

Memorandum Date: December 29, 2009  
Order Date: January 6, 2010

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**EMERGENCY  
BUSINESS**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works  
**PRESENTED BY:** Bill Morgan, County Engineer  
**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** IN THE MATTER OF CONFIRMING THE PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR'S POSTING OF THE MCKENZIE RIVER COVERED  
BRIDGE ON GOODPASTURE ROAD (BRIDGE 39C119).

**I. MOTION**

Move approval of the Order confirming the Public Works Director's action in the temporary posting the McKenzie River Covered Bridge on Goodpasture Road with a load limit of 15 tons.

**II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Based on a recent Inspection Report, and pursuant to Lane Code 15. 215, the Public Works Director imposed a temporary weight restriction on the Goodpasture Covered Bridge on December 24, 2009, as authorized under ORS 810.030. Lane Code 15.215 provides that the Public Works Director's action in posting the bridge shall be abated unless confirmed at the next public meeting of the Board with a duly executed Board Order.

**III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION**

**A. Board Action and Other History**

Under a contract with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), OBEC Consulting Engineers completed an inspection of the Goodpasture Covered Bridge on December 8, 2009. Based on the results of the inspection, ODOT has issued a new inspection report for the bridge, and has given this bridge a sufficiency rating of 20.2 out of a possible 100. OBEC has recommended a revised load limit posting for this bridge of 15 tons for a Type 3 truck. Signs advising of this revised load limit were posted at the bridge by Lane County forces on December 24, 2009. A News Release was issued to all local news media on December 24, 2009. A copy of the news release is attached and marked as Attachment 1. The signage that was posted at the bridge is as depicted on the attached Exhibit A.

Non-destructive testing of the bridge support members revealed the previously unknown decay in the bottom chords of the support trusses resulting in the low sufficiency rating and the recommendation by OBEC for the temporary posting of the bridge with a 15 ton weight limit.

**B. Policy Issues**

Temporary posting of the bridge is authorized pursuant to Lane Code and ORS 810.030.

**C. Board Goals**

This action is related to the County Goal of ensuring the public's safety.

**D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations**

With the exception of the costs of producing and installing the load posting signs, there is no cost associated with the approval of the subject Board Order. Public works staff will continue an investigation as to the possible repairs to or replacement of the bridge as well as possible sources of funding to pay the cost of the work and will report back to the Board as soon as these are known. The costs of investigation and analysis needed to report back to the Board will come from the Road Fund.

#### **E. Analysis**

The Lane Code provides that the Public Works Director's action will be abated if not confirmed by an Order of the Board at the next regular meeting. County staff has not done any detailed analysis of this bridge that would support a different recommendation.

Staff will continue to answer inquiries from residents, landowners and timber operators regarding the status of the bridge and the time line as to when the repairs/replacement can be made and the posting removed or increased. In the meantime, emergency vehicles will be allowed to cross until further notice. The school district has indicated that it has a bus which would fall under the 15 ton limit which can be used for this route until the needed work has been completed.

#### **F. Alternatives/Options**

1. Approve the Order.
2. Deny approval of the Order and direct staff otherwise.

#### **IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION**

Staff will continue work with assistance from a consultant if needed, in order to develop possible alternatives and costs.

#### **V. RECOMMENDATION**

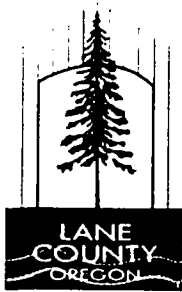
Approve the Order.

#### **VI. FOLLOW-UP**

Staff will return to the Board as soon as possible to advise it of the results of the investigation and analysis of the options.

#### **VII. ATTACHMENTS**

Exhibit A - Graphic showing 15 ton load posting signage  
Attachment 1 - Copy of Press Release Dated 12-24-09



## LANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# NEWS

**VISIT LANE COUNTY ONLINE AT  
[HTTP://WWW.LANECOUNTY.ORG/NEWS/](http://www.lanecounty.org/news/)  
For current news and archives**

**For Immediate Release 12/24/09**

### **LOAD POSTING, GOODPASTURE ROAD**

*Contacts: Bill Morgan, County Engineer, 682-6990*

**Road name:** Goodpasture Road

**Location:** Goodpasture Covered Bridge

**Reason for notice:** Over the past two weeks, Lane County has been working with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and their consultant bridge engineers to perform specialized testing on the structural timber of the Goodpasture Covered Bridge. A "Resistograph" device was used to perform non-destructive testing of the condition of structural timber members that help support the bridge. This specialized examination has revealed a previously unknown pocket of decay along with cracking of a structural timber member critical for the bridge to carry existing loads of traffic.

As a result of this inspection, ODOT has issued a new inspection report for this bridge, giving it a Sufficiency Rating of 20.2 (out of a possible 100). More importantly, Lane County is being advised that the Goodpasture Covered Bridge should only carry traffic weighing up to 15 tons (or 30,000 pounds) due to the loss of structural strength.

On December 24, 2009, Lane County will post signs alerting the public that only vehicles loaded up to 15 tons will be allowed to cross the bridge. Emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks will still be allowed to use the bridge until further notified. In addition, we are working with the local schools to determine if bus traffic over the bridge will be impacted. Further information will be provided before school starts again on January 4th.

In addition, normal winter road maintenance such as plowing and sanding may likely be affected given these load restrictions. We ask the public to be patient while we work out the details caused by this load restriction.

Goodpasture Covered Bridge was originally constructed in 1938, and it has had numerous repairs and on-going maintenance by Lane County over the past 72 years in order to preserve its historical and functional characteristics. However, the bridge is likely to be at an age and condition where it has well

exceeded its intended design life. Lane County will continue to further analyze options and costs for bridge repairs or replacement.

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**Amber Fossen**  
Public Information Officer  
Lane County Government  
125 E. Eighth Ave.  
Eugene, Oregon 97401

(541) 682.3718  
(541) 359.9143 (cell)

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*Lane County Government provides for the safety and security of Lane County's 343,000 citizens through public safety, public works, human services, elections, vital records and other systems*

**IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

**ORDER NO.**

( **IN THE MATTER OF CONFIRMING THE  
( PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S POSTING OF  
( THE MCKENZIE RIVER COVERED BRIDGE  
( ON GOODPASTURE ROAD (BRIDGE  
( 39C119).**

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has issued a new Inspection Report on the Goodpasture Covered Bridge showing a sufficiency rating for the bridge of 20.2 out of a possible 100 points, based on newly-discovered deterioration of its structural members; and

**WHEREAS**, OBEC Consulting Engineers has recommended a temporary load posting for the bridge of 15 tons for a Type 3 truck, at least until a complete Inspection and Load Rating can be completed; and

**WHEREAS**, as provided by Lane Code 15.215, the Public Works Director directed on December 24, 2009, that the bridge be posted with a revised load limit of 15 tons as shown on the attached Exhibit A and as authorized by ORS 810.030; and

**WHEREAS**, said posting signs were installed on December 24, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, Lane Code 15.215 further provides that the Public Works Director's action shall be abated unless confirmed at the next public meeting of the Board with a duly-executed Board Order; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has considered this posting at the next Board meeting on January 6, 2010; **NOW THEREFORE**,

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Public Works Director's action in posting the McKenzie River Covered Bridge on Goodpasture Road as shown on "Exhibit A" be confirmed.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date: 1-5-10 Lane County

  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair,  
Board of County Commissioners

**WEIGHT  
LIMIT  
15  
TONS**