

NEWS RELEASE: April 8, 2011

Open house for McDaniel Lake Bridge Tuesday, April 12

The Greene County Highway Department will host an open house to share information on McDaniel Lake Bridge Tuesday, April 12, 5-7 p.m. at Springhill Baptist Church, located at the intersection of State Route WW and Farm Road 159, north of Springfield.

The Highway Department closed the 82-year-old McDaniel Lake Bridge Dec. 16, 2010, after an inspection led to concerns over the bridge's integrity. Since then, Highway Department engineers have conducted an extensive evaluation of the bridge. The evaluation shows the 403-foot bridge has suffered deterioration of the concrete and steel that make up the load-carrying members of the bridge, making it unsafe to reopen to vehicles.

"The bridge had deteriorated to the point that we cannot allow vehicular traffic to cross it, even with a posted load limit," said Dan Smith, Greene County Highway Administrator. "We are looking at our options for moving traffic in the area around the bridge, as well as the future of the bridge itself. We would like the public's input before we move forward."

Tuesday's open house will provide opportunities for one-on-one discussions with Highway Department engineers. Representatives from City Utilities, which owns the McDaniel Lake property, as well as the Missouri Department of Conservation will also be in attendance. No formal program is planned, and members of the public may come and go as they wish.

Questions and comments may also be submitted to the Highway Department by phone, mail or e-mail, at www.greenecountymo.org/highway under "Future Projects."

For more information, contact Duffy Mooney, Assistant Greene County Highway Administrator, at 417-831-3591, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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