

Missouri Department of Transportation

3025 East Kearney Street
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Springfield, Missouri 65801
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1.888.ASK MODOT (275.6636)

January 24, 2025

Tyler Padgitt, Lead Pastor
The Courageous Church
922 South Eastgate Avenue
Springfield, MO 65809

Dear Mr. Padgitt,

Thank you for your letter to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission dated January 14. We appreciate you taking the time to voice your concerns about the project along Route 60 currently scheduled for 2029. I would like to take this opportunity to address some of your concerns, and provide further detail.

The vision for the Route 60 corridor east of Route 65 has been discussed for numerous years and that is to bring it up to a freeway standard. This simply means the access to the corridor will be by an outer road system and interchanges at designated locations thus removing at-grade access points which will improve the operation and most importantly the safety of the corridor. This overall vision has been mentioned during previous meetings with the public. MoDOT started this transformation many years ago in Rogersville and has continued to add improvements along the corridor as needs and funding align.

MoDOT works closely with our partners like the City of Springfield, Greene County, The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ozarks Transportation Organization to ensure we are working together and in support of both economic development and long-term transportation needs. We are aware of the of the service extensions planned by Springfield Public Works and have coordinated where possible to minimize any future impacts. Just like working with our local partners, MoDOT is always willing to meet with developers and go over their planned developments including proposed roadway improvements/access points and provide feedback throughout the development stage.

MoDOT is appreciative of the safe accessibility of all residents, regardless of their location. Early conversations with some residents in the area has not provided our staff with the concern you shared. In fact, many have noted that they prefer to exit the subdivision to the south towards Ozark or make the right-hand turn onto Route 60 to travel to the east and utilize the interchange at Route NN/Route J as a turnaround to head back to Springfield. MoDOT also works in partnership with our emergency services, and we have not received concerns about delays to services in the community. We have received support from emergency services for the safety improvements, as these responders experience crashes at the cross-over locations on a regular basis in their response efforts.



Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation system that is safe, innovative, reliable and dedicated to a prosperous Missouri.

www.modot.org

I appreciate your concern for the residence at 3731 East US 60. I personally have had conversations in the past with this property owner over their concerns with the safety of the current access. The proposed project will provide access to the outer road system as allowed by our Engineering Policy Guide.

MoDOT welcomes interaction with the public, and any businesses that may have concerns regarding the project. We are still in the conceptual development stage of this proposed project. Our staff are always open to speak with property owners at any time should they have concerns. We will continue to engage through our public outreach efforts and have plans to hold our first public meeting later this year.

MoDOT works hard to share the message of detours related to construction projects. We have many methods of communicating with the public including public meetings, media releases, social media, and opportunities to sign up for email alerts. MoDOT has also worked with business and properties within projects to help provide flyers, posters, and electronic information including schedules, detours, etc. to provide their customers, congregations, and the traveling public with details needed. This worked very well in our recent project at Route 60/125, which included our emergency service partners, the schools, and other impacted properties and residents in the area.

As stated earlier, we are in the very early stages of this specific project. There will be planned public involvement later this year for the public to attend and view displays both in-person and on-line. You shared that stakeholders for this area have a goal of enhancing safety and efficiency along this corridor. I want to reassure you that MoDOT shares the same goal. Again, should you wish to discuss any of the items in further detail, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I would be happy to meet with you on-site at the Courageous Church, at the MoDOT District office in Springfield, or you can contact me by phone at 417-895-7689.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacy Reese', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Stacy Reese, PE
District Engineer
MoDOT -Southwest District

cc: Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission