



WHY WE'RE HERE

MoDOT is making plans for the future widening and reconstruction of I-70 across the state. In the Columbia area, MoDOT has determined that widening I-70 in its present location is the best course of action based on traffic projections and input from its citizen advisory group and the general public.

The purpose of tonight's workshop is to explore five conceptual approaches for widening I-70 and to gain your feedback on each. With your input, the project team will begin developing more detailed improvement alternatives for I-70. A public meeting is anticipated in October to present those alternatives and again seek your feedback.



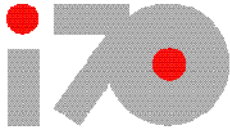


PROCESS and SCHEDULE

The first year of the Improve I-70 study was spent determining whether to only widen existing I-70 in the Columbia area, or to build a new highway alignment, too. Now that it has been decided to widen existing I-70 only, the project team is working to select a widening concept that will improve the efficiency, safety and capacity of I-70 with the least impact on the built and natural environment. This station outlines the project schedule and explains the roles of the various stakeholders in this decision-making process.



IMPROVE



OVERALL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

I-70 Improvement Study
Corridor-wide study to answer...
What improvements should be made...
And in what location?
Timeline: Jan. 2000 to Dec. 2001

1. PLANNING

2nd Tier Environmental Studies
Seven studies take local focus to answer...
In what specific location should improvements
be made and how will they impact the natural
and manmade environments?
Timeline: Mid-2002 to 2005

YOU ARE HERE

**PROCEED
ONLY IF FUNDING
IS AVAILABLE**

2. DESIGN

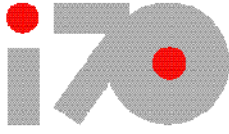
Detailed Design Study
Individual project focus to answer...
How will improvements be constructed?
What materials will be used?
What exact right-of-way/property is needed?
what is the cost?
Timeline: TBD

3. CONSTRUCTION

Construction
Land is purchased, final project
plans are complete, construction
contract is awarded and construction begins
Timeline: TBD



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PROJECT FUNDING

The total cost for I-70 widening and reconstruction between Kansas City and St. Louis is estimated to be \$3 billion in today's dollars. Currently no funding is allocated for the design and construction of I-70 improvements.

So what happens next? Why conduct studies if there's no money to build the improvements? And how will MoDOT get the \$3 billion dollars needed?

Why Conduct The Studies?

I-70 has immediate needs that must be met. In meeting those needs, MoDOT must ensure that dollars spent on improvements today are not wasted tomorrow. The Improve I-70 studies will develop a comprehensive plan for how I-70 will look and operate in the future.

The plan will allow MoDOT to make short-term improvements that advance I-70 toward its long-term vision.

Additionally, completion of the studies is required by the federal government before design and construction can begin.

Your Support Is Important

You are encouraged to voice your support for I-70 improvements with lawmakers who represent your area. Your support is particularly important as

Congress debates the next federal transportation bill in the coming months. MoDOT is keeping transportation policy makers informed of the needs on I-70 and encouraging local, state and federal officials to support special funding for I-70 improvements.

How Will MoDOT Get The Money?

The question is not so much how to find three billion dollars, but rather, how best to fund the improvements over time with the money available.

MoDOT has spent \$87 million on the rural portions of I-70 in the past five years, and will continue to spend what it can to maintain I-70's pavement and bridges. At a minimum, in the coming years motorists will see continued resurfacing projects and installation of guard cable barriers in the median to improve safety.

But long-term improvements will require funding beyond MoDOT's current funding levels. A number of implementation plans are being developed based on a variety of funding scenarios. Ultimately, MoDOT will improve I-70 to the extent it can with the funds available.

