

The Board of Commissioners office released the following road related information:

COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY REPORT

Friday, November 14, 2003

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At the November 12, 2003 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board signed an order to post a load limit on Johnson Bridge located on Long Prairie Road.

The bridge is located just south of the intersection with Trask River Road (approximately 3 miles from Hwy 6). Standard Legal Load tonnage for Type 3 trucks, Type 3S2 trucks and Type 3-3 trucks is "25 tons, 40 tons & 40 tons" respectively. Johnson Bridge will be posted "25 tons, 40 tons & 34 tons" for the above trucks.

The Oregon Department of Transportation tracks the status of most county bridges in Oregon. ODOT has been monitoring numerous concrete bridges all around the state which were built during the 1950s and 1960s for severe cracking of the main structure. This is a statewide problem reported in the media, including the Headlight Herald, throughout the past year.

Johnson Bridge was identified as a candidate for possible load restriction earlier this year. After continued monitoring, ODOT Bridge Section determined the bridge did need to be load limited to prevent further degradation of the bridge. The County Public Works Department was notified and Public Works Department staff sent the posting recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

The County appreciates that Johnson Bridge is on the major large load by-pass route around the City of Tillamook. Recently ODOT requested County applications for Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) funding for bridge replacements. Among the 6 applications that Tillamook County Public Works developed and submitted, Johnson Bridge was ranked by the County as the highest priority for replacement.

Truckers with loads larger than the Type 3-3 configuration should contact the County Public Works Department (503-842-3419) to determine if their loads can still use Johnson Bridge. Initial load reviews will be analyzed by a hired engineering consultant firm for the County and responses to review requests may take a couple of work days to process.

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(the above information was only a portion of the entire Weekly Report)