
FACT SHEET

West Sammamish River Bridge (southbound traffic)

Kenmore's 68th Avenue NE crossing of the Sammamish River is two bridges—the bridge carrying southbound traffic is known as the West Sammamish River Bridge. This bridge was constructed in 1938, crosses the Sammamish River on 68th Avenue NE (.2 miles south of SR 522), carries southbound traffic only and is located within the City of Kenmore. Over 13,000 vehicles a day (week day traffic) use this Bridge. The adjacent northbound, East Sammamish River Bridge was built in the 1970s and carries over 12,000 vehicles per day. The City will continue to regularly inspect these bridges (and other City bridges) as it has in the past.

What is the current condition of the West (southbound) Sammamish River Bridge?

The live loads (vehicles) and dead loads (asphalt, concrete barriers) are greater than the bridge was designed for and as a result the bridge is showing signs of deterioration such as cracking, leaching, and spalling. Traffic volumes on the bridge continue to increase. The bridge is structurally deficient.

Is the West Sammamish River Bridge unsafe?

Being rated structurally deficient does not mean that a bridge is unsafe; rather it means that it has deterioration to one or more of its major components. Although deterioration is present, a structurally deficient bridge is safe. Safety is our number one priority and if a bridge is found to be unsafe, it's closed. If a bridge can only carry certain loads, it's restricted.

What has the City done to evaluate the West Sammamish River Bridge?

In 2013, the City conducted an engineering study of scour, load limits and geotechnical condition of the West Sammamish River Bridge. The bridge is at the end of its functional life. The City's engineering team recommends posting the Bridge with weight restrictions.

What is the benefit of weight restricting vehicles on the West Sammamish River Bridge?

Restricting the vehicle weights on the Bridge will reduce further deterioration, damage and stresses on the aging bridge.



(over)

How does the City have the authority to restrict the West Sammamish River Bridge?

Given the engineering and monitoring results, and pursuant to RCW 46.44.080 and Kenmore Municipal Code 12.20.010, the Kenmore City Council has the authority to impose vehicle weight limits where necessary and prudent.

When will Kenmore City Council review and authorize the restriction?

Kenmore City Council adopted an Ordinance to weight restrict the Bridge on January 27, 2014. The Ordinance provides that emergency vehicles may utilize the bridge at all times. The weight restriction will begin in late February 2014 when the street signs with weight limits are installed.

How do I get where I need to go if my vehicle can't use the West Sammamish River Bridge?

Kenmore does not have another public crossing of the Sammamish River within the City. Kenmore staff coordinated with the City of Bothell to determine the best southbound Sammamish River crossing. The recommended detour is I-405.

What vehicles are to be restricted from crossing the West Sammamish River Bridge?

Weight Limit	
Three-Axle Vehicles (Type 3)	Sixteen (16) Tons
Five-Axle Vehicles (Type 3S2)	Twenty-five (25) Tons
Six-Axle Vehicles (Type 3-3)	Twenty-seven (27) Tons

Will the City enforce this restriction?

Yes. There are penalties for violating load restrictions.

What is the City doing to fix the West Sammamish River Bridge long-term?

The City is currently evaluating the options of rehabilitation vs. replacement of the bridge with the goal of applying for grant funding in the spring of 2014. It is likely the bridge will be rehabilitated or replaced in the next five years, if funding is made available. Short of taking on debt or raising taxes, the City does not have the resources to replace or rehabilitate the bridge without grant funding from Federal or State sources. It is the City's intent to minimize the use of local taxpayer dollars to fund a bridge that supports regional traffic.

Does the East (northbound) Sammamish River Bridge on 68th Ave NE have problems?

No, the East Sammamish River Bridge carries northbound traffic (over 12,000 vehicles a day during the week) across the river, was built in the 1970s, and is currently in good condition. The City will continue regular inspections and maintenance of this bridge as it does all City Bridges.



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