



Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Mayor Gary McCarthy Announces The closing of the Oak Street Bridge

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Gary McCarthy today announced that the Oak Street bridge will be closed. This bridge, which was built in the 1930's, carries Oak Street over Amtrak Rail Road and a small creek. It is a very unique bridge that has provided an important link between the Mont Pleasant and Bellevue sections of the City. Over this long period, the bridge has undergone repairs and improvements which included replacement of the deck about twenty years ago.

During recent inspections, which were provided to the City by the NYS Department of Transportation, deterioration in the steel piers which support the deck had been noted. Based on the most recent 2012 NYSDOT inspection, the bridge was cited with a “red flag” for structural deficiencies. The responsible agency for the areas where the deterioration was noted is AMTRAK and they were notified by the NYSDOT of the deterioration and the red flag. All red flag notifications require action in the near future.

If left unattended, this situation represents an advancing deterioration state which would ultimately present a significant risk to the safe operation of the bridge. After reviewing the situation and all NYSDOT information with my engineering personnel in the City, I have decided that the bridge must be closed. The bridge will therefore be closed to all vehicular traffic on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. Until further notice, the bridge will remain open to pedestrian traffic at this time.

Schenectady City Director of Operations William J. Winkler, PE will be available to answer technical questions.

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