

From: Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov>
To: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 1/31/2014 4:02:24 PM
Subject: Ravenel Bridge

Yesterday, the Ravenel Bridge reopened around 3:00 p.m. At 10:30 a.m. today, the bridge was closed after there were several reports of large chunks of ice falling onto vehicles. There is no way to unfreeze the icicles that have formed on the cables and atop the two diamond peaks. As of this afternoon, large chunks of ice can still be seen falling off the bridge this afternoon. All are hopeful that the temperatures will continue to increase overnight and the coming days so that the ice will not refreeze.

Decisions to open and close the Ravenel Bridge are collaborative decisions made by law enforcement of the City of Charleston and the City of Mt. Pleasant upon recommendations made by SCDOT.

Yesterday, icicles could be seen from atop the bridge, which is why SCDOT recommended to the cities that pedestrian traffic not be allowed on the bridge when it reopened.

This is the first time the bridge has frozen in the nine years since it has been built, so SCDOT remains forthright in that there will be lessons learned from this event.