Route 66 Meramec River Bridge: Timeline of Events

1931: Route 66 Traffic Relief routed through Eureka

1932: Route 66 Meramec River Bridge opened at Times Beach

1956: I-44 Bridge built; Route 66 Meramec River Bridge used for local traffic.

1972: Russell Bliss begins to spray streets of Times Beach with Dioxin-contaminated waste oil

1983: Voluntary buy-out of the residents of Times Beach by EPA

2004: MoDOT begins talks with Department of Natural Resources and East West Gateway Metropolitan Planning Organization regarding funding for transfer or rehabilitation of the Route 66 Meramec River Bridge

2005: Weight limit for the bridge is reduced to 15 tons.

2006: MoDOT performs repair work on the bridge.

2007: Bridge is restricted to 1 lane of traffic and weight limit is reduced to10 tons.

MoDOT makes management decision to no longer expend funds to maintain the bridge. DNR is notified of this decision.

2009: Weight limit of the bridge is reduced to 5 tons.

Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 16, 2009

Bridge is closed to all traffic due to safety on October 29. Timing of closure is coordinated with DNR.

February 2012: Deadline for a new owner to come forward with a business plan to take over the bridge.

1930 | **1940** | **1950** | **1960** | **1970** | **1980** | **1990** | **2000** | **2010**