

Phase 1 of East Sunshine Street Corridor Project includes construction of a median from Sam's Club to Arvest Bank. This median is intended to eliminate left turns on Sunshine Street except at controlled (signaled) intersections. MoDot project engineer for East Sunshine Corridor Project expressed a preference for the median design from Highway 65 to Glenstone; indicating future improvements by MoDot on Sunshine Street might include the median design. The reason given by MoDot for the median design was safety.

MoDot states traffic count on Sunshine Street is 32,000 trips per day or 160,000 trips/5 day week or over 8,120,000 trips/year. Each trip is a potential accident. Brett Foster stated to the City Council there were 728 crashes on Sunshine Street caused by left turns from 2016 to 2020 (a four year period). 728 crashes out of a potential of 32,480,000 trips (8,120,000 X 4).

Conclusion: the median design is overly aggressive and the need not supported by traffic data. While we regret car crashes, the City nor the State should design a road system to eliminate all crashes. That design would be too costly. In addition, over 70% of the business and land owners located on Sunshine Street I have talked to (over 80 individuals), oppose eliminating left turns on Sunshine Street because of the negative impact it would have on their business or property.

**I respectfully request City Council express its opposition to the median design on East Sunshine Street Corridor Project.**

Neil Stenger, Murney Associates Realtors, 1625 E Primrose, Springfield, MO 65804

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2507**

April 12, 2023

Ms. Stacy Reese  
MoDOT – SW District Engineer  
3025 E. Kearney Street  
Springfield, MO 65803

RE: Sunshine Street Corridor Project

Dear Ms. Reese,

Recently, my office has been contacted by numerous constituents and businesses opposing certain aspects of the Sunshine Street Corridor Project. Specifically, the adding of medians which would make it more difficult to access certain businesses and increase the traffic volume at nearby intersections.

The underlying problem is that Sunshine is a major throughfare with significant business activities. The sheer number of people using this valuable space is going to be problematic.

I agree with many of our state and local officials that medians are not the right solution for Sunshine Street. I believe that we can make our streets safer and take into consideration the needs of our community.

Sincerely,



Eric Burlison



JOHN R. ASHCROFT  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF MISSOURI

STATE CAPITOL  
(573) 751-2379

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK  
STATE INFORMATION CENTER  
(573) 751-4936

March 22, 2023

Missouri Department of Transportation  
Director Patrick McKenna  
105 W. Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Director McKenna:

It is my understanding there is a proposal underway to construct a center median on Sunshine Avenue in Springfield, Missouri. I believe this would not only be a great inconvenience, but also a detriment to the economy for the City of Springfield.

Sunshine Avenue is a major hub for countless businesses and this project would impede their ability to conduct business as well as customers trying to obtain access to said businesses. This would in turn erode the tax basis associated with businesses located on this major thoroughfare and would inhibit future economic growth.

It appears to me and those I have spoken with about this issue, that the Missouri Department of Transportation should rethink their position on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Ashcroft". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John R. Ashcroft

Dear Director McKenna:

I appreciate the efforts you've made in enhancing road safety, preparing roadways for business opportunities, and adding to existing projects in Springfield. However, there are concerns among local business owners, motorists, and city officials about the East Sunshine Street corridor project.

I urge you to pause the project and gather input from the local community, including recommendations from businesses, the Springfield City Council, and independent citizens. It is my hope that while prioritizing road safety, MoDOT will also consider the importance of Springfield's active commerce community.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to improving Springfield's roads, community safety, and the East Sunshine corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. P. Hough', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Lincoln P. Hough*

State Senator, 30<sup>th</sup> District  
201 W Capitol Avenue | State Capitol  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**CAPITOL OFFICE**  
State Capitol  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Room 410-A  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806  
Tele: (573) 751-2948  
E-Mail: bill.owen@house.mo.gov



**COMMITTEES**  
**Member:**  
Budget  
Subcommittee on Appropriations  
Public Safety, Corrections,  
Transportation, and Revenue-Chair  
Fiscal Review-Vice Chair  
Financial Institutions  
Pensions  
Rules- Legislative Oversight

**MISSOURI HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Bill Owen**  
State Representative  
District 131

March 8, 2023

Missouri Department of Transportation  
105 W Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, Mo 65102

To Whom It May Concern:

We the undersigned members of the 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly from southwest Missouri wish to convey our strong opposition to the proposed construction of a center median on Sunshine Avenue. This is a vital thoroughfare into the heart of one of our retail business districts.

As you are aware, this road is a hub for all types of commerce that bring revenue to southwest Missouri. This proposal has the potential to make it more difficult for our area businesses to continue to thrive.

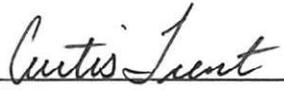
Speaking on behalf of over sixty of these businesses, we encourage your organization to remove this project from the MoDot priority list in our region.

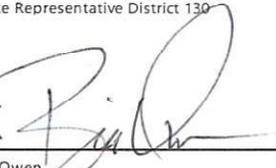
Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

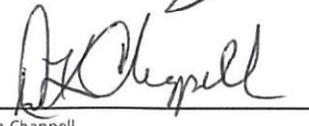
Regards,

X   
Bishop Davisson  
State Representative District 130

X   
Alex Riley  
State Representative District 134

X   
Curtis Trent  
State Senator District 20

X   
Bill Owen  
State Representative District 131

X   
Darin Chappell  
State Representative District 137

X   
Melanie Stinnett  
State Representative 133

X   
John F. Black  
State Representative District 129



GREENE COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
JIM C. ARNOTT



OFFICE: (417) 868-4040  
FAX: (417) 868-4830

March 28, 2023

Ms. Stacy Reese  
Southwest District Engineer  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
3025 E. Kearney Street  
Springfield, MO 65803

Re: Sunshine Street – East Corridor Project

Dear Ms. Reese:

I am writing to you to express my concern about MODOT's proposed access management improvements project on east Sunshine Street (Route D) in Greene County.

A number of citizens and business owners have expressed their concern for potential impact economically if this project is completed. While improved safety is one of the goals, and I am all for that, I question if a corridor that eliminates accessways is the strongest solution.

I request that MODOT explore further traffic solutions and meet with local business owners to create a plan that will not impede businesses on east Sunshine but still improve the overall safety on this busy road.

I appreciate MODOT's continuing mission to improve the safety of our roadways. Please let me know if there is anything I can do.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Jim C. Arnott



County of **GREENE** State of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

940 BOONVILLE AVENUE, ROOM 113  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65802  
(417) 868-4055

**SHANE SCHOELLER**  
COUNTY CLERK

May 02, 2023

Missouri Department of Transportation  
Director Patrick McKenna  
105 W Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Director McKenna:

I am writing regarding Phase 1 of the East Sunshine Street Corridor Project that proposes to construct a center median to limit the opportunity to turn left going eastbound or westbound except at designated points. I understand the goal of the new median will be to increase safety by limiting the opportunity for accidents to occur when a driver is turning left into oncoming traffic.

I appreciate and thank you for your desire to increase safety for our public roadways. However, I am concerned about the negative impact it will have on business owners due to the lack of access to their businesses and whether the cost will equate to a real increase in roadway safety on Sunshine Street. I am also concerned about the first responders who will experience response time delays due to the new median. These rippling negative impacts could hinder the Springfield community greatly.

For many years, I have traveled on Sunshine Street. My personal safety has never been a concern. I, however, cannot make that same statement for when I have traveled on MODOT-funded roads in the rural parts of our state. I have traveled on these roads frequently. During my travels, I have observed that these roads need significant repair.

I was recently traveling on a MODOT-funded road in the northern part of our state during rainy conditions where the ruts in the road caused the vehicle I was traveling in to hydroplane multiple times. It was evident the roads are in dire need of repair. When I visited with fellow Missourians who live in those areas, they let me know that they believed MODOT did not care or show any interest in getting the roads repaved. I was disappointed for them that they no longer believed their concerns were being heard because of lack of expressed interest by MODOT leadership.

I realize there are many factors to be taken into consideration when spending state and federal tax dollars for road improvements and expansions. However, I feel strongly that there are more pressing road improvement needs here in our state than the proposed project that is currently under consideration for Sunshine Street. Therefore, I oppose this project from going forward.

Though I disagree with this currently proposed project, I do want to thank you and everyone on the MODOT team for the work the team does to help keep all Missourians and all who travel on our Missouri roads safe.

Sincerely,

Bob Dixon  
Presiding Commissioner

Rusty MacLachlan  
1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner

John C. Russell  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner



Shane Schoeller  
Clerk of the Commission

Christopher J. Coulter, AICP  
County Administrator

Megan Applegate  
Executive Assistant

**COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**Greene County, Missouri**  
**(417) 868-4112**

March 30, 2023

Ms. Stacy Reese  
MoDOT - SW District Engineer  
3025 E. Kearney Street  
Springfield, MO 65803

RE: Sunshine Street – East Corridor Project

Dear Ms. Reese,

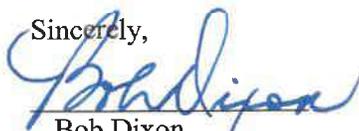
The purpose of this letter is to address a growing number of concerns and questions that have recently been received by the Greene County Commission from local citizens and business owners who are worried about MoDOT's proposed access management improvements to the east Sunshine Street (Route D) transportation corridor.

In recent weeks, the County Commission has received communications from several business owners who have expressed concerns regarding the potential economic impacts that these proposed roadway improvements may present to the many businesses that are presently served by this transportation corridor. The planned elimination of numerous driveway access locations along the corridor in conjunction with a new median barrier has produced apprehensions that these actions could pose significant impediments to the consumers that support these existing businesses. Many of our concerned citizens have questioned whether or not the negative economic impacts of the proposed access management upgrades have been adequately examined alongside the stated goals of enhancing safety and improving the overall efficiency of the roadway.

We would request that some additional time be invested in the pursuit of an engineering solution that collaboratively balances the need for enhanced safety and efficiency along with the necessity of preserving the economic vitality of this important commercial transportation corridor. We believe that a practical solution can be obtained by working in coordination with local business owners to ensure that their economic concerns have been adequately addressed through the ongoing planning efforts for this project, while also providing safety improvements that will protect the roadway users throughout this corridor.

We thank you for your continued efforts to provide these much-needed transportation improvement projects and investments within the Greene County region. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in the ongoing project coordination and discussion with local citizens.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Dixon  
Presiding Commissioner

  
Rusty MacLachlan  
Commissioner Dist. 1

  
John C. Russell  
Commissioner Dist. 2



37           Section 1 – City Council affirms its support of MoDOT’s East Sunshine Street  
38 corridor project improving sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections; providing resurfacing  
39 and improving pavement markings; completing sidewalk segments; and working with  
40 area businesses on the closure of extra access points.

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42           Section 2 – City Council affirms its support of safety improvements to the East  
43 Sunshine Street corridor, especially at signalized intersections at which 463 of 728  
44 motor vehicle accidents have occurred according to the ‘Sunshine Street/Route D  
45 Safety and Operational Report.’

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47           Section 3 – City Council asks MoDOT to suspend the portion of the East  
48 Sunshine Street corridor project that would add medians at various locations along the  
49 corridor due to the expression of significant concerns by many businesses about the  
50 impact of adding medians on the economic activity along the vibrant corridor. City  
51 Council asks MoDOT to focus safety improvements on signalized intersections where  
52 most accidents occur and trusts that a suitable solution can be reached by improving  
53 safety at signalized intersections, reducing access points, improving crosswalks, and  
54 enhancing sidewalks. In addition, City Council asks MoDOT to monitor safety data  
55 related to the East Sunshine Street corridor for the next three years after making the  
56 improvements the City supports to determine their impact and before considering further  
57 safety modifications. City Council thanks MoDOT in advance for consideration of  
58 making safety and operational improvements that do not disrupt the economic vitality of  
59 this important corridor.

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61           Section 4 – City Council thanks MoDOT for its continued efforts and investment  
62 in our community and in East Sunshine Street, one of Springfield’s significant  
63 commercial corridors.

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65           Section 5 – This Resolution shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

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67 Passed at meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

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69 \_\_\_\_\_  
70 Mayor

71  
72 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

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74 Filed as Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

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76  
77 Approved as to form: Rhonda Lewaden, City Attorney

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79  
80 Approved for Council action: Jason A. Hays, City Manager