

2008 BEGINS WITH HIGHWAY CLOSURE AND LOTS OF DEMOLITION

After about 10 months of work at I-170, Kingshighway Boulevard and several bridges in between, the I-64 reconstruction project opened 2008 with the closure of five miles of the highway.

In the early morning hours of January 2, crews began setting cones and barricades at either end of the I-64 closure area between Hanley Road and Ballas Road. They also restriped lanes to route traffic from westbound I-64 to I-170 north, and from eastbound I-64 to both directions of I-270.

Leading up to the closure, there had been significant concern over the regional impacts of closing five miles of such a vital transportation route. Region-wide gridlock and hours-long commutes were among the widespread expectations. Fortunately, the year of preparation of alternate routes, coordination with St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Metro, and the efforts of the motorists in the region to travel earlier or later than the traditional peak hours paid off. For many areas of the metropolitan

area, post-closure travel times were, for the most part, similar to the pre-closure travel times. A number of roadways are experiencing significantly increased traffic volumes, but the signal timing and roadway improvements have reduced the delays.

Meanwhile, construction crews wasted no time in getting down to work, with a month of bridge demolitions scheduled. They began with the demolition of the I-64 bridge over Lindbergh Boulevard. One of the oldest bridges on the project, the sturdy structure took most of the weekend of January 4 to demolish and remove. Once clean up was complete, Lindbergh was reopened to two lanes in each direction.

The Brentwood Boulevard bridge was the next to be demolished, coming down over the weekend of January 11. Brentwood was reopened to two lanes of traffic in each direction on January 13. On Monday, January 14, the McKnight Road bridge over I-64 was closed and removed. Its reconstruction is expected to take about six

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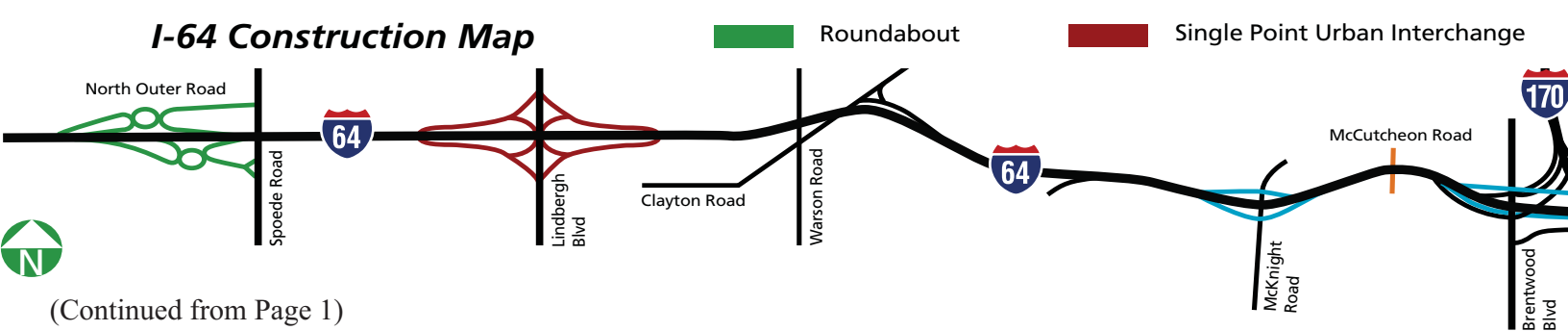


ABOVE: The I-64 bridge over Lindbergh Boulevard was the first to be demolished just two days after the highway was closed.

BELOW: An iron worker uses a cutting torch to remove a steel beam from the rubble of the bridge.



I-64 Construction Map



(Continued from Page 1)

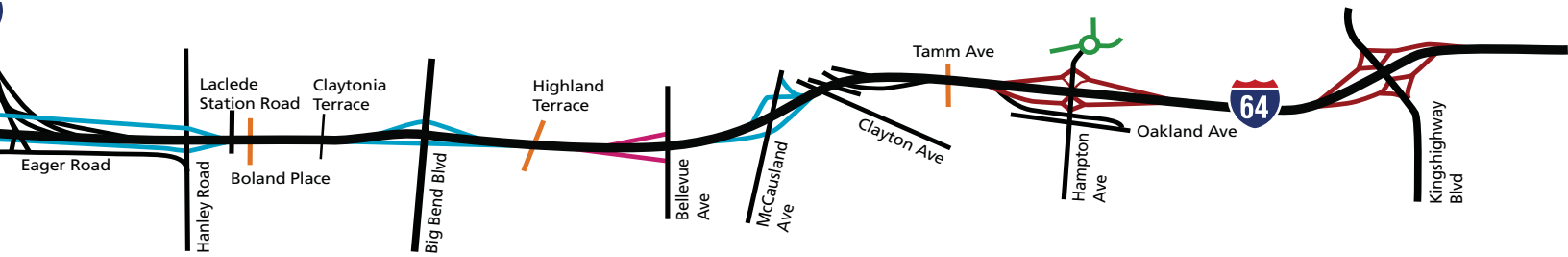
months, after which the McCutcheon Road bridge will be replaced.

The I-64 bridge over Clayton/Warson was the last of the four bridges to go in January, though that one will take considerably longer to remove and replace. Warson Road was closed for two weekends of demolition over January 25-28 and February 8-10. Clayton Road remained open during the day, but was closed at night as the bridge deck was removed and large sections of the overhead structure were cut into pieces and removed with cranes. Demolition work at Clayton/Warson will be complete by early March while reconstruction of the new I-64 bridge will take most of 2008.

While bridge demolition is much more noticeable to the traveling public, you need to look behind the barricades to see that removal of the freeway mainline is well underway. To date, crews have already removed more than 9,000 cubic yards of asphalt and 11,000 cubic yards of concrete. The asphalt is ground up and used for various types of backfill, pavement base, and on haul roads. The concrete is broken up, excavated and then loaded into crushing machines. This material will mainly be used for pavement base. In all, more than 40,000 tons of pavement and bridge concrete have been recycled so far.

BELOW: TOP LEFT, a pavement milling machine grinds up the asphalt road surface near McKnight Road and feeds it into a truck to be stockpiled for use later. **TOP RIGHT**, an excavator feeds concrete rubble into a crushing machine. The recycled concrete from the demolished bridges and old I-64 pavement will be reused on the project as road base material for new pavement. **BELOW RIGHT**, looking east from Lindbergh. Much of the existing pavement has already been removed and a 20-foot fill will eliminate a dip in the road between Lindbergh and the Clayton Warson bridge, which can be seen in the background.



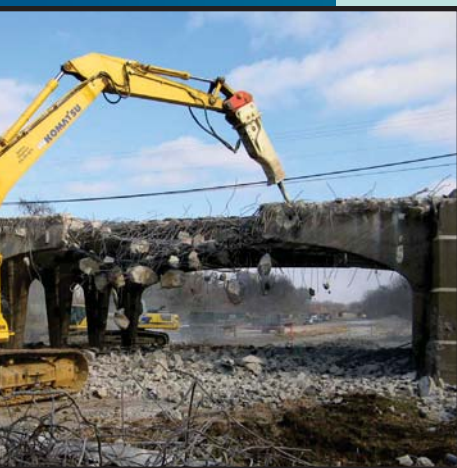
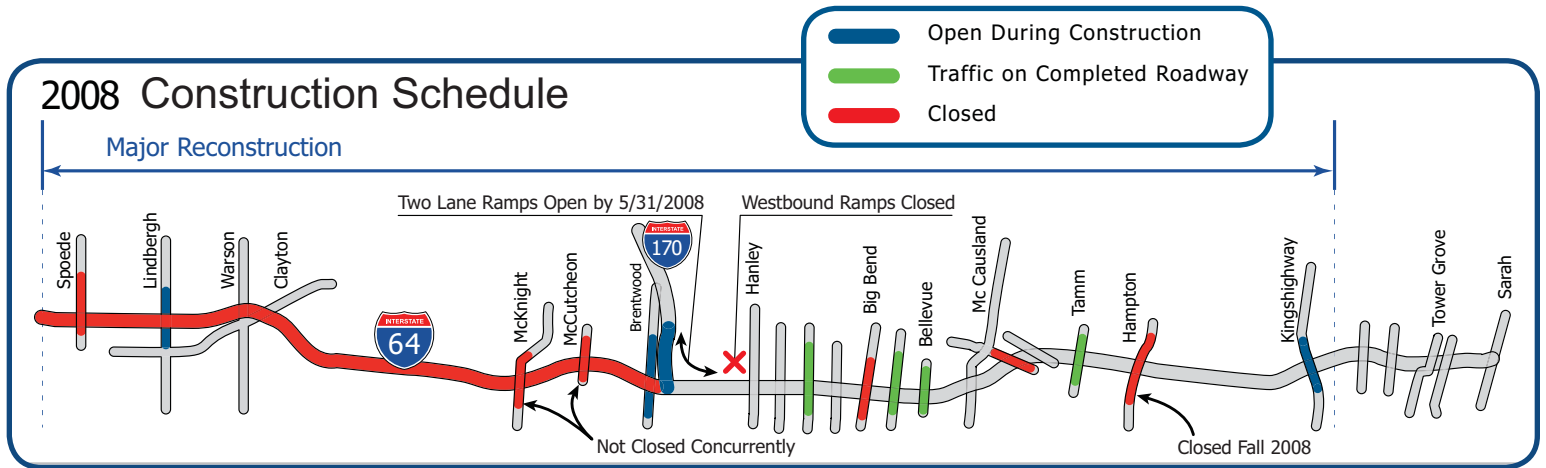


EAST END CONSTRUCTION

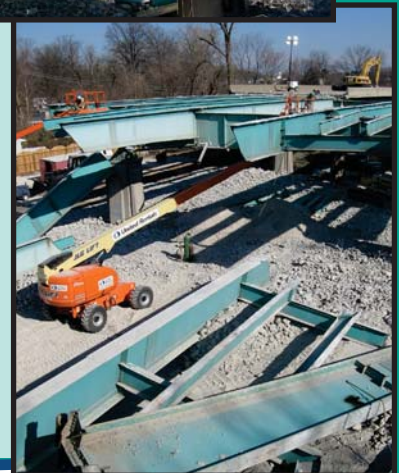
While the demolition is occurring on the west half of the project, work continues on the east end as well. The second half of the Kingshighway Boulevard interchange is moving forward as is the reconstruction of the cross street bridges at

Bellevue Avenue, Highland Terrace and Boland Place. Bellevue reopened on February 5, while the bridges at Boland Place and Highland Terrace will reopen later this spring.

2008 Construction Schedule



ABOVE LEFT, the Brentwood Boulevard bridge was the second structure to go, coming down over the weekend of January 11. Two days later, the McKnight Road bridge (**BELOW LEFT**) was demolished. **RIGHT**, the I-64 bridge over Clayton/Warson Roads took considerably longer to demolish. At nearly 500 feet in length, it was the longest structure on the project and had 1,200 tons of steel girders that needed to be cut and removed with a crane.





The New I-64 Project
8474 Delpont Drive
Vinita Park, MO 63114



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Signal timing on the east-west alternate routes such as Clayton Road, Olive Boulevard, Page Avenue, Ladue Road and Manchester Road is coordinated by Gateway Constructors, MoDOT, St. Louis City and County, with a goal of providing more green time for the east-west movement.
- Typically, crews are working 10 hour shifts, Monday through Friday. For specific activities such as bridge demolition, crews will work 24/7 over a weekend to minimize impact to the traveling public.
- During demolition activities it is natural to feel vibrations, especially during pavement breaking and pile driving. Vibration monitoring experts are on-site during these activities with seismographic monitors to ensure that we stay within an allowable range of vibration and minimize the impact on nearby structures.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Before you drive: Visit www.modot.org:

- Click on **The New I-64** for Hwy 40 daily work
- Click on **Gateway Guide** for current traffic conditions
- Click on **Map My Trip** to get street-to-street directions routing you around current road closures
- Call **511** for current traffic information

On the Road: Read Message Boards with current travel times and lane closures.

Questions about MoDOT work: Call customer Service at 1-888-ASK-MODOT, or call I-64 infoline for project specific problems at 314-524-9191.

For Regular Email Updates: Sign up at www.modot.org for all St. Louis information and sign up at www.thenewi64.org for I-64 weekly updates.

CONTACT US

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TRAVEL INFORMATION:

