

February 24, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Public Works Presents Kearney Pedestrian Bridge Plans

Engineers from the City of Springfield's Department of Public Works will hold two meetings in the coming week about the City's plan to build a new pedestrian bridge spanning Kearney Street near Ed V. Williams Elementary School.

The first meeting is a school assembly for students at Williams Elementary. Engineer Stacy Bergman will talk to the students about the work that engineers do for the community and update them on the progress of plans for the new bridge outside their school. He will also talk about ways in which Public Works would like the students to get involved in process.

The assembly will be held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 25, 2011, in the auditorium at Williams Elementary, 2055 W. Kearney St. It is not a public meeting, but media may attend. **If a media outlet would like to attend, please contact Teresa Bledsoe with Springfield Public Schools in advance at 268-7580.**

A formal public meeting will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at the Williams Elementary School cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans for the proposed bridge and gather input from the public on the project.

The new bridge will replace the bridge that was removed from this location in November 2010 after the bridge deck shifted. A subsequent engineering analysis revealed that long-term exposure to moisture had weakened a wooden beam supporting the 30-year-old bridge. The bridge's design prevented engineers from fully viewing and inspecting the structure while the bridge was in place.

The new bridge is likely to be in place by this fall, though bids for construction have not yet been taken. The bridge will be compliant with ADA requirements, and several new parking spaces for parents to pick up students are proposed for Roosevelt Avenue on the south side of the bridge.

Download an [artist's rendering of the bridge design](#).

For more information, contact: Stacy Bergman, Public Works – Engineering, (417) 864-1969; or Mike Brothers, Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1119.



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