VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan 2025-17

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Van Buren County Road Commission

RELEASE: Immediately 325 W. James St., Post Office Box 156

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Van Buren County Road Commission Announces New Weight Limit for CR657 Bridge in Antwerp Township

THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

The Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) has implemented a new weight limit on the bridge that carries County Road 657 over the east branch of the Paw Paw River, located between 60th Avenue and 62nd Avenue in Antwerp Township. Effective October 17th when the signs indicating the new limit have been posted, vehicles crossing the bridge must not exceed 31 tons (62,000 lbs). Signs indicating the new limit have already been posted. For details on how this affects different vehicle types, please refer to the attached graphic.

This change follows a routine inspection that revealed deterioration in the bridge deck. VBCRC Highway Engineer Barry Anttila explained, "This bridge supports approximately 2,200 to 2,500 vehicles daily. While most passenger vehicles won't be affected, heavier vehicles must comply with the new limit. We're actively working on design and engineering plans to replace the bridge. In the meantime, the weight restriction will help reduce stress on the structure and maintain safe travel."

The estimated cost to replace the bridge is \$850,000, which will be funded through VBCRC's general funds and/or county-wide road millage funds, as the bridge is on a primary road and not eligible for federal or state funding in its current form. However, the planned replacement will increase the bridge's size, making it eligible for future grant opportunities.

"This is an unexpected challenge for our 2026 budget," said VBCRC Managing Director Bret Witkowski. "But this is a high-traffic area, and closing the bridge isn't a viable option. We're committed to making the necessary budget adjustments to move this project forward."

The Van Buren County Road Commission remains dedicated to improving local infrastructure to save lives, time, and money.

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

BW/jb - ATTACHMENT (Truck Classifications Graphic)

Truck Classifications



COE sleeper



Utility van

CLASS 1 6,000 lb & less

CLASS 2



Multi-purpose

Full-size pickup



Minivan

Full-size pickup

6,001 to 10,000 lb \Box

Utility van

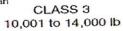
Step van



Walk-in



Conventional van



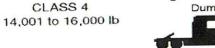


City delivery





City delivery



Heavy conventional



Large walk-in