



OCTOBER 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.



Warrenton to Wentzville project celebrates opening of new Foristell interchange



Elected officials and local leaders joined MoDOT to celebrate the completion of the new I-70 and Route T/W interchange in Foristell.

A brand new interchange design at the I-70 and Route T/W interchange in Foristell is complete and has officially opened to traffic. As part of the Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville project, the interchange features a divergabout, the combination of a diverging diamond interchange (DDI) and a roundabout. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday, Oct. 16, to celebrate the completion of the project.

Speakers at the event included Missouri Highways and Transportation Vice Chairman W. Dustin Boatwright, St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann, Ward 1 Alderwoman and acting Mayor of Foristell Connie Palmer, MoDOT St. Louis District Engineer Tom Evers, and Improve I-70 Program Director, Eric Kopinski.

Divergabouts are relatively new to Missouri but have been successful in two Kansas City area locations. The Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville project is scheduled to be completed in late 2028. Learn more at www.modot.org/projects/improvei70/warrentonwentzville.

Blue Springs to Odessa project reaches Paving Milestone

The Improve I-70: Blue Springs to Odessa project celebrated a major paving milestone with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, Oct. 19. The ceremony commemorates the **completion of nearly eight miles of pavement** in the 25-mile project limits. Pavement is complete in both 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).

Both directions of I-70 in Segment 1 have opened to three lanes in each direction, connecting the section of I-70 where three lanes begin in Blue Springs. This connection provides a glimpse to what the entire I-70 corridor will look like upon completion, anticipated in late 2030. Segment 5 will remain two lanes until the Improve I-70: Blue Springs to Odessa project completion in late 2028.

Ceremony speakers included Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Gregg Smith, Missouri State Representative Ron Fowler (District 31), Ideker, Inc. President Paul Ideker, and Project Director Karlee Covington. To learn more about this project, visit www.modot.org/projects/improvei70/bluespringsodessa.



Members of the MoDOT and Design-Build Contractor Team alongside numerous elected officials at the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating nearly eight miles of completed pavement in the 25-mile Improve I-70: Blue Springs to Odessa project.



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Bridge deck pour completed on Providence Road bridge in Columbia

The deck (driving surface) for the new Missouri Route 163 (Providence Road) bridge over Interstate 70 in Columbia was poured on Tuesday, Oct. 6. This bridge replacement is included in the Improve I-70: Rocheport to Columbia project. While this milestone showcases the great progress being made, there is still a lot of work to complete before opening the bridge.

Providence Road over I-70 closed to all traffic at the end of May to reconstruct the bridge and ramps. The new overpass bridge will be longer to accommodate the new I-70 lanes underneath and will be raised to allow taller vehicles to pass under it. The overpass will feature pedestrian crossings on both sides and, thanks to local partnerships, added beautification elements will include decorative lighting, enhanced railings and fencing, stone-pattern retaining walls, and bridge facade elements.



The bridge deck of the Providence Road bridge over I-70 was poured on October 6 in Columbia.

The new bridge is now expected to be completed in mid-November. The ramps at the interchange may open ahead of the bridge, dependent on multiple factors, including weather. All work is weather-permitting.

Northbound U.S. 63 to westbound I-70 flyover ramp deck pour in Columbia



The bridge deck of the brand new direct connection flyover ramp from northbound U.S. 63 to westbound I-70 was poured in October 2026.

Crews with the Improve I-70: Columbia to Kingdom City project continue to make progress on improvements at the I-70 and U.S. Route 63 interchange in Columbia. This month, crews began pouring the bridge deck of the brand-new flyover ramp directly connecting northbound Route 63 to westbound I-70. The first of two bridge deck pours occurred on Tuesday, Oct. 13. This new ramp will help improve traffic flow in the area by providing a direct connection to one of the area's most traveled movements. The flyover ramp is anticipated to open by the end of 2026.

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.

To learn more about this project, visit www.modot.org/projects/improvei70/rocheportcolumbia.

www.modot.org/improvei70



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MoDOT begins preparations for winter weather and I-70 work zones

MoDOT held its second annual winter planning meeting on October 20 with leaders from MoDOT maintenance and engineering, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. The group reviewed winter snow-removal plans for I-70 and I-44 work zones and worked through mock scenarios to improve coordination. Topics included updating third-party GPS maps, communicating with tow companies and neighboring states, positioning SEMA supply trailers, and strengthening interagency communication during major incidents. Last year's meeting led to better communication and faster responses in these corridors, and this year's session aims to build on that success.



Officials with MoDOT, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency met this month to discuss winter operations for I-70 and I-44 work zones.

New deck poured for Route J overpass in Boone County



The bridge deck of the brand new direct connection flyover ramp from northbound U.S. 63 to westbound I-70 was poured in October 2026.

As part of the Improve I-70: Rocheport to Columbia project, the deck for the new westbound Interstate 70 bridge over Boone County Route J was poured on Friday, Oct. 16. As crews continue making progress, the interchange is now expected to open in mid-December 2026.

While the bridge and interchange were originally expected to reopen in late November, the timeline has been pushed back a few weeks to avoid an additional, longer ramp closure later on. Crews now plan to rebuild the Route J pavement underneath I-70 and complete tying in the westbound ramps to the new pavement before reopening the interchange.

Access to and from Route J and westbound I-70 has been restricted since June 2026, when construction crews began first repairing the westbound ramps, then reconstructing the westbound bridge. As the new westbound bridge is being built, westbound I-70 traffic is being diverted down and up the ramps. All work is weather-permitting and schedules are subject to change.

Roundabout at Clark Lane and Hanover Blvd. opens in Columbia

The newly constructed roundabout at the intersection of Clark Lane and Hanover Boulevard opened to all traffic Friday afternoon, Oct. 23. Crews began intersection improvements in late August, which required Clark Lane to be closed at Hanover Boulevard. All businesses in the area remained accessible during the 2-month closure. The new roundabout is now in use, but motorists should continue to use caution as work continues in the area. By the end of 2027, the new roundabout will connect directly to westbound Interstate 70 and I-70 Drive Southeast. Crews are continuing to build the new underpass beneath I-70 and the new connections. A rendering of the completed area can be found here: <https://www.modot.org/media/47390>.



New Clark Lane roundabout has opened in Columbia.



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MoDOT takes steps to minimize wildlife-vehicle collisions

This month, two of MoDOT's environmental specialists were featured on an episode of The Stream, a podcast by AASHTO (American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials). According to the podcast, 8-10% of wildlife vehicle collisions result in injury or fatality and can cost the state of Missouri millions of dollars. The episode discusses MoDOT's efforts to use tracking technology to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on state roadways. Thanks to their efforts, MoDOT will be using this data to install fences in select locations helping the wildlife and those who travel I-70 daily.

Listen to the podcast by scanning the QR code or by visiting:
<https://aashtos-etap-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/how-modot-slashed-wildlife-vehicle-collisions>



2026 Improve I-70 Bridge Closures

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	75% COMPLETE	PROJECTED OPENING: Fall 2026	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
PROVIDENCE RD. OVER I-70	BOONE COUNTY MILE MARKER 126.6	STARTED MAY 2026	95% 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	33% COMPLETE	PROJECTED OPENING: Early 2027	CLOSURE DURATION: 150 days
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