



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 19, 2019

Washington Avenue Bridge Weight Limit Being Lowered

WHEELING, W.VA. – The weight limit on the Washington Avenue bridge is being lowered to five tons (10,000 pounds), effective Monday, Aug. 26. Drivers of larger vehicles need to plan accordingly.

Public Works Director Russell Jebbia explained that following a state inspection by the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), the city is being mandated to lower the weight limit on the span over Big Wheeling Creek.

Signs indicating the new weight limit will be posted and clearly visible. Those who don't comply could be subject to a citation.

"This change will impact vehicles such as public transit, school buses, delivery trucks, and garbage trucks. They, and other vehicles that weigh more than five tons, will need to follow alternative routes," he said.

Fire Chief Larry Helms said his department has taken steps to address the lower weight limit and how that will impact responses for fire calls.

"Emergency medical calls involving our ambulances will not be affected with the new weight restrictions. However, the Wheeling Fire Department will be adding an additional engine company involving any to fire responses to the south side of the Washington Avenue bridge normally covered by Engine 10 in our Edgewood station," he said. "Current responding companies to this area for fire related incidents are Engine 10 in and Engine 5 from Wheeling Island. Effective Monday, Engine 2, located at Center Market headquarters will be added to this area – providing more manpower from the south should Engine 10 experience any traffic delays."

Jebbia noted that the WVDOH will be working on a design for a new bridge.

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