



Big Bend over I-44 bridge replacement project

What is the current situation?

The Missouri Department of Transportation is replacing the Big Bend bridge over I-44. Originally built in 1967, the department considers this bridge in poor condition and it is reaching the end of its useful life. It needs constant maintenance, the driving surface and the bridge structure continues to deteriorate and it is cheaper to rebuild this bridge than to rehabilitate it. In addition, rebuilding the bridge allows the department to raise the bridge to interstate standards, which should reduce the number of times the bridge gets struck. The replacement also allows the department to bring the barrier walls and sidewalks along the bridge up to current design standards.



What improvements are being made?

The bridge is being made slightly wider to accommodate the updated sidewalks to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, the bridge is being made higher, to meet newer interstate standards, and the department is adding extra left turn lanes on the ramps from eastbound and westbound I-44.

Are bike facilities included in this project?

No new bike facilities are included on the bridge. Drivers will be required to share the lanes with cyclists. However, since both the lanes and the shoulders will be wider after construction, sharing the lane should be easier for both cyclists and drivers.

What are the impacts from the project?

The Big Bend bridge will close for four months during construction. There will be a weekend closure of I-44 at the beginning to the project to demolish the bridge. There will be overnight closures of the ramps between eastbound I-44 and Big Bend for 10 days and overnight closures of the ramps between westbound I-44 and Big Bend for 10 days.

What are the anticipated detours?

MoDOT uses state-maintained roadways as much as possible, so local drivers may choose to use other routes besides those officially signed as detoured. During the bridge closure, drivers on northbound Big Bend heading to the west will be detoured to eastbound I-44, where they can turn around at Elm to head west. Drivers on southbound Big Bend heading east will be detoured to westbound I-44 where they can turn around at Lindbergh to head east. During the interstate closure, drivers will be routed up the ramps on either side of the bridge and back down to the interstate. During the ramp closures, drivers can use Lindbergh and Watson Road as detour routes.

What is the timeline?

Event	Time
Preliminary plans	Completed
Public Meeting	January 19, 2021
Project awarded	Fall 2021
Construction begins	Spring 2022
Construction complete	Late fall 2022