



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Bill Stouffer Applauds MoDOT for Moving Forward with ‘Safe and Sound Bridge Project’

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, is grateful to see the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) beginning to move forward on the [Safe and Sound Bridges Program](#). The program includes a plan to repair or replace more than 800 bridges in Missouri. Commission members say volatile financial markets have kept the program from coming to fruition over the past few months, but this week they began the process for tackling 100 of the structures this coming spring. The commission plans to issue a detailed project timeline by October 1st.

“As chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, I have been checking the progress on this initiative for some time,” said Sen. Stouffer. “These 800 bridges represent the ones that need immediate attention. I couldn’t be happier to see that MoDOT will start fixing them very soon.”

After the tragic collapse of the Interstate 35 bridge in Minneapolis in August 2007, states across the country started reassessing the safety of their bridges. Missouri’s bridge plan was well underway by that time, but the Minnesota tragedy put a new spotlight on the challenge here in Missouri.

Included in the program will be 10 bridges in Clay county, 8 in Cooper, 2 in Chariton, 13 in Carroll, 18 in Saline, 6 in Macon, 23 in Lafayette, 22 in Ray, and 2 in Howard county.

“These numbers are representative of the enormous amount of bridges in rural Missouri,” said Sen. Stouffer. “And the bridges in my district only represent around one-eighth of all the bridges that will be fixed over a five-year period.”

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