

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS – STATE OF MISSOURI

Application Number: 2000-16752-1

Date: May 2, 2016

Comments Due: May 23, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the Public Involvement section for details on submitting comments.

<u>Point of Contact</u>. If additional information is desired, please contact the project manager, Rocky Presley, telephone number: (501) 340-1390, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Branson Regulatory Field Office, 4600 Hwy 165, Branson, Missouri 65616, email address: Rocky, L. Presley@usace.army.mil.

<u>Project Information</u>. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

Greene County Highway Department 2065 North Clifton Avenue Springfield, Missouri 65803

has requested authorization for the placement of dredged and fill material in waters of the United States associated with proposed roadway and drainage improvements to West Republic Road between Golden Avenue and Highway FF. The proposed project is located in an unnamed tributary to Wilson Creek, in sections 8, 9, and 17, T. 28 N., R. 22 W., Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.

The basic purpose of the project is to improve a roadway and drainage facilities. The overall purpose of the project is to safely accommodate increased traffic volumes and to alleviate flooding of the roadway and adjoining properties along this section of West Republic Road. The project is not water dependent.

The project involves widening the roadway from 2 lanes to 5 lanes and installing concrete curb and gutters, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. The project construction would require rechannelizing approximately 1,400 linear feet of a previously impacted tributary running along the north side of the road. The new channel would be constructed on the existing alignment between two road crossings within the project segment. Proposed work involves excavating approximately 9,900 cubic yards to create a trapezoidal channel with a 15-foot-wide base. The low-flow channel base would be lined with concrete and the upper portion of the channel would be vegetated to transition into the adjoining residential yards. The construction also includes replacing an existing section of concrete-lined ditch along 200 linear feet of the channel at the downstream end of the project.

The existing drainage channel is unable to convey minor storm events which results in the overtopping of Republic Road and flooding of adjacent homes. The current conditions pose a safety hazard to motorists and pedestrians and often result in closures of the road, which serves

as a major arterial roadway for this area. The proposed flood channel would have the capacity to convey a 100-year storm event and would minimize flood impacts to the roadway and 33 residences.

The project would also include replacement of an existing box culvert on Republic Road at the west end of the project area. This involves construction of a new 3-cell box culvert to be extended to a total of 124 feet to accommodate a wider roadway. The stream channel downstream of the box culvert would be stabilized by installing 70 linear feet of articulating concrete block mats to allow vegetation growth through the open-cell design. The existing 2-cell box culvert on Meadowlark Drive would also be replaced as part of this project.

The unnamed tributary was previously relocated along the roadway several decades ago during development of residential lots. The stream has been heavily disturbed and provides limited aquatic habitat within an extensively developed residential area of Springfield. Currently, approximately 620 linear feet of the channel is composed of grouted concrete over rocks and has been maintained as a roadside ditch. The remaining 780 linear feet of stream in the project area flows through a narrow vegetated corridor between the existing road embankment and cleared residential lawns. The County considered other feasible project alternatives to minimize stream impacts, but was limited to the current design due to road right-of-way constraints and limited available property through the project corridor.

The applicant proposes to provide compensatory mitigation for all unavoidable stream impacts through the Stream Stewardship Trust Fund In-lieu Fee Program.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets.

Water Quality Certification. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting certification from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources that the operation of the proposed facility will apparently not violate the existing water quality criteria of the State of Missouri. The Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to certify this construction. A Corps of Engineers permit will not be issued until such certification has been granted. Commenters are requested to furnish a copy of their comments to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>. A Corps staff archeologist will review topographic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, and other data on reported sites in the area. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

<u>Endangered Species</u>. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

<u>Floodplain</u>. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate floodplain officials in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management.

<u>Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines</u>. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit, which involves the discharge of dredged, or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 230.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before May 23, 2016. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The 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 this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the 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 the 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.

Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

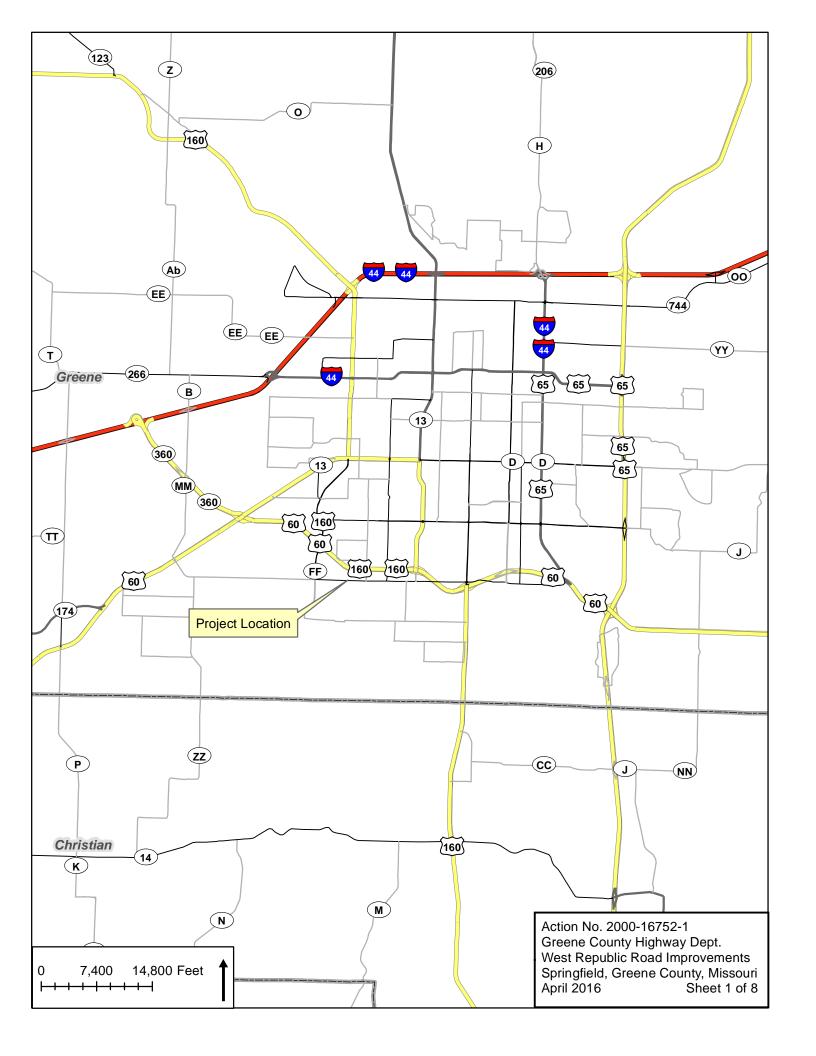
NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

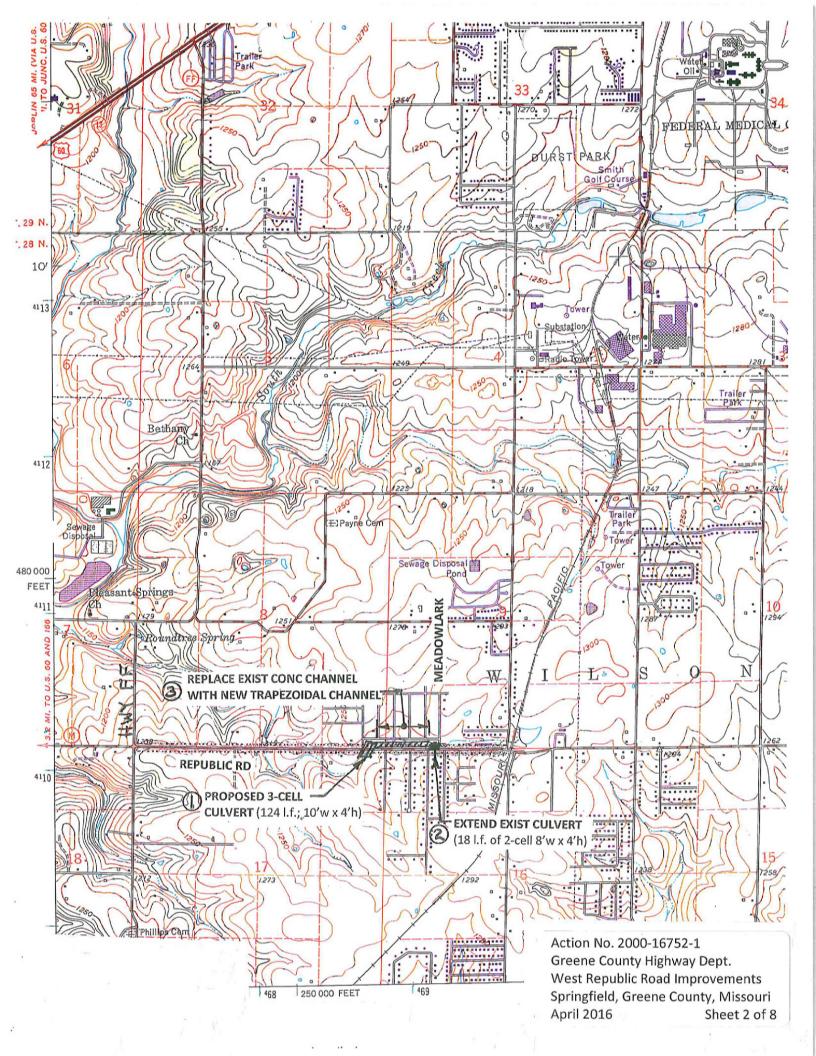
Enclosures

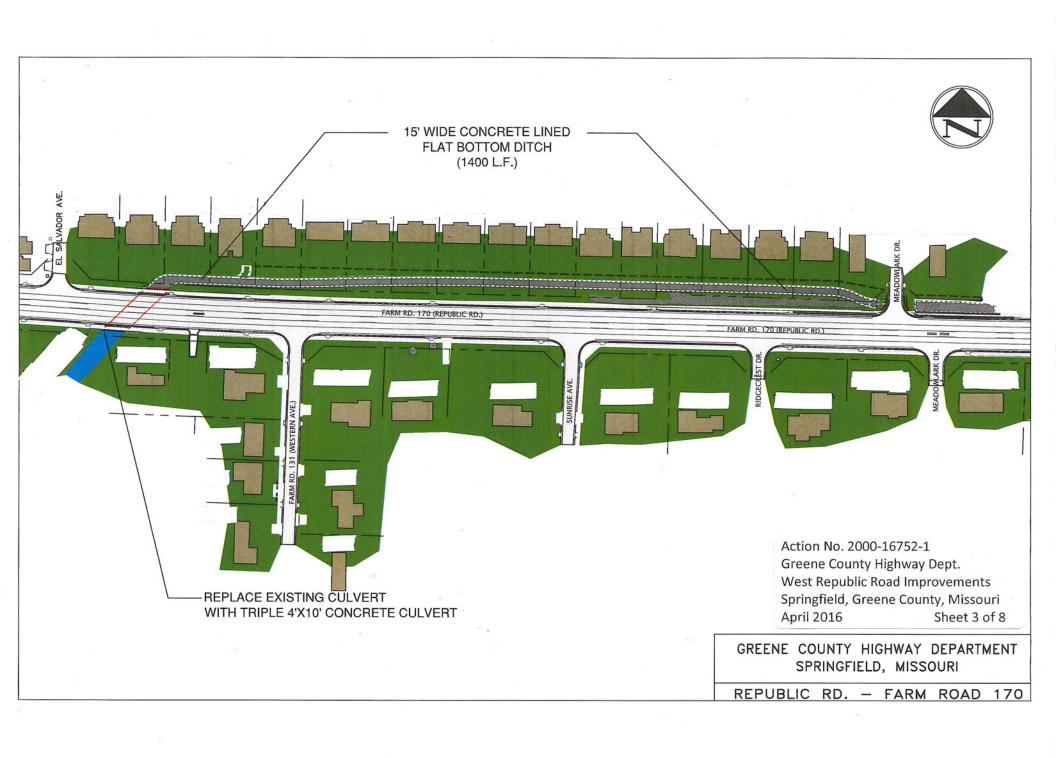
Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

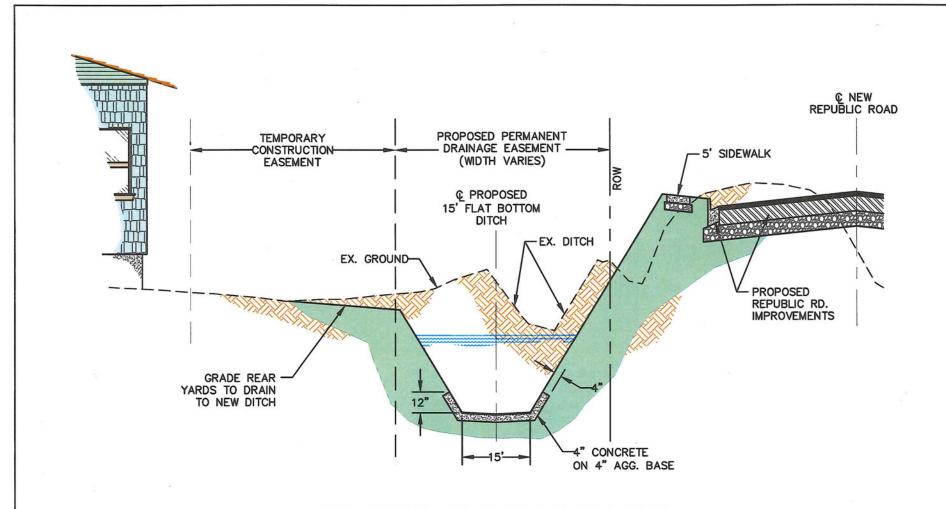
Latitude: **37.13866** Longitude: **-93.34939**

UTM Zone: 15 North: 4110312 East: 468968







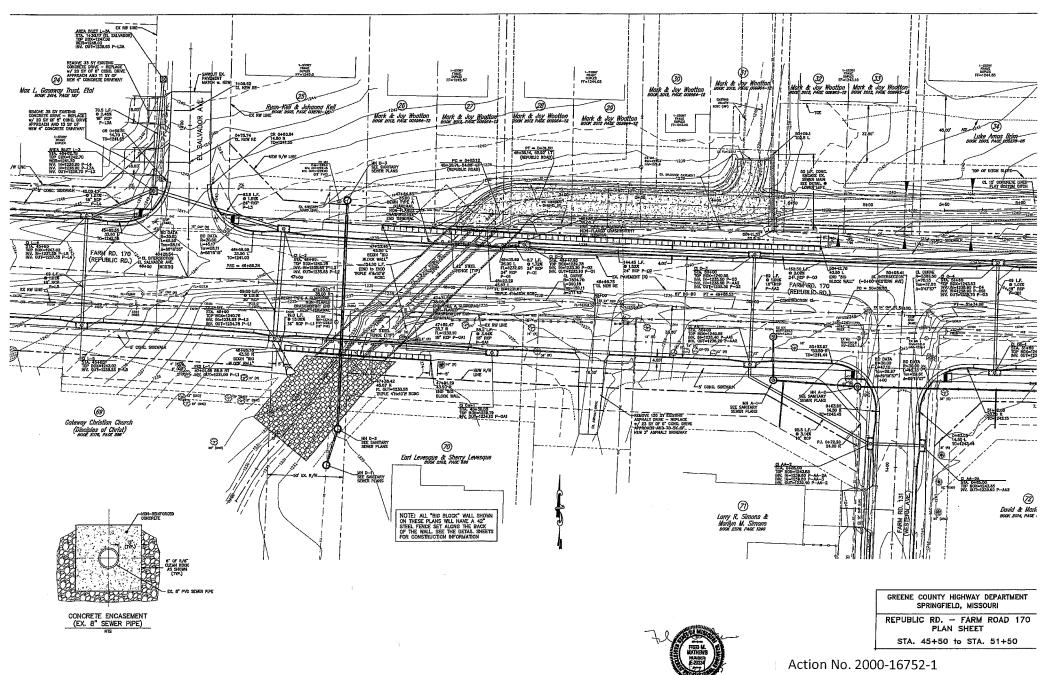


PROPOSED 15' FLAT BOTTOM DITCH

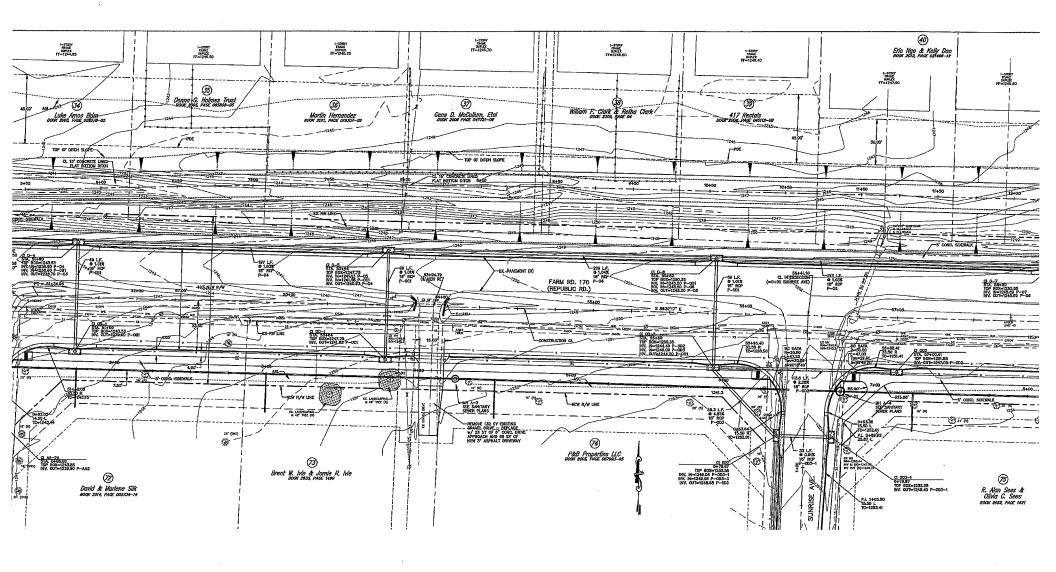
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GREENE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

REPUBLIC RD. - FARM ROAD 170



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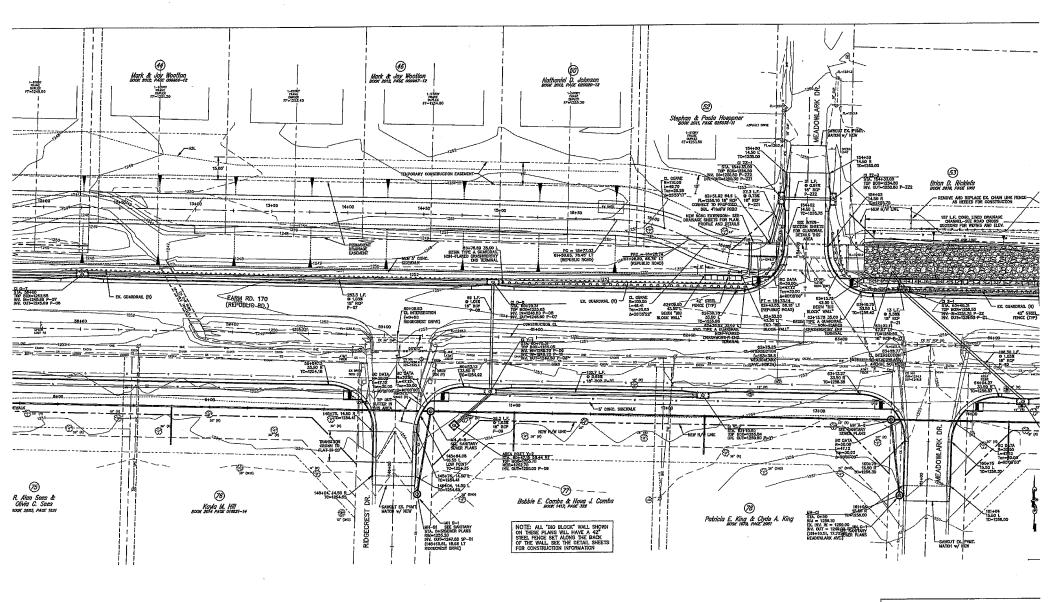


GREENE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

REPUBLIC RD. - FARM ROAD 170 PLAN SHEET

STA. 51+50 to STA. 57+50

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GREENE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

REPUBLIC RD. - FARM ROAD 170 PLAN SHEET

STA. 57+50 to STA. 63+50

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