

"We just got done with Deer Creek," she said. "I'm concerned and trying to find out everything I can. I'm just not sold on the idea that we need to do anything with the roadway."

A 75-day public comment period on the project's draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) began in early May. The design phase would begin if the county approves the EIS.

Real estate broker Nate Johnson, in the meeting, said real estate appreciation in the St. Louis metro area was one percent since 2011, but in Maplewood it was five percent. He said it's because Maplewood is a walkable community.

He also said Webster Groves, another community that would be affected, was rated a best place to live by Money Magazine.

He said both cities rank well on the [Walk Score](#) website, which he said is widely used. The higher the score, the easier it is to get around on foot. Maplewood scores an 89 out of 100; Webster Groves is 50. For comparison, Ballwin ranks a 31.

Maplewood resident Chris Allen said his family moved to Maplewood from Ballwin.

"We wanted our daughter to be able to bike to school," Allen said. "We love being able to walk to the video store, the grocery store, to have dinner." He said if the project went through it would affect all that.

He also doubted the return on investment for the \$110 million project.

"Charlie Dooley's office can't tell me the answer. In the corporate world, return on investment is first; you don't have return on investment you don't get the money," he said.

Jonathan Boesch, special assistant to the St. Louis County executive, was there, but had no comments to be published.

The St. Louis County traffic and highway department will hold a public hearing for the Draft EIS on May 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Shrewsbury City Center.

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[Babs Garcia](#) Flag as inappropriate
 4:53 pm on Thursday, May 9, 2013
 Wait, am I reading this correctly? So instead of rush hour folks going down Laclede from 44 (to access 40), they'd use this connector instead, "opening" it up and ending the bottleneck at Laclede and Big Bend in the mornings...
 Okay, so then what happens a mile down the road (again, towards 40)? Because Hanley at Manchester up through and to hwy 40 could handle more rush hour traffic than it already does? Basically instead of being unconvinced with the traffic at Big Bend/Laclede, Let maplewood/shrewsbury deal with traffic and have a monstrous "fly over" ramp in their back yards. (technically brentwood too--but no residential brentwood on Hanley at 40)
 Who's idea is this anyway?

[Nancy Behnen](#) Flag as inappropriate
 9:28 am on Friday, May 10, 2013
 Still not sure why people don't use Big Bend more often as a viable route to Clayton or River Des Peres to McCausland. You just enter Clayton through the back door so to speak. And I am wondering why a group that promotes biking and hiking trails are presenting this proposal. Are we talking vehicle traffic or bicycle/hiking traffic?

[Jake Salter](#) Flag as inappropriate
 11:03 am on Friday, May 10, 2013
 How do I vote against this?

Lincoln Douglas

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11:04 am on Friday, May 10, 2013

Yet another solution in search of a problem. Thanks St Louis County! Your lack of understanding of urban planning is again on display. This plan would completely ruin these communities.

[Reply](#)

Jonathan Spencer

Flag as inappropriate

12:20 pm on Friday, May 10, 2013

@Nancy Trailnet did not propose this plan, they just hosted a meeting about it to educate the public. They want walkable/bikable alternatives explored.

[Reply](#)

Jonathan Spencer

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12:25 pm on Friday, May 10, 2013

South county may be disconnected from other parts of the metro area, but that is the reason people choose to live there. Maplewood, Webster Groves, and Shrewsbury should not have to give up their peace and quiet to shave a few minutes off the commute times for people who do not even support our communities. If you want a shorter commute time, move closer to your job or work closer to your home.

[Reply](#)

Cindy

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2:27 pm on Friday, May 10, 2013

Well stated, Jonathan. I totally agree. If you choose to live somewhere that requires you to have a 1 hr. commute due to traffic, that was your decision when you bought your house. Don't expect me to sacrifice my neighborhood, local streets and walkability/bikeability for your personal convenience and desire to shave 10 minutes off your car commute. Building a disconnected highway through this area is short sighted and disjointed. I suggest people get involved in the discussion with the County and organizations like Trailnet. Learn more because this may effect you more than you think.

Sarah Kunstman

Flag as inappropriate

12:32 pm on Friday, May 10, 2013

<http://southcountyconnector.com>

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