

## Community Engagement



Community engagement is a key part of the I-270 North Project. We are working to ensure that all voices are heard and that the project meets the needs of the community. We will continue to hold public meetings and provide opportunities for feedback throughout the project.

The I-270 North Project is a multi-year program that will improve the safety and efficiency of the I-270 North corridor. The project includes widening the highway, adding new lanes, and improving interchange designs. We are committed to minimizing disruption to the community and maximizing the benefits of the project.

Construction for the I-270 North Project started in October 2021 and will conclude in July 2022. To learn more about this program, please visit: <http://www.i270north.org/opportunities/stem.aspx>



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## Current Closures and Work Areas:

- Northbound 67 to westbound I-270 ramp closed until 6/8/22.
- Pershall Road one way (eastbound only) from Elizabeth Avenue to West Florissant Avenue.
- Dunn Road one way (westbound only) 2 lanes from Washington Street to Hanley Road.
- Dunn Road one way (westbound only) from Old Halls Road and New Halls Road.

## Upcoming Closures:

- Eastbound I-270 on ramp from Washington Street/ Elizabeth Avenue -- late March (closed for 100 days).

For more information on project updates, closures, and work areas, please visit our website at [www.i270north.org](http://www.i270north.org). We will continue to provide timely updates to the community as the project progresses.

Learn more about the I-270 North Project at [www.i270north.org](http://www.i270north.org)



# I-270 North Community Spotlight



## Rep. Gretchen Bangert Missouri House Representative District 69

"I always knew how important it was for the State of Missouri to invest in North County. I attended some of the initial community meetings pertaining to the proposed highway 270 project and always strongly supported this effort," said State Rep. Gretchen Bangert (District 69). Representative Bangert has served Florissant, Hazelwood, and parts of unincorporated St. Louis County since 2016. "I love this area and I am devoted to it and the people who live here. I know that the people who live here are very committed and devoted to this community as well."

Bangert, who grew up in North County, has a long familial history in the area that she can trace back to the 1850's. She remembers attending Lutheran Church of the Atonement, where her father served as the minister of music; she still attends with her family today. She has fond memories of working at the White Castle on New Halls Ferry Road with her sister. This was a popular cruising hang out back in the day. She also has fond memories of high school students hanging out in the parking lot and showing off their cars on weekend nights at the Cross Keys Shopping Center. The Center, built in 1969, was located at the intersection of New Halls Ferry and North Lindbergh.

She attended Mark Twain Elementary, Florissant Junior High and graduated from McCluer North High School. One community highlight for her during that time was the annual Valley of the Flowers Parade and Festival, which has served as North County's Festival of Spring for more than 50 years.

Bangert has been in public service in one form or another for most of her life. She worked for a Ferguson Councilman who then became a St. Louis County Councilman and also served as the Assistant Auditor for St. Louis County. Bangert served as a Pre-School and Day School Board Member for Atonement Lutheran and held numerous PTA board positions within the Hazelwood School District including president of Russell Elementary. In addition, she served on numerous committees at the school level as well as district wide and also served on local citywide committees. One of her fondest accomplishments was formation of the Hazelwood West Marching Wildcats Booster Organization, which brought together hundreds of volunteers and raised nearly \$100,000 to send the band to the Gator Bowl to represent North St. Louis County – and they did bring back numerous awards! Working with Hazelwood School District leadership she was able to secure new uniforms and band trailers for all three Hazelwood High Schools.

Rep. Bangert and her family and a few friends started the St. Ferdinand Annual Benefit BBQ and Basketball Tournament which ran for ten years, raising thousands of dollars for different beneficiaries. This effort brought together hundreds of volunteers throughout the community working together to help others in need. Unfortunately, COVID suspended this event.

"I have learned that we all possess the power to change people's lives and situations for the better. I understand that if you get involved and just do something, you can make a big difference in your community and in people's lives."

While she believes that North County sometimes gets a reputation for having a bad image, she says that it is not the North County she knows and loves. She hopes that the new highway system will reinvigorate this area and people can see that North County is a great place to live.

"When you drive through an area that looks new and crisp, has great lighting, and looks nice, more people and businesses will choose to locate there. I hope this investment in our community's infrastructure will lead to strong revitalization that benefits all of us who live and work here.

"I know it can be difficult right now with all of the work and changes going on, but we will get through it. In the meantime, just look around – new and replaced bridges, spaces for pedestrians and cyclists, additional highway lanes, safety improvements, updated traffic signals, the high school STEM project, the jobs, training opportunities that have been created. So many great things resulting from this project and I hope those who live here now will stay and wait to see the great outcomes from this project."

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