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# MISSOURIAN

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ADAM VOGLER/Missourian

An SUV heads south on Tuesday over Hinkson Creek on Forum Boulevard. The city is considering a \$12.7 million proposal to expand the road from two to four lanes.

## Extending the tax, expanding the roads

Voters will decide on Aug. 4 whether to extend a capital improvement sales tax for another 10 years. If it passes, money generated from the tax might be used to widen parts of Forum and Nifong boulevards.

By **PHILLIP SITTER**  
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Nearly half the city's budget for proposed road projects on the 2015 capital improvement sales tax list would be spent on two stretches of road in southwest Columbia.

Voters will decide on Aug. 4 whether to extend the sales tax for another 10 years. The tax, last approved in 2005, is one-fourth of 1 percent for construction, maintenance, repairs and replacements of city infrastructure like public works and public safety buildings and vehicles and roads. It is set to expire Dec. 31.

The city proposed that Forum Boulevard be widened from two lanes to four between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue and Nifong Boulevard from two lanes to four between Forum and Providence Road.

The projects are estimated to cost just over

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In the first of a series of stories examining infrastructure improvements listed for funding through the 2015 capital improvement sales tax, this Missourian report covers major road projects. Voters will decide Aug. 4 whether to extend the sales tax for another 10 years.

### Average daily trips on Nifong Boulevard east of Forum Boulevard

YEAR	TRIPS
1997	14,555
2001	13,148
2003	15,247
2006	14,105
2009	14,487
2013	31,284

### Average daily trips on Forum Boulevard south of Chapel Hill Road

YEAR	TRIPS
1997	10,905
2001	13,500
2003	14,773
2006	15,985
2009	18,614
2013	32,238

## Nixon boosts need-based scholarships

By **LIYING QIAN**  
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Low-income, in-state college students can get more money from the Access Missouri Scholarship starting next school year, Gov. Jay Nixon announced Wednesday while visiting the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Students at four-year institutions will be eligible for up to \$1,850 per year, a 23 percent increase from previous \$1,500. Students at two-year schools can get up to \$850 a year, a 30 percent increase from the past rate of \$660. About 50,000 students receive Access Missouri scholarships each year, according to a statement from the governor's office.

The scholarship increases Nixon announced are still below the statutory maximum for the program: The law establishing Access Missouri Scholarships caps them at \$2,850 and \$1,300 for four- and two-year schools, respectively.

The amounts actually awarded to students are based on the availability of the state's funding, Liz Coleman, communications and marketing director at the Missouri Department of Higher Education, said in an email.

In the past, Nixon had capped the Access Missouri Scholarship at about half of the legal maximum to help balance the state's budget.

The Access Missouri Program is a need-based scholarship program that was launched in 2008. To be

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## Public meeting to discuss I-70 construction

By **THOMAS SCHREIBER**  
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Construction work on three bridges in Columbia that cross Interstate 70 and the impact on traffic will be detailed at a public meeting from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday.

The meeting will be held at the offices of project contractor Emery Sapp & Sons at 2301 I-70 Drive NW.

Three bridges on Interstate 70 in Columbia will be under construction beginning this summer and ending in late 2016.

**The bridges:** Bridges across Interstate 70 at Garth Avenue, Range Line Street and West Boulevard-Business Loop 70 will be replaced.

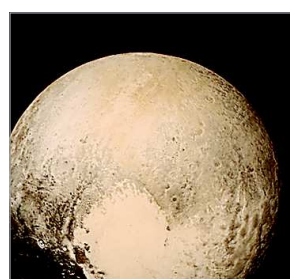
**New roundabouts:** Roundabouts will be built on the north and south sides of I-70 at the Business Loop 70 and West Boulevard interchange as well as the north and south sides of I-70 at Range Line Street.

**Cost:** According to the Missouri Department of Transportation, the project will cost an estimated \$18 million.

**Timeline:** Travis Koestner, the project director for the state Department of Transportation, said the tentative start date is during the last week in August with a target completion date of Oct. 1, 2016.

Chip Jones, project manager for Emery Sapp & Sons, said construction on the Garth Avenue and Range Line Street bridges would start about Sept. 1 with work on the Business Loop 70 bridge set to begin in

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### PLUTO

NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, launched in 2006, flew past Pluto, taking photos of it and its moon, Charon. **Page 4A**

### CORRECTION

The rugby games in the Show-Me State Games will be played Saturday and Sunday. An article on page 1B Wednesday gave the incorrect days.

### TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.  
Temp: 92°  
Tonight: Partly cloudy.  
Temp: 74°  
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