



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fourth Street Bridge Closed

Upon inspection by the WVDOH, the bridge is closed to all traffic

FAIRMONT, WV- July 7, 2014- The Fourth Street Bridge closed after a report from the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, District Four Manager, Ray Urse, was received by the City Manager. Upon the periodic inspection of the bridge, Mr. Urse and District Four Bridge Engineer S. R. Harris reported to the City that there is a recommendation that the bridge be closed to all traffic.

The bridge is closed to all traffic and pedestrians. "To keep everyone safe and per the report, the City is interpreting 'all traffic' to include pedestrians as well as motor vehicles," said City Manager, Jay Rogers. Replacement of the bridge is scheduled for 2015, but the City is making efforts to try to get the replacement expedited following this closure. A weight limit of three tons is currently in place on the bridge, which is the lowest limit allowed before a closure is recommended.

An Administrative Order released today by City Manager, Jay Rogers- "Pursuant to City Code Section 3.05.03 (k) which provides the City Manager with the authority to "...close any street or portion thereof to vehicular traffic which is in the process of construction, reconstruction or repair," and City Code Section 305.05, which provides that the "powers of the City Manager shall not be limited by the specific enumeration of subjects contained in connecting with this article,' it is hereby ordered that the Fourth Street Bridge be closed to all persons and traffic until further notice."

The inspection of the bridge consisted of observing the structure from the embankments and roadway beneath, from the bridge deck, and from the roadway approaches with the aid of binoculars and a camera zoom lens. The National Bridge Inspection Standards, which are Federal Law, requires that all bridges located on public roads be inspected at specified periodic intervals.

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