



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

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## Subdivision bridge to be replaced

*-- Weight limit reduced to three tons --*

ROCKY MOUNT, Va. - The Virginia Department of Transportation will replace a bridge on the edge of Rocky Mount starting at 6 a.m. Thursday, August 21.

The steel-truss and timber-deck bridge carries traffic connecting Diamond Avenue to Route 840, and is the only way into and out of Franklin County subdivisions along Circle View Street, Highland Hills Road, Emerald Lane, Ruby Lane, Power Line Road and Greer Park Road. Crews will work constantly until the bridge is completely replaced, with an expectation that the work will be finished early Friday, August 22.

Residents should expect delays. Traffic will be flagged as construction workers attempt to keep a lane of traffic open. Traffic will be slowed going through the construction zone.

Over the past six weeks, the Town of Rocky Mount has requested that VDOT inspect the bridge, which it did on Monday. Due to the bridge's age and deteriorating condition, VDOT staff recommended posting a three-ton weight limit on the bridge.

The Town hired bridge inspectors Schwartz & Associates to do a rating limit inspection conducted Tuesday. Based on that inspections' recommendation for bridge replacement as soon as possible, VDOT and the Town developed a plan to quickly replace the bridge.

The Town will pay for materials and VDOT will pay other project costs to bring the bridge up to acceptable standards. Franklin County staff will notify all residents within the affected area.

"The Town and County appreciate VDOT's quick action to fix an important public safety issue," said County Administrator Rick Huff. "It is important that public safety vehicles be able to reach these communities outside the Town, and a safe bridge is key to those critical public safety needs."

The bridge work will require periodic closure of all traffic lanes on Diamond Avenue while new steel beams and a new timber deck are installed to replace the existing structure. VDOT secured surplus beams left over from projects performed by VDOT offices in the Staunton District.

"Installing a replacement steel-and-timber bridge is an interim fix," said Town Manager James Ervin. "We will work with VDOT and the County to identify and fund better solutions in the long run, with an eye toward making a second entry point into Town available for the residents of this area."

"We appreciate the quick resolution for this problem from VDOT, particularly from Residency Administrator Tony Handy and from the VDOT Salem District Bridge Office," said Ervin.