

Prioritizing Safety and Connection



The Focus

- Prioritizing safety within the US-71 Corridor is essential
- Economic, social, residential, and other connections are key
- Considerations include study areas of influence and potential effect



Community Voices Matter

- Identification of key people and groups
- Community Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group meetings
- Listening sessions with neighborhoods and others
- Storytelling and sharing



Purpose and Need

- Public input will help identify important needs and opportunities
- Technical analyses are underway
- Purpose and Need statement to be developed

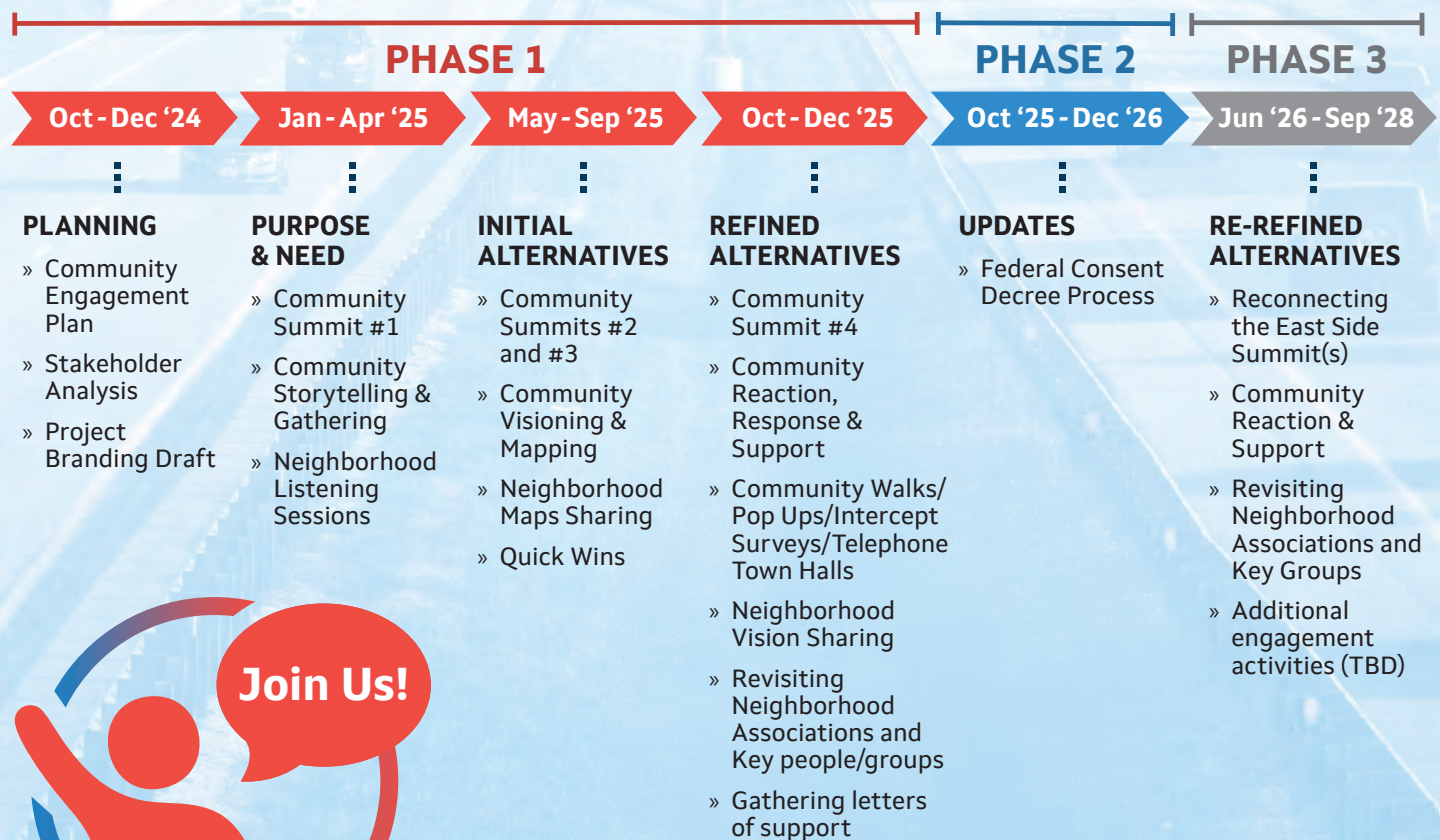
Missouri Department of Transportation anticipates incorporating recommendations made as part of the PEL study into future NEPA studies, per Title 23 of the US Code, Part 168.

The Process and Schedule for Reconnecting the East Side

What's Happening

The City partnered with Accelerator for America to secure a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund Reconnecting the East Side project in 2022. During 2024, the City selected the Hg Consult-led consultant team to lead Reconnecting the East Side.

Project Schedule



The Story of US-71 Highway's Construction

Project History

Early Plans and Community Concerns

1950s:

- Plans to connect Lee's Summit, Grandview, and the Northland to Downtown take shape

1960s:

- Proposed design plans for US-71 Highway raise community concerns
- Opponents filed the first petition at City Hall

1970s:

- US-71 Highway construction begins
- Widespread displacement occurs
- Advocacy groups and residents file a lawsuit in 1973 with concerns about dividing neighborhoods, civil rights violations, and questions about potential economic and environmental impacts

Legal Challenges and Consent Decree

1980s:

- Federal Consent Decree acknowledges the negative impacts of US-71 Highway construction and outlines commitments to address concerns

Construction Continues

1990s:

- US-71 Highway construction continues, dividing neighborhoods

2000s:

- US-71 Highway construction is completed in 2001.
- 10,000 people displaced but compensated for their property and relocations costs

STORY OF US-71 HIGHWAY
US-71 Highway: Impact on Transportation, Communities, and Neighborhoods within a Regional and National Context. The story of US-71 Highway is closely tied to the evolution of the U.S. highway system. This timeline will highlight the highway's impact and role in shaping the neighborhoods and communities along its path, while examining the political and social contexts in both regional and national settings.

SCAN QR CODE

Learn about highway development in the United States and its impacts on Kansas City

The Path Forward

Beyond 2028:

- Final design and implementation of improvements and initiatives

2026 – 2028:

- Advancing to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and developing conceptual design solutions

2025 – 2026:

- Addressing the 1985 Federal Consent Decree

Construction Continues

2020s:

- City partners with Accelerator for America to secure a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund the Reconnecting the East Side project in 2022
- During 2024, the City selects the Hg Consult-led consultant team to lead Reconnecting the East Side

ReconnectEastSide.com

@KansasCity

KANSAS CITY

US-71 Highway in the Media

Press Conference

In June 2024, the Mayor and City Council approved the contract with HG Consult to utilize the \$5 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funds for a safer, more connected, and more equitable community.



SCAN QR CODE

Watch Mayor's press conference: Reconnecting Communities Divided by US-71

Runtime: 11:31



PBS Video Series

Land of Opportunity by Nico Wiggins



SCAN QR CODE

Watch Video *Land of Opportunity: The Road to Resistance*

Runtime: 26:31



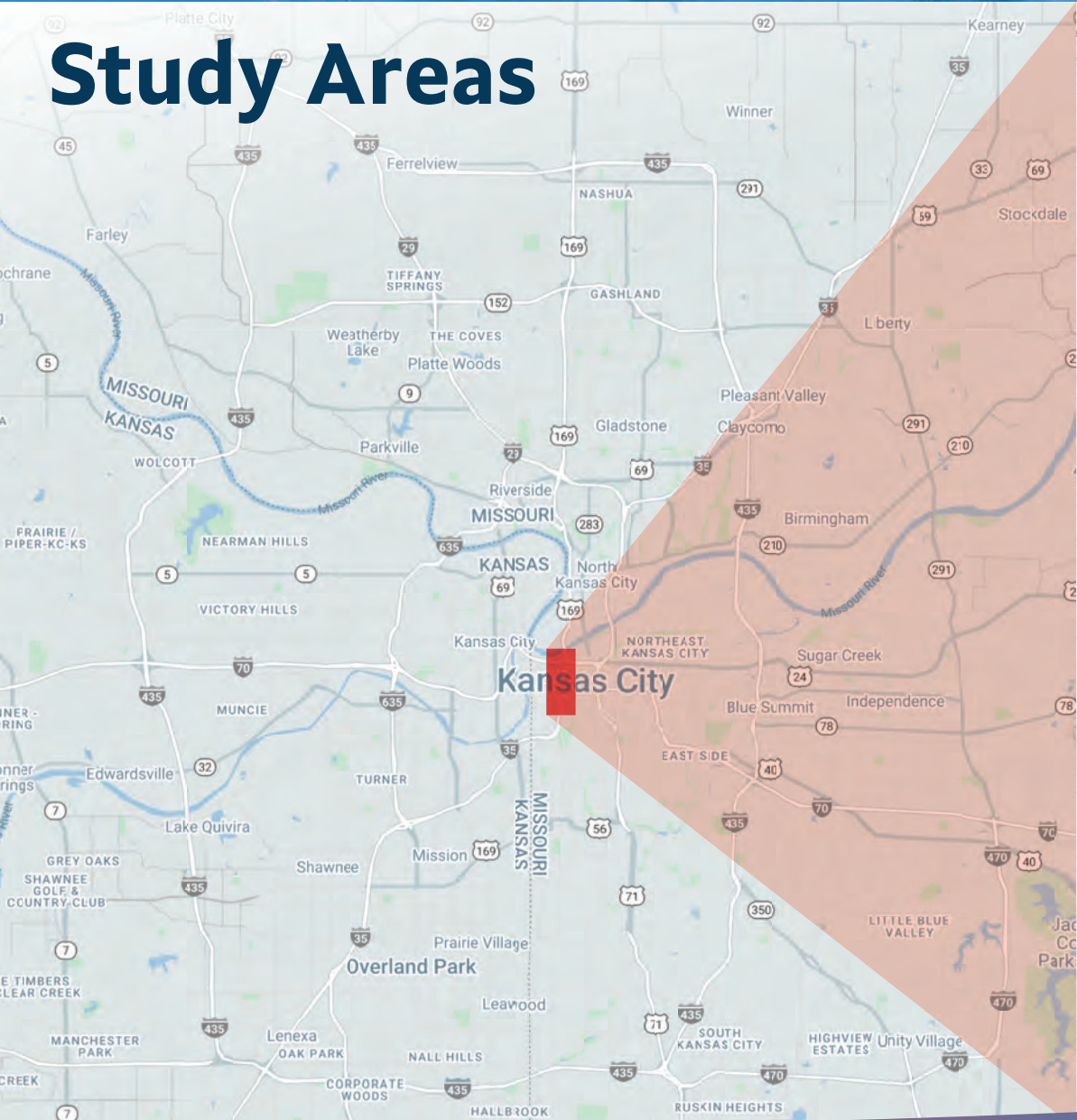
SCAN QR CODE

Watch Video *Land of Opportunity*

Runtime: 26:46



Study Areas



Key People and Groups

Who's Missing We need your input now to ensure the project process reflects the needs of impacted neighborhoods and corridor users. **Please use sticky notes to tell us who's missing from the list below.**

Corridor residents present before highway construction	Neighborhood associations	City Council representatives for Districts 3 and 5
State officials representing Missouri with Kansas City districts	Congressional representatives with Kansas City districts	Advocacy groups

Key People and Groups

Who's Missing We need your input now to ensure the project process reflects the needs of impacted neighborhoods and corridor users. **Please use sticky notes to tell us who's missing from the list below.**

Healthcare organizations	Transportation agencies	Business and economic development representatives	Schools
Libraries	Youth	Other	

Meeting with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Key Considerations

The project team will meet with the CAG and TAG five times during the project. What's most important for the CAG and TAG to keep in mind about Reconnecting the East Side?

Please use sticky notes to share your responses with us.

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Suggestions

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Suggestions



Community Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) is a diverse group of neighborhood representatives, advocates, and key East Side members who will collaborate with the Reconnecting the East Side project team to identify strategies, shape concepts, and refine solutions that enhance safety, equity, accessibility, and connectivity along the US-71 corridor.

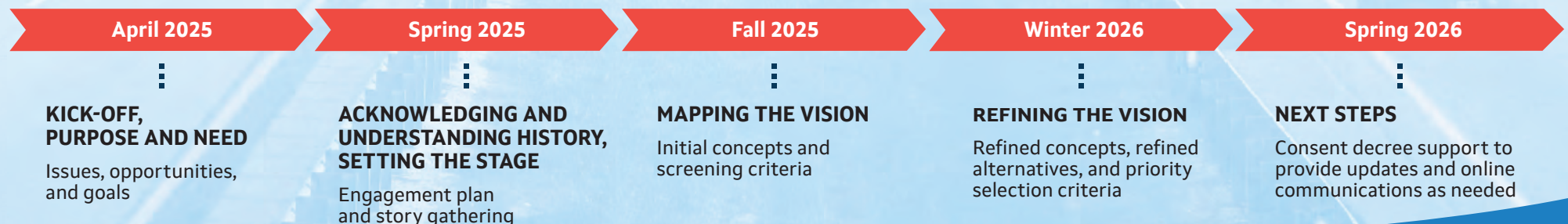
Meeting five times over 18 months beginning in March 2025, the CAG will work alongside the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Project Ambassadors to ensure community needs and aspirations are integrated into the project's outcomes.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is composed of city leaders, department representatives, and public agency members who will provide expert guidance to the Reconnecting the East Side project by identifying strategies, shaping concepts, and refining solutions to enhance safety, equity, accessibility, and connectivity along the US-71 corridor.

Meeting five times over 18 months, beginning in March 2025, the TAG will collaborate with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Project Ambassadors, ensuring that technical expertise and community priorities are integrated into the project's development and implementation.

Advisory Group Meetings, Themes and Input Needed



Sharing Information with You

The Best Tools What are the best ways of sharing Reconnecting the East Side information with you?
Please use sticky dots to share your responses with us.



E-mail or Text



Project Website



Twitter/Facebook



In Person



TV, radio, and/or newspaper



Telephone



Project signage/billboards/flyers



Other

The Purpose and Need

IMPORTANT NEED AND ISSUES

What needs or issues are most important to address? Where?

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

What potential opportunities are key? Where?



The Purpose and Need Statement will serve as the foundation for identifying the improvements needed, defining goals and objectives of the PEL Study, and supporting the development of a framework and methodology for screening and evaluating alternatives. By incorporating stakeholder visions, transportation system deficiencies, and context-sensitive needs, the statement will ensure a comprehensive, data-driven approach that integrates land use, transportation, environmental, and infrastructure considerations for a sustainable and connected future.

Get involved
We want to hear from you!



Use the Engagement Map to share your feedback about land use, housing, green space, transit and more.

Sharing East Side Stories

Talk with the Project Team

If you have an East Side story to share, the project team would love to hear it. A team member will listen and take notes as you speak with them.

Scan the QR Code to Access the Comment Form

If writing is your preference, the project team encourages you to use a comment form to share your East Side story with us.



Questions to Consider for Your Story



SELF-DESCRIPTIONS:

How would you describe yourself or your family in relationship to Kansas City's East Side?



MEANING:

What does "Reconnecting the East Side" mean to you today? What should it mean in the future?



TIME:

How long have you and/or your family lived or worked on the East Side? Did you experience the highway construction?



GOALS:

What's the most important thing for the Reconnecting the East Side project to accomplish for the community in the next few years? Longer term?



IMPACTS:

How has US-71 impacted you, your family and friends, and/or community?



OTHER:

What other comments, thoughts, or ideas would you like to share?



Children’s Corner

Your Ideas Are Important



What do you **love** about your neighborhood?

If you could **fix one thing** in your neighborhood,
what would it be?