



NEWTON COUNTY COMMISSION

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December 15, 2022

Press Release – Reopening Old Hwy E Wagon Bridge

OVERVIEW:

The bridge located on Old Hwy E (Wagon Bridge), north of Granby, over Shoal Creek is a 215-foot long by 18-foot wide 5-span closed fill spandrel arch structure built in 1922.

RECENT HISTORY:

On January 13, 2022, MoDOT conducted their regularly scheduled biennial inspection of the Old Hwy E bridge. As a result of that inspection, the structure was derated to a maximum load of 5 Tons (10,000 pounds). Shortly after the derating determination, MoDOT published a press release stating that the State Route Hwy E bridge was scheduled for repairs beginning the week of June 6, 2022, through November 1, 2022. The repairs required State Route Hwy E to be temporarily closed during the repair effort. A detour plan was developed by MoDOT that would guide traffic around the bridge repair effort onto alternate State routes. As part of the detour plan, the Old Hwy E bridge was also closed to prevent elevated traffic volumes and heavy truck traffic from using the narrow and structurally deficient bridge. An additional engineering inspection was conducted by Allgeier, Martin and Associates, Inc. on October 31 and November 2, 2022, concerning the structural condition of the Old Hwy E bridge and to provide recommendations to the Commission concerning reopening of the structure. The integrity of the concrete near the elevation of the water has deteriorated significantly. Repairs to this type of bridge structure would be a cost prohibitive investment, and extremely challenging in order to maintain the required hydraulic bridge opening.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Given the advanced deterioration of the structure, it is recommended that the structure remain posted at 5 tons (10,000 pounds). While the structure is exhibiting signs of advanced deterioration and age, evidence suggests that there is no current reason to close the structure provided that the posted load is not exceeded, and the structure is restricted to one lane. Advanced warning signs and supplemental pavement marking at the bridge will help to reinforce the one lane restriction. If the 5-ton (10,000 pounds) limit and one lane restriction is not followed, it is the recommendation of Allgeier, Martin, and Associates, Inc. to take this structure out of service. As a point of reference, a 1-ton pickup truck can weigh between 6,000 and 9,000 pounds.

REOPENING:

The Old Hwy E (Wagon Bridge) will re-open on December 16, 2022, and will remain open unless the recommendations are not followed, or future inspections identify concerns.

Submitted by the Newton County Commission