



Emily Lloyd
Commissioner

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CONTACT: depressoffice@dep.nyc.gov, (845) 334-7868
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TRAFFIC AT ASHOKAN RESERVOIR'S DIVIDING WEIR BRIDGE LIMITED TO ONE LANE UNTIL REPAIR WORK COMPLETED

Temporary traffic signals installed this week; concrete-arch bridge to be repaired this summer

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced that the Dividing Weir Bridge, which carries Reservoir Road over Ashokan Reservoir in the Town of Olive, will be limited to a single lane of traffic until fall of this year. Temporary traffic signals will be installed at both ends of the bridge and the reduction to a single lane will take effect on Wednesday.

A recent inspection by engineers determined that the posted weight limit on the bridge should be reduced from 16 tons to 12 tons. DEP has informed local elected officials, school districts and first responders about the new weight limit and traffic signals on the bridge.

The 100-year-old Dividing Weir Bridge is scheduled to undergo repairs this summer to shore up its concrete arches, which have weathered over time from the effects of freezing and thawing. The bridge is expected to return to two-lane traffic once the repairs are completed. The 16-ton weight limit will continue until the bridge is replaced. A new Dividing Weir Bridge is scheduled to be designed and constructed over the next decade. DEP owns, operates and maintains 57 bridges and 99 miles of roads in the watershed.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of high quality water each day to more than 9 million New Yorkers. This includes more than 70 upstate communities and institutions in Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties who consume an average of 110 million total gallons of drinking water daily from New York City's water supply system. This water comes from the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton watersheds that extend more than 125 miles from the City, and the system comprises 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, and numerous tunnels and aqueducts. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the upstate watershed. In addition to its \$70 million payroll and \$157 million in annual taxes paid in upstate counties, DEP has invested more than \$1.7 billion in watershed protection programs—including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Watershed Agricultural Council—that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program with nearly \$14 billion in investments planned over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information,

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