From the Airport to Embassy Suites, 101 East Locust Street:
South on Fleur Drive to the Hwy 5 bypass – head West
Follow to 35 North, then exit on 235 East; stay on 235 until you pass over the river
Take the Penn Ave/6th Street Exit
Turn right on 6th
Turn right on Grand Ave.
Turn left on E. 1st

Traveling from North of Des Moines on I35/235:
Take the Penn Ave/6th Street Exit
Turn left on 6th
Turn right on Grand Ave.
Turn left on E. 1st

I realize the Hwy 5 bypass seems like the longest possible route, but as of this posting, it is the route that I can be most confident you won’t run into water closings. It is really only a few miles and you shouldn’t experience many traffic headaches. Of course, there are other, possibly shorter routes, but where ever you see a body of water, there is risk that a road in the vicinity will be closed.