

HIGHWAY 64 STUDY (FORT SMITH)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING: MARCH 10, 2022 FACTS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is ARDOT studying Highway 64 in Fort Smith?

Fort Smith's central business district is surrounded by warehousing and industrial land uses that have consistently provided jobs and generated revenue for the community. Businesses located within these districts produce daily volumes of truck traffic which ship and receive deliveries via the various routes bisecting downtown. Traffic in downtown is further affected by trucks traveling through downtown to various points within the region. The impacts of traffic have been perceived as limiting the potential of downtown Fort Smith. Therefore, the Arkansas Highway Commission authorized this study to explore improvements to the State Highway System in and surrounding downtown Fort Smith, including the feasibility of constructing a new Arkansas River crossing.

Hasn't there already been a study of this?

Yes! A study was initiated by the City of Fort Smith and Frontier MPO. The Fort Smith Downtown Traffic and Truck Study (Traffic and Truck Study), evaluated methods to reduce the impacts of truck traffic on residents, workers, and visitors of downtown Fort Smith. The Traffic and Truck Study examined seven truck routing scenarios to reduce the impacts of large trucks traveling through downtown and to reduce delays caused by conflicts between trucks and other travel movements.

So, what will this study do for us?

This study further explores alternatives identified in the Traffic and Truck Study as well as additional alternatives north and south of the existing Highway 64 bridge.

When will improvements happen?

No construction funds have been dedicated to highway improvements that this study may recommend. Once this study is complete, improvements will be considered as funds become available.

I have concerns about travel through Fort Smith, or have ideas on how to make it better.

The study team is looking for your help in understanding transportation needs in the area. While we are eager to discuss your thoughts, the most important thing that you can do is fill out a comment form. Comment forms can be submitted at this meeting or can be submitted at www.Hwy64StudyFortSmith.com. The meeting materials will also be placed on this website, so please share the word with anyone else who is interested. ***All comments need to be submitted by March 31, 2022.***