

# **Rock Island Corridor Overview**

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## **The Basics**

- The Rock Island Corridor was purchased by Jackson County on May 2, 2016 from Union Pacific Railroad Company.
- The corridor is 17.7 miles long and approximately 100 feet wide on average, although the width can vary significantly throughout the length of the corridor.
- The corridor starts just north of the Truman Sports Complex and passes through Kansas City, Raytown, and Lee's Summit, ending just to the east of Hamblen Road in Lee's Summit (see attached reference map).
- The KCATA is a 50% partner – meaning they are paying half of the bond debt service - in the purchase of the corridor. The KCATA is responsible for future transit planning and any transit operation on the corridor. The KCATA will conduct a transit study on the corridor next year.
- The first priority is to build a bicycle and pedestrian path from the Truman Sports Complex to the southern terminus of the corridor (approximately Hamblen Road in Lee's Summit). This project should be complete by 2018, provided that the project is fully funded and that engineering plans receive timely reviews from state oversight and permitting agencies.
  - This path will connect with the Missouri Rock Island Trail State Park, which runs from Pleasant Hill to Windsor, MO where it connects to the KATY Trail.
  - There is a gap between the Jackson County bicycle and pedestrian path and Pleasant Hill commonly referred to as the "Greenwood Gap." Jackson County is working with Lee's Summit, Greenwood, and Pleasant Hill to find the best connection through Greenwood.
- The County has been awarded a ten million dollar grant from the Mid-America Regional Council's Surface Transportation Program (STP) Committee. This is to be used for construction related purposes only and is available for use during 2017 and 2018.
- The Rock Island Rail Corridor Authority is a department of Jackson County – not a separate entity – and is charged with the development of the shared use path.

## **Survey**

- A survey of the Corridor began in mid-August. This survey will look at the property boundaries and the topographical profile of the land within those property boundaries.
- This survey will require workers to access the corridor, so residents and businesses may see workers out on the corridor taking measurements or doing some light clearing.
- The survey will identify encroachments from adjacent property owners on the corridor. These encroachments include anything built on the corridor while the corridor was out of service. A plan is being developed to determine the next steps for these encroaching property owners.
- The survey should be completed by December of this year.

## **Shared Use Path Engineering and Design**

- Jackson County is currently in the procurement process for the engineering and design of the Shared Use path portion of the Rock Island corridor
- The engineering and design scope of work will include an analysis of a number of alternatives for the trail design. This will include the location of the trail in the right-of-way, use of existing or new structures, and paving material options.
- There will be opportunities for members of the public to weigh in on some of these design options.
- As a federally funded construction project, the design of the shared use path must comply with federal environmental law (NEPA), among other requirements.

## **Bridges and other Structures on the Corridor**

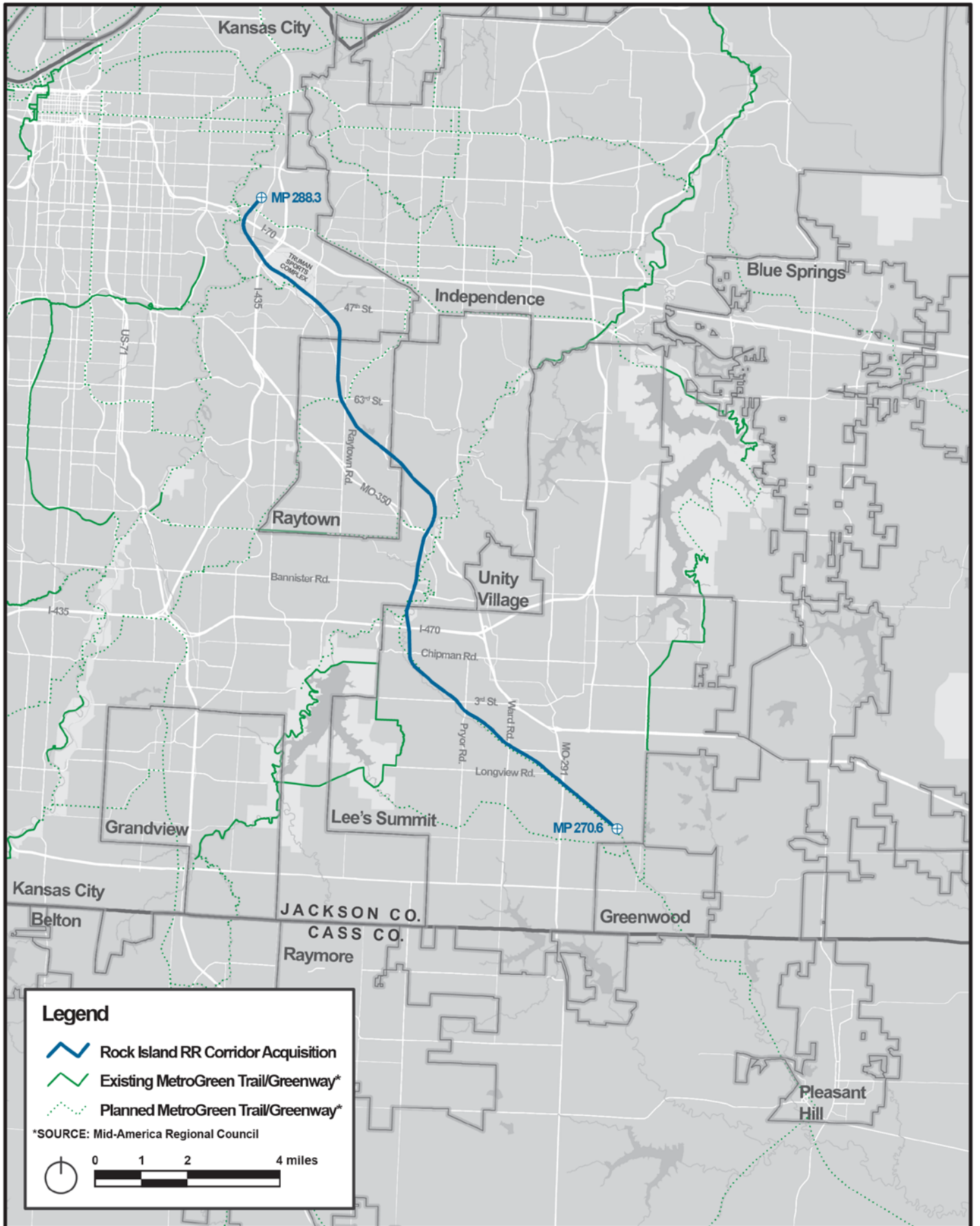
- There are a number of structures with useful life left along the corridor. As roadway projects occur that necessitate the demolition of structures across the corridor, those structures will be replaced in a manner that protects federal freight network continuity and similarly accommodates new transit and bicycle or pedestrian uses.

## **Construction**

- Shared use path construction will start in late 2017 after MoDOT reviews final plans and a bidder is selected.
- Diversity goals for the project will be determined when the final project cost estimate is provided. MoDOT will determine these goals.

## **Safety**

- The trail and corridor is closed until the entire trail is complete. Members of the public should stay off of the corridor until the Shared Use Path is open.
- The corridor is never outside of an incorporated area, so if there is a safety concern from a resident they need to call 911 to be directed to a dispatcher.
- Once the trail is constructed there will be signs every 1/5 mile with a locator number that can be used to describe someone's location to first responders.



**Rock Island Acquisition and Project Extents**