

OLD IRON BRIDGE STRUCTURAL ISSUES CAUSE SAFETY CONCERNS...



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6/22/18 (Bastrop County, TX) – City Officials are closing the Old Iron Bridge June 29th through July 2nd, 2018 to all pedestrians out of an abundance of caution. “Based on structural issues identified in a 2014 structural report, the City of Bastrop will no longer allow any type of large gathering on the iconic structure,” said Trey Job Managing Director of Public Works and Leisure Services. Spectators typically gather in large numbers on the structure to enjoy the annual Patriotic Festival fireworks display presented by the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce. Residents and visitors are encouraged to select an alternate location to view the fireworks such as along the Colorado River, the June Pape Riverwalk, Bastrop Public Library or Fisherman’s park where all of the Patriotic Festival activities including a water wonderland, craft and food vendors, air boats and skydivers are taking place.

No one will be allowed on the structure over the course of the closure to ensure that the load rating will be followed. Because the report is over four years old and the recommended repairs have not been performed, the bridge will be closed during all future large events to prevent accidental overloading of the bridge that could result in failure. “The bridge itself is not a part of the Patriotic Festival however we are sensitive that viewing the display from the bridge is an annual tradition for many and apologize for the inconvenience this may cause,” said Public Safety Director James Altgelt. Article Three of the City of Bastrop City Charter Section 3.01 (15) gives the City authority to exercise exclusive dominion, control and jurisdiction in, upon, over and under the public streets, avenues, sidewalks, alleys, highways, boulevards and public grounds of the City and provide for the improvement of same.

City Staff discussed the importance of the bridge to the Bastrop community and presented issues identified in the 2014 report at the June 19th Budget Workshop. Staff will be developing a variety of options for future Council consideration concerning the future of the iconic structure later this summer.

Staff will make an additional presentation this Tuesday, June 26th at 6:30 p.m. detailing the structural issues and the critical importance of ensuring the safety of our public. Copies of both presentations are available online at www.cityofbastrop.org .

The mission of the City of Bastrop is to continuously strive to provide efficient and proactive services that enhance our quality of life and achieve our vision. For more information on the City of Bastrop, please visit us online at www.cityofbastrop.org. You can also follow us on social media via Instagram, Facebook or Twitter and watch meetings live streamed the last Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. Residents can also tune in to BTXN TV via Time Warner Channel 10 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99 or watch online at www.btxn.tv . For more information on this year's Patriotic Festival please visit the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce online at www.bastropchamber.com

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