



## Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission

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[www.nemorpc.org](http://www.nemorpc.org)

March 15, 2023

Attn: Office of Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Sam Graves,

Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission (NEMO RPC) supports the prioritization of additional funding to complete the Highway 63 corridor in northern Missouri and highly recommends this project for consideration for any available transportation appropriations at the federal level. The route is four-lanes from Jefferson City to Kirksville but remains a two-lane divided highway north of Kirksville in Adair and Schuyler counties to the Iowa state line.

A proposed study to consider the option of a shared four-lane expansion for US 63 in north Adair and Schuyler has been ranked a top priority by the Transportation Advisory Council of the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission, which consists of members from Adair, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Schuyler, and Scotland counties. The same proposal has been classified as a Tier I Unfunded Need by the northeast district in MoDOT's statewide 2023 High-Priority Unfunded Needs report released in January.

NEMO RPC is partnering with the Davis County Development Corporation in Bloomfield, Iowa as well as the City of Ottumwa, Iowa and other state and federal officials in Iowa to work toward continued development of US 63 as a key pathway between the two regions and a significant driver in the region's continued growth and economic development. NEMO RPC has also worked with the Highway 63 Alliance in Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Texas, Howell, and Oregon counties, which is working to make Highway 63 four lanes from Jefferson City to Arkansas.



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This specific project in Adair and Schuyler counties has been an identified priority for the community and our entire service region for several years and has generated significant public support. The City of Kirksville and its citizen taxpayers played a crucial role in partnering with MoDOT to expand US 63 to four lanes in the northern part of the state and to fund and construct the alternate route around the city of Kirksville and the desire remains to see the completion of the expanded highway to the Iowa state line and beyond.

The City of Kirksville, Missouri formed the Highway 63 Transportation Corporation (H63TC) in 1999 through a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC), and Adair County. H63TC funded, promoted, planned, and constructed two additional highway lanes along a 30-mile stretch of U.S. 63 from Macon to Kirksville, ultimately contributing \$11.5 million of the \$35.5 million project through a 10-year, one-half cent sales tax increase in the City of Kirksville. Construction of the additional lanes began in May 2003 and was completed in October 2005. MoDOT had initially brought forth plans for the project in 1998 but construction was deferred until 2020 due to funding constraints. In 2008, the voters authorized the extension of the ½ cent economic development sales to pay for the Highway 63 Alternate Route. The Highway 63 Alternate Route, and estimated \$30 million project, was constructed in 2011 and opened in October of that year with a second cost-share investment of local sales tax revenues by the highway corporation of an estimated \$7 million. This willingness to support the project with local revenues clearly demonstrates the continued commitment of the community to the improvement of US 63.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at the number listed above or via email [chrisfeeney@nemorpc.org](mailto:chrisfeeney@nemorpc.org).

Sincerely,

Chris Feeney

NEMO RPC Transportation Planner