



Route 109 Bridge south of Woods Road Rehabilitation Project

What is included in the project?

This project will replace the Route 109 bridge just south of Woods Road, on the southeastern edge of Rockwoods Reservation.

What is the problem with the bridge?

This bridge was constructed in the early 1930s. It needs to be replaced due to the bridge condition and erosion along the piers in the creek. It will be replaced with a box culvert and will have wider shoulders to match the existing shoulders on Route 109.

What will this mean?

Next summer, most likely between July 4 and Labor Day, MoDOT will close Route 109 just north of Woods Road and south of the bridge. They will keep Woods Road open to traffic for the most part through this project. During the closure, MoDOT will remove and replace this bridge with a box culvert. As part of this project, MoDOT will replace a culvert that crosses Woods Road, and the city of Wildwood may put in a bicycle/pedestrian path under Route 109 (similar to one installed at Old State Road).

What is the detour?

Drivers can use Old State Road and Route 100 to detour around the closure.

What other options were considered?

There are three options:

- 1) closing Route 109,
- 2) reducing Route 109 to one lane during construction and closing Woods Road, or
- 3) reducing Route 109 to one lane during construction and keeping Woods Road open

The bridge being reconstructed is so small that MoDOT could only keep one lane of traffic open on Route 109. Traffic along Route 109 would have to be controlled by traffic signals at either end of the project. Based on current traffic counts, this would mean that drivers along Route 109 could regularly expect to wait at least seven minutes to get through the project at peak times. If Woods Road is closed, traffic would back up about one-third to one-half of a mile. If Woods Road stayed open (which would require another traffic signal, and close coordination between the signals, traffic would back up nearly a mile in each direction on Route 109.

Moreover, keeping Route 109 open during construction will add about a month to the construction time – the project should take six weeks if the bridge is closed.

What has MoDOT done to reduce the impact?

By closing Route 109, MoDOT significantly reduces the amount of time it will take to replace and reopen the bridge fully to traffic. Additionally, by scheduling this work in summer 2010 – between July 4 and Labor Day – MoDOT reduces the impact to both school and holiday traffic. Finally, MoDOT plans to offer the contractor incentives for meeting the construction deadlines and charge them penalties for not meeting deadlines.