



Dear Carbondale,

Happy New Year! It is my hope that each of you has a healthy and prosperous 2021! Although I am pleased with how our community managed the challenges of 2020, I am ready to begin the year ahead. Despite the difficulties, Carbondale set the standard in the region for managing coronavirus cases through our extensive efforts to minimize the deadly virus's spread. My sincere thanks to all of you who wear masks, keep social distance, support our businesses safely, and take this pandemic seriously.

Although the vaccine will be available to the public relatively soon, we must continue to follow the best practices and recommended guidelines to ensure that our case numbers decline.

We have much to look forward to in 2021. This spring, our first roundabout, located on Chautauqua Road at the McLafferty Road intersection, will be complete! When finished, traffic will no longer be as congested during peak times, which will reduce the number of accidents - rear-end collisions in particular. We are grateful to have received 90 percent of this project's funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

We are also moving ahead with plans to design and build the Southern Illinois Multi-Modal Station (SIMMS). We recently secured additional funding from IDOT and hope to finance the entire project with mostly grant funds! Construction won't begin until 2022, but in 2021, our dreams of a regional transportation hub will start taking shape!

Sincerely,

John "Mike" Henry
Mayor of Carbondale