

# Improvements to Route 50

### Why Make These Changes?

The residents east of Todd George and along Blackwell generally travel west to Todd George to access Route 50. A new interchange at Blackwell can provide direct access and decrease traffic congestion on Todd George, Langsford and Shenandoah.

Blackwell is an arterial road that provides access primarily to residential areas. Residents who now use Blackwell to access Todd George and Route 50 by way of Langsford and Shenandoah will find an interchange more convenient. The City also will add four roundabout intersections as part of these improvements: At Blackwell Road and Blue Parkway; the ramps at Blackwell and Route 50; and at Blue Parkway and Shenandoah Drive.

Traffic models from the Route 50 Corridor Study show acceptable operation of Route 50 with the Blackwell interchange and improved traffic flow at the Todd George Interchange at Route 50. The outer road improvements will provide better and safer access to and across Route 50 by eliminating all crossovers and Route 50 access points.

**Still Have Questions?**

For more information on this project, call MoDOT Project Manager Mark Sommerhauser at 607-2243 or e-mail [karsten.sommerhauser@modot.mo.gov](mailto:karsten.sommerhauser@modot.mo.gov).

For more information on other MoDOT projects, go to [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org) or call 1-888-ASK MODOT

For more information on Lake Lotawana projects and development, call 816-578-4215.

For more information on Jackson County projects and development, call 816-881-4429.

### Closure of Direct Access

The design will close direct access to Route 50 at Smart Road, Milton Thompson Road, East Old Lone Jack Lee's Summit Road, Cemetery Entrance and Harris Road, redirecting access from those routes to Blackwell Road and Route 7 by way of the new outer roads. The change will eliminate several of the most dangerous high-speed intersections along the increasingly busy Route 50 corridor.

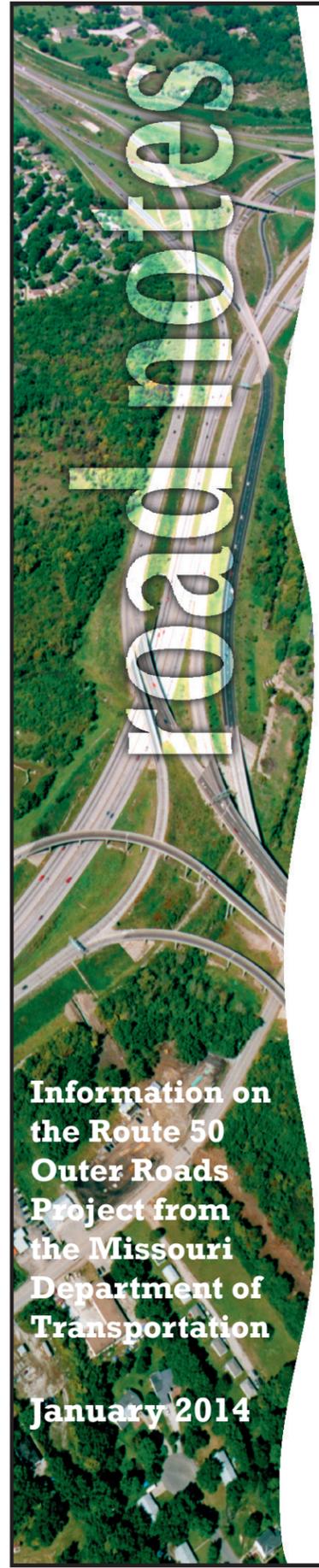
### Route 50 Corridor Study

MoDOT launched the Route 50 Corridor Study in summer 2000 to address transportation improvements along the 10-mile stretch of highway from I-470 east to Route 7.

The study identified current issues and examined future improvements along the system that could improve safety and efficiency, and minimize traffic congestion to the area based on projected traffic volumes over the next 30 years.

Public opinion played a key role throughout the study process. A task force of city, county and economic development leaders was formed at the beginning of the Route 50 Corridor Study. With the help of this specialized group and public input, MoDOT and the City of Lee's Summit identified motorists' and pedestrians' needs and issues.

The study produced five top criteria: Increase safety; minimize congestion; minimize travel time; improve access to Route 50; and improve regional access. As a result of these findings, the task force favored two-way outer roads throughout the length of the highway, an interchange at Blackwell Road, and minimizing the amount of right-of-way acquisition.



**Information on the Route 50 Outer Roads Project from the Missouri Department of Transportation**

January 2014

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## Extension of Outer Roads, New Interchange at Blackwell Road Improve Access and Safety

MoDOT and Lee's Summit propose a concept to improve access to Route 50 between Blackwell Road and Route 7 that will add a new interchange at Blackwell, extend outer roads and redirect access from local roads to the two nearest interchanges.

### Improvements around Route 50 and Blackwell include:

- A new interchange at Blackwell Road
- Extend Blackwell Road south to Oldham Parkway
- Extend Blue Parkway (north outer road) east to Route 7
- Extend Oldham Parkway (south outer road) east to Route 7

### Improvements at Route 50 and Route 7 include:

- New traffic signals and turn lanes at the ramps to and from Route 50
- Several new and improved turn lanes at the north and south outer road intersections

### Schedule, Funding, Cost

The project is scheduled for 2015 construction. Cost for the interchange project is estimated at \$21.2 million.

Most of the project will be funded by the City of Lee's Summit. MoDOT will commit about \$10 million for its portion of the interchange and \$5.6 million to construct the outer roads.

The city has been in contact with local businesses, commercial property owners, and future/possible developers to enact a City Initiated Tax Increment Finance District or TIF to pay for the improvements to the city's infrastructure. These resources will be limited to public infrastructure improvements such as the Blackwell Interchange and future Todd George Interchange Improvements.

### Project Background

The extension of Blackwell as an arterial roadway south to and beyond Route 50 was first identified in the Long Range Plan for the City of Lee's Summit in the 1960s.

During the 1980s, the long-term plans showed the intersection as an interchange. Since the 1990s it was included in Route 50 Corridor Study and the Environmental Assessment for improvements between Route 291 and Route 7.

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