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News Release

For Immediate Release

West Kearney Pedestrian Bridge Removal

The City of Springfield Department of Public Works will oversee the removal of a pedestrian bridge spanning West Kearney Street following a sudden structural failure and closure of the bridge this morning.

Public Works is currently working with potential contractors, and anticipates the complete removal of the bridge by the end of this week. Motorists can expect temporary lane closures and detours while this work occurs. More details about the removal will be made available as soon as they are confirmed.

In the meantime, Public Works engineers are examining the remaining four pedestrian bridges in Springfield for any potential structural issues. Public Works has conducted maintenance on the West Kearney bridge as recently as last week, but the work was mostly in response to cosmetic issues. The structural problems discovered today came about suddenly, and are beyond repair. There is no immediate danger to vehicles traveling beneath the bridge.

Springfield Public Schools and Williams Elementary School have released a plan for shuttling students from Williams across Kearney, which is a barrier street and is under the jurisdiction of the Missouri Department of Transportation. The bridge itself is owned and maintained by the City, and was constructed in the late 1970s.

City Manager Greg Burris said today that the City, Springfield Public Schools, and MoDOT will come together in the near future to discuss a plan for possible replacement of the bridge. No timeline or cost estimates are known at this time.

For more information, contact: Jonathan Gano, Public Works – Streets, (417) 864-1961; or Mike Brothers, Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1119.