

MEMO

TO: Chairperson Fred Smith and Committee Members

FROM: Andrew Beyer, P.E.

DATE: January 25, 2023

RE: Public Safety and Welfare Committee Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Review and take possible action: Amend Watertown Municipal Code of Ordinances Section 500-8, Heavy traffic routes

BACKGROUND:

The Main Street (Cole Memorial) Bridge in downtown Watertown continues to deteriorate. The bridge is scheduled for replacement in 2025 with an advanceable replacement year of 2024 depending on design progression and available funding.

The bridge is inspected every six months due to its condition (bridges are typically inspected every two years). Inspections are completed by a licensed structural engineer and reports are filed with the City and the State. The City received concerns regarding new bridge deterioration in January. The bridge was visually inspected by City staff who consulted with the bridge inspector and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). Per a subsequent meeting with City staff, WisDOT, and the bridge inspection consultant, a 20-ton weight limit was posted due to the current bridge condition and its inability to withstand heavy traffic loadings over the next two years.

Given the posted 20 ton weight limit, the heavy truck route designation on Main Street between Church Street and First Street should be removed. A draft ordinance is attached for Committee review.

Enclosed: Draft Ordinance