

MEMO

TO: Chairperson Wetzel and Commissioners
FROM: Jaynellen J. Holloway, P.E.
DATE: October 18, 2023
RE: Public Works Commission Agenda Narrative for October 24, 2023

Agenda Items:

Review and take possible action: Lane or Full Closure of Hill Court Bridge

BACKGROUND

Review and take possible action: Lane or Full Closure of Hill Court Bridge: Whereas all the main bridge structures in the City are inspected biannually, many of our lesser structures only receive a formal inspection about every ten years – give or take. This year three bridges in Riverside Park were inspected – Hill Court bridge, the service road bridge to the Park maintenance building, and Rotary Island bridge.

The weigh limits established for each are respectively: 5 tons, 5 tons, and 15 tons. Whereas the Rotary Island bridge and the Park Shop Arch bridge are one lane traffic, the Hill Court bridge is wide enough to support two lanes of traffic.

Engineering researched the average weights of SUV's and pickup trucks and found the following:

Average subcompact SUV - 3,000 (1.5 tons) to 3,500 (1.75 tons) pounds. Average midsize trucks/SUV - 3,500 (1.75 tons) to 6,000 (3 tons) pounds. Average large SUV - 5,400 (2.7 tons) to 6,000(3 tons) pounds. Average weight of compact trucks- 5,000 (2.5 tons) to 5,500 (2.75 tons) pounds.

Our concern is that if two or more SUV's and/or pickup trucks occupy the Hill Court bridge at the same time, they will exceed the weight limit. Street Division has posted on Hill Court bridge the 5-ton weight limit.

Engineering proposes one of the following options be implemented for Hill Court bridge (see attached map):

- 1) Stripe the bridge as one lane and post a sign stating, "one lane traffic only".
- 2) Close the bridge to vehicular traffic and make it pedestrian only. Move the large boulders from their current location at the west end of the parking lot to the west side of the bridge and have that parking area accessed from Labaree Street. The existing parking lot on the east side of the bridge is unaffected but would need to add boulders on the east side of the bridge to deter vehicular traffic from crossing over.

FYI. Engineering could not find an ordinance that closed off Hill Court as a through street, nor any minutes in Public Works Commission or Public Safety & Welfare Committee.

Attachments:
- Site Map