

The WAYNE COUNTY BRIDGE (don't call it "free")

On 1 June, Treasurer Ted Van Os, Trustee Jim Budny and I, along with members of the Public Service Commission and Township staff met with officials from the Wayne County Department of Public Services to discuss the weight restrictions recently imposed on the Grosse Ile Bridge. The meeting was extremely informative, providing background on why the restrictions were imposed and the County's bridge inspection process.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) requires periodic inspections of all bridges throughout the state. Following a visual inspection by the County, weight restrictions were placed on Grosse Ile Bridge as a safety precaution because an early analysis determined some deterioration had occurred. The restrictions apply only to the heavier trucks, such as concrete mixers and trash haulers. Future visual inspections could lead to a recommendation for a more detailed inspection, additional weight restrictions, or possibly closure. Needless to say, we will be working with Wayne County, MDOT, and federal officials to avoid a closure.

Currently we are awaiting a more detailed inspection, and the weight restrictions will remain in place until the inspection can be completed. In the meantime, the County is working with us to find solutions that will lessen the inconvenience to residents and visitors, while at the same time ensuring the safety of the bridge.

While the weight restrictions are in place, Grosse Ile will contract with a weigh master to ensure the proper weight is adhered to as vehicles exceeding the weight restrictions can add to any deterioration. We are currently investigating a means to allow some heavier trucks to operate under a special permit, which will allow them to cross under escort while the remainder of the bridge is closed to other traffic. The inconvenience should be minimal. We will be monitoring speeds of all vehicles on the bridge, as excessive speeds also accelerate the deterioration – slower is better (and safer)!

Please ignore rumors alleging inadequate repairs to the bridge in 2007 _ after thorough evaluation the Grosse Ile Bridge was awarded the 2009 Project of the Year Award by the American Public Works Association. I want to thank Ms. Beverly Watts, Wayne County's Director of Public Services, County Executive Warren Evans' Deputy Chief of Staff Mr. Bernard Parker and the rest of the Wayne County team that joined us at Township Hall. Our Public Service Commission and DPS staff will continue to work with them to ensure the bridge remains an asset for the community for decades to come. My best wishes for a safe, fun summer.

Brian Loftus
Supervisor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2017

Bridge Repairs Reduce Grosse Ile Bridge to a Single Lane of Traffic Closure Begins on Tuesday, August 1

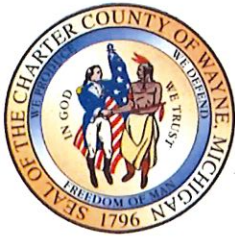
DETROIT – Beginning Tuesday, August 1 at approximately 11 a.m. the westbound lane of Grosse Ile Bridge will be closed to traffic to repair supports under the bridge. East and westbound traffic will alternate using only one lane. Temporary signals on each side of the bridge will notify commuters when to proceed across the bridge. The bridge will remain open for water traffic.

Grosse Ile Bridge is currently undergoing an in-depth inspection. At this time, there is no estimate as to when the westbound lane of the bridge will reopen.

Motorist should plan extra travel time if using the Grosse Ile Bridge. The Toll Bridge can also be used as an alternate route to enter and exit the island.

The public can contact 888.ROAD CREW for information on Wayne County roads and bridges.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2017

Wayne County Reopens Westbound Lane of Grosse Ile Bridge The bridge is weight restricted to 26 Tons

DETROIT – On Friday, August 4 Wayne County's Road Division will reopen the westbound lane of Grosse Ile Bridge. An analysis began on the bridge on August 1, the day the lane closed. After receiving the results of the analysis, it was determined that the lane could reopen. However, the bridge will be weight restricted to 26 Tons.

Inspections to the bridge are ongoing. The public can contact 888.ROAD CREW for information on Wayne County roads and bridges.

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