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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** MDOT REQUEST FOR JOINT MEETING TO DISCUSS BRIDGE HITS/PROCEDURES  
**DATE:** 5/30/02  
**CC:** RENICK, KINNEY, MAYO

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I contacted MDOT this morning to obtain any information they had on the second barge hit to the Highway 82 bridge at Greenville that occurred this morning. Donna Lum and Jim Kopf expressed concern that the Coast Guard did not notify MDOT nor the Arkansas Department of Transportation regarding this second hit. We share jurisdiction of the bridge with Arkansas, with Arkansas being the lead state. The Arkansas Department of Highways and Transportation would take the lead on closing the bridge down to traffic given a severe enough hit to the bridge by a barge.

Donna Lum has since called and stated that Butch Brown would like to host a joint meeting of the departments of transportation and emergency management agencies of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama, as well as the Coast Guard and the TennTom Waterway, to discuss the recent number of hits to bridges and the procedures to be followed in such events, especially notification procedures. Brown would like you to attend this meeting and hopes that other governors would attend as well.

This is a matter within the jurisdiction of MDOT. I think it is preliminary for you to commit to any such meeting, as we do not know the formal established procedures for such situations. I am recommending that we obtain the procedures from MDOT, review then with MEMA, and then make any recommendations that we think necessary, including if you need to take a lead role in setting up such a joint meeting between states. MDOT can address their immediate concerns to the Coast Guard at this point in time.