

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS



Countdown to Completion: Safety

Historically, I-270 North has had a higher crash rate than comparable roads in our region. Reports have shown that both directions of I-270 have higher than average rates of severe crashes. They also indicate higher than average crash rates, with Eastbound I-270 showing an average crash rate 30% higher than the statewide average for interstates.

Some crashes can be attributed to traffic congestion, roadway design, and different vehicle travel speeds. An aging outer road system, developed many years ago to support much lower traffic volumes, also contributes to concerns about safety within the corridor.

Our project has improved mobility on the corridor and helped to reduce crashes related to traffic congestion. Through the project, we are also making geometric improvements that address locations with high crash rates.

Contact the I-270 North Team at: I270North@modot.mo.gov

OCTOBER 2023 | ISSUE 41

I-270 NORTH NEWSLETTER

FLY-OVER RAMP NOW OPEN

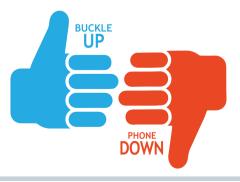


On October 27th, MoDOT opened the new fly-over ramp from eastbound I-270 to northbound Route 367 to the traveling public. "Opening this new ramp is a huge milestone for us as it's the last new feature of the project and it eliminates the weaving pattern and traffic merge that occurred as drivers exited the loop ramp, "said Niall Jansson, I-270 North project director. "This opening, like every element of the project, helps to move both efficiency and safety throughout the entire I-270 North Corridor."

Drivers are encouraged to visit the I-270 North Project website to learn more about planned traffic impacts and details of the project, including a project overview and graphic displays of planned construction.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING CLOSURES

 Nightly lane closures scheduled through November on Interstate 270.







FACES OF I-270

TOM BLAIR, P.E. | MODOT ST. LOUIS DISTRICT ENGINEER

In December 2023, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will complete its largest single project within the past 10 years; the \$278 million I-270 North Design Build Project. Tom Blair, district engineer for MoDOT in the St Louis District, is responsible for caring for and operating all Missouri's transportation corridors in St. Louis City and the counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, and Jefferson. That list includes the I-270 North Project corridor.

Blair said although it took time to accrue the necessary funding for the project, the lesson is that much can be achieved when people truly work together for the good of all.

"It is very satisfying to see a project of this scope and size come to fruition, knowing that many people have been waiting for this work to be fulfilled. When I visit the corridor, I not only see the improvements, but I witness the great outcomes we can achieve when we work together toward one goal."

Blair adds that the efforts demonstrated on the I-270 North Project will benefit those who live, work, and play within the corridor, as well as individuals throughout the region and country who travel the route to deliver goods and provide services.

"The level of improvements throughout this stretch of I-270 North, including new bridges, reconstructed interchanges, additional driving lanes, multi-use paths that improve accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians, updated outer road systems, and signal updates and replacements, were very much necessary to address the poor conditions of roadways and bridges in that area.

The primary project focus was to improve and take care of the existing transportation assets, while maximizing reliability and safety, and better linking communities for all users."





The project team also made engagement a top priority, even from the beginning. Throughout the project, the team sought to include community members in both the planning phase and implementation. Those most impacted by the project have participated in celebrating project milestones, either in person or when necessary, virtually. The 'community' has literally helped to tell the story of the I-270 North Project.

"From initial project planning until now, MoDOT and its construction partners dedicated considerable efforts to engage all stakeholders. The team made a concerted effort to include residents, business owners, community officials, schools, industry experts, and workforce diversity partners in those efforts. These individuals have helped us to share project happening and milestones throughout the past 4 years, and many of them share space on the project's website.

"Our construction partners, led by Millstone Weber and Parson's Transportation Group, also helped engage the community through creation and implementation of a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program, and executing very aggressive mentoring and DBE/MBE initiatives.

"Again, we were very pleased that we had the opportunity to bring this project to fruition, and we are grateful for the community support and participation that we have had along the way."