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Arapahoe County begins annual bridge rehabilitation program

Repairs to Quincy Road bridge in Bennett begin Sept. 4

On Sept. 4, Arapahoe County will begin repairs to the Quincy Road bridge over Coal Creek, about one mile west of Watkins Road in Bennett, as part of its annual bridge rehabilitation program.

Quincy Road bridge will undergo a full deck repair and some traffic delays are expected. One traffic lane will be open both eastbound and westbound during construction, which is expected to conclude by Oct. 2.

Every year, Arapahoe County budgets \$250,000 to maintain and repair bridges in unincorporated Arapahoe County. The County has 45 bridges with a deck span length of 20 feet or greater. These bridges are categorized as *qualifying structures* and eligible for inspections by the Colorado Department of Transportation every two years as part of a national bridge inspection program.

A 2005 report, the most recent report on the condition of the County's bridges under the jurisdiction of Arapahoe County rated sufficient. The next inspection should occur later this year.

"We are committed to providing a safe transportation infrastructure throughout Arapahoe County," said Commissioner Jim Dyer, who serves as the Board liaison to the County's Public Works and Development Department. "Every year, we set aside a pool of money to maintain our bridges, and the Board of County Commissioners works diligently to secure federal and state funding for transportation projects that will benefit Arapahoe County residents, as well as the commuting public."

Bridges are rated based on the standard Sufficiency Rating System used throughout the Country. On a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest, the County's bridges average Sufficiency Rating is 91. The lowest County bridge Sufficiency Rating is 72.7. The bridges are about 30 years old, on average, with a few that are almost 60 years old.

In 2006, repairs and maintenance were made to the County's only structurally deficient bridge, a rural bridge at Quincy Avenue over Box Elder Creek. This bridge was reported as structurally deficient in 2005. Another rural bridge, County Road 42 over West Bijou Creek, is rated load restricted based on its design. This bridge has a sufficiency rating of 74.

Arapahoe County also inspects and maintains bridges smaller than the 20-foot minimum *qualifying structure* definition. These 62 small bridges are rated in a similar manner as the larger bridges and have an average sufficiency rating of 92.2.

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