



Hello, neighbors.

Travel is a primary concern for Stonewater residents as it affects their daily lives. Getting to work, school, shopping and other destinations can be a hassle if there are interruptions.

There are two major projects upcoming that could impact daily travel. First up is replacement of the Joachim Creek bridge on U.S. 61-67, or Commercial Boulevard, in Herculaneum. The second involves lane additions to I-55 from Pevely to south of Crystal City.



As it stands now, work on the **Commercial Boulevard bridge** will begin in spring 2023. Expect the project to take up to three years. Estimated cost for the project: \$8.4 million, according to the Missouri Department of Transportation.

The bridge and roadway will remain open during construction.

Flooding of Joachim Creek forces closure of the four-lane bridge, as seen in the 2019 image above from [The Leader newspaper](#). Commercial provides a link to Pevely and Herculaneum, although that route is inaccessible when Sandy Creek floods and closes Herky Horine Road.

According to its website:

“MoDOT will be replacing the aging bridge over Joachim Creek. The current bridge was built in 1933 and is long overdue for an upgrade and replacement. The new bridge will be located to the west of the current bridge. The bridge will be wider to accommodate the Mississippi River Trail and the roadway elevation will be raised to reduce the frequency of roadway closures.”

Right-of-way purchases are in process, from north of Herky Horine Road to south of the bridge.

As for I-55, plans call for a third lane in each direction inside the existing roadway. So expect bridge expansions and access ramp improvements or reconstructions.

In addition, a concrete barrier will be installed on I-55 to replace the current wire barrier from Hwy. M in Barnhart to Hwy. Z. There have been fatal accidents in that area in which vehicles breached the wire barrier and struck traffic going the opposite direction.

Public information meetings were held Jan. 19 and 20. Plans are on display at the Festus Public Library until Thursday, Jan. 27.

MoDOT will be accept comments through Feb. 2 via an online form at the following website: <https://www.modot.org/i-55-corridor-improvements>

Primary access issues for Stonewater residents involve the Hwy. Z intersection on I-55. Also impacted: the I-55 intersection at McNutt.

Plans call for replacement of the I-55 bridge over Herky Horine Road and either replacement or inside-lane additions to the bridge over Joachim Creek. Herky Horine Road also would be rebuilt under the I-55 bridge. Work on that road would affect Stonewater residents' access to Herculaneum.

Another possible change that would impact Stonewater residents would reroute the access ramp onto southbound I-55. A proposal would lengthen the ramp by rerouting Weier Road, which is west of 55 and south of Z. Under that plan, the ramp would be beyond the Union Pacific Railroad bridge.

Weier Road will see a potential major increase in traffic with construction under way of a UPS distribution center south of the current Mr. Fuel station.

Work on the I-55 expansion project could begin by spring of 2024. Concept studies should be approved this spring.

Last word

Major spring projects and plans, such as fences, decks and pools, require permits from the city of Herculaneum and the Stonewater Homeowners Association. Example: A fence requires city permit and HOA approval, and under HOA restrictions it cannot be chainlink.

For Herculaneum permits, visit this page: <http://cityofherculaneum.org/Permits.html>

For HOA permits, email stonewatertrustee.joe@gmail.com

For additional info, see the HOA covenants:

http://docs.neighborhoodlink.com/resources/529251643/STONEWATER_COVENANTS.pdf