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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** FILE  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** STATE AID ROAD UPDATE  
**DATE:** 12/12/2002  
**CC:** FILE

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Met with Brooks Miller on 11/12 and 11/20.

Bridge collapsed 11/2, killing 3, over the Chickasawhay River in Wayne County

Brooks sent letter 11/8 urging supervisors to close 300 bridges in 63 counties on verge of collapse.

Have copies of Miller letters sent

- To Amy Tuck on 5/31 informing her \$28 M in projects ready to be let, but all Federal Aid Bridge Replacement funds have been obligated, only \$15-18M will be available in FY 03 (fed) for bridge replacement projects, so will take 2 years of funding to let contract on projects ready to go. Miller proposes that MDOT finance backlog of projects via GARVEE bonds to be retired with a portion of the Federal Bridge Replacement Funds available to counties each year
- To Governor on 7/29 proposing fund backlog of FBR projects by borrowing money from the Development Bank to be paid off using a portion of FBR funds which counties receive from MDOT. Requires DOT Commission approval and DOT will not agree unless counties agree not to go to Legislature and request increase in Federal Surface Transportation (STP) funds. (FY 02: MS received \$17.9 FBR and \$9M STP)

MDOT has not increased the amount of STP funding to counties in proportion to the amount of federal funding increases. MDOT Received \$10M in federal funding in 1991 and allocated \$5.2M (50%) to counties; received \$42M in 2002 and allocated \$9.1M (21.8%) to counties.

Prior to 1991, state law required federal Rural Secondary Road funds be split 50/50 between state and county. STP passed in 1991 eliminated federal Secondary Road funds, so state law out the door.

- To me 11/13 informing me he is in process of obtaining \$25M loan from Development Bank, repaid using a portion of FBR available to counties each year from MDOT, to fund FBR projects. Counties received \$17.9M in FBR last year. Use \$3M of this to retire loan

over a 10-year period. Results in \$40M (\$25M loan + 14.9M FBR) in bridge projects, rather than \$17.9M, this coming year. Will be able to accelerate the construction of needed projects and still have approximately \$15M in ensuing years to continue program. (Working with Demery Grubbs at the Development Bank. MDOT Commission approved the loan process on 10/22/02.)

Another source of potential funding is the Local System Bridge Program (est. 1994). 1,101 bridges replaced since 1994, but need to replace 1,900 more. Might be possible to utilize these funds more effectively if legislation passed to give State Aid Engineer authority to spend the cash balance in the fund (like Legislature has "borrowed" from fund).

3,500 total bridges need to be replaced (1,900 local system bridges are included in this 3,500)

(per Miller 11/20/02) State appropriations have nothing to do with MDOT, only federal \$ does. The bridges under question are state \$, so DOT has no role. Could spend federal \$, but Commission would have to authorize and they won't. If counties received fair share of federal \$, it would be close to \$21M, rather than \$9M.

Bridges are recommended to be closed = below 6,000 pounds

Bridges posted = between 6,000-30,000 pounds

Miller has spoken to Butch Brown, Rep. Mike Eakes, Rep. Joe Taylor; Jack Gordon and Lee Jarrell Davis at MDOT legislative conference where he discussed proposal

Why are bridges in this condition?

1. Age and condition of structures
2. Counties have almost 11,000 bridges
3. Not enough \$ available to replace structures in short time

Propose news conference announcing we have plan that we were developing before bridge collapsed

1. Invite: Brooks Miller, MDOT, FHWA, MDE (school buses), Supervisors Association.
2. We control before MDOT can bad mouth.
3. Article in Supervisors January magazine

12/13/02: LAM and I got okay from Governor for 12/17/02 press event. When I called to tell Brooks about 12/17/02 press conference, he said Commission had authorized Butch Brown to sign MOU between DOT, State Aid and FHWA at Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>'s Commission meeting. Brooks is faxing me copy of MOU. He also said Dick Hall has called Demery Grubbs to check on DOT doing a press advisory.