



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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N. 3rd Street Bridge Closure

After continued inspection of the N. 3rd Street bridge over N. 6th Street, the Department of Public Works has decided to shut down the structure to traffic due to significant structural deterioration. The closure will begin on March 19th to allow for users to plan for alternate routes and will continue indefinitely.

The aging structure was posted with maximum vehicle weight restrictions last April after a routine Illinois Department of Transportation inspection showed structural deficiencies. Since then, a special inspection has been performed every three months to continually observe the condition of the structure. The latest inspection report revealed the bridge conditions to be very poor and accelerating to the point of becoming a public safety risk. Holes through the bridge deck and east abutment are apparent and continue to enlarge, cracks and section loss in the beams have been observed over the bearings, cracks and spalls in the pier caps have developed and increased in size and the bridge deflection in the east span has continued to increase. Pictures of the existing conditions are attached.

In accordance with the latest inspection recommendations, the Department of Public Works will shut down the bridge indefinitely. There are no current plans to repair this structure as the Department investigates the best design solutions for this location.

Message boards are being installed this week to alert motorists of the closure and allow time to plan alternate routes. A detour route will be established and signed to route traffic to Whitman Street by using Jefferson Street and Main Street (see attached detour route image). North 6th Street underneath the structure will remain open to traffic.

Questions regarding the bridge closure should be directed to Matthew Vitner, City Engineer, at the Public Works Department.

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