

ROAD COMMISSION **for OAKLAND COUNTY**

PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

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PUTNAM DR. BRIDGE IN WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP CLOSED INDEFINITELY

Beverly Hills, MI – The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has closed the Putnam Drive bridge over a Walnut Lake canal north of Walnut Lake Road and west of Inkster Road in West Bloomfield Township due to the severe deterioration of the structure.

Recently, RCOC's bridge consultants, the Great Lakes Engineering Group, inspected the bridge and determined that support beams can no longer handle the already reduced load capacity, and there are holes in the bridge deck. The bridge was on an accelerated inspection schedule, meaning it was inspected frequently in recent years due to its condition.

At this point, funding has not been identified for bridge replacement, and the bridge is not scheduled to be rebuilt at this time. The bridge was constructed in 1931 and mainly carries residential traffic. Alternate routes are available within the subdivision.

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Editor's Note: A photo of the underside of the bridge is attached. The photo shows the severely rusted bridge beams including one that is now only partially attached to the structure.

