

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report



**Meeting:** March 26, 2026

**From:** Public Works Department

**Subject:** Stockton Avenue Bridge Investigation Update

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**Recommended Action:** Receive report on the Stockton Avenue Bridge investigation.

**Background:** The Stockton Avenue Bridge Replacement Project was initially advanced following a feasibility study that identified bridge replacement as the most effective long-term solution to address flood risk and debris accumulation.

On January 30, 2025, City Council considered an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with CSWST2 to advance preliminary engineering. At a subsequent meeting on March 27, 2025, Council modified the direction and instead prioritized additional due diligence investigation prior to advancing design. Council directed staff to conduct an internal analysis of the existing bridge, expand public outreach, and further evaluate historic preservation considerations.

In response to this direction, staff initiated additional investigation efforts to better document the structural condition of the existing bridge and inform future decision-making.

**Discussion:** Staff first conducted a non-destructive investigation of the bridge by accessing the interior through existing manholes. This approach was intended to minimize impacts while allowing for observation of internal structural elements. However, visibility was limited and the investigation did not provide sufficient information to fully assess the bridge's condition.

Based on these limitations, staff proceeded with a more direct investigation method to confirm existing conditions. This included saw-cutting and opening portions of the bridge deck to allow for direct observation of the bridge interior. That inspection was completed and staff expects to return to City Council in April 2026 with the investigation results.

However, during this work portions of the bridge were damaged that require repair. The extent of the appropriate repair is currently being evaluated in coordination with the project engineer, a third-party bridge engineer, and contractor.

At the March 26 meeting, staff will provide any additional information available at that time regarding the near-term repair method and timeline.

**Fiscal Impact:** Costs associated with the investigation and necessary repairs are currently being evaluated. These efforts are generally consistent with Council direction to utilize project funding for internal analysis; however, additional appropriations may be required depending on the final repair scope. Staff will return to Council with updated cost information as it becomes available.

**Alignment with 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Priority:** Accountable Government; Community Safety; Sustainable Infrastructure

**Report Prepared By:** Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director

**Reviewed By:** Julia Gautho, City Clerk

**Approved By:** Jamie Goldstein, City Manager