



*Senator
Bill Stouffer*

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: Glasgow's Ferry Carries 12,000 and Counting

We are starting to see the fruits of MoDOT's labor along the [Glasgow bridge](#).

Over the course of three days, the old bridge was imploded in different sections, allowing the contractor to begin rebuilding the bridge surface. It is amazing to me how quickly something so big that has been standing so long can be brought down in the blink of an eye.

Other demolitions will be done in the days and weeks to come, which may mean temporary shutdowns of the river ferry. Crews have been starting the implosions around sunrise in order to limit the amount of time the ferry service is stopped. They have been able to keep the time down to just a few minutes early in the morning.

As you may remember, getting to this stage took a lot of work from a lot of great folks. When the decision was made to address the Glasgow bridge, there were several options. The last time the bridge was rehabbed was in 1987. Since then, there have been numerous bridge closings to do needed patch work.

The Glasgow bridge was first built in 1922 and the number of cars and trucks has increased dramatically on Highway 240 since then. Essentially, there were three proposals for the Glasgow bridge: close the bridge permanently; rehabilitate the bridge; or do a partial replacement. There was such a small difference in price between another rehab and doing a partial replacement that the decision was made to go with the replacement project. Closing the bridge for a year for this will mean getting another 50 years out of the Missouri River bridge at Glasgow without having to work on it all the time.

Then came the question of coping without the bridge being in service for a year. This is where everybody came together. We talked about using a shuttle, the train, or a ferry. People voiced their opinions at varying meetings throughout the area. It was decided to use a ferry to transport people and vehicles across the Missouri River with a ferry service that operates 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, from 6:30 in the morning until 6:30 in the evening.

So far, it seems to have been the right decision. As of August 31st, there have been 11,911 passengers and 6,586 vehicles reported using the ferry in the first four weeks of operation.

The Glasgow bridge has been closed since August 4th and is expected to stay shut down until August 4th, 2009. The entire project is slated to be finished by December 31st, 2009. Again, once it is done, the Glasgow bridge will be ready for another 50 years of daily use.

I am happy to see the progress being made. This is a great example of how things get done: government and citizens working together to move forward on a much-needed transportation project that benefits everybody.



Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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