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IMPROVE I-70 MONTHLY REPORT

Missouri's FY2024 budget approved through the state legislative process and signed into law by the governor provides $2.8 billion in General Revenue and bonding authority to build a third lane of I-70 across the state from Blue Springs to Wentzville.



MoDOT celebrates 70 Years of I-70 in St. Charles

Missouri holds a special place in the nation's transportation history as the birthplace of the Interstate Highway System. On August 13, 1956, construction began in St. Charles on the first segment of Interstate 70 in the United States. To commemorate this milestone, MoDOT hosted "Celebrating 70 Years of I-70," an anniversary event honoring its past while expanding its future. **Watch the recap video at https://youtu.be/kNyQtiPelGk.**

"Today is more than an anniversary celebration," explains MoDOT Director Ed Hassinger. "It's a moment to honor the vision, dedication, and hard work that built one of the most important highways in our state."







Held at the St. Charles Convention Center, the event featured classic cars, historical photos, maps, a detailed I-70 timeline, and interactive displays. Guests enjoyed a photo booth, appearances by the St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals mascots in recognition of the I-70 baseball series, and a unique time capsule experience. Attendees were invited to sign an I-70 highway shield and share memories or predictions for the future. The St. Charles Big (Jazz) Band, part of the St. Charles Municipal Band, provided musical performances throughout the celebration. The group holds a historic tie to I-70, having played at the 1958 ribbon cutting for the original Missouri River bridge in St. Charles.

Speakers reflected on I-70's history and its next chapter. Remarks were delivered by MoDOT Director Ed Hassinger, former Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chair Bob Brinkmann, the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Executive DIrector Jim Tymon, Missouri Department of Economic Development Director Michelle Hataway, Warren County Presiding Commissioner Joe Gildehaus, and Improve I-70 Program Director Eric Kopinski.







"I-70 has been part of Missouri's story for generations," Hassinger added. "As we look toward the future, MoDOT remains committed to ensuring I-70 continues to evolve to meet tomorrow's needs. Just as Missouri led the way 70 years ago, we are leading the way again through MoDOT's Statewide Improve I-70 Program." See all the photos at **https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjD2CyQ**

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St. Charles Road bridge over I-70 opens ahead of schedule

Crews with the Improve I-70: Columbia to Kingdom City project recently celebrated the opening of the St. Charles Road bridge over I-70 in Columbia (mile marker 131) with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. The event took place on Monday, Aug. 10, and the bridge officially re-opened to traffic on Friday, Aug. 17.



Ceremony speakers cut the ribbon on the brand new St. Charles Road in Columbia.

The original St. Charles Road bridge was built in 1957 and did not provide enough space for six lanes of I-70 travel below. It also created a height restriction on I-70 that has been corrected with the new structure with improved vertical clearance for taller vehicles. The new bridge also features pedestrian crossings on both sides and enhances aesthetics thanks to partnerships with the City of Columbia, Boone County, the University of Missouri, and the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Speakers included Project Director Nicole Samer, Chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Warren Erdman, Boone County Presiding Commissioner Kip Kendrick, City of Columbia Mayor Pro-Tem Jacque Sample, and Millstone Weber Senior Project Manager Brandy Broeckling.

This bridge is one of many improvements in the Columbia to Kingdom City project segment that is anticipated to be complete by late 2027. To learn more, visit **www.modot.org/projects/improvei70/columbiakingdomcity**

MO Route 47 bridge over I-70 opens in Warrenton

Included in the Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville project, the Missouri Route 47 bridge at Warrenton opened to traffic on Aug. 17. The new bridge features a pedestrian pathway, along with aesthetic enhancements provided by the City of Warrenton, including additional lighting and railing similar to the Route MM/Warrenton Boulevard overpass.



Numerous elected officials and community members attended the celebration of the opening of the new MO Route 47 bridge in Warrenton.

In place of a traditional ribbon cutting, MoDOT hosted a special “ribbon-joining” ceremony to mark the opening of the new bridge. This structure serves as a vital link for the community and the opening restored seamless travel between the north and south sides of the city to directly reconnect residents, businesses, and services.

Ceremony speakers included Missouri State Representative (District 42) Jeff Myers, Warren County Presiding Commissioner Joe Gildehaus, Warrenton Mayor Eric Schleuter, Clarkson Construction Representative Bob Fry, MoDOT Northeast District Engineer Kevin James, and Improve I-70 Program Director Eric Kopinski.

The bridge replacement marks the first step in a series of planned improvements at the MO 47 and I-70 interchange with additional construction phases continuing through 2027.

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Groundbreaking Ceremony held for Improve I-70: Truck Parking project

MoDOT's Improve I-70 Program Team, alongside Design-Build contractor the KCI Construction Team, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, August 26, officially commemorating the start of construction on the Improve I-70: Truck Parking project. MoDOT's historic $2.8 billion Improve I-70 Program includes approximately $33 million in federal grant funds (INFRA) to expand the availability of truck parking along the I-70 corridor. This project will make improvements at existing truck parking locations in Concordia, Boonville, Mineola, and Wright City and includes the addition of 255 new truck parkin stalls for a total of 474 truck parking space along Missouri's I-70 corridor.

Speakers at the event included Project Director Dan Oesch, Chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Warren Erdman, CEO of the Missouri Trucking Association Tom Crawford, President of the Owner-Operator Independent Drives Association (OOIDA) Todd Spencer, and KCI Construction President Tom Huster.

Over 10,000 trucks utilize I-70 daily and during peak hours, all of I-70's public truck parking areas are over capacity and 75% of private truck stops are over capacity. Providing safe off-highway parking reduces the cost of shoulder and guardrail repairs on interstate ramps caused by trucks parking on ramp shoulders and removes trucks from the roadside of active traffic.



Ceremony speakers break ground on the Improve I-70: Truck Parking project.

In May 2026, the Improve I-70: Truck Parking project was awarded to design-build contractor team, KCI Constructors, comprised of KCI Construction and their designer Bartlett and West. Construction is set to begin on the project this month and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2028. Learn more about this project by scanning the QR code or at **www.modot.org/projects/improvei70/truckparking**

Paving and bridge work progresses in Blue Springs to Odessa project limits

It has been a busy summer across I-70, including within the Blue Springs to Odessa project limits with new lanes under construction, new bridges being built, and new bridges opening.

In Segment 1 (Blue Springs to Grain Valley) westbound I-70 traffic has been shifted onto the brand new I-70 pavement. Eastbound traffic has been shifted into the median while crews work to reconstruct the existing eastbound I-70 lanes.

In Segment 2 (Grain Valley to Bates City) crews are preparing the median to begin adding the third lane of I-70. Bridge work at Horseshoe Creek and Little Horseshoe Creek is also underway.



Construction is underway on the new Route D bridge over I-70 in Bates City.

In Segment 3 (Bates City to Odessa), construction of the future I-70 bridge over East Fork Sni-A-Bar Creek, and the Route D bridge over I-70 in Bates City are underway. Excavation and grading work are also underway at the Odessa Hill in Segment 4 (Odessa to Route M/O). In Segment 5 (Route M/O to Route H), crews are currently working to replace the existing eastbound I-70 lanes. Total project completion is anticipated by the end of 2028. Watch the August 2026 update video by scanning the QR code or visit **youtu.be/Stu6OQnnaXQ?si=Xv_a05qaHSO657v8**

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Progress continues on divergabout intechange in Foristell

As part of the Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville project, crews recently demolished the former Route T/W bridge over I-70 in Foristell. While crews are still working on a few final touches to the interchange, it is currently fully functional. Watch the demolition video by scanning the QR code or visit **www.youtube.com/watch?v=gygcD-AkClk**

A divergabout is the combination of a diverging diamond interchange (DDI) and a roundabout. Instead of signalizing the conflict point of a DDI, a roundabout is built to manage the traffic flow of the intersecting roadways. The resulting divergabout functions similiarly to any standard roundabout with the distinction that the linking roadway travel directions are reversed. To learn more about this interchange, watch the overview video at **www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIP19F0434o**



Crews demolished the former Route T/W bridge over I-70 in Foristell as part of the interchange improvements in the area.

New direct connection ramp opens in Columbia at I-70 and U.S. Route 63



The new direct connection ramps provides access from eastbound I-70 to southbound U.S. 63 in Columbia.

A major milestone was reached in reconfiguring the Interstate 70/U.S. Route 63 interchange in Columbia, with the opening of the first new 'direct connect' ramp on Friday, Aug. 21. Opening much earlier than the original end-of-the-year completion date, the new ramp allows for **direct access from eastbound I-70 to southbound U.S 63**. This new connection is designed to improve the flow of traffic and reduce congestion at the Connector.

This is one of two direct connection ramps included in the Columbia to Kingdom City project; the other being the future direct connection from northbound U.S. 63 to westbound I-70. This project will improve traffic flow to two of the most common traffic movements in the interchange.

In addition to these improvements, later on in the course of the Rocheport to Columbia project, three additional direct connection ramps will be built at the I-70 and U.S. 63 interchange including westbound I-70 to southbound U.S. 63, westbound I-70 to northbound U.S. 63, and southbound U.S. 63 to westbound I-70. Each of these new direct connections will improve traffic flow to one of central Missouri's most critical interchanges.

Paving work continues between Boonville and Rocheport

Crews with the Improve I-70: Boonville to Rocheport continue to make progress with paving operations. Crews are currently working within the median of I-70 to pave the future third lane of both eastbound and westbound I-70 between Boonville and Rocheport. This is a $104 million design-bid-build project that will add a third lane to I-70 in each direction for the 13-mile section between Missouri Route 5 in Boonville and the Lance Corporal Leon Deraps I-70 Missouri River (Rocheport) Bridge.

Learn more by scanning the QR code or visit: **www.modot.org/improvei70/boonvillerocheport.**



Paving is underway in the median of I-70 between Boonville and Rocheport.

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Construction of the new Johnson Drive bridge over I-70 in Odessa begins in September

Crews with the Improve I-70: Blue Springs to Odessa project will soon be making multiple traffic modifications in Odessa for the demolition of the Johnson Drive bridge over I-70. This bridge is being replaced as it has reached the end of its service life. The new bridge will also better accommodate six lanes of I-70 travel below. The bridge is anticipated to be complete in early 2027. Upcoming traffic changes include:

- Westbound I-70 will close between Lafayette Co. Routes M/O (Exit 41) and Missouri Route 131 (Exit 37) from Tuesday, Sept. 15 at approximately 7 p.m. until Wednesday, Sept. 16 at approximately 6 a.m. Westbound traffic will be detoured via Route O to U.S. Route 24 and Route 131.
- Eastbound I-70 will be reduced to one lane in Odessa and diverted onto Old 40 Highway using a temporary connection and then back onto the interstate using the on-ramp at Johnson Drive. This traffic shift will be in place from Tuesday, Sept. 15 at approximately 7 p.m. until Wednesday, Sept. 16 at approximately 6 a.m.
- Old Hwy 40 will be closed to local traffic between 1st St. and Johnson Drive from Tuesday, Sept. 15 at approximately 7 p.m. until Wednesday, Sept. 16 at approximately 6 a.m.

For more information on this project, scan the QR code or visit **www.modot.org/projects/improvei70/bluespringsodessa**

Countdown to Kickoff: I-70 travel plans for football fans

Construction is underway on I-70 with five projects underway statewide. Three of these projects span central Missouri between Boonville and Kingdom City. Travel across the state via I-70 through major work zones will require extra time and increased game day traffic this football season is expected to add to travel delays.

How you can prepare:

- Plan ahead. Leave early and allow for extra time.
- Anticipate reduced speeds.
- Check MoDOT's Traveler Information Map.
- Sign up for project emails at **www.modot.org/improvei70**
- Don't drive distracted or impaired.
- Buckle up. Phone Down.

Updated 2026 Bridge Closure Information

LEFHOLZ OVER I-70	JACKSON COUNTY MILE MARKER 26.0	STARTED FEBRUARY 2026	100% COMPLETE	OPENED: June 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
NITROGEN AVE. OVER I-70	SALINE COUNTY MILE MARKER 85.8	STARTED JULY 2026	10% COMPLETE	PROJECTED OPENING: Fall 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
PROVIDENCE RD. OVER I-70	BOONE COUNTY MILE MARKER 126.6	STARTED MAY 2026	60% COMPLETE	PROJECTED OPENING: Fall 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
ST. CHARLES RD./LAKE OF THE WOODS OVER I-70	BOONE COUNTY MILE MARKER 131.0	STARTED APRIL 2026	100% COMPLETE	OPENED: August 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 120 days
ROUTE E/Y JONESBURG OVER I-70	MONTGOMERY COUNTY MILE MARKER 184.0	STARTED FEBRUARY 2026	100% COMPLETE	OPENED: July 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
ROUTE 47 OVER I-70	WARREN COUNTY MILE MARKER 193.6	STARTED MARCH 2026	100% COMPLETE	OPENED: August 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 130 days