

Winter/Spring 2026

KANSAS CITY

Reconnecting the EAST SIDE

Prioritizing Safety and Connection

LET'S BUILD A BETTER US-71

Visit the project website to learn more and submit feedback: ReconnectEastSide.com

Reconnecting the East Side involves not only restoring key connections but also reviving community, residential, civic, and spiritual connections.

Safety and consideration of areas of influence and impact are essential elements within the US-71 Corridor.

An Integrated Approach

Based on transportation safety concerns and much more, thousands of Kansas Citians shared their visions for a reimagined US-71. Their initial alternatives included changing US-71 into a freeway, converting it to a parkway/boulevard with stop lights and cross-street intersections, or removing the highway entirely to rebuild local streets. The effort to refine the alternatives involved considering detailed technical analyses and more community input. Overall, evaluation results indicate:

- **The Return-to-Grid Alternative** does not meet the project's Purpose and Need for improving safety and congestion. Also, community members expressed strong concerns that the Return-to-Grid option is not sensitive to past displacement and community impacts.
- **The Freeway Alternatives** address the primary safety problems, such as conflict points at intersections and with pedestrian interactions. However, community members have said "a freeway is what we didn't want last time…"
- **The Boulevard Alternatives** have a safety focus but do not address traffic congestion issues or the high-speed portions of US-71 located at both ends of the Study Area. They also require cross-street traffic and pedestrians to interact with US-71, which poses safety concerns.

With the study findings in mind, and with ideas from the community, a **New Parkway Design Alternative** has been developed, with the intent of working towards community goals, while also addressing identified needs. This design would give the route a parkway feel, but unlike those in the community's existing parkway/boulevard system, it would remove traffic signals, provide narrower lanes and on-and-off ramps for vehicles, promote slower travel speeds, and offer overpasses that serve motorists and pedestrians.

Share Your Feedback

submit comments online!

Scan QR Code to review drawings. Share feedback about the **New Parkway Design Alternative.**

Project Outreach Schedule

PHASE 1

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Oct - Dec '24

PLANNING

- Community Engagement Plan
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Project Branding Draft



Jan - May '25

PURPOSE & NEED

- Community Summit #1
- Community Storytelling & Gathering
- Neighborhood Listening Sessions

Jun - Oct '25

INITIAL ALTERNATIVES

- Community Summits #2 and #3
- Community Visioning & Mapping
- Neighborhood Maps Sharing

Nov'25 - Jun'26

REFINED ALTERNATIVES

- Community Summit #4
- Community Reaction, Response & Support
- Neighborhood Vision Sharing
- Revisiting Neighborhood Associations and Key people/groups
- Gathering letters of support

PHASE 2

Addressing Consent Decree

Oct '25 - Dec '26

UPDATES

- Federal Consent Decree Process

PHASE 3

Environmental Analysis Process (NEPA) and Conceptual Design

2027 - 2028

RE-REFINED ALTERNATIVES

- Reconnecting the East Side Summit(s)
- Community Reaction & Support
- Revisiting Neighborhood Associations & Key Groups
- Additional engagement activities (TBD)

Missouri Department of Transportation anticipates incorporating recommendations made as part of the PEL study into future NEPA studies, per Title 23 of the US Code, Part 168.

Study Area



The project's Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study focuses on two distinct areas.

AREA OF INFLUENCE
is bounded by Paseo Boulevard to the west, Swope Parkway to the east, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the north, and East 85th Street to the south.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT
generally follows US-71 between Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and East 85th Street, including a narrow buffer on either side of US-71 (roughly Prospect Avenue to South Benton Boulevard.)

This area is intended to be wide enough (plus about 50 feet in either direction) to cover any potential improvement strategies and their potential construction limits.

LEGEND

- **Area of Influence**
- **Area of Potential Effect**
- **Previously Impacted Properties**
- **Neighborhood Boundaries**
  - 1 Blue Hills Neighborhood Association
  - 2 North Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association
  - 3 Citadel Center Homeowners Association
  - 4 South Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association
  - 5 Tri-Blenheim Neighborhood Association
  - 6 Swope Park
  - 7 Self Help Neighborhood Council
  - 8 Marlborough Community Coalition
  - 9 NOBLE Neighborhood Organization

Make your voice heard!

Your input will help ensure planning reflects the needs of impacted neighborhoods and corridor users. We invite you to get involved.

Subscribe to Receive Updates

Sign up on the project website to learn more about upcoming events

Visit Us Online

Visit the project website for news and announcements at ReconnectEastSide.com

Join Us in Your Community!

We're coming to you! We invite you to join us at Community Summits, Neighborhood Listening Sessions, and Pop-Up Events

Stay Engaged

Follow, share, and stay engaged with us on our social media channels, and participate online with engagement activities: polls, surveys, and activity map

Contact Us

Have questions or ideas you want to share? We want to hear from you.

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