

UPPER TOKUL CREEK BRIDGE

New Restrictions for Heavy Trucks

Residents will notice new restrictions on the use of the Upper Tokul Creek Bridge where Tokul Road SE crosses Tokul Creek, two miles north of Snoqualmie Falls. Certain heavy trucks may no longer use this bridge effective Wednesday, November 1, 2017, and signs will be posted showing the restrictions.

The new weight restrictions on Upper Tokul Creek Bridge do not affect pedestrians, bicycles, passenger cars or vans, small trucks, ambulances, school buses or most propane and septic tank trucks. However, the new restriction may impact heavier vehicles such as hauling or dump trucks, concrete mixer 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. County engineers evaluated Upper Tokul Creek Bridge and determined new vehicle weight restrictions are necessary. The bridge was built in the 1950s when trucks were smaller, and weighed and hauled less heavy loads.

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

Contact us

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