MoDOT to demolish New Halls Ferry Bridge

Drivers who regularly travel New Halls Ferry Road should be aware that the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will close the road on Friday, February 3 at 8 p.m., weather permitting, and reopen the road on Sunday, February 5. This closure will allow crews to demolish the current New Halls Ferry Bridge. Detours will be posted along the route.

All I-270 North closures and construction work are part of the $278 million I-270 North Project infrastructure upgrades. To stay current on the status of this closure and to view a project overview and graphic displays of planned construction, please visit the I-270 North Project website at: www.i270north.org.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING WORK AREAS:

- New Florissant Road girder setting at bridge on 2/6.
- New Halls Ferry Road Bridge demolition, 2/3 to 2/5.
"I believe that the I-270 North upgrades will help to enhance our community-based enforcement efforts," said Ferguson Police Chief Frank McCall, Jr. "They can help enhance our ability to use bike patrols and maybe even eventually foot patrols; giving us the opportunity to build relationships with those who live within our community and the surrounding areas."

As part of the I-270 North Project, infrastructure enhancements will improve access for bicyclists, pedestrians, and public transportation users. The final improvements will expand safe spaces on bridges, offer 10 miles of multi-use paths on both sides of the highway, and create safer access to local bus service along the outer roads.

Chief McCall believes these upgrades are part of something powerful and positive that is happening within the corridor. "I'm excited about the improved conditions of travel roads and the updated signage. The area is more appealing in general, and citizens are talking with us more. The additional and upgraded lighting also is a plus because when there is lighting, crime is potentially deterred."

In July 2021 when Chief McCall came on board as Ferguson's Chief of Police, among other things, he vowed to make the department more diverse; offering those who want to become a part of the agency the opportunity to do that. He believes that is one thing that could help he and his staff develop stronger relationships with community members.

"Twenty-one percent of the officers who were here in 2014, are no longer here. This is not the same department as it was in 2014. We are becoming more efficient and transparent in our policing efforts and building relationships with those who live and work in this area. We also are more diverse and more focused than ever on building alliances with other enforcement agencies within this region so that we can help to build safer communities for everyone.

“Our goal is to be a great example of partnership, and this is a good time to be working toward it,” said McCall. McCall spent four years in the Marine Corps and 32 years in Law Enforcement, eventually retiring as chief of police in Berkely, Missouri. While he knows some people are not supportive of some of the I-270 North upgrades, he believes that will change.

“People don't really like inconvenience and they can be resistant to change,” said McCall. “But if they are willing to focus on what they will gain as opposed to what they may be losing, they will see the benefit of the I-270 North Project.”