

Comments relative to proposed Realigned Alternative B will be accepted by MDOT through August 9, 2011.

All who attend this meeting are encouraged to voice their opinions by visiting the table marked "Comments" and completing a Comment Sheet.

Your comments can be mailed to MDOT Environmental Division, P.O. Box 1850, Jackson, Mississippi 39215, or sent by email to:

[environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us](mailto:environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us).

This project is ongoing and your continued involvement and suggestions will be most appreciated.

### ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVE B	REALIGNED ALTERNATIVE B
<i>Purpose and Need</i>		
Meets Purpose and Need	Yes	Yes
<i>Engineering</i>		
Length (miles)	4.75	5.09
Additional ROW (acres)	115.36	153.36
2030 Average Daily Traffic Projected for SR 44	7000 to 7200	7000 to 7200
Anticipated Level of Service (LOS)	C	C
<i>Constructability</i>		
Construction Complexity	Medium	Medium
Community disruption/impacts during construction	Medium	Medium
<i>Cultural Resources</i>		
Potential to Impact Cultural Resources	None	None
<i>Potential Wetlands (C)</i>		
Potential Wetlands (acres)	0.12	0.04
<i>Other Natural Resources</i>		
Plant Communities	Low	Low
Terrestrial/Aquatic Wildlife	Low	Low
Water Quality	Low	Low
State Scenic Streams	None	None
<i>Protected Species</i>		
Potential Impact to Threatened and Endangered Species	Yes	No
<i>Community Impacts</i>		
Residential Relocation/Displacement	13	10
Commercial Relocation/Displacement	1	0
Community Cohesion Impact	Low	Low
<i>Visual Quality</i>		
Potential Visual Quality Impacts	Low	Low
<i>Land Use</i>		
Farmland (acres)	82.17	103.86



## Mississippi Department of Transportation Improvements to State Route 44 Marion County, Mississippi

**OPEN FORUM PUBLIC MEETING**  
Tuesday, July 26, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Columbia High School, 1009 Broad Street, Columbia, MS

### Welcome

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) welcome you to this public meeting. We are here to provide an opportunity for the public to view photography and gather other information concerning the realignment of State Route 44 in Columbia. Public meetings benefit citizens as well as MDOT. They allow for an exchange of opinions, ideas, and information. The meeting also gives MDOT and FHWA personnel the opportunity to share details concerning the project and to listen to citizens' comments.

### Project Update

Since the issuance of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the SR 44 realignment, safety concerns in addition to the identification of an historic residence have resulted in a need to refine the alignment of Alternative B. Re-aligning the Preferred Alternative requires the re-evaluation of the Final EA to ensure that any additional impacts will not be significant. Specifically, the Final EA is being re-evaluated as a result of:

1. Regrading US 98 to improve vertical site distance
2. Less than optimal site distance at Pierce Road, which required realigning the interchange
3. Avoidance of an historic residence and rare landscape near the intersection of existing SR 44 and Lakeview Road

### Project History

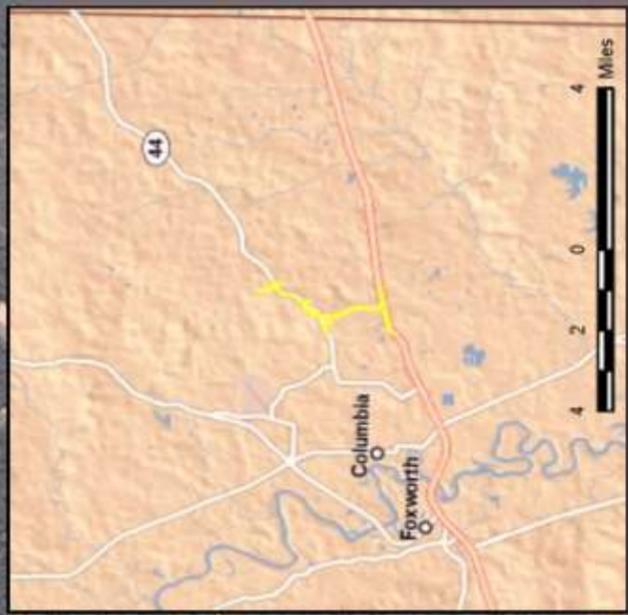
In 2002, the Marion County Board of Supervisors and the City of Columbia decided to initiate a project to improve the alignment from Pierce Road to US 98. As a result, the Marion County Board of Supervisors and City of Columbia Board of Aldermen prepared a resolution for MDOT to address a suggested route. The project needs were associated with safety improvements, connectivity, resolve traffic congestion, and economic development. The proposed project would enhance safety by making improvements to the existing route, provide increased access to community resources (such as schools), accommodate future growth, and provide for economic development opportunities. Additionally, it fulfills the request put forth by Marion County in 2002.

The original Environmental Assessment process began in April. In addition to the no-build alternative, three build alternatives were analyzed. Ultimately, Alternative B was selected as the preferred alternative. The Final EA received a FONSI in November 2008.



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# Project Area Map – SR 44 Realigned Alternative B



**Legend**

- Potential ROW Limits of Re-aligned Alternative B
- Centerline
- Driveways
- Edge of Pavement

**Reference**

Base map comprised of 2010 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA-Aerial Photography Field Office.

DRAFT



**Project Study Area Map**

SR44 Environmental Assessment Re-evaluation  
Marion County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Transportation  
Columbia, Mississippi



Drawn By	DEA	07/2011
Checked By	PKT	07/2011
Approved By	JG	07/2011
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Figure	1	