

Sherburne County
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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February 12, 2008

Haven Township
c/o Eric Meyers
6530 46th Ave SE
St. Cloud, MN 56304

Subject: Lietha Bridge
Bridge ID # 90706

Dear Haven Township;

I am responding to the concerns that were presented to me at the meeting held on February 4th, 2008. First, I would like to offer some background information. Bridge ID # 90706 over the Elk River was built in 1915 and has far exceeded its life expectancy of 50 years. This bridge has a sufficiency rating of 16.8 out of a possible 100 and is listed as structurally deficient. The next lowest sufficiency rating in the county is 47.8 out of 100 and is scheduled to be replaced. The #90706 bridge is deficient in length causing a narrowing of the river channel. It is also deficient in width at only 15.7 feet wide.

Now, more specifically during the annual bridge inspection of this bridge we found that overall the stringers have a 5% to 10% section loss which we have consistently seen. However, during the 2007 inspection it was discovered that there are several portions of the stringers near the floor beams that have up to 50% section loss on their lower flange.

In addition to the above facts, this bridge has impact damage in two different locations. It is unknown why, but there is also one eye bar in every bay of the bottom chord that is loose, therefore the entire load is being carried by only one line of eye bars on each side of this fracture critical bridge.

For all of the reasons above, I have chosen to close this bridge for the safety of the traveling public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda F. Lewis".

Rhonda F. Lewis, P.E.
County Engineer

Cc: Brian Bensen, Co. Administrator
Dave Conkel, Mn/DOT State Aid Bridge Engineer
John Menter, PW Director