PRESS RELEASE

MIKE COOPER
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015**

RE: **W. 15TH AVENUE BRIDGE AT MILE BRANCH CLOSED FOR REPAIRS**

A recent LADOTD bridge inspection of the W. 15th Avenue bridge at Mile Branch in Covington has found critical deficiencies in the substructure. As a result of these findings, DOTD is requiring St. Tammany Parish, which manages the Off-System Bridge Program for the State, to close the bridge to vehicular traffic. In addition, the bridge will be closed to bicyclists and pedestrians who utilize the Mile Branch crossing as part of the 15th Avenue bicycle, jogging, and walking path. St. Tammany Parish advised the City of Covington to close the bridge by April 1st and take steps to remedy the deficiencies.

The City is complying with the order and will place barricades and appropriate signs to notify the public of the closure and recommended detour routes. This will be done on Tuesday, March 31st. The City is moving forward with design work so that a contractor may be hired as quickly as possible to make the needed repairs. Construction time will be dependent on the final scope of work defined.

LADOTD inspects this bridge and several other bridges in Covington on a two-year cycle as part of the LADOTD Off-System Bridge Program. The bridges are also inspected on a yearly basis by St. Tammany Parish as part of the program requirements.

"We are thankful for the regular inspections of our local bridges by the State and Parish so that deficiencies may be detected to avoid possible vehicle damage or personal injury. We know the public will be inconvenienced while this busy roadway is closed and ask that our citizens plan for alternate routes when travelling in this area," Mayor Mike Cooper.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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