



Long Bridge Pedestrian Bridge

TEMPORARY ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

A recent routine inspection of the Long Bridge pedestrian bridge has identified isolated areas that need further evaluation and repair planning. As a safety precaution, access to portions of the bridge has been restricted while engineers complete more detailed inspections and determine the next steps for repairs. Despite these areas of restriction, bridge users are still currently able to travel the full length of the bridge from end to end.

It is important that all bridge users follow posted signs and traffic control devices and stay out of restricted areas.

These temporary restrictions are intended to help keep bridge users safe while the bridge undergoes additional evaluation.

WHY THESE INSPECTIONS MATTER

Regular bridge inspections are a critical part of maintaining safe infrastructure, especially for aging bridges exposed to decades of weather, moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, and daily use.

A similar inspection completed in 2015 identified separate areas of concern that were repaired at that time. The deterioration identified during the current inspection involves new areas and is not related to the previous repairs.

The conditions identified are consistent with normal wear and tear expected on a structure of this age and type. Identifying these issues through routine inspections allows engineers to address concerns before conditions worsen.

A LANDMARK WITH A LONG HISTORY

The Long Bridge has connected the Sandpoint community for more than a century and remains one of North Idaho's most recognizable landmarks. The current pedestrian bridge opened to vehicle traffic in 1956 before being converted into the pedestrian and bicycle path used today after the current vehicle bridge opened in 1981.

Since then, the bridge has continued to age and requires ongoing maintenance to remain safe for public use. To help preserve the structure for continued pedestrian and bicycle access, vehicle traffic has been restricted for many years.

For generations, the bridge has been a place for recreation, community events, traditions, and everyday moments important to both residents and visitors.

ITD understands how much this bridge means to the community and is committed to working with local partners, event organizers, and the public to prioritize safety while supporting continued community use.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In addition to ongoing maintenance and evaluation efforts, the Idaho Transportation Department is currently conducting the US-95 Long Bridge Replacement Study to plan for the future of the crossing and long-term transportation needs in the Sandpoint area.

The study is evaluating future replacement options for both the vehicle and pedestrian bridges to better serve drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians for generations to come. At this time, design and construction of a future replacement bridge remains unfunded.

Learn more about the study at itd.idaho.gov/project/us-95-long-bridge-replacement-study/

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

We understand the pedestrian bridge is deeply important to the Sandpoint community and plays a major role in recreation, tourism, and annual events.

ITD is proactively coordinating with the City of Sandpoint, Bonner County, and community event organizers to discuss options and identify solutions that prioritize public safety while supporting community traditions whenever possible.

Additional updates will be shared on the Long Bridge Replacement Study website as more information, and the expected duration of these impacts, becomes available.