

## Work Zone Awareness Safety Week: April 26-30, 2021



Warmer weather equals the start of a busy season of construction and maintenance work on Missouri's roads and bridges.

The Missouri Department of Transportation reminds motorists of the importance of driving safely through work zones. Not all work zones look alike. Work zones can be moving operations, such as striping, patching or mowing. They can also be short term, temporary lane closures to make quick repairs or remove debris from the roadway.

Please be aware of changing traffic conditions. Traffic could slow or stop unexpectedly, traffic lanes can merge, or equipment and workers can enter the roadway. Be aware and be prepared to slow down. Remember: work zone safety is in your hands. Buckle up and put the phone down while driving—two things that can save your life.

Driver inattention was the number one cause of work zone crashes last year. The average text takes five seconds to read. Traveling at 55 mph, you will travel more than the length of a football field—blindfolded. MoDOT's slow moving maintenance operations move as slow as 10 mph and if you aren't paying attention to the road, you will come up on the closed lane very quickly.

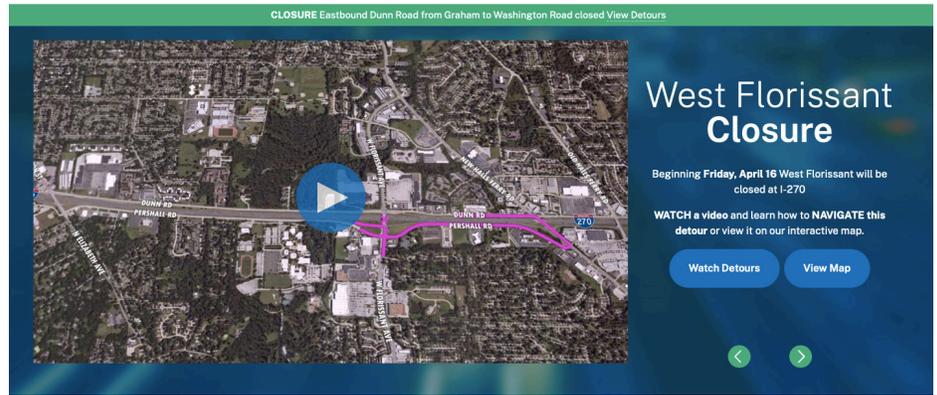
Motorists are required by the 2012 'Move Over' law to slow down or change lanes when approaching law enforcement, emergency response vehicles and MoDOT vehicles parked on the side of the road or in a lane. Work zones are dangerous places. Please pay attention and drive safely in work zones.

Source: [www.saveMOLives.com](http://www.saveMOLives.com)

## West Florissant Bridge Closure

Click here to WATCH a video and learn how to NAVIGATE this detour or view our interactive map.

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Drivers who plan to travel I-270 in north St. Louis County should use alternative routes the weekend of April 16-19 as crews will completely close both directions of I-270 to remove the West Florissant Avenue bridge.

Crews will start closing lanes in both directions of I-270 at 7 p.m. Friday, April 16, with all lanes being closed by 9 p.m. for the bridge demolition. I-270 is scheduled to reopen by 5 a.m. Monday, April 19. Detour routes for the closure will be marked. West Florissant Avenue will be closed at I-270 for four months. The new West Florissant Avenue bridge over I-270 will open to traffic in August 2021.

West Florissant Avenue will be closed at I-270. Detour routes are:

Southbound traffic on West Florissant Avenue detours via Dunn Road to North Elizabeth Avenue to Pershall Road to connect to West Florissant Avenue and continue southbound

Northbound traffic on West Florissant Avenue detours via Pershall Road to New Halls Ferry Road to Dunn Road to connect to West Florissant Avenue and continue northbound.

Travelers north of I-270 on West Florissant Avenue traveling to I-270 eastbound detour via Dunn Road to North Elizabeth Avenue to the I-270 eastbound entrance ramp from North Elizabeth Avenue.

Travelers south of I-270 on West Florissant Avenue traveling to I-270 westbound detour via Pershall Road to New Halls Ferry Road to Dunn Road to the I-270 westbound entrance ramp from Dunn Road.

Drivers are encouraged to visit the I-270 North Project website at [www.i270north.org](http://www.i270north.org) to learn more about planned detours and details of the project, including a project overview and graphic displays of planned construction. Travelers can also contact MoDOT's customer service center at 1-314-275-1500 or contact the I-270 North Project Team at: [I270North@modot.mo.gov](mailto:I270North@modot.mo.gov)

Learn more about the I-270 North Project at [www.i270north.org](http://www.i270north.org)



# I-270 North Community Spotlight



## Elizabeth Gassel Perkins

Campus President and Chief Academic Officer  
Florissant Valley at Saint Louis Community College

From the beginning, staff members of St Louis Community College – Florissant Valley (STLCC-FV), were at the table sharing input on the I-270 North Project. “We were so grateful that MoDOT reached out to us to discuss any concerns or challenges that we might foresee,” said Dr. Elizabeth Gassel Perkins, campus president and chief academic officer at Florissant Valley. “MoDOT and its partners did a very good job of anticipating the needs of the campus and incorporating those needs into the final implementation plans.”

Perkins, a North County native, resides in Ferguson where she cheers on the St. Louis Blues with her husband, one-year-old daughter, cat, and dog. She says several community members have some connection to STLCC-FV. That makes it very important that campus staff consistently share messages about the project status and help to spread information about its importance and benefit to the entire community.

“We are very connected to this project. We have hosted community information sessions and we consistently share information with our faculty, staff, students and others. We are pleased the project includes a lot of great improvements and innovations like enhancing experiences for both pedestrians and bike traffic and creating a dedicated bus lane to the campus.”

STLCC-FV staff have also worked closely with Millstone Weber’s Vivian Martain through SLCC-FV’s Emerson STEM Academy. Housed within the Emerson Center for Engineering and Manufacturing, the Academy works with young people to point them toward careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

The two built partnerships around shared goals of introducing young people to future possibilities within the STEM areas. “We have shared information about our curriculum and programs with them, and they in turn shared their firm’s educational components with us. They work with area high schools in partnership with MoDOT, to provide Saturday programming and share information about our Emerson STEM Academy, dual credit and dual enrollment options for high school students. We have participated in their virtual lunch and learns, collaborated via Zoom and formed a strong partnership with MoDOT.”

Perkins says that she is also excited about the additional lanes in both direction of I-270, the massive improvements to Lindbergh Boulevard, and the enhancements made to the off ramps for 170. She is a big fan of the extended Pershall Road between New Florissant and Washington/Elizabeth, as well as the new bridge at Washington/Elizabeth, near the area that she calls home.

“At the end of the day, this project will benefit many people. We have a lot of entities that use our STLCC-FV campus for community events such as the Urban League of Metropolitan St Louis with its Food Give-A-Ways and the Missouri Department of Public Health with its Mass COVID-19 Vaccination clinic. Agencies like these will also reap benefits of the upgrades that derive from the I-270 North Project.”

“MoDOT is doing a great job. They are getting out information and delay has not been an issue.”

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