

NEW WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR SEVERAL BRIDGES

Motorists will notice new vehicle weight restrictions on the use of 17 bridges throughout King County, including one or more near your neighborhood. Signs will be posted in November 2017 restricting certain heavy trucks from using the bridges.

The new weight restrictions on these bridges do not affect pedestrians, bicycles, passenger cars or vans, small trucks, ambulances, school buses or most propane and septic tank trucks. However, the new restrictions may impact heavier vehicles such as hauling or dump trucks, concrete mixer trucks, garbage trucks, water tankers and the largest fire engines.

Many vehicles like school buses, fire engines and ambulances are still allowed depending on their weight and the loads they carry. The county is working with each fire district to make sure that fire vehicles can reach destinations. King County is contacting local cities, emergency response agencies and trucking associations, in addition to area residents, about these new restrictions. If the weight of a vehicle, unloaded or loaded, exceeds the posted weight limit, companies or agencies can apply for “over legal” permits. Each over legal request is individually evaluated to determine whether that overweight vehicle can be safely permitted to cross and under what conditions.

Learn more about King County’s bridge load restrictions:
www.kingcounty.gov/bridgeweightrestrictions

Reason for New Weight Restriction

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed new calculations for determining the weight that a bridge can carry following a bridge collapse and, importantly, a decision by FHWA to allow heavier trucks on roadways. King County owns and maintains 178 vehicle bridges and, as mandated, is evaluating each of them using current bridge condition information and these new federal formulas to calculate bridge strength. Of the bridges evaluated so far, County engineers have determined new vehicle weight restrictions are necessary for 17 bridges. As the rest of the bridge inventory is inspected and evaluated, any additional bridges that need restricting will be noted on the Bridge Weight Restriction website at: www.kingcounty.gov/bridgeweightrestrictions

Minimal impacts on the community are expected from the new restrictions, with the exception of very large vehicles and overweight loads.

Contact us

Brent Champaco, Community Relations Planner
Brent.champaco@kingcounty.gov
206-477-9094

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