



SEPTEMBER 2026

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.



Girders set on future flyover ramp at I-70 and U.S. Route 63 Interchange

This month, crews with the Improve I-70: Columbia to Kingdom City project set the steel bridge girders for what will be a future direct connection ramp from northbound U.S. Route 63 to westbound I-70 in Columbia. A bridge girder is a large horizontal beam that supports the bridge deck. To set the girders safely, MoDOT re-routed westbound I-70 in the area over the course of one weekend and re-opened the interstate ahead of schedule. This new ramp will help improve traffic flow in the area by providing a direct connection to one of the area's most commonly traveled movements, northbound to westbound. The new fly over ramp is scheduled to open in late fall 2026.



Steel bridge girders have been set on the new direct connection fly over ramp at I-70 and U.S. Route 63 in Columbia.

In addition to this direct connection linking northbound Route 63 to westbound I-70, the project also includes a direct connection ramp from eastbound I-70 to southbound Route 63, which is already open and in use by motorists. Each of these new direct connections will allow motorists making these movements to avoid the area known locally as the Connector, which included exiting the highway and going through a series of stop light-controlled interchanges. This will greatly improve traffic flow in the area for decades to come. **Watch the video by scanning the QR code or by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN15fEw8nf4.**

Construction underway on temporary railroad bridge in Wentzville



Girders have been set on temporary rail road bridge over I-70 in Wentzville.

As part of the Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville project, crews are currently constructing a temporary railroad bridge over I-70 next to the existing Norfolk Southern railroad bridge located between Wentzville Parkway and Route Z. To not disrupt railroad operations, the temporary bridge will be used by the railroad while crews work to remove the existing bridge. The new permanent railroad bridge will be longer in length to accommodate the realignment of I-70, plus additional lanes. Once the permanent bridge is complete, crews will demolish the temporary structure.

This month, crews worked to set the steel bridge girders of the temporary railroad bridge. This work required intermittent closures of I-70 in the area for short 15-minute durations overnight. The temporary railroad bridge is anticipated to open by the end of this year and will be in use until approximately late 2028 when the permanent railroad bridge is complete. See more photos of the progress by scanning the QR code or by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=100064415246709&set=a.1500379795452514>



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Save the Date - Paving Milestone Celebration in Blue Springs

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, October 19, 2026

11 a.m.

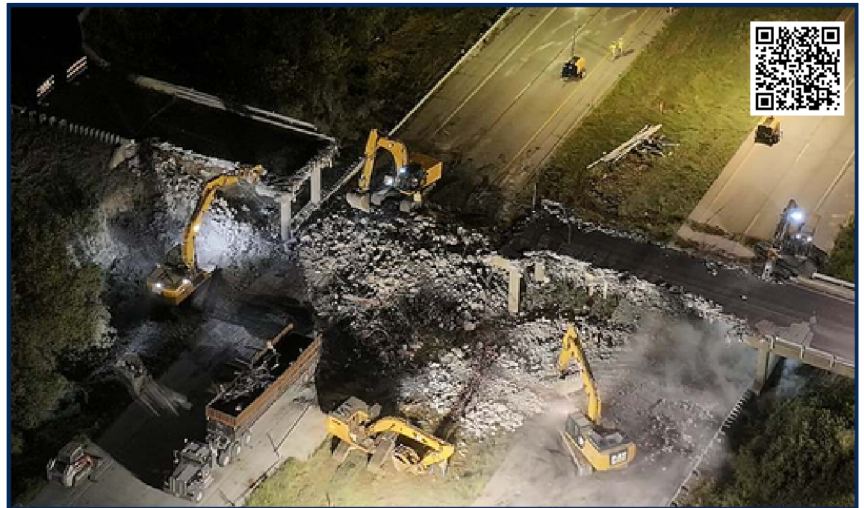
29852 NW Jefferson St.
Blue Springs, MO 64029

Join MoDOT in a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating an upcoming milestone for Improve I-70: Blue Springs to Odessa. While construction of this project will be underway until late 2028, crews have nearly completed adding the third lane and replacing the existing I-70 pavement in Segment 1 (Blue Springs to Grain Valley, mile markers 20 through 24) and Segment 5 (Route M/O to MO Route H in Lafayette County, mile markers 41 through 45). Westbound I-70 in Segment 1 will open to three lanes along with a portion of eastbound I-70 in the same area. Segment 5 will remain two lanes until approximately project completion in late 2028.

Johnson Drive bridge over I-70 demolished near Odessa

This month, crews with the Blue Springs to Odessa project worked over the course of one night to demolish the Johnson Drive bridge over I-70 near Odessa (near mile marker 38). Crews will be replacing the aging structure with an all new bridge capable of accommodating the future third lane of I-70 in each direction, with increased vertical clearance below.

This is one of 14 bridge replacements in the Blue Springs to Odessa project. The new bridge is anticipated to open to traffic in early 2027. To learn more about this project, scan the QR code or visit <https://www.modot.org/projects/improvei70/blue-springsodessa>



The demolition of the Johnson Drive bridge over I-70 near Odessa.

I-70 and U.S. Route 54 Roundabout in Kingdom City



The new roundabout interchange at I-70 and U.S. Route 54 in Kingdom City.

The Improve I-70: Columbia to Kingdom City project includes an updated interchange design at the I-70 and U.S. 54 interchange in Kingdom City. The new interchange features a roundabout that is the first of its kind along I-70. MoDOT and its contractor team closely studied this area using traffic modeling software. This design was selected as it will move traffic, including semis, more safely and efficiently than the previous signalized interchange. To learn more about how the interchange works, **watch the latest video by scanning the QR code or by visiting https://youtu.be/bE7rrDj_p5c**.

The new interchange replaces the former bridges in the area with all new structures. The former bridges will be demolished in approximately Fall 2026.



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Beyond the Barrels featuring Ramiz Hakim

MoDOT's \$2.8 billion Improve I-70 Program is a massive undertaking made possible by Missouri's General Assembly and one that requires the coordination of thousands of people across multiple agencies. In this video series, MoDOT is showcasing the variety of people working to bring the expansion of I-70 to life.

This edition features Warren County resident and former Wright City Alderman Ramiz Hakim, a dedicated community advocate for the Improve I-70 Program. Ramiz is a frequent and valued participant in coordination meetings with MoDOT, the county, and local municipalities, helping ensure strong communication and collaboration throughout the expansion effort. He is also a passionate voice for safer driving in work zones, working tirelessly to promote awareness and protect both crews and motorists. We're proud to share Ramiz's perspective in this latest installment of the series.



Watch the video by scanning the QR code or by visiting <https://youtu.be/y0iPHwCKkNl>.

Improve I-70 Updated Bridge Closure Information

Improve I-70 | 2026 Bridge Closures

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	25% COMPLETE	PROJECTED OPENING: Fall 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
PROVIDENCE RD. OVER I-70	BOONE COUNTY MILE MARKER 126.6	STARTED MAY 2026	70% 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

Improve I-70 | 2026 - 2027 Bridge Closures

JOHNSON DRIVE OVER I-70	LAFAYETTE COUNTY MILE MARKER 38.0	STARTED SEPTEMBER 2026	5% COMPLETE	PROJECTED OPENING: Early 2027	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
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