



Tyler Padgitt
Lead Pastor
The Courageous Church

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

W. Dustin Boatwright, Chair
Warren K. Erdman, Vice Chair
Gregg C. Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Hegeman, Commissioner
Francis Slay, Commissioner
Ann Marie Baker, Commissioner

Dear Members of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission,

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the proposed plan by MoDot to remove all access points along Highway 60 in Springfield from the 60/65 interchange to Highway J (*Job No. J8P0683G*). Both MoDot and concerned stakeholders share a unified goal of enhancing safety and efficiency along this corridor as well as limiting access with this much-needed highway modification. The current proposal has significant implications for our community's future economic development, residential access, and overall quality of life.

Below, I have outlined several critical concerns that I urge the Commission to consider:

1. Impact on Prime Development Land:

The removal of access points would cut off approximately 600 acres of prime development land already zoned for future growth on Springfield's southeast side, severely hindering the city's potential for economic expansion. This area is poised to become Springfield's next major development hub. Springfield Public Works is extending services to accommodate growth that exceeds the capacity of a single traffic interchange at Highway J. Furthermore, this plan contradicts development studies commissioned by Springfield, which designate the US 65/US 60 corridor as a priority area for expansion.

2. Accessibility to Upscale Neighborhoods:

Highland Springs, the premier upscale neighborhood in our community, would face significant inconvenience. Residents would be forced to travel six miles out of their way to access their homes, potentially deterring future residents and diminishing the area's appeal. This would also delay needed emergency/ambulatory services.

3. **Disruption to Existing Residences:**

The proposal isolates a residence across from Highland Springs (located at 3731 E US Highway 60, Rogersville, MO 65742), creating accessibility challenges and significantly disrupting travel routes.

4. **Impact on Key Institutions:**

The Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, located within this corridor, would be severely affected by the proposed changes, potentially leading to its closure. This cherished institution, a source of local pride, would suffer irreparably if accessibility is compromised.

5. **Effect on the Price Cutter Charity Championship:**

The loss of access would force the relocation of the Price Cutter Charity Championship golf tournament and other events hosted at Highland Springs. This would diminish Springfield's cultural offerings and harm local tourism and the economy, as these events could be moved to Branson or other areas.

6. **Closure of Key Businesses:**

Citizens Bank of Rogersville's branch at Farm Road 189 and Highway 60 which recently completed a million-dollar renovation and expansion would face closure due to the proposed changes, negatively impacting employees and customers.

7. **Existing Agreements:**

An existing agreement between MoDot and Highland Springs developer John Q. Hammons guarantees **continued direct access** to Highway 60 for Highland Springs. Any plan to remove such access would violate this agreement and set a troubling precedent for future projects.

8. **Impact on The Courageous Church:**

As the Lead Pastor of The Courageous Church, I am deeply concerned that our congregation, numbering in the thousands and comprising individuals from across Springfield, would face significant challenges. Navigating miles of detours to an exit that cannot be seen would hinder our ability to attend services and participate in worship and community activities. The worst-case scenario could result in closure.

I respectfully request that the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission urge MoDot to reconsider this proposal and honor the agreement with Highland Springs. **Specifically, I urge the Commission to implement an exit and entrance to Highway 60 either at the current entrance to Highland Springs or at the intersection of Farm Road 189.**

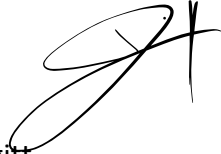
Mr. Larry Childress, owner of the 600 acres of prime development land, has invested significantly in traffic engineering studies for these interchanges. His plans, previously approved by MoDot, are available, and he is willing to collaborate with MoDot to ensure a feasible solution.

This decision must balance safety improvements with the broader economic and social impacts on Springfield. Based on my meetings with MoDot traffic engineers and leadership, as well as ongoing efforts by MoDot to purchase needed land, I believe additional oversight is required to ensure a holistic approach to this critical infrastructure decision. **We can limit all access for**

safety and enhance the economic future of this area by adding one additional already approved entrance and exit linked to frontage roads.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will act in the best interests of Springfield and its residents by addressing these concerns with the seriousness they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TP', written over a faint circular stamp.

Tyler Padgitt
Lead Pastor
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