



David Dewhurst

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President of the Senate

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August 3, 2007

The Honorable Ric Williamson
Chairman
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ric:

With the recent tragic event that occurred in Minnesota, bridge safety is on the minds of all Texans. Like you, I continue to be a strong advocate for the safe movement of people and goods. I have read your 2006 Report on Texas Bridges and I am pleased to learn of the department's goal to accelerate the upgrade of all structurally deficient bridges, giving highest priority to critically deficient bridges.

I read with relief your statement that "all of the bridges on Texas' public roads are safe," but the Minnesota highway department, I assume, thought that was true for their state, too. As Lieutenant Governor, I would like to know more details about the structurally deficient bridges in Texas, including the number and locations of all structurally deficient bridges, the status of their maintenance contracts, and their anticipated date for repair. I would like your report by August 17th.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that the Texas transportation system is the safest in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dewhurst".

David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor