

# PROJECT UPDATE



## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

### Distracted driving remains a serious problem on our roadways.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says from 2012 to 2018 distracted driving was directly responsible for 23,000 deaths and more than a million injuries. The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety says distracted driving-related crashes cost employers a staggering \$18.8 billion in 2019.

While most of us think of cell phones when we think of distracted driving, there are many types of distracted driving including checking GPS, changing the radio station, eating, and drinking. In fact, anything that takes your mind and focus away from driving is a distraction.

You don't have to be the one distracted to experience the effects. Other distracted drivers may cut you off in traffic, drift into your lane or take other unsafe actions that they're not even aware of. **It is important to practice these Defensive Driving techniques:**

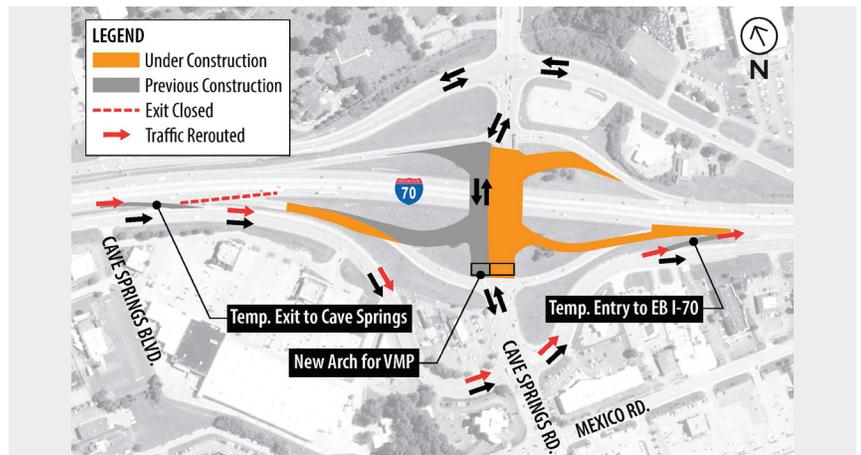
- Be aware of your surroundings. Check your mirrors frequently, scan 20 to 30 seconds ahead of you. If a vehicle is showing signs of aggressive driving, slow down or pull over. Also, keep an eye on pedestrians, bicyclists, and pets along the road.
- Do not depend on other drivers. When approaching any intersection do not assume that other drivers will stop or be able to stop. Don't tailgate other vehicles. This allows for time and space to react to any sudden changes.
- Have an escape route. In all driving situations, the best way to avoid potential dangers is to position your vehicle where you have the best chance of seeing and being seen.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

There are some TEMPORARY changes coming to Veterans Memorial Parkway (VMP) this spring. As a part of the I-70 Cave Springs to Fairgrounds Design-Build Project, VMP between Cave Springs Boulevard and Mexico Road will be TEMPORARILY changed to one-way traffic. This temporary switch allows the construction team to rebuild the ramps and the underpass which will take VMP underneath Cave Springs, significantly improving traffic on Cave Springs. Once we have a date for this work we will let you know.

As a part of the upcoming change, VMP traffic will only be able to go eastbound between Cave Springs Boulevard and Mexico Road. No westbound traffic will be allowed. Drivers moving between eastbound I-70 and Cave Springs will use temporary slip ramps between the interstate and VMP, shown in gray in the image below. There will be no changes to the northern half of the interchange.

MoDOT will sign some detours to help drivers navigate the area. Weather permitting, this TEMPORARY change is expected to last for the rest of 2023. Once construction is completed, this section of VMP will be returned to two-way traffic. Did we mention this is a temporary change?!



The red arrows indicate traffic that is being re-routed to travel eastbound on Veterans Memorial Parkway only during this temporary construction.



## NAVIGATING THE WORKZONE

Drivers traveling on eastbound and westbound Interstate 70 at Zumbehl Road may experience temporary delays starting Friday, May 5, at 10 p.m. through Monday, May 8 at 5 a.m. Crews will be closing all lanes of I-70 at Zumbehl to demolish the old bridge. All work is weather permitting.

Traffic in both directions of I-70 will be routed up and over the ramps at Zumbehl. Traffic traveling north and south on Zumbehl may experience some delays.