

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

Bold and italicized print represents text which has been added or modified.

Resolution

Bridge Replacement and Repairs: Posted, Structurally Deficient and/or Functionally Obsolete

In 2014, Delta Council was alarmed to learn that the access and condition of primary Highway Corridors had become an impediment, rather than a contributing factor to commerce and safety in the Northwest Mississippi region. Bridges on Highway 6, Highway 49E, Highway 32, and a growing number of other State highway bridges were reported to be structurally deficient for transport of permitted road weight limits. The result was causing significant economic consequences on the movement of the seasonal requirements for farm-to-market transport of crops, and for the daily movement of manufacturers' raw materials and finished goods. We are deeply grateful to our Commissioners ~~Mike Tagert and Dick Hall~~, and staff of MDOT for taking emergency action to complete bridge replacements on all three roads, Highway 6, Highway 32, and Highway 49E and bring these highways back to full capacity.

~~In the short term, Delta Council urges the MDOT Enforcement Division~~ ***With the recent Mississippi Legislative action to transfer enforcement from MDOT to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, we urge the Department of Public Safety*** to make every effort to establish a co-operative relationship with the farming community in Northwest Mississippi by assisting and facilitating the seasonal transport of crops from harvest to market on the most economical route without compromising safety. As progress is made toward a relief plan for the growing number of deficient bridges, Delta Council asks farmers, landowners, local public officials, and business leaders to assist MDOT in a timely response to right-of-way concerns for the design and construction of existing and new bridges which hold the only promise for eliminating untimely and unnecessary delays in any actions for bridge replacement.

Adopted by: Delta Council Highway Infrastructure Committee

May 20, 2021

