

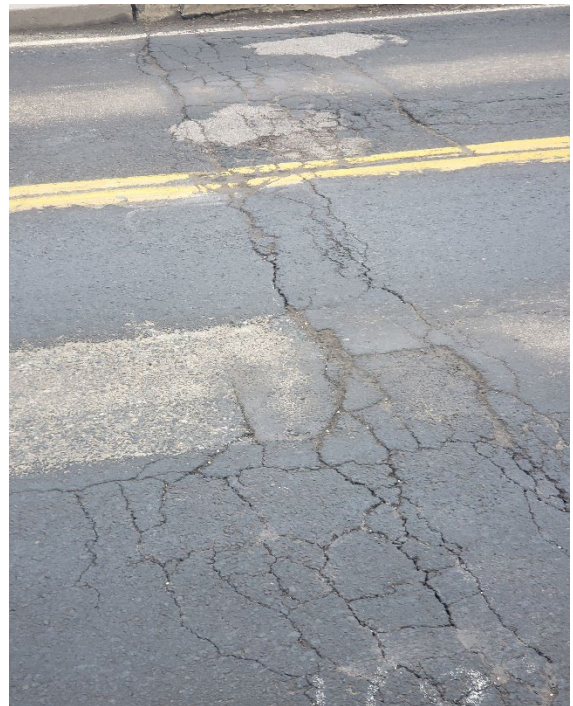
TOUCHET RIVER BRIDGE

WAITSBURG

Bridge Replacement Budget Request

\$10,500,000

The Touchet River Bridge on Highway 12 in Waitsburg is approaching a Century of use and needs replaced. The bridge no longer functions as designed for today's traffic loads and volumes; with over a million vehicles passing over it every year. Additionally, the bridge also creates a choke point for flood debris during highwater events, adding to flooding concerns for the City of Waitsburg. The deck is spalling and cracking and there is chunk out of it on the upstream side. Our waterline that hangs under the bridge was also damaged slightly in prior years flood event and vegetation and other debris has piled up on the upstream side of the bridge.



The City of Waitsburg would like to partner with WSDOT on this project in order to see the bridge replaced with a modern single span bridge that eliminates, traffic, pedestrian and flood concerns.

For additional information contact Waitsburg City Administrator Randy Hinchliffe at administrator@CityofWaitsburg.com

On Going Flood Concerns:

Highway 12 Bridge and associated levees regularly see high water events in excess of 9000 CFS with the last Major Flood Event occurring in 2020. Past Flood events include 1996 and 1964 with dozens of high-water events in between.

Based on current conditions and older photos, little to no maintenance has been done to the bridge since at least 1996. The two eastern sections are now completely blocked with vegetation and sediment, leading to a reduced river channel flow that puts addition pressure on the western levee and bridge abutment.

Should this bridge fail or be closed for any reason, there is not another bridge closer than 60 miles that can handle the freight load this bridge sees over the course of a year.

Editor's Note: The following two photographs illustrate how sediment and brush have built up under the Preston Avenue Bridge since 1996:



Figure 5. 1996 photo of Preston Avenue Bridge, facing downstream, RM 44.3. Note: there are 3 spans to this bridge and the two left spans are free of brush. Photo courtesy of Loyal Baker and the Times.



Figure 6. Shows Preston Ave Bridge Facing West, Note the Two Tiers are Full of Brush and Silt, 2/19/09. Photograph by Alex Amonette

