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U.S. 63-Route H interchange to open in early November

By [Becky Neems](#)
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COLUMBIA—The U.S. 63-Route H interchange near Columbia Regional Airport will open in early November, said Patty Lemongelli, district construction and materials engineer with the Missouri Department of Transportation.

[The interchange will include four J-turns](#), two new southbound lanes on U.S. 63 and two roundabouts on East Log Providence Road westbound and Route H eastbound.

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The J-turns will be a safer alternative to median-crossing intersections into oncoming traffic on U.S. 63, Lemongelli said. In a J-turn, instead of turning left from a side street onto the highway watching for traffic both ways, the car would turn right in the same direction of traffic, merge into the left lane, and then make a left turn into the other direction of traffic from a decelerating lane.

The J-turns will be northbound and southbound at South Rolling Hills Road and Old Millers Road.

Having two new southbound lanes will make the current lanes an outer road for residents and businesses to maneuver without crossing U.S. 63, Lemongelli said. She said the outer road will significantly decrease traffic for residents living near U.S. 63.

"It will make traffic a lot smoother," Lemongelli said.

Northbound and southbound drivers should be cautious in the work zone and there will be periodic lane closings, Lemongelli said. The airport detour is East Angel Lane to South Hardwick Lane to Route H.

Supervising editor is [Simina Mistreanu](#).