**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DESIGN OF HIGHWAYS**

– Presented by Thomas Blair, St. Louis District Engineer, 314-453-1800.

**ISSUE:** The public hearing process has been completed for the following project. Commission action regarding the roadway design is required prior to acquisition of right-of-way.

* **Location:** Interstate 270, St. Louis County, from west of US 67 (North Lindbergh Boulevard) to east of Bellefontaine Road including outer roads and Interstate 170, St. Louis County, southbound only, from Nyflot Avenue to south of Frost Avenue.
* **Project Description:** This project is a design-build project awarded to Millstone Weber, LLC. at the November 6, 2019 Commission meeting. The project will reconstruct interchanges at US 67 (North Lindbergh Boulevard), Rte N (New Florissant Road), Washington Street/Elizabeth Avenue, West Florissant Road, Rte AC (New Halls Ferry Road), Old Halls Ferry Road, Rte 367 (Lewis and Clark Boulevard), and Bellefontaine Road; add an additional driving lane in both directions on I-270 from US 67 (North Lindbergh Boulevard) to Rte 367 (Lewis and Clark Boulevard); rehabilitate existing I-270 and Dunn and Pershall Road pavement; improve accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians with a multi-use path from Lindbergh Boulevard to Breezy Point Lane along Dunn Road and from Hanley Road/Graham Road to Old Halls Ferry Road along Pershall Road; improve safety with an updated outer road system that includes removal of all existing cross over slip ramps by converting Dunn Road and Pershall Road to a one-way outer road system from Hanley Road/Graham Road to Old Halls Ferry Road and adding roundabouts west of Hanley Road/Graham Road and west of Bellefontaine Road along Dunn Road; install signal updates and replacements; remove and replace all bridges from Lindbergh Boulevard through Old Halls Ferry Road (with the exception of the I-270 bridge over Hanley Road/Graham Road and the bridges within the I-170/I-270 interchange which remain in-place) and add a new bridge connection between Pershall Road and Dunn Road east of Old Halls Ferry Road; improve pavement and shoulders along I-170 southbound from Nyflot Ave. to Frost Ave. to support a third lane of traffic.
* **Project Length:** 8.583 miles
* **Right of Way Type:** Normal access right of way along I-270 north and south outer roads.
* **Traffic:** Various long term road closures are necessary for replacement of bridges over I-270 at Washington Street/Elizabeth Avenue., West Florissant Avenue, and Old Halls Ferry Road. Various weekend closures of I-270 are necessary for demolition of bridges at US 67 (North Lindbergh Boulevard), Washington Street/Elizabeth Avenue, West Florissant Avenue, and Old Halls Ferry Road. Various off-peak lane closures of I-270 will be required, but three thru-lanes of traffic will be maintained during all peak hours. Various ramp and lane closures along the outer roads will be also be required. Adequate signing will be provided to control traffic flow in the area and will be augmented through public information and outreach efforts to advise motorists of the various traffic situations.
* **Hearing Held:** In person Hearing scheduled, canceled due to Covid-19 concerns:

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

St. Louis Community College – Florissant Valley Student Center

3400 Pershall Road, St. Louis, MO 63135

Online Hearing Held:

March 12, 2020 – March 26, 2020

* **Attendance:** 60 still arrived to Public Hearing site despite cancelation; MoDOT staff directed individuals to website.

1,819 unique visitors of the online hearing (2,615 total visitors)

4 participants in a virtual chat

* **Job No.:** J6I3020B

**RECOMMEND that the Commission**:

* Approve the design of the proposed project as presented at the virtual public hearing.

**DEPARTMENT VIEW:**

* The project is consistent with the location approved by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission at its May 3, 2017 meeting.
* The project is a necessary step to improve the I-270 North Corridor consistent with Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact between Lindbergh Boulevard and Bellefontaine Road to address safety, operational, and infrastructure conditions.

**OTHER VIEWS:**

* Public was in favor of adding a lane to I-270.
* Public was in favor of providing new multi-use paths along Dunn and Pershall Roads.
* Opinions were split on converting the current two-way outer roads of Dunn Road and Pershall Road to a one-way westbound Dunn Road and a one-way eastbound Pershall Road. Some comments were in favor of the safety benefits the change would provide. Some comments expressed concern with the adverse travel, particularly between Washington St./Elizabeth Ave. and West Florissant Road The department recognizes that some users may be adversely impacted, but the conversion to a one-way outer system provides a substantial safety benefit with minimal purchase of new right-of-way and is consistent with the previously approved location of the project.
* Several questions and concerns were received related to the length of the construction schedule, mobility throughout the projects, and detour routes. MoDOT is committed to a robust public information campaign to provide advance notice of all stages of construction.
* Several questions were received concerning noise walls and where they may be built or not and how that is determined. MoDOT is committed to constructing all noise walls that are determined to be reasonable and feasible in accordance with department policy.

**MHTC POLICY:**

* Highways – Location and Design – Location and Design Approval.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

* The Revised Statutes of Missouri charge the Commission with the responsibility for approving roadway locations and/or designs; based on that approval, property needed for the improvement is acquired by negotiations and/or condemnation.
* This design-build project was awarded by the Commission to Millstone Weber, LLC. at its November 6, 2019 meeting.
* There are known hazardous waste sites on the Corridor. Coordination with the United States Corps of Engineers is ongoing to ensure required excavation or other land disturbances are appropriately handled.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Funds to accomplish this improvement have already been committed in the award of the project on November 6, 2019. No additional funds need to be committed as a result of this particular action.