

## HIGHWAY MM: *CORRIDOR OF OPPORTUNITY*



### PROJECT READINESS

Preliminary Engineering Plans are completed and NEPA is underway. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) conducted studies on the Hwy MM/I-44 Interchange and US 60 to analyze how the project will affect the system. MoDOT is the lead agency for design and clearances. The proposed project is based on the results of preliminary engineering with both a completed traffic study and preliminary design. Environmental work is underway, and a CE2 is anticipated. MoDOT has already begun the consultation process with other agencies and has identified only a few areas remaining to be addressed in the NEPA process. NEPA clearance is expected no later than July 2025.



### PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTABILITY

#### STIP/TIP Plans

The City of Republic, Greene County, and MoDOT support this project. In addition, the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Board of Directors also supports the project and has taken action to certify the inclusion of the project if awarded in the Transportation Improvement Program. This TIP Inclusion Resolution and Certification are in the funding certification appendix. Partial funding of Hwy MM (I-44 to MO 360) is included in the Missouri Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Ozarks Transportation Organization's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The STIP and TIP pages are included in the funding certification appendix. The only approvals that would be needed are the TIP/STIP amendments to add Components 1 and 2 of the project upon BUILD award and the action to sign the agreements with the Federal Highway Administration to begin the project.

The OTO, throughout the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning process, has a data-driven system of ranking the area's priorities. This project has been scored as a high priority for the region. The OTO's Board of Directors has taken action to name Hwy MM as its top regional transportation improvement project priority for 2025.

#### Consistency with Other Plans

All components of the project are also included in the OTO's Long Range Transportation Plan *Destination 2045* that can be found:

[https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/uploads/documents/RouteMM\\_Destination2045LRTP-002.pdf](https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/uploads/documents/RouteMM_Destination2045LRTP-002.pdf).

MoDOT commissioned two studies along the corridor to arrive at a long-term solution for the transportation issues along the corridor. *Greene County Route MM/ZZ Corridor Study* was commissioned to address existing and future concerns due to growing traffic volumes within the Route MM and Route ZZ corridors. *Route MM/ZZ Corridor Study (James River Freeway to Route M)* was commissioned to provide traffic analysis, modeling, and forecasting for project implementation of the conceptual Highway MM corridor realignment to meet projected forecasts.





This project will not require any unique construction techniques or non-standard project delivery methods. Construction will be limited, to the extent possible, to Monday through Friday, during normal working hours. There is no planned phasing of the project.





## NEPA AND PERMITTING

MoDOT, as the lead agency, is well underway with the required approvals and clearances. Each milestone is shown in the table with the status or approval date.

This table shows any permits that are required in addition to the NEPA status and milestones.

### NEPA Class of Action

A CE2 is anticipated for these projects.

### Reevaluation and Post-Approval Changes

There are no planned efforts to reevaluate the NEPA documentation after it is finalized. There will be very little time between finalization of NEPA and beginning of construction, so there would be no need to reevaluate.

NEPA Status and Milestones/Required Approvals		
	Highway MM I-44 to MO 360	Highway MM MO 360 to Haile St
Within 4 miles of Airport/FAA Filing	Yes but exempt from FAA Filing	Yes but exempt from FAA Filing
Farmland Impact	Cleared-12/19/23	Not Applicable
Floodplain/Regulatory Floodway	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Land Disturbance/Stormwater	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
FEMA/SEMA Buyout	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Socioeconomic Impact	Pending review of recent public meetings	Pending review of recent public meetings
	Anticipated Clearance-Spring 2025	Anticipated Clearance-Spring 2025
Threatened & Endangered Species	Cleared-7/25/2022	No Effect
Migratory Birds	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hazardous Waste Impact	Cleared-12/21/23	Cleared-10/06/23
Wetland Impact (Section 404/401)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Noise Impact	Cleared-12/27/23	Cleared-2/27/24
Cultural Resources Impact	Pending additional field work to be completed early 2025	Missouri SHPO concurrence received 9/28/22 & 3/20/23
	Anticipated Clearance-Spring 2025	
Public Land Impact (Section 4F/6F)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
P&E Due Date	27-Feb	27-Feb
Letting Date	27-Jun	27-Jun
NEPA	CE2 Pending	CE2 Pending

### Coordination with DOT

FHWA is the lead federal agency for NEPA. MoDOT has received FHWA concurrence regarding the independent utility and need for multiple NEPA documents for this corridor. As a significant regional project, MoDOT, Republic, Greene County and OTO have been in constant communication regarding the design and NEPA process.



## PROJECT SUPPORT

### Public and Agency Involvement Process

The Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) and MoDOT have conducted public engagement with the community on how to improve Hwy MM. Feedback has been incorporated into the design and priority process.





OTO and MoDOT conducted a public listening session on February 28, 2022, to solicit feedback regarding the project at the Republic Community Center. There were approximately **200 attendees** at the public meeting. The feedback was primarily positive on the project. Concerns have been noted by MoDOT and attempts to mitigate concerns are being considered in the project design, including incorporating pedestrian sidewalks along the corridor. The OTO has maintained a public input log of issues along the corridor for the last ten years. The table below provides links to the project websites, which provide documentation on the outreach efforts to-date. MoDOT had a public meeting on the project in April 2024 with **69 attendees**. MoDOT conducted a public hearing on December 17, 2024, with **54 attendees**.

**PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDEES**

**323**



Highway MM Public Engagement Links	
OTO	<a href="https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/highway-mm-corridor-build-grant-2025">https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/highway-mm-corridor-build-grant-2025</a>
MoDOT	<a href="https://www.modot.org/greene-county-route-mmzz-corridor">https://www.modot.org/greene-county-route-mmzz-corridor</a>



**Public and Agency Involvement Results**

There were 31 comments received and MoDOT has adjusted plan designs to address median access concern received at the hearing. In addition, there has been a huge outpouring of support for the project from local businesses over the course of the many grant applications and public hearings. These letters of support can be found in the letters of support appendix and at the OTO website here: <https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/highway-mm-corridor-build-grant-2025>. This project is a regional priority project and the MPO's Board of Directors took action to state that funding Highway MM was the top transportation improvement project for the region at the November 2024 Board Meeting.







## RISKS AND MITIGATION

Many risks, and the strategies to mitigate or avoid any crises, were evaluated as follows:

- **Right-of-way:** There are 11.5 acres in total with .5 acres of tree clearing are required. Right-of-way acquisition will be completed in accordance with 49 CFR part 24, 23 CFR part 710 by MoDOT and the City of Republic, who have extensive experience in all aspects of acquisition. There are 28 parcels impacted with an approximate cost of \$3.6 million. The project has started ROW Planning. The process of ROW acquisition will be completed within the BUILD project schedule, expected to start March 2026 and be complete by February 2027. MoDOT is the owner of the existing facility. No special permits are needed.
- **Floodplain:** A floodplain development permit from SEMA will not be required.
- **Section 106:** An archaeological survey was completed, and a letter of concurrence received in September 2022. Architectural SHPO clearance is under internal MoDOT review and SHPO clearance for most of the project was received March 2023.
- **Weather** (rain, snow, severe weather delays): The project schedule will factor in severe weather days.
- **Higher costs than originally estimated:** Value Engineering is a part of the design process and will reduce budget risk. MoDOT has a proven history of estimating extremely accurately and typically delivers under budget. Inflation and a contingency budget have been factored into the project.

There are no properties that qualify as land or hazardous waste sites. There are no wetlands that exist within the project boundaries. Property based on projected development will be primarily residential, commercial, and industrial activity.



## TECHNICAL CAPACITY

The project upon award will be transferred to MoDOT for project administration. MoDOT has considerable experience in the development and implementation of large and complex transportation capital projects, including the completion of the I-49 Missouri/Arkansas Connector project funded through the BUILD program and the New Champ Clark Bridge funded through the TIGER program. MoDOT has experience in Federal Funding, Federal Regulations, Project Planning, and Project Delivery. MoDOT plans, designs, constructs, and maintains 33,859 miles of highways and 10,385 state highway bridges (24,385 bridges statewide) – the nation's **seventh largest state highway system**, with more miles than Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas' systems combined. MoDOT stands ready to deliver the proposed BUILD project upon award.

Missouri Department of Transportation

### 2024 National Performance Report Card

**A**

#### Project Management

**Current Performance** = Missouri road and bridge projects were delivered within -0.4 percent of the award amount and 93 percent were delivered on-time.

**National Ranking** = Not available.

**A**

#### Road Conditions

**Current Performance** = 89 percent major highways (5,555 miles) in good condition. 80 percent of minor highways (18,114) in good condition.

**National Ranking** = Missouri's highway system ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation. (FHWA Highway Statistics 2022)

**B**

#### Administrative Costs

**Current Performance** = \$2,349 cost per mile

**National Ranking** = Missouri has the 14<sup>th</sup> lowest administrative cost per mile.

