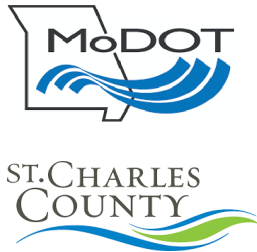


## PROJECT UPDATE



### SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Cooler temperatures and the fall breeding season means the deer are on the move. Although deer strikes can occur at any time, the majority of these crashes occur in the twilight hours before sunrise and just after sunset in October and even more in November.

Missouri has continued to climb the ranks for deer collisions. According to State Farm Insurance, Missouri now ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the country for potential animal collisions – up from 14<sup>th</sup> last year – with a 1 in 80 chance of hitting an animal while driving.

In 2022, Missouri drivers were involved in 3,699 crashes involving a deer. One deer strike occurred approximately every 2 hours and 20 minutes in the state. In these crashes, there were 5 fatalities and 424 people were injured.

If you do see a deer on the road, never swerve to avoid the animal as it can cause loss of control of vehicles, resulting in serious injury or death. To avoid hitting a deer, always be cautious and regularly scan both sides of the roadway.

**Do not jeopardize your safety to remove an animal in a high traffic area. Notify MoDOT at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (275-6636).** Crews will address any deer, animal or debris on a highway that is a safety hazard, meaning that the item is in the driving or passing lane, or partially in either lane or on the shoulder. Crews will drag the carcass to the outer portion of the roadside, outside any active drainage ditch or channel.

OCTOBER 2023

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

One key safety feature of the I-70 Cave Springs to Fairgrounds Design-Build Project is the new intersection at Cave Springs and Veterans Memorial Parkway. The existing signal at Cave Springs and VMP will be removed and replaced with a new underpass that carries VMP underneath Cave Springs.

To provide access between the two roadways, drivers will be able to turn right onto VMP from Cave Springs and right from VMP onto Cave Springs. Right-in/right-out intersections like this remove the left turns making for a safer intersection by removing some of the points where traffic currently crosses. This intersection reconfiguration improves safety in the following ways:

- **Less severe crashes:** Left turn crashes are often more severe than right-turn crashes. By removing the left turn option, the chance of severe crashes goes down significantly.
- **Reduced congestion:** The removal of the existing signal reduces congestion on Cave Springs Road by increasing the distance between the remaining signals, reducing rear-end crashes.
- **Restored connectivity:** Reconfiguring this intersection restores all of the currently restricted movements at Cave Springs Road and Veterans Memorial Parkway, making Veterans Memorial Parkway a continuous south outer road in both directions through the project area. This will allow better access for local traffic and an alternate route for emergency responders when an incident occurs on I-70.
- **Improved pedestrian safety:** A new sidewalk will be constructed on Cave Springs Road over Veterans Memorial Parkway and through the I-70 interchange to provide continuous sidewalk connections on Cave Springs Road through the project area.



This configuration mimics the existing intersection of VMP and Route 94, so it should be familiar to local drivers.



### NAVIGATING THE WORKZONE

Drivers traveling through the work zones on Cave Springs and Zumbahl Roads will see some changes to the lane shifts before the interchanges are put into their final, new configurations. The northbound and southbound lanes will be shifted closer to the center of the bridge to allow for construction of the signal truss on the bridges. Once the new single-point urban interchanges are open this single signal on the bridge will combine all of the movements from the ramps.