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TO: Honorable County Commissioners  
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 07 Feb 23 County Board Meeting  
**Closure and Removal of Br. 25501 on CSAH 2**

Date: 06 Feb 23

#### Summary

Due to a public safety concern, staff closed Br. 25501 on Tuesday 31 Jan 23. It is requested that the County Board consider a contract for removing the existing structure to take advantage of contractor availability during the winter months and to shorten the timeframe for constructing the replacement structure.

#### Background

After an inspection of Br. 25501 found a critical finding based on the condition of several piling, and based on a bridge engineer's report, the Board determined that Br. 25501 would remain open in a two-way, one lane configuration.

That engineer's report was based on the assumption that the trucks using the bridge were obeying the load posting signs installed at the bridge. Public Works staff has determined that overweight loads have crossed Br. 25501, and there is no way to know if additional overweight loads have already crossed this bridge or if they will continue to cross over this bridge.

The County Engineer is required to hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public. Therefore, the bridge was closed on Tuesday 31 Jan 23.

Plan development for the replacement of Bridge 25501 is currently in process with Stonebrooke Engineering. Final plan development is nearing completion and will be ready for reviews by Goodhue County and the State of Minnesota in the coming weeks. The replacement of this bridge should begin early this summer.

Part of replacing the bridge will involve the removal of the existing structure. This portion of the work could take place prior to contracting the work with a bridge builder and would ultimately

"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"

facilitate full replacement that much quicker. Staff has begun working on potential permitting issues to verify when the structure would be able to be removed.

With limited amounts of construction activity taking place during the cold months of the year it is believed that contractor availability and competitive pricing would help expedite the replacement of the bridge.

#### Alternatives

- Develop a Request for Quote to remove the existing structure (pending environmental permitting if before 15 Apr 23) and have this structure out of the way for the contractor who will build the replacement structure.
- Take no action at this time and include the removal of the existing structure in the contract for building the new structure.

#### Recommendation

It is the recommendation of staff that the Board authorize Public Works to request quotes for bridge removal as soon as is practical. If the Board wishes to follow this path, it is recommended that this decision be made soon so the final plans for the replacement structure can be modified to minimize any delay in the completion of those plans.