Drivers who use I-270 and Dunn Road near New Halls Ferry Road should be aware of a permanent ramp closure and road reconfiguration beginning November 16. Starting at 7 a.m. Tuesday, November 16, crews will permanently close the westbound I-270 exit ramp to New Halls Ferry.

Additionally, the eastbound lane of Dunn from New Halls Ferry to Old Halls Ferry will be closed. Only westbound Dunn will remain open to traffic between Old Halls Ferry and New Halls Ferry while MoDOT begins converting this portion of Dunn to a westbound one-way outer road.

Drivers planning to exit westbound I-270 to New Halls Ferry will use the newly constructed Old Halls Ferry exit and continue on Dunn to New Halls Ferry. Drivers traveling eastbound on Dunn will now use Pershall to travel from New Halls Ferry to Old Halls Ferry. All detours will be signed.

Current Closures and Work Areas:
- Pershall Road at Cold Water Creek closed until December 2021.
- Pershall closure WB movements from Elizabeth to West Florissant until April 2022.

Current and Upcoming Openings:
- Washington / Elizabeth ramp is open as of 10/22. This was originally a 560 day closure. Second longest ramp closure on the project (behind Lindbergh ramp). It was completed nearly two weeks early!
- Old Halls Ferry ramp opened on Saturday (11/6).
- Hanley / Graham ramp opened on 11/10.
- Pershall Road (between Lindbergh and I-170) will open in mid to late November.

Learn more about the I-270 North Project at www.i270north.org
The Emerson YMCA in Ferguson is an inclusive, family-centered agency engaging its stakeholders around Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. Jennie Alberts, Executive Director, says the agency’s primary focus is to strengthen the foundation of the community in which it operates. To that end, she is excited about the infrastructure improvements and upgrades being completed through the I-270 North Project.

“We found out about the work from MoDOT staff in August 2019, and we immediately got excited about what this project could mean for our entire community and our organization. We are diverse, inclusive and family-centered, and we focus strongly on community well-being. This project will enhance our desire to be accessible to everyone by increasing access for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.”

Alberts says accessibility is key to improving the YMCA’s ability to connect with people, and build lasting relationships with residents, schools and community organizations. That engagement is led by Phedra Nelson, Healthy Schools Healthy Communities Wellness Director with the Emerson YMCA, who is also a Ferguson resident and recently elected member of the Ferguson City Council.

Nelson works to bring schools, community organizations, businesses, parents and residents to the table. Together they explore changes that can increase access to healthy food and physical activity in places where kids live, learn and play. While she celebrates the I-270 North Project now, initially she wasn’t too thrilled about it.

“I had mixed emotions because I live and work in this area and I consistently use the Washington Street/Elizabeth Avenue bridge. That was going to be a big disruption to me and not having access for a time period was very difficult. I could not easily get to the grocery store, the pharmacy or jump on I-270. But since it has started coming together, I cannot wait to see the finished product.”

She shares Alberts’ excitement about the increased accessibility. She also looks forward to the additional I-270 lane being built in both directions and the continuous Pershall Road that allows drivers options to keep driving on the outer road or enter the highway. “I am loving it, and I really believe that the community does as well. A lot of us are already thankful for the easier and quicker access to I-270. It will take some time to get used to, but I haven’t heard anything negative so far.”

Both Alberts and Nelson agree that the project will help the YMCA expand its connections and build lasting relationships with those it serves.

“We just completed Phase One of a Two-Phased renovation through a generous donation from the Emerson Company. That donation is helping bring the facility into the 21st Century,” said Alberts. “We can now celebrate both the upgrades to our facility and the upgrades to our I-270 North infrastructure, while we continue providing a welcoming place where people can build lasting relationships, develop a community focus and maintain physical and mental wellness.”
Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, MoDOT Director Patrick McKenna along with his team, and Tom Blair, P.E., St. Louis District Engineer recently visited the I-270 North Project. Highlights of their visit included a bus tour, project update and an opportunity to hear from Project PAVE participants.

See more project updates at http://www.i27onorth.org/gallery/