

Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57)



Job 100512

Background

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (Department) has contracted with Garver to perform an Environmental Impact Statement to study improvements between the Highway 412/Highway 67 interchange at Walnut Ridge and the Missouri state line. The study area is located in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties in northeast Arkansas. Construction of the connection would complete the improvements of Future I-57 within Arkansas. No timeline has been identified to construct the project; schedules will be determined as funding becomes available.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to improve the Highway 67 corridor on existing or new location in order to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System, provide a more resilient roadway, and enhance opportunity for development by developing an interstate-type system between Walnut Ridge, Arkansas and the Missouri state line.

Need

There is a gap in the National Highway System's four-lane highway network that diminishes connectivity and mobility of the system. Additionally, there is a lack of reliable transportation infrastructure to support economic development and a need to enhance resiliency to extreme weather events along the route. Furthermore, Congressional legislation designated this route as "Interstate Route 57."

A draft Purpose and Need Statement is provided in the meeting materials at Future57.TransportationPlanRoom.com. We appreciate any comments you can provide regarding the content of the draft Purpose and Need Statement.

Corridors

The following corridors will be considered and evaluated.

- No Build
- Corridor 1 (Western-most alignment utilizing much of the existing Highway 67 alignment – 44 miles; estimated project construction cost: \$536 million)
- Corridor 2 (Central alignment on new location- 41 miles; estimated project construction cost: \$453 million)
- Corridor 3 (Eastern alignment on new location – 44 miles; estimated project construction cost: \$490 million)

Connection with Missouri

The following connectors with the Missouri state line will be considered and evaluated.

- Missouri Connector A
- Missouri Connector B
- Missouri Connector C

Public Meeting Purpose

The Department is conducting a virtual public involvement meeting (no in-person meeting) to obtain public input on the proposed improved connection between Walnut Ridge and the Missouri state line (future I-57). The virtual meeting will be held Thursday, August 13 through Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The public is invited and encouraged to visit Future57.TransportationPlanRoom.com during the scheduled dates to view meeting exhibits and offer comments.

We appreciate your involvement in this study and any comments or questions you provide on the materials and information presented at this virtual meeting. Written comments must be received on or before Wednesday, September 2, 2020. Anyone with limited internet access or general questions or comments regarding the project or virtual public meeting may call (501) 823-0730 to request a phone conversation.