

Jimmie Davis Bridge overdue for renovations

Caddo commissioners Thursday signed off on a resolution supporting a capital outlay request by District 37 state Sen. Barrow Peacock, R-Shreveport, seeking \$119 million for renovations and additions to the Jimmie Davis Bridge, which connects Jimmie Davis Highway in southwest Bossier City to East 70th Street in southeast Shreveport.

As District 8 Commissioner John Escude points out, this has been needed for a long time. "This is something we've been trying to do for 50 years," he said recently. And the two-lane bridge is nearing the point of being unsafe for the amount of traffic it endures.

In making his request, freshman Sen. Peacock noted how during rush-hour, traffic can back up for miles due to the low capacity allowed by the bridge in the face of increased density of residential and retail populations around the span on both sides of Red River.

The resolution from the Caddo side will help Peacock better move the measure through the funding process. Perhaps this will be the year when the bridge can be moved into the list of projects getting a go-ahead with funding. It's long overdue.

Pollen blast means early

suffering

Stuffy lately? Blame the new green on the trees ignited by recent higher-than-normal temperatures that have unleashed an intense blast of tree pollen earlier than we usually experience in this part of the country.

"It's a very early start to the pollen season," says allergist Stanley Fineman, president of the American College of Allergy Asthma and Immunology.

And if your sinuses and eyes aren't sensitive to the stuff, the daily coating of yellow dust on everything outdoors can be just as annoying. Certainly there's nothing new with pollen. The shocker is how early we are getting it this year "» everywhere.

Wednesday, Accuweather reported moderate to high pollen levels coast to coast. Levels were particularly high in parts of Utah, the mid-Mississippi Valley and along Florida's east coast.

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With 1 out of 5 Americans (about 50 million individuals) suffering from allergies, the early pollen season means early suffering. The good news: It will end earlier, too.

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