



Public Notice

**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence**

**Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833**

Public Notice No.
P-2735
Public Notice Date
September 24, 2009
Expiration Date
October 16, 2009

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: 2008-342

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: Mr. Rob Gramke

APPLICANT: St. Louis County Department of Highways & Traffic and Public Works, c/o Mr. Daniel Dreisewerd, P.E. Supervisor and Manager, 121 South Meramec, St. Louis, Missouri, 63105. Ph. (314) 615-8190.

AGENT: Parsons Brinckerhoff, c/o Mr. Daniel DeArmond, P.E. 1831 Chestnut Street, Suite 700, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. Ph. (314) 206-4262.

LOCATION: The project area is a portion of the reserved corridor located between the existing Route 364/Maryland Heights Expressway intersection and Olive Boulevard road. The new Maryland Heights Expressway (MHE) (MVS-2006-756) is located within a portion of this project. The MHE ends near the existing Waterworks Road. The site is depicted on the attached location map.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant seeks authorization to conduct grading and filling operations in waters of the United States in conjunction with the Page-Olive Connector from Route 364 to Olive Boulevard. The applicant stated that the Page-Olive Connector (Project) (also known as the Maryland Heights Expressway Connector) is a planned element of the regional transportation network that is needed to address existing and forecasted deficiencies of the local and regional roadway system. **Additional information regarding the project and the alternatives analysis can be found in the Page-Olive Connector Final Environmental Assessment (EA) that is located on**

the St. Louis County Highway's web site at www.page-oliveconnector.org. The applicant also stated that the past improvements to the regional transportation system coupled with existing and planned development within the vicinity of the corridor has created a significant demand for additional improvements to the road network in, and adjacent to, the study area. Specifically, the local road network is becoming increasingly congested, thus requiring a more efficient transportation network.

To the north and south of the Project, the Earth City/Maryland Heights Expressway and Missouri Route 141 respectively, are major suburban arterials with limited access (access is fully-controlled in places) that carry at least four-lanes of traffic. The Earth City Expressway extends from State Highway 370 in St. Louis County about 4.1 miles south to Casino Center Drive, south of I-70, where it becomes the Maryland Heights Expressway (MHE). The MHE then extends about 3.9 miles south to Waterworks Road. The MHE has an interchange with Highway 364 (Page Avenue) between River Valley Drive and Waterworks Road. The section between Highway 364 and Waterworks Road was recently completed in November 2008 by St. Louis County and the City of Maryland Heights. This 2008 extension provided a direct link from the MHE to Creve Coeur Mill Road.

South of the Project, Missouri Route 141 extends from Highway 340 (Olive Boulevard) in St. Louis County to U.S. Highway 61/67 (Jeffco Boulevard) in Jefferson County, a distance of about 22 miles. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) completed an EA in 2002 for relocating Route 141 from St. Luke's Drive (north of I-64) to Olive Boulevard (Highway 340), to the east of existing Route 141. According to MoDOT, the 141 project will replace the last remaining two-lane, functionally obsolete section of Missouri Route 141 between U.S. Highway 61/67 and Olive Boulevard. The relocation of Missouri Route 141 is planned for construction within the next three years.

The proposed action will provide an improved north-south transportation system between the MHE and relocated Missouri Route 141, by providing a direct transportation link on new alignment between Waterworks Road and Olive Boulevard. Additionally, the Project includes lane widening from Waterworks Road north to the MHE/River Valley Drive intersection. The Project length is approximately 2.7 miles long. About 0.9 mile of the Project is on new alignment and 1.8 miles of the Project involves widening existing pavement. The project is on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the EWGCOG.

The applicant has stated that the proposed action will reduce congestion on the local road system in the area by increasing arterial system capacity and providing continuity with established and planned segments of the MHE and Missouri Route 141. The proposed action will also provide a means for improved access to potential areas of economic development in this part of St. Louis County. The proposed action will provide a transportation improvement that addresses existing and projected traffic demands in Maryland Heights resulting from anticipated commercial development near the intersections of the MHE at River Valley Drive and at Sportport Drive. Safety will also be improved by providing a more efficient transportation facility for the existing and anticipated traffic. Specifically, the applicant stated that the proposed transportation improvements will:

1. Reduce congestion on the local road network (i.e. Creve Coeur Mill Road, River Valley Drive, Fee Fee Road, and Hog Hollow Road) and improve traffic conditions for the adjacent residential neighborhoods (i.e. Old Farms Estates and River Bend Estates) by managing access with the goal being fully-controlled access through the Project area;
2. Provide route continuity by connecting the MHE on the north to the proposed Missouri Route 141 Relocation at Olive Boulevard on the south (MoDOT Job Number J6U0807) and provide a principal urban arterial facility that addresses the regional nature of the traffic to be served; and

3. Provide transportation system capacity to respond to current development and reasonably foreseeable future development in the region.

The impacts to waters of the U.S. associated with the proposed Page-Olive Connector Project include:

1. The primary wetland impacts (1.19 acres) would result from the permanent placement of fill material within seven different wetland areas and one existing pond. Due to floodplain concerns along Creve Couer Creek most of this roadway project will be constructed on piers or bridges that will span most of the floodplain. However, up to 1.19-acres of the wetlands will be permanently filled to support portions of the road that are not elevated and or to support piers.
2. The proposed Project would also cross approximately 1,319 linear feet of stream channel. However, impacts to streams will be temporary and will likely be from the placement of temporary structures (i.e., crossings, coffer dams, floating pads, etc.) within the stream channels to complete work on the proposed bridge structures.

A description of impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and non-wetland waters of the U.S. and the various elements of the proposed Project that were evaluated to avoid and minimize the unavoidable impacts are further detailed in the Final EA located at www.page-oliveconnector.org.

Compensatory Mitigation

To compensate for the unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and non-wetland waters of the U.S., St. Louis County is proposing compensatory wetland and stream mitigation in the form of a combination of preservation, restoration, enhancement, and/or creation of wetlands and stream channel. Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park (CCLMP) was selected as the mitigation site as it is adjacent to the proposed Project corridor and it is within the same watershed of the proposed Project. In addition, it is anticipated that the proposed mitigation within the CCLMP site will provide numerous benefits to the existing mitigation sites and jurisdictional areas located in close proximity to the Project and the CCLMP. The proposed mitigation site was presented to the USACE and the attending agencies and interest groups during an August 12, 2009 pre-application meeting. Although a detailed compensatory mitigation plan had not been developed at that time, a compensatory mitigation proposal was provided that summarized the anticipated goals and objectives of the proposed mitigation site.

A comprehensive compensatory mitigation plan is currently under development as per the requirements of 40 CFR Part 230 and 33 CFR 332, Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule. This plan will be submitted to the USACE for review and approval upon completion.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached. Maps are also available for viewing on our online version of this Public Notice which may be accessed through the St. Louis District Regulatory Branch Public Notice webpage at the following link: <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/permits/pn.htm>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Robert Gramke, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8186. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to Robert.gramke@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project plans have been submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification is requested as of the date of this Public Notice, and if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A complete discussion of the Endangered Species concern can be found in Section 3.7.2.5 of the Final Environmental Assessment (Page-Olive Connector) at www.page-oliveconnector.org. According to the EA, no species of conservation concern, including State and Federal listed threatened and endangered species, were observed during field reconnaissance of the study area. In addition, the report stated that there is no formally designated critical habitat within the study area. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The applicant completed a Phase I archaeological survey within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) relating to the EA for the project. The survey revealed that the APE was heavily disturbed and possessed a low probability for intact historic properties. According to the applicant's submittal, there are no known sites in the study area that are eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the applicant stated that no historic structures or potentially eligible structures impacted by the Preferred Alternative in the EA. The St. Louis District will evaluate any additional information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion;

recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

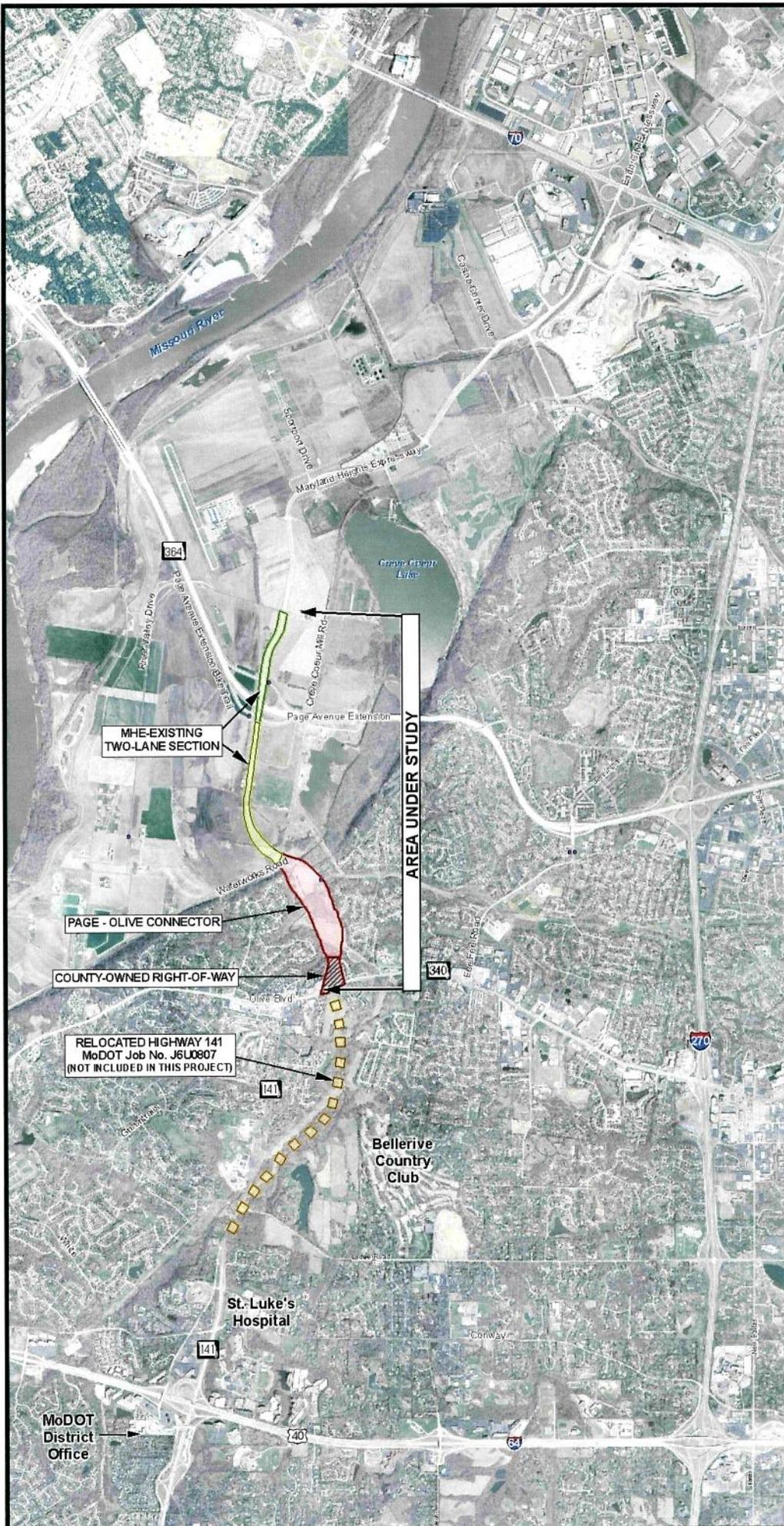


DANNY D. MCCLENDON
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

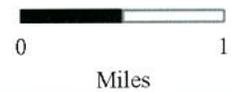


City of Maryland Heights
 City of Chesterfield
 City of Hazelwood

Legend

- Traffic Survey Location
- Existing Maryland Heights Expressway
- Maryland Heights Expressway Extension (Completed and opened Nov. 2008) (Part of Page - Olive Connector Study)
- Page - Olive Connector Range of Alternates
- Page - Olive Connector Range of Alternates (County-Owned Right-of-Way)
- Studied By MoDOT-Job No. J6U0807 (Rt. 141 Relocation Not Included In This Project)

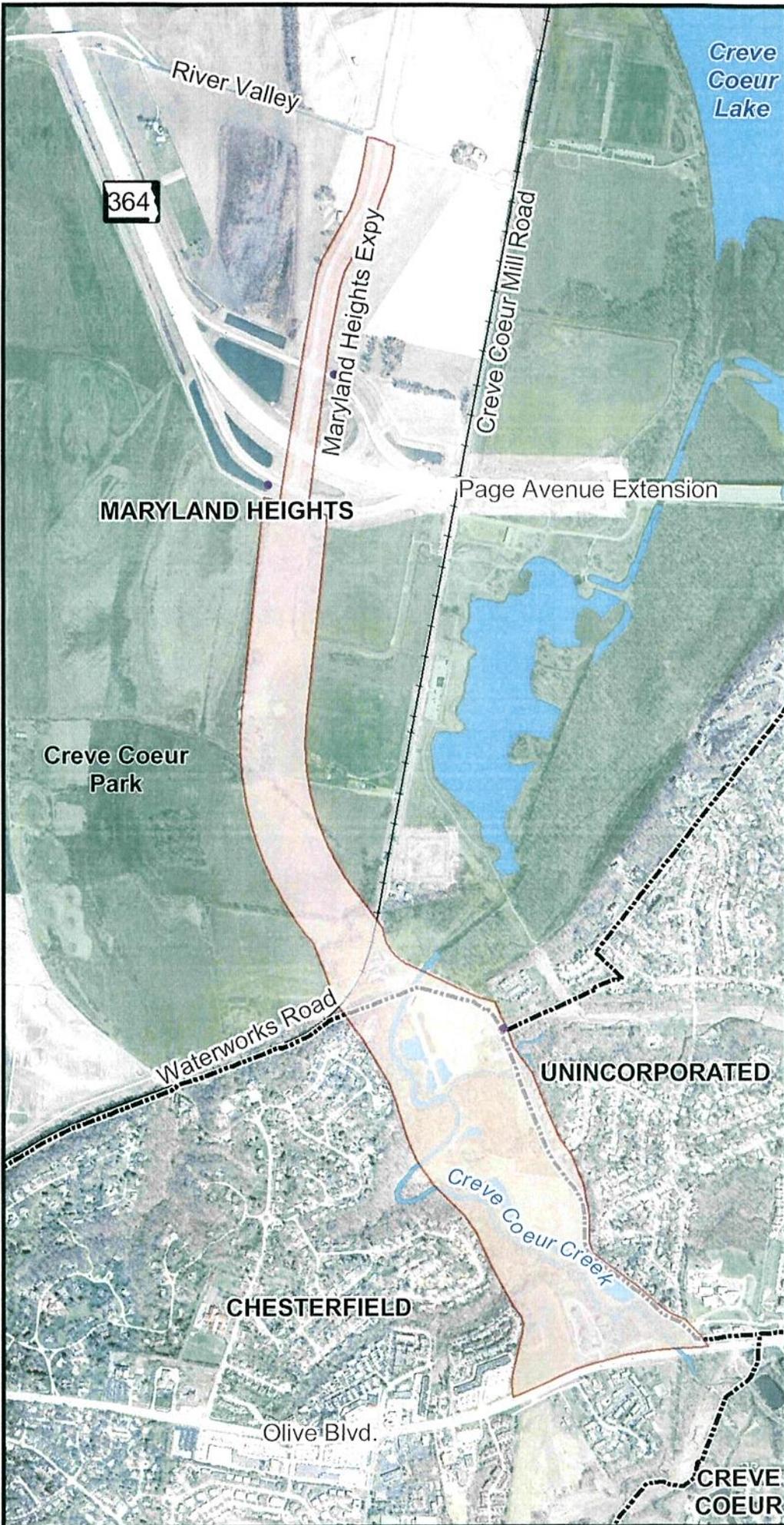
MHE=Maryland Heights Expressway



**FIGURE 1-1
VICINITY MAP**

**Page - Olive Connector
St. Louis County, Missouri**

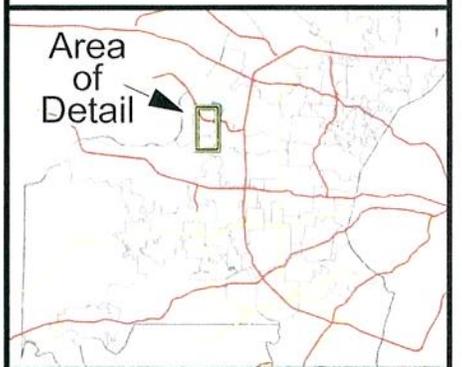
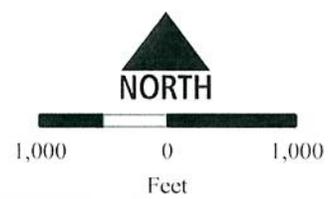
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 Checked By: CGS Date: March 26, 2009



-  City of Maryland Heights
-  City of Chesterfield
-  City of Hazelwood

Legend

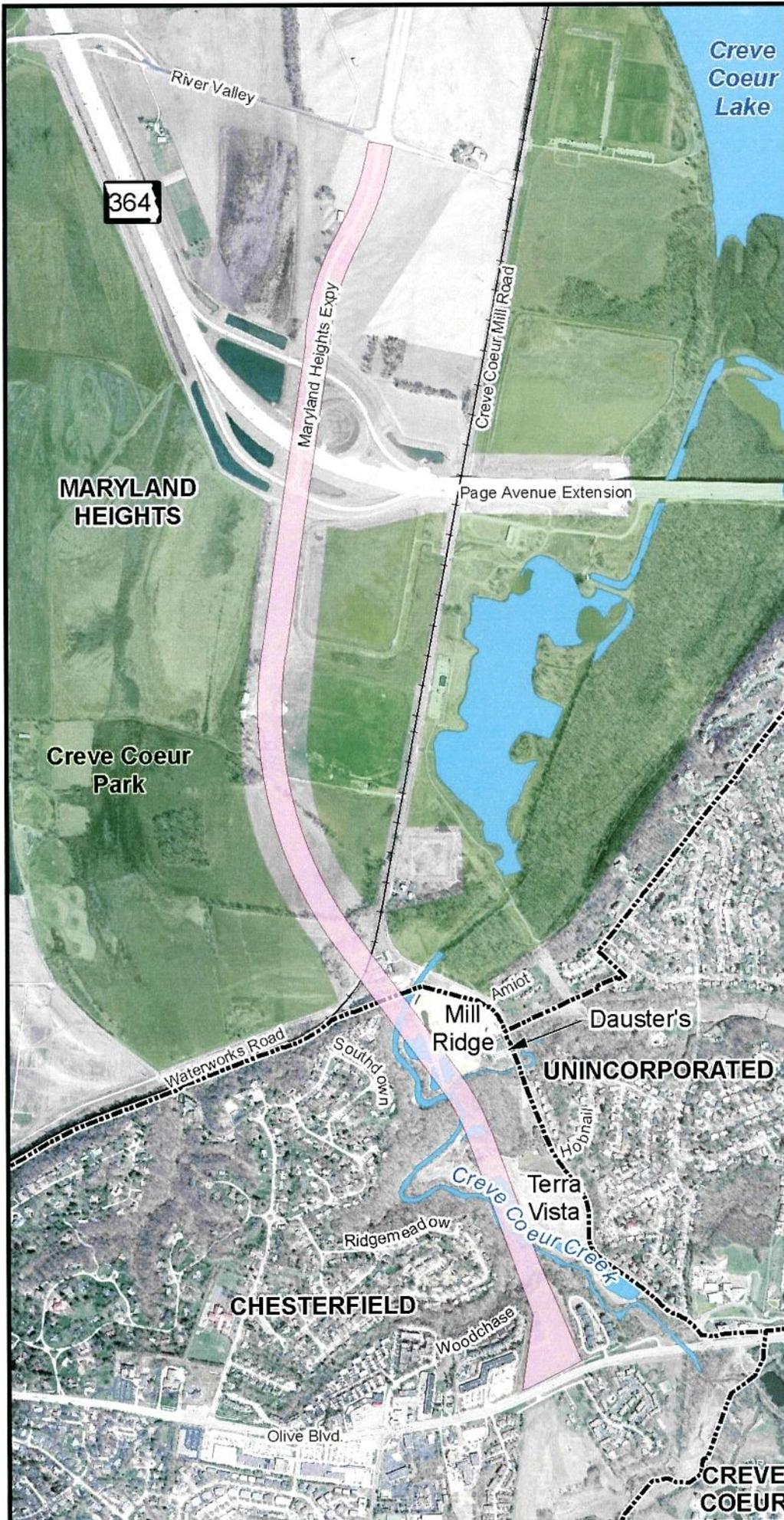
-  Railroad
-  Page-Olive Connector
-  Creve Coeur Park
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Open Water



**FIGURE 1-2
STUDY AREA**

**Page - Olive Connector
St. Louis County, Missouri**

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 Checked By: CGS Date: October 30, 2008



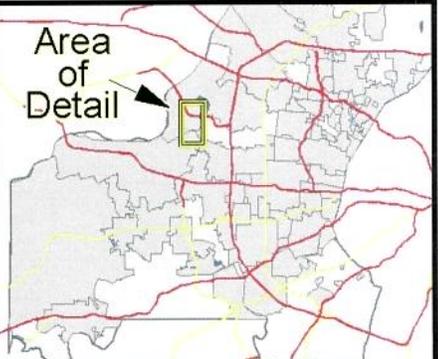
-  City of Maryland Heights
-  City of Chesterfield
-  City of Hazelwood

Legend

-  Alternative 4
-  Railroad
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Creve Coeur Park
-  Open Water



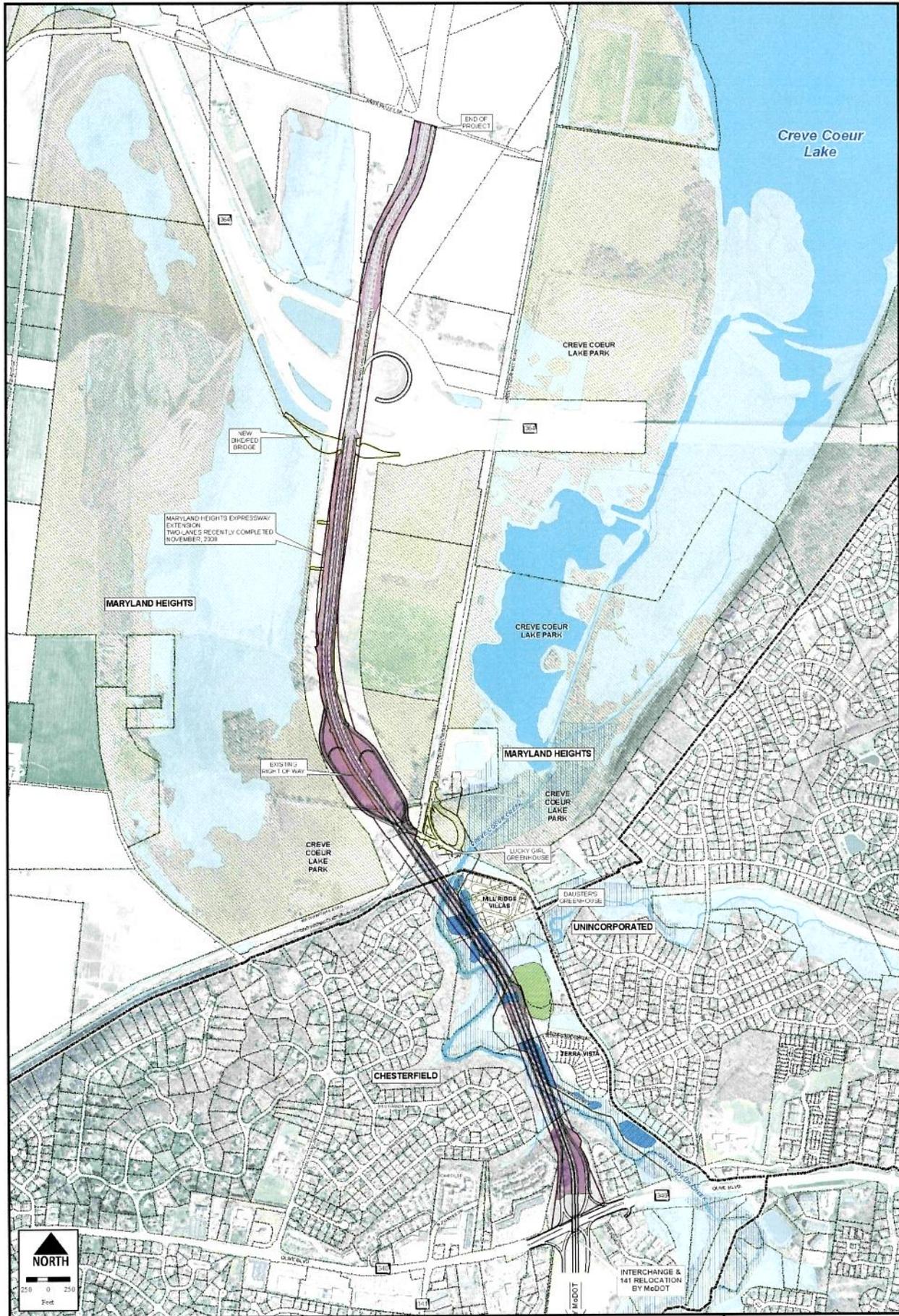
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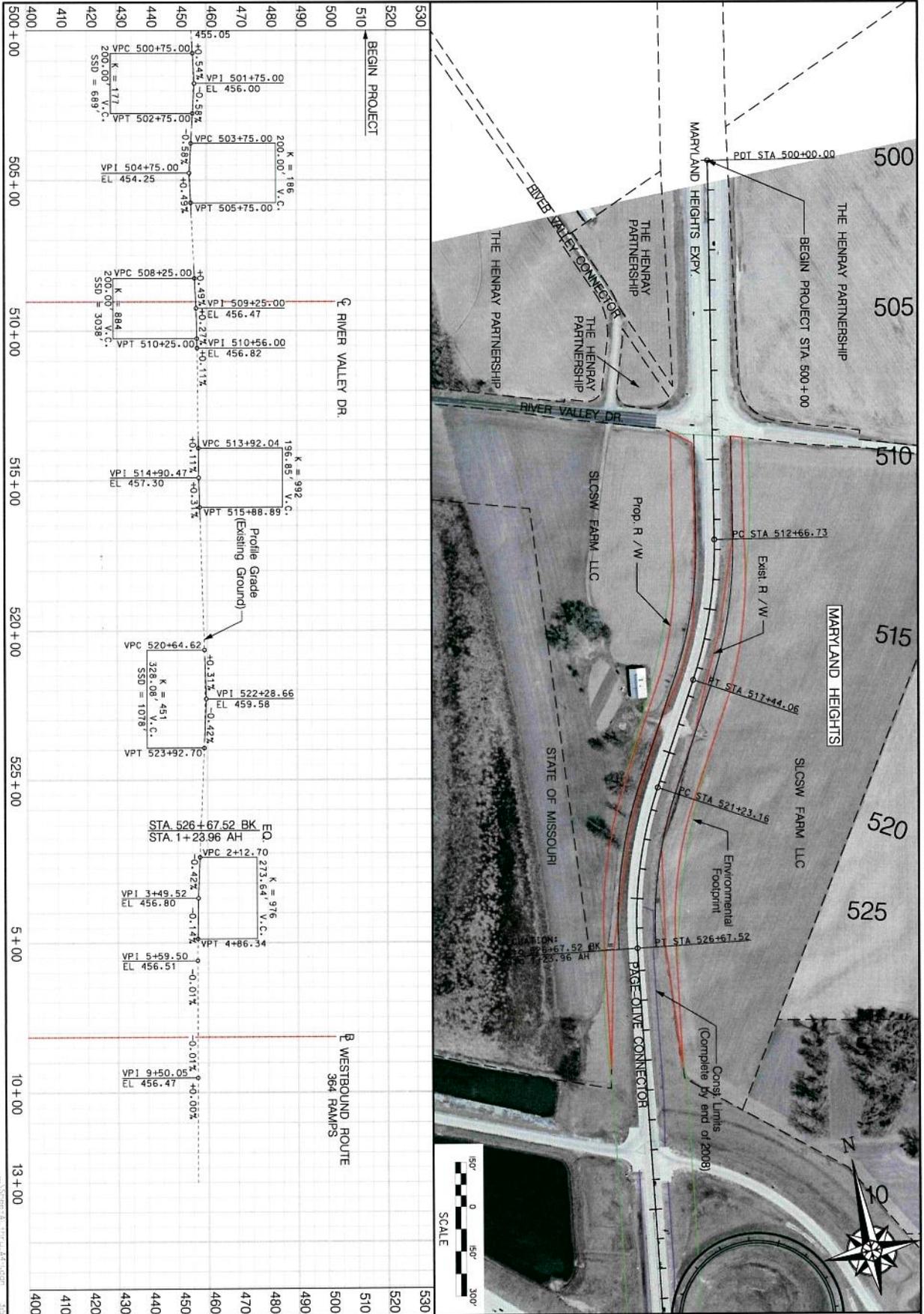
**FIGURE 2-5
ALTERNATIVE 4**

**Page - Olive Connector
St. Louis County, Missouri**

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Checked By: CGS Date: December 2, 2008



<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Limit of Environmentally-Cleared Area For This Study — Ending Limits of Construction — MSD New Line — River/Stream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preferred Alternative ▭ Municipal Boundary ▭ Parcel Boundary ■ Open Water/Ford ■ Disturbed Ecos ■ Wetland ■ Creve Coeur Creek Floodway ■ Creve Coeur Creek Flood Plain 	<p>Area of Interest St. Louis County</p>	<p>COUNTY St. Louis County Highways & Traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Maryland Heights City of Chesterfield City of Hazelwood 	<p>FIGURE 2-6 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (ALT. 4)</p> <p>Page - Olive Connector St. Louis County, Missouri</p>
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...SHEET 28 OF 28...
 3/25/23 PW 1/17/2023



Southwestern
MISSOURI
 COUNTY

PAGE - OLIVE CONNECTOR
 PLAN AND PROFILE

Plate 1 - Alternatives 1 through 4 Sta. 500+00 to Sta. 13+00

