



# THE STOUFFER REPORT

**Senator Bill Stouffer**  
**Capitol Building, Room 332**

**Senate District 21**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65101**

**For the Week of:**  
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## **Finding a Solution to the Glasgow Bridge Before It Closes**

There has to be a better way. Right? I am sure you have been asking yourself this question as you drive Missouri's roads. It is a question I have been asking myself – and get asked a lot in my travels. As the chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, I have been looking for answers.

Since last summer, I have been working with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) regarding the aging bridge at Glasgow. I attended a meeting this week at Glasgow Middle School. The Missouri Department of Transportation will close the bridge soon for repairs. As with any project of this size, it is a “good news – bad news” situation. The good news is obvious: adding a new platform to the existing piers along the bridge is needed work. Some even say it is long overdue. It makes sense to do this one-time, needed, rebuild after years of emergency repairs that have caused temporary shutdowns and traffic delays. Unfortunately, the bad news is there is no set plan for how to carry that bridge traffic somewhere in the meantime.

I have spent a great deal of time talking with MoDOT officials about solutions to this challenge. We simply cannot close the Missouri River bridge at Glasgow without an alternate route in place before the orange barrels are put up. This is my number one priority right now. Together with MoDOT officials, we've been talking with Kansas City Southern Railroad about the possibility of putting trucks on their rails as a way to get to and from work. We are also exploring every other possible solution every day.

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This is the downside of closing a bridge. When it is a road, there are usually other routes you can take. Unfortunately, there are no other bridges nearby to cross the Missouri River without taking hours to get to work, instead of only a few minutes. And, I have listened to Glasgow and the surrounding area. It has become clear to me your number one solution to this is a ferry. Our hope is this will provide transportation for grain trucks in addition to regular cars and trucks.

Just this year alone, I have met with MoDOT Director Pete Rahn and District Two Engineer Dan Niec more than 30 times...and it is only the middle of February. I have also met with MoDOT's leadership every day since returning to Jefferson City for the legislative session. There is nothing more important to me right now than solving this challenge. I am also working with MoDOT on alternate transportation routes before they close the Missouri River bridge at Miami. Both of these closures represent a smart way to spend taxpayer dollars. They also represent the need for everybody to work together to find common ground and keep the flow of business – and traffic – going smoothly.

Still, I need your help. And it is easy to provide. If you have not already done so, please sign the online petition at my website – [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer) (click on the Glasgow Bridge Project link). By doing that, you will be showing your support for alternative transportation for the closing of the Missouri River bridge at Glasgow.

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