

October 22

MoDOT Buckle Up Phone Down Day



There is a public health crisis occurring on America's roadways. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 36,500 people were killed in traffic crashes in 2018. But with most of these crashes being preventable, we know a remedy. The Buckle Up Phone Down movement aims to make this crisis personal, emphasizing the responsibility of each driver to protect themselves and improve the landscape of roadway safety for their loved ones. BUPD stresses the two most important things drivers can do to move the needle closer to the ultimate goal: zero deaths on our roadways. They're two simple actions with life-saving results.

Buckle Up: Taking a few moments to properly secure yourself and loved ones is the single greatest way to increase your likelihood of surviving a crash. Unfortunately, unbuckled occupants make up a disproportionate amount of roadway fatalities. In 2017 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives and could have saved thousands of additional lives if everyone had been wearing a seat belt.

Phone Down: In the last five years, perhaps no behavior on our roadways has become more alarming than distracted driving. This dangerous activity claimed at least 2,841 lives in 2018 alone. And with a recent AT&T study revealing nearly nine of every ten drivers admits to engaging in their smartphones while driving, roadways across the country have unnecessarily become a dangerous place to be.

Take the pledge and visit here for more information:
<https://www2.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown>

I-270 to Hanley/Graham Ramp Closure



Drivers who use the westbound I-270 exit ramp to Hanley Road/Graham Road should be aware that beginning at 6 a.m. on Monday, October 11, the ramp is closed for one month. This closure allows crews to completely rebuild the exit ramp. Drivers traveling west on I-270 can exit to Washington Street/Elizabeth Avenue and travel west on Dunn Road to reach Hanley/Graham and continue to their destination. Detour routes for the closure are signed.

For additional information about current and upcoming detours and project status, please visit the I-270 North Project website at: <http://www.i270north.org/map/>.

Travelers can also contact MoDOT's customer service center at 1-314-275-1500 or the I-270 North Project Team at: I-270North@modot.mo.gov.

Current Closures and Work Areas:

- Washington / Elizabeth exit ramp closed until 11/1/21.
- Dunn Road closed from Old Halls Ferry to Linnell, including WB exit ramp through 11/6/21.
- Pershall Road at Coldwater Creek closed until December 2021.
- Dunn Road construction between Washington and Hanley through 12/31/21.
- Pershall construction WB movements from Elizabeth to West Florissant until April 2022.

Learn more about the I-270 North Project at www.i270north.org



Faces of I-270 North

Shawn Leight CBB Transportation + Engineers Vice President and Chief Operations Officer



It's easy to see how a massive infrastructure effort like the I-270 North Project would be a dream endeavor for any transportation engineer, but for CBB Transportation + Engineers' Vice President Shawn Leight, it's much more than that.

"We're really excited about working on this, and we have a lot of cool innovative features in there, which is really neat. But this is really about the community. In a lot of different ways, we're trying to contribute to north county, and we're just really happy to be a part of that" he said.

Leight's career as a transportation engineer spans over 25 years, including nearly two decades at CBB where he also serves as one of its four principal owners. He has led the firm's efforts with the I-270 North Project, which have included everything from providing traffic analysis and modeling to traffic signals, overhead signage elements and many more of the vital traffic flow details that the average person may take for granted during a daily commute.

However, he's most proud of the work the firm's been able to do with engaging college students and teens in the process. Through the years, CBB has hosted a number of St. Louis University civil engineering students on field projects as a part of SLU's capstone course requirement for its college seniors.

"Actually a pretty critical innovation on the I-270 North job was based on one of the projects from one of SLU's student teams," Leight said.

Since 2003, Leight also has served as an adjunct professor at Washington University in St. Louis, which has enabled CBB to build a solid internship program. This year, the firm placed an emphasis on diversity and recruited five interns - including women and people of color. Out of those interns, three will be able to continue interning through the fall semester and the remaining two have accepted offers for full-time employment with CBB.

Some of the continuing interns include MoDOT OJT Cassiana Buehler who Leight noted is also one of his former Washington University students. As a traffic intern, she's helped with maintenance, traffic planning, traffic adjustments out in the field and learning important software, he said.

Most recently, CBB also hired Project PAVE student Jaydin Thomas as their newest field tech. And this past summer, CBB brought on Project PAVE student Trenton Clark as their first ever high school intern.

"We had him involved in a bunch of different things and the summer went by so fast, I wish we'd had more time with him, but he did a great job. He's got a lot of energy," Leight said with a laugh. "I told him 'Trent when you get your first engineering job - and I don't care if it's civil engineering or you decide to do something else - when you get your first engineering job, we're going to have a big old party for you!'"

Here's what Leight hopes the students take away from the experience:

"We want to give them a taste of the industry and see if this is something that they like. It's better for them to find that out now when they're in college than when they're a couple of years into their career," he said.

Why Leight believes mentoring and preparing the next generation of STEM/Built Environment leaders is so important:

"In general, work on infrastructure never ends, right? So it's important that we have a pipeline of talent that's coming into the industry who can work on transportation projects. Transportation is a basic societal need like food and water. If you don't have it, you can't get the things you need," Leight said.

"And from a personal perspective, I'm a first-generation college student in my family - second only to my sister - and I kind of stumbled into this industry and found a great career and a great industry. So, I want to help the kids out there and let them know that there's a great career out here and try to support them if they're interested in doing this."