

I-270N Project Updates



MoDOT's I-270 North Project Team would like to say "thank you" to the public for being so patient while we work to upgrade the I-270 North Corridor. This \$278 million project is the largest one completed by MoDOT in 10 years! That means there will be greater traffic impacts within the work zone. During 2020, there were 17 long term traffic switches or ramp closures and for 2021, the schedule calls for 22 more.

The project is moving forward. While driving through the corridor, the public may notice both new and updated infrastructure.

We are committed to sharing timely information that helps prepare drivers for detours, closures, lane drops and other construction activities that might require them to take different routes. If you would like to learn more about the project, visit our Twitter page (@I270North), the MoDOT St. Louis Office Facebook page, and our website at: <http://www.i270north.org>. Our website offers visitors engaging and interactive detour information, project schedules, and videos and photos of the entire work zone.

Again, thank you for your patience with this work and your commitment to help us keep the public informed. Please remember buckle up, phone down, and slow down, especially in construction zones. We want everyone, including workers, to arrive home alive.

Work Zone Safety Awards



Congratulations to Millstone Weber employees Kiwana McQueen and Colin Matlock! At April's project-wide safety meeting, MoDOT recognized the two workers for helping a pedestrian along the highway. Thank you for working safely and keeping everyone around the project safe as well.

West Florissant Avenue at I-270 closure makes way for new infrastructure for the community.

As we celebrate project milestones, we thought it might be good to understand the justification for some of the I-270 North Project elements. In this Q and A article, I-270 North Project Director, Justin Wolf and Millstone Weber Project Manager, Jason Highley, share project insights and demonstrate how the teams work together to meet project goals.



Closing West Florissant Avenue at I-270 while the bridge is rebuilt is a big impact to travelers. Why are you rebuilding the bridges?

Justin Wolf: MoDOT is upgrading I-270 North to improve safety and reliability. One of the upgrades is adding an additional travel lane on both directions of I-270 from Lindbergh to Route 367. The West Florissant bridge over I-270 must be replaced with a new longer bridge. It does not have a span long enough to accommodate the new lanes and the 12' wide outside shoulder that is being built on I-270.

Jason Highley: The I-270 team spent a considerable amount of time sequencing the job activities to be the least impactful to school schedules. We made a concerted effort to reconstruct the Washington/Elizabeth, Old Halls Ferry, and West Florissant bridges during the summer months to prevent disruptions to the schools located near these intersections.

There is a lot going on. Why so much at one time?

JW: I-270 North is MoDOT's largest project in the last ten years. We worked hard to secure funding for this \$278 million project so we could holistically upgrade safety and reliability throughout the corridor, rather than piecemeal smaller projects over the next ten years. This project will be completed before December 1, 2023.

JH: Completing large amounts of work at one time under a single contract is a cost-effective approach to constructing large scale projects such as I-270 North. This approach eliminates the need for multiple mobilizations, reducing inefficiencies, and decreasing cost escalations. The design-build delivery method is beneficial for the owner and taxpayers, as bidders are encouraged to deliver the greatest scope or improvements for a fixed price.

How big are safety concerns during the project?

JW: Driver inattention was the number one cause of work zone crashes last year. On Interstate 270 we are also seeing drivers speeding and not slowing down in work zones. We urge the public to please pay attention, slow down, and drive safely in work zones.

JH: We continue to encourage motorists to reduce their speeds in construction zones. This is imperative for everyone's safety. Driving conditions are ever-changing in work zones; especially on a fast-track project like I-270 North. Our goal is for everyone to arrive (home) alive, including our workers.

What improvements are being made for pedestrians and cyclists, who sometimes have difficulty moving throughout the corridor?

JW: One highlight of this project is improvements for non-motorized users. MoDOT is constructing more than 10 miles of multi-use path along Dunn and Pershall. St. Louis County contributed funds to add sidewalk and a bike lane to extend the length of the bike and pedestrian improvements.

JH: The short-term interruptions will provide long term solutions. Most of this corridor lacked spaces for pedestrians and cyclists, which caused foot and bike traffic to mix with vehicular traffic. That can create problems. The final product will ensure safe mobility and refuge for non-motorized travelers throughout the I-270 North area.

Learn more about the I-270 North Project at www.i270north.org



I-270 North Community Spotlight



Wesley Bell

Prosecuting Attorney for St. Louis County, Missouri

St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell says he is excited about the upgrades that the I-270 North Project will bring to St. Louis County. Bell grew up in the Spanish Lake area, attended Hazelwood East High School and previously lived in Ferguson. He remembers how well kept and beautiful the area used to be, and hopes that this very overdue investment, will ultimately yield a “second life” for North County.

“The nationally-recognized dynamic across the country demonstrates that decreased investment in communities eventually correlates to decreased opportunities, and ultimately higher crime rates. Investments such as this \$278 million in infrastructure upgrades could yield greater opportunities, greater economic investments and ultimately reverse current crime rates.”

Bell has served as a private practice attorney, public defender, municipal prosecutor and judge. He also served on the Ferguson City Council. He worked closely with the team charged with implementing the Obama Administration’s City of Ferguson Consent Decree, following the shooting of Michael Brown, Jr. by a Ferguson Police Officer. He believes that when people are supported with the right resources, outcomes can improve.

“If people are given a “toolbox” with options and support to help them achieve greater life outcomes we can change lives and change results. Projects like this can offer gainful employment, provide individuals with work experience for their resumes, and attract businesses and additional types of investments to this area.”

Bell says North St. Louis County already has good housing stock, and that could potentially attract an influx of new people moving to the area, resulting in an increased tax base. He added that in the 1980s, the Hazelwood school district was nationally recognized.

“I represent all of St. Louis County so whenever anything positive of this magnitude comes along, I am very pleased. When we can bring this type of quality investment anywhere in St. Louis County, that equates to benefit for the entire county. This corridor is a major conduit for freight traffic, so these improvements positively impact not just all of St. Louis County, but the entire St. Louis Region.” He adds that he is very pleased that safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, is a primary concern of the project.

“When I was a child, I witnessed an accident at a cross-over slip ramp. Those entrance and exit ramps need to be redesigned. We also need safer spaces for pedestrians and cyclists since most of the residents here do not own vehicles. Adding lights and additional spacing for bicyclists and pedestrians on the new bridges, as well as the multi-use trails on both sides of I-270, is both welcomed and very much needed. The I-270 North Project is a positive step, but I hope it is only the first of many investments of this magnitude in North County. “

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I-270 NORTH

Build. Progress. Together.

GOALS:

- 1 Deliver the project by December 1, 2023 within the program budget of \$278 million.
- 2 Maximize reliability and safety while linking communities for all users.
- 3 Provide a durable and maintainable transportation network making Interstate 270 the conduit for a prosperous region.
- 4 Grow and utilize a diverse workforce.
- 5 Minimize and mitigate impacts to customers through innovation.

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