

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Cattleman's Bridge Open to Emergency Vehicles Only, Temporary Crossing Planned for Late November

Jackson, WY, August 18, 2017 – The Teton County Public Works Department continues to work with the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) and other partner agencies to pursue a safe and efficient solution to repair and reopen Cattleman's Bridge on Spring Gulch Road.

The bridge is currently closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles, and will remain closed to the public until a temporary detour bridge is in place.

WYDOT has accelerated the bidding process for construction of a new bridge from November up to October, and estimates that a temporary bypass will be completed by late November this year. The bypass will be a single-lane, signal-controlled structure, and crossing traffic will alternate, similar to the current traffic pattern on Gros Ventre Road between Highway 89 and Kelly. Once this bypass is in place, through traffic will be restored on Spring Gulch Road.

The new two-lane bridge is estimated to be completed in the late summer or early fall of 2018.

"Safety has been and continues to be our number one priority," said Sean O'Malley. "We understand the inconvenience that the closure imposes on residents and neighbors, and we sincerely appreciate their patience as we work to accelerate a solution in partnership with WYDOT," he continued.

Since the original closure in early June, multiple engineers and contractors have evaluated the existing bridge. Options explored included fixing the existing bridge, constructing a separate bypass, requesting that the National Guard construct an emergency bypass, and waiting until the WYDOT project begins in October or November.

Options to build an additional bypass or repair the existing bridge were estimated to cost between \$150,000 and \$350,000, and would be completed by mid-September at the earliest. In addition, both would be removed several months later to allow for construction of the new bridge. To avoid such a high cost for a very temporary replacement, staff recommended to the Teton County Board of Commissioners that the County wait until WYDOT constructs a temporary bypass.

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