

# Natural Bridge Safety Project

## August 2020- Fall 2021

The Missouri Department of Transportation is currently making safety improvements to a four mile stretch of Natural Bridge, between Darby and Salisbury/Parnell in the city of St. Louis. Historically, this section of Natural Bridge has had a significantly higher number of crashes and pedestrian fatalities than similar roadways throughout the state.

When listening to residents, business owners, workers, commuters and state and local officials, the primary causes for these crashes are due to excess speeds, aggressive driving and jaywalking. The \$3.4 million project, developed in conjunction with the community and the city of St. Louis, will repave the roadway and address those safety items.



The project includes a lane reduction between Shreve and Parnell/Salisbury, with left turn lanes at cross streets; medians at various locations between Shreve and the Salisbury/Parnell intersection; roundabouts at Goodfellow, Vandeventer and the Salisbury/Parnell intersection; mid-block crosswalks with safety updates in several areas along the corridor; higher visibility crosswalk striping; and yellow reflective back plates around signals on the corridor.

The minority workforce goal for this project is 14.7 percent – as of August 30, 2020, 20 percent of the workforce were minority construction workers. The disadvantaged business enterprise goal for the project is 13 percent, which the project was meeting as of August 30, 2020.

<https://www.modot.org/natural-bridge-resurfacing-and-safety-project>



# Project History

In 2017, a group of local and state elected officials approached the Missouri Department of Transportation about the high crash and fatality rate of a stretch of Natural Bridge (Missouri Route 115) in the city of St. Louis. MoDOT worked with local law enforcement, those state and local leaders, and the city of St. Louis to complete a safety audit on the roadway. This audit looked at the types and numbers of crashes, the locations of those crashes and the readily visible issues on the roadway itself.

From there, the department reached out to the community. In several focus groups, primarily held at the Julia Davis Library on Natural Bridge, the department spoke with residents, business owners, commuters and individuals who lost loved ones along the corridor. State elected officials sent staffers door-to-door in the neighborhoods along Natural Bridge to encourage attendance at four focus group meetings. From the audit, and those meetings, MoDOT and the community agreed that the primary causes for the crashes and fatalities along Natural Bridge could be attributed to three causes: speeding, improper lane use, and pedestrians not crossing the street at crosswalks. Another concern shared by the community was a desire for increased enforcement of traffic safety laws along the corridor.



[Too many lives have been lost on Natural Bridge](#)

Based on information from the audit and focus groups, MoDOT and local officials put together the following plan:

- A series of [five public service announcements](#), produced by MoDOT and shared on social media and local television.
- Establishment of a Travel Safe Zone along the corridor, enforced by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
- Safety improvements made on the corridor as part of a planned MoDOT resurfacing project, scheduled for 2020.

The concerns about Natural Bridge and the process were covered in print and television, as well as on social media. After design was complete, MoDOT shared the project proposal during a public meeting held in January 2020. More than 60 people attended the meeting in person, with another 280 viewing information on-line. Of those, 34 people provided comments. The department took the concerns raised during that meeting, as well as concerns shared by the city of St. Louis departments, and crafted the final designs that went out for bid. Construction started on the project in early August 2020 and is scheduled to be complete in fall 2021.



If you have further questions or comments you may share them:

Monday, September 21, 2020 between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. by calling our customer service team at (314) 275-1500 and asking for the Natural Bridge project team.