



## Project to replace Madison and St. Louis Avenue bridges

### What is the project?

The Missouri Department of Transportation is removing and replacing the Madison and St. Louis Avenue bridges over Interstate 70. The bridges were originally constructed during the late 1950s when I-70 was constructed and were not rebuilt when MoDOT replaced the majority of overpasses along the interstate in the late 1990s. Work on these bridges will not start until after the eastern half of I-64 between Kingshighway and I-170 has reopened.

Additionally, MoDOT will remove the Cass Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street “X” bridge over the interstate. That replacement bridge is still under design and will be constructed starting in April 2010.

### Why do these bridges need to be replaced?

The Madison and St. Louis Avenue bridges have reached the end of their useful life. These bridges were constructed more than 50 years ago when I-70 was initially constructed. They have not had any significant renovation since that time. It is cheaper to completely rebuild the bridges to the current interstate standards than to retrofit or renovate the bridges.

### Why is this a part of the Mississippi River Bridge project?

When MoDOT replaced bridges along I-70 in the late ‘90s, these bridges were not included as the Mississippi River Bridge project potentially impacted them. Engineers couldn’t determine how the St. Louis and Madison Avenue bridges needed to be constructed until the new Missouri Interchange for the river bridge was designed. MoDOT always intended to construct these bridges in conjunction with the river bridge.

### What will this project cost?

The cost to demolish and rebuild the St. Louis and Madison Avenue bridges is roughly \$4 million.

### How will this impact traffic?

The impact on traffic, for the most part, is relatively minor. The major work on this project (to include demolishing and reconstructing bridges) will start after the I-64 project reopens between Kingshighway and I-170. Shortly after I-64 reopens, crews will close I-70 for a weekend to tear down the St. Louis Avenue Bridge – I-70 traffic will detour around the closure on Memorial Drive. During reconstruction, city drivers will use Madison Avenue to detour around the construction. Crews will

close the reversible lanes for six weeks during the reconstruction of the St. Louis Avenue Bridge. Once that bridge is complete, crews will close I-70 for two weekends – one to remove the Madison Avenue bridge and the next to remove the Cass and 7<sup>th</sup> “X” bridge. Once again, I-70 traffic will detour around the closure on Memorial Drive. During reconstruction, city drivers can use St. Louis Avenue to detour around the construction. Once again, crews will close the reversible lanes for six weeks during the bridge reconstruction. Since this work will be done after I-64 reopens, more specific dates will be released when they are available.

### **Timeline (all dates are subject to change)**

<b>Bids accepted</b>	<b>May 2009</b>
<b>Contract awarded</b>	<b>July 2009</b>
<b>St. Louis Ave. demolition</b>	<b>Late 2009</b>
<b>St. Louis Ave. reopens</b>	<b>Spring 2010</b>
<b>Madison Ave. demolition</b>	<b>Late spring 2010</b>
<b>Construction completed</b>	<b>Early fall 2010</b>

### **Does this project have bike or pedestrian facilities?**

There is a pedestrian walkway on both sides of both the St. Louis Avenue and the Madison Avenue bridges. The shoulders on both bridges were designed to be used by cyclists.

#### **Contact Information**

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