J-TURNS

UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to improve safety and traffic flow, the Missouri Department of Transportation will reconfigure the crossover intersection at U.S. Route 67 and Route H, located south of Farmington, Mo., with a j-turn intersection.

To navigate a j-turn intersection, drivers will turn right in the same direction as traffic and then safely merge into the left lane to turn. Then, drivers will turn left to rejoin traffic on the divided highway (now heading in the opposite direction).

TIMELINE

The project is expected to be let in February 2022, with construction beginning in summer 2022. Completion is anticipated in fall 2022.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS

Motorists should expect periodic single lane closures on Route 67 and Route H as work is underway. The median crossing at Route H will be removed with this project.

Access at Hildebrecht Road and the Private Drive at the south end of the project limits will not be modified during this project.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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BENEFITS OF J-TURNS

J-turns are effective in reducing traffic crashes at intersections on divided highways. A typical four-lane divided highway with a crossover intersection has 42 potential conflict points. Most of these conflict points could lead to severe crashes, such as t-bone accidents. By installing a j-turn intersection, conflict points can be reduced to as few as 24. In addition, these types of conflict points do not typically lead to as severe crashes.

J-turns can actually be more efficient than traditional intersections, which require motorists to wait for a gap in traffic to cross two lanes of traffic.

J-TURN STATISTICS

A University of Missouri study of j-turns operating in Missouri showed the j-turn design resulted in a 54% reduction for fatal and disabling injury crashes, and a 35% reduction in total crashes (which includes rear end collisions).

The study also showed right angle crashes – generally the most severe type of crash at intersections – were reduced by 80%.

ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY: Route 67/Route H

HOW TO DRIVE A J-TURN

J-turns eliminate some or all traffic movements through the median. Instead of motorists crossing fast-moving lanes of traffic to get to the opposing lanes, drivers at j-turn intersections turn right in the same direction of traffic, merge into the left lane, and then make a u-turn in the direction they intend to travel.

Tractor trailers and other large commercial vehicles will navigate the j-turn intersection in the same manner as passenger vehicles. The reconfigured intersection will accommodate commercial vehicles better than the existing design.

J-turns are a cost effective way to improve safety and traffic flow. For more information on j-turns, please visit **https://www.modot.org/j-turns**.