theme across the state of Missouri. Each rebuilt I-70 overpass and interchange will receive integrated enhancements that will visually connect them to each other. Visual consistency is important to strengthen the corridor's sense of place and identity, while also promoting a high-quality image and impression of Missouri for visitors and residents.

Corridor Enhancement Goals:

- *Complement the existing natural environment (context sensitive solutions)*
- *Provide a sense of consistency*
- *Showcase Missouri*
- *Establish baseline enhancements and opportunities for local enhancements*

How Are Enhancements Applied?

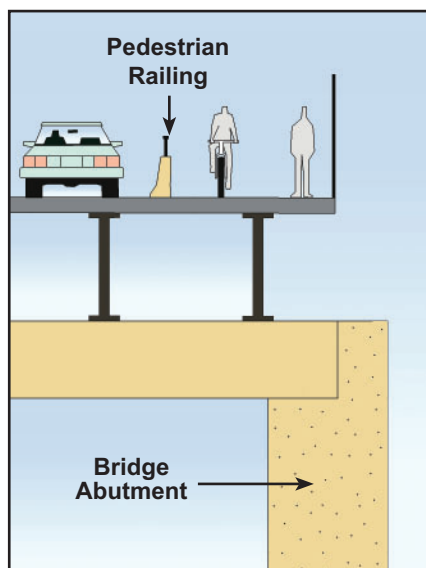
Engineering, environmental, safety and cost factors will determine the location and structural design of virtually every component of the interstate - from the median width to bridges to barriers. Corridor enhancements will work to make those components attractive and complementary.

Determining where and to what extent to include enhancements happens during the engineering design phase (after the Improve I-70 Studies conclude in 2004).

The process includes these questions:

- *How can the look of this transportation improvement best fit into the community it serves?*
- *What kind of lighting is needed?*
- *How are pedestrians and cyclists going to use this bridge?*
- *What should plantings look like and how easy will they be to maintain?*

For each of these questions, the answers must consider feasibility, cost and maintenance.



Enhancements could be applied to bridge abutments and pedestrian railings.

The Plan

The I-70 Corridor Enhancement Plan, establishes a baseline for the types of improvements that MoDOT could fund during major I-70 reconstruction. The plan includes some initial ideas for the look and location of enhancements throughout the corridor. The ideas are preliminary and intended to identify a general direction for later, more detailed efforts. They also serve as a starting point for local discussions about I-70 enhancements.

While the plan does not recommend specific enhancements for specific locations, it does provide a thorough analysis and understanding of the I-70 Corridor's existing aesthetic features, and presents a vision for the future look of the interstate across Missouri.

The Vision

The natural features along the corridor serve as the foundation for the corridor enhancement plan - natural rock formations, rural landscapes and native plants, views of farms and crossings over rivers and streams. MoDOT has developed a range of possible enhancements that could be applied along I-70 to complement natural features and enhance the visual quality of the route. Many of these enhancements could occur throughout the corridor, while others are more applicable in either rural or urban settings.

Enhancements could be applied to a number of elements within major I-70 reconstruction improvements, including:

Structural Elements:

- Surface treatments to bridges and barriers
- Railing and fencing
- Lighting
- Retaining walls
- Highway sign supports

Landscaping

- Use of native plants, grasses and wild flowers
- Mowed areas
- Tree clusters
- Habitat buffers around key stream crossings

Special Elements

- Connections to the KATY trail and other local bike and pedestrian trails where possible
- Rest areas that reflect the common themes
- Opportunities to promote local sites of interest

Elements of the Plan

The I-70 Corridor Enhancement Plan does not recommend specific enhancements for specific locations. Those details will be determined as major I-70 improvement projects move into a detailed design phase. Currently no funding is available for the design and construction of major I-70 improvements.

The plan does, however, provide a general design direction and a set of aesthetic goals for the new I-70. All enhancement ideas included in the plan will be further explored and refined as major I-70 improvements move into a detailed design phase.

Included here are just some of the plan's elements. More information and images are included in the actual plan, which is available on the project Web site at www.ImproveI70.org. You may request a copy of the plan on CD-ROM by calling 1-800-590-0066.

Bridge Abutments

Construction of new I-70 bridges is expected to use molded forms that can create surfaces that mimic the look of stone. The plan includes concepts that are similar to native quarried stone.

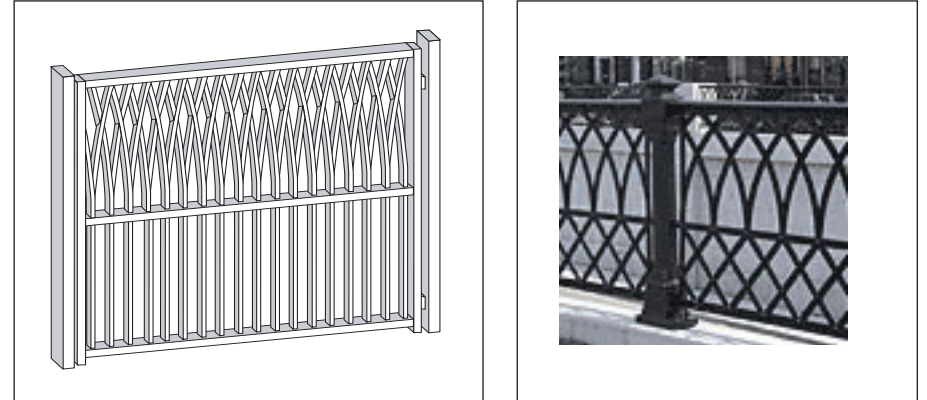
* Sample "Baseline" Enhancement



Pedestrian Railings

Many communities may utilize overpasses and underpasses as a means for pedestrian and bicycle movement across I-70. At these areas, decorative barriers and railings could be used to separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

* Sample "Beyond-Baseline" Enhancement



"Native Grass" railing concepts



"Corn Row" railing concepts

Community Partnerships

* Local communities will have the opportunity to add local flavor to area of I-70 by expanding on the baseline enhancements provided by MoDOT. Enhancements that go beyond the baseline level must be paid for and maintained by the local community, meet all applicable safety standards and be approved by MoDOT.


To ensure consistency with overall corridor themes, the plan includes a menu of options for "beyond baseline" enhancements. MoDOT will work with communities to develop local corridor enhancements, and to coordinate the design, review and approval process.

Enhancement Discussions During Improve I-70 Studies

MoDOT's I-70 Corridor Enhancement Plan serves as a starting point for local discussions, and is a first step toward ensuring that major I-70 improvements are "context-sensitive." If you have questions, concerns or comments about the plan, or would like to organize a community meeting with MoDOT to discuss enhancements, please contact the project office toll-free at 1-800-590-0066. Results of local discussions and any commitments made by MoDOT or local communities will be recorded in each study's environmental documentation. These documents will serve as a guide in later, more detailed efforts to determine where and to what degree enhancements will be included in major I-70 improvements.

Funding Enhancements

The baseline enhancements established through the I-70 Corridor Enhancement Plan assume spending levels at up to four percent of the overall corridor budget, although that is dependent on adequate funding at the time of construction. Sources of funding for enhancements beyond the baseline could include establishing joint ventures and partnerships with local communities, property owners and state agencies, such as the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Conservation and the Missouri Department of Tourism. Details on estimated costs and community partnership opportunities can be found within the Corridor Enhancements Plan.



Improve I-70
P.O. Box 410482
Kansas City, MO 64141