



Why is the bridge closed?

The south bridge of the twin bridges on River Road is closed due to deterioration of wooden structural bridge elements. Repairs are required to reopen the bridge.

Caltrans is responsible for the inspection of all County bridges over 20 feet in length, including this bridge. During Caltrans' inspection of the bridge on August 2, 2019, the inspector identified deterioration and recommend that the bridge be closed pending a more in-depth inspection.

In the interest of public safety, the bridge shall remain closed to all vehicle traffic until a repair is implemented.

What is the County doing now?

The County received the Caltrans final inspection report on August 21, 2019. In addition, Public Works performed an independent inspection following notification by Caltrans, and is preparing a repair plan to reopen the bridge. The repair plan will be based on the Caltrans report and Public Work's own inspection.

The estimated timeframe to complete the repair plan, perform structural calculations, and order materials is September 6, 2019. Public Works is concurrently processing the necessary environmental clearances to perform the repair.

What are the alternate routes?

U.S. 101 and Airport Road can be used as alternate north/south routes for vehicle traffic.

How long will the bridge be closed? When will the bridge be open?

The total bridge closure will be approximately 2 months. The estimated time to reopen the bridge to traffic is the first week in October 2019.

Is it safe to walk or bike across?

Yes, bicycles and pedestrians may still cross the bridge. The bridge is closed to all vehicle traffic.

Does the bridge need to be replaced?

Yes, the bridge is being nominated for replacement through Caltrans and Federal Highways Administration (FHWA).

The in-process repairs will be sufficient to keep the bridge open until the full replacement is implemented.

Can the bridge be repaired?

Yes, replacement or repair of the decayed structural elements will be sufficient for reopening the bridge.

Repair of the bridge will allow full highway legal loads. However, traffic will be restricted to one lane. River Road is a relatively low volume road, delays due to the one lane condition will be limited.

How long to replace?

Bridge replacement will take approximately 5+ years. In order to receive reimbursement for replacement costs through Caltrans & FHWA, the County must follow their adopted scoping, design, and construction process.

How long to repair?

Once the repair plans and structural calculations are complete, the repair could take up to 1 month.

Will there be other disruptions during repair construction?

The road will remain closed to vehicle traffic during repair construction. Repairs will require some excavation within the roadway to install additional bracing. Some repair work may be performed at night.

Repair construction will close the bridge to all traffic, vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians.

Once repaired, will there be any restrictions?

Yes, the bridge will be limited to a single lane, with stop signs on each end of the bridge to limit the number of vehicles on the bridge at the same time and reduce the speed of vehicles crossing the bridge.

Who pays for repairs?

The cost of repairs to reopen the bridge will be paid out of Roads Maintenance funds.

Who pays for the replacement?

The full bridge replacement will be eligible for partial cost reimbursement through Caltrans and FHWA. Eligible expenses are reimbursed at a rate of 88%.