Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57) Location Public Hearing and Draft Environmental Impact Statement Job 100512



What Is The Walnut Ridge To Missouri State Line Connection?

Several planning studies have been completed since the 1990s that identified a need for improvements to the Hwy. 67 corridor. The project is needed because there is a gap in the system linkage that reduces connectivity and mobility of the National Highway System. Additionally, there is a lack of reliable transportation infrastructure to support economic development and a need to enhance resiliency along the route to extreme weather events. Furthermore, federal legislation designated this high priority corridor for future Interstate 57 (I-57). The project's purpose is to address the above needs by constructing a future interstate facility from Walnut Ridge to the State line within Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties, Arkansas.

Why Are We Meeting Today?

Through the materials at this hearing, we will present the proposed project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and you will have an opportunity to express your opinions. Public participation is needed to identify and discuss any problems or controversial issues. It is important to clearly identify your issues and concerns, and if needed, you can call or email us for clarification on any matters related to this project. Phone and email contact information is provided below. We request your cooperation and participation.

The meeting information has been prepared to provide general information about the proposed project. Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and Garver staff are here to answer your questions and provide you information. Additional information is available on the project website or by contacting ARDOT.

What Happens After This Hearing?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and ARDOT invite interested individuals and entities to provide comments on the DEIS. The public comment period began November 13, 2022 and will extend until January 24, 2023. Personally identifiable information provided by individuals submitting public comments may be published.

After a review of comments received from citizens, public officials, and public agencies, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) document will be prepared and submitted to FHWA, documenting the final environmental clearances and impacts associated with the Preferred Alternative. If FHWA issues the ROD, it would identify the Selected Alternative and conclude the NEPA process.

For additional information, please visit our website at <u>Future57.TransportationPlanroom.com</u>, call us at 501-823-0730, or email us at <u>PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com</u>.