

THU 4/3/14 MIN MAG: OLD BRIDGES

FOR MINUTE MAGAZINE, I'M EZRA MARCUS. THE RECENT SHUT-DOWN OF 4 OLD LOWER KEYS BRIDGES MAY BE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CLOSED THE SPANS IN LATE MARCH.

TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS SAY THE OHIO-MISSOURI, THE OHIO-BAHIA-HONDA, THE MISSOURI-LITTLE-DUCK, AND THE LOWER SUGARLOAF BRIDGES HAVE STRUCTURAL ISSUES. A RECENT ANALYSIS OF THE 23 FORMER RAILROAD BRIDGES THAT COMPOSE THE OVERSEAS HIGHWAY TRAIL...

CONCLUDES THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, ARE IN DANGER OF IMMINENT FAILURE.

F-DOT'S REPORT SAYS THE 100-YEAR-OLD CONCRETE ARCHES ARE IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION.

BUT THE STEEL BEAMS AND CONCRETE DECK-SLAB OVER-HANGS ARE LITERALLY FALLING APART... THANKS TO AGE, CORROSION, AND DETERIORATION. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ROMAN GASTESI SAYS THEY NEED TO BE REMOVED...

[:17] THAT'S WHERE WE'RE AT

GASTESI SAYS THE PRICE-TAG FOR REPAIRS AND RE-HAB IS A STAGGERING 140-MILLION DOLLARS. FOR MINUTE MAGAZINE, I'M EZRA MARCUS ON THE US-1 RADIO NEWS NETWORK.