

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan		2025-17	
DATE:	October 8, 2025	CONTACT:	Bret Witkowski, Managing Director Van Buren County Road Commission 325 W. James St., Post Office Box 156 Lawrence, Michigan 49064 PHONE: (269) 674-8011
RELEASE:	Immediately		

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.

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BW/jb - ATTACHMENT (Truck Classifications Graphic)

Truck Classifications



(TIR) 2008-0620540

