



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Omer Osman, Acting Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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PRESS RELEASE – JB BRIDGE CLOSURE

SB Interstate 255

Columbia, Illinois – Drivers who use the southbound I-255 Bridge to enter Missouri will need to determine alternate routes through at least the end of the week, as the southbound interstate Bridge will remain closed. Currently, highly specialized inspection teams are looking at the Bridge during daylight hours (about 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.) to determine any other potential places where there may be similar issues on the Bridge. MoDOT brought in equipment from Chicago and Jefferson City, and has flown in an additional specialist from Seattle. Due to the nature and precision of the inspection, the work needs to be done in daylight.

Until such time as the Bridge can be reopened, IDOT has established a marked detour using I-255 NB and I-55 SB to circumvent the closure. However, motorists should consider all available bridges to and from Missouri during peak periods. Monday morning's rush saw a large portion of commuters use NB IL 3 through Sauget causing significant delays accessing the Poplar Street Bridge. However, there was available capacity for most of the morning rush on the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial, McKinley, Eads and Chain of Rocks Bridges. Motorists are encouraged to utilize the interstate system and all Mississippi River crossings as much as possible for their individual needs – particularly during peak travel periods.

Additional field and communications staff will be active during each morning commute to ensure ample motorist assistance and direction is available for the duration of this closure. If possible, consideration should be given to using MetroLink, mass transit, telecommuting and/or shifting commute times.

For IDOT District 8 updates, follow us on Twitter at [@IDOTDistrict8](https://twitter.com/IDOTDistrict8) or view area construction details on IDOT's [traveler information map](https://www.idot.gov/traveler-information-map) on [GettingAroundIllinois.com](https://www.gettingaroundillinois.com).

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