



Interstate 55 Work Zone - Do the Zipper Merge, Please!

The Interstate 55 bridge rehab project I mentioned in my last newsletter is underway and we need your help to make traffic run smoothly.

The work requires one lane of I-55 to be closed overnight and on most weekends in various locations and so far we have seen some long delays. That is partly due to how people are merging. Please don't merge too early! We actually want you to fill up both lanes of traffic and then take turns merging just before the closure - it's called the zipper merge and it actually makes traffic flow better and decreases merging dangers. By using both lanes, the speed difference between the two lanes is reduced and the length of backups is reduced by up to 50-percent.

We have a long road ahead of us with these closures, so I want to encourage everyone to do the zipper merge. For more information on the project and the zipper merge, go to http://www.modot.org/stlouis/major_projects/I55Improvements.htm.



Example of how the zipper merge works



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Vehicle Fatalities Down in 2017 - Let's Keep It That Way

Over the last three years, there has been an increase in fatal crashes in Missouri, but so far this year we are seeing a decrease and we want to keep it that way.

As of April 26, there have been 258 fatalities in Missouri in 2017. That's compared to 266 at this time last year.

Here are just a few things you can do to help prevent a fatal crash.

- Never drive distracted. Stay off the phone and don't text and drive.
- Always drive the speed limit and slow down for bad weather.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially at intersections.
- Wear your seat belt and make sure everyone in the car is buckled up.
- Don't drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Maintain a safe distance from other vehicles.
- Use your signal when changing lanes or turning.
- Obey all Missouri traffic laws.

Remember, highway safety begins with you. For more information, go to www.savemolives.com.

YEAR	FATALITIES
2012	826
2013	757
2014	766
2015	853
2016	945

To report a road concern, contact

MoDOT Customer Service at

314-275-1500

or toll free at

1-888-ASK-MODOT

(1-888-275-6636)

