

Hi All...

I thought I would share with you all the latest updates from the City of St. Louis regarding the next leg of the highway 40 construction project:

The New I-64 Project continues to move forward. After being closed for nearly a year, the western portion of I-64 between Spoede Road and I-170 is about to reopen with an additional lane in each direction. Now the eastern end, from I-170 to Kingshighway, is preparing to close for a year. Much of this five-mile section is within the City of St. Louis.

City officials are ready for the east end closure. We have invested nearly \$52 million in traffic improvements, road improvements and additional manpower and training. These improvements will have a lasting impact on the way you travel not only during the east end closure, but also after I-64 reopens.

Traffic Improvements:

Signal Modernization

To improve traffic flow, we connected more than 60% of the intersections within the City with a state-of-the-art communication network. This network allows connected intersections to talk to one another and be manned by one computer system based at our new Traffic Operations Center (TOC) located inside the Street Department's headquarters. Now we can make signal and timing changes remotely from the TOC to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow.

With the majority of our traffic signals connected and the number growing each week, the City of St. Louis has more traffic signals under computer control than any other city its size (61 square miles) in the United States. This includes cities such as Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota and Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida.

Vehicle Detection

The City has installed nearly 2,000 vehicle detection sensors at 170 intersections. These sensors notify the computer contained in the traffic signal at each intersection that a vehicle is waiting for green light. This allows the heavier traveled routes to have more green time, thus moving the most vehicles as efficiently as possible.

Traffic Monitoring

The City will monitor traffic during the east end closure in a variety of ways. This includes:

- Having traffic count trailers (portable devices) collecting data on the priority routes so ongoing traffic signal timing can be adjusted because of traffic flow changes
- Partnering with MoDOT to conduct rush hour drive times along the priority routes to determine if the closure is affecting peak travel times.
- Monitoring traffic at various intersections from 20 different video cameras belonging to the City Street Department and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Incident Command Center

City, County and MoDOT officials will man an Incident Command Center during the east end closure. They will monitor any incidents that affect traffic flow and communicate them to the appropriate group for repair.

Road Improvements

We have resurfaced 14 different sections along our priority routes and sealed the surfaces of eight sections to make them smoother, last longer and prevent potholes. In addition, we have:

- Re-striped Lindell from Kingshighway to Grand from four lanes to five lanes to increase capacity.
- Added dual left turns from southbound McCausland to eastbound Arsenal to increase capacity.
- Removed median on Forest Park Parkway west of Skinker Boulevard to increase left turn storage capacity and avoid motorists back up into the thru lane.
- Replaced signals at Lindell and Des Peres to provide vehicle and pedestrian detection so more green time on Lindell.
- Added a left turn signal on eastbound Lindell.
- Added dedicated left turn movement on northbound DeBaliviere

- Signalized the Hampton and Elizabeth intersection to allow more access for residents and businesses.

Manpower Investments

Nearly half of the City's 500 member traffic maintenance staff will be dedicated daily to the east end closure. Tow truck teams will rove our priority routes during morning and evening rush hours. Engineers will adjust the timing of traffic signals to optimize traffic flow. Technicians will be on hand to repair any malfunctioning traffic signals. Road utility inspectors will clear any non-permitted roadwork or street blockage. Last but not least, striping crews, pot hole/patch crews, and sign crews will be on standby to work where needed.

Whenever you see workers wearing lime green vests that say "Working to Keep You Rolling," you will know that they are part of our traffic maintenance staff for the New I-64 Project.

Forest Park

With 12 million residents and visitors each year, Forest Park is one of the most popular attractions. It will be affected by the east end closure and the current Hampton Avenue overpass closure. Fortunately, there are nine other alternate routes to the park, including Kingshighway, which was upgraded as part of the New I-64 Project. To help visitors locate Forest Park, the City has created and installed more than 150 way finding signs. There will also be ten digital message boards directing traffic during the east end closure. Just remember that when it comes to Forest Park, change your approach, not your destination!

During the eastern closure of I-64, motorists will still be able to get around. However, you should remember to:

- Vary your routes and travel times;
- Use alternate routes such as I-44, I-55 and I-70;
- Flex your commuter hours or days;
- Move your car safely out of traffic if you are involved in a fender bender with no injuries;
- Obey parking restrictions; and
- Take Metro!

Traffic Calls

Even with the major improvements to our signalization and roads, we are prepared to handle traffic calls. If you have a traffic complaint and / or questions, regardless of time of day, please contact us:

- Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm - 314.622.4800
- After hours and weekends - 1.888.ASK.MoDOT
- stltrafficemergencies@stlouiscity.com

Be prepared to give us your location and direction. The City, in conjunction with MoDOT and Gateway Constructors, has developed a protocol for responding to your inquiries in a timely fashion.

Stay Informed

For the latest information about the entire New I-64 Project, visit www.thenewi64.org or call 314.524.9191