

State of Vermont
Agency of Transportation - Highway Division
Bureau of Asset Management - Bridge Inspection
219 North Main Street | Suite 201
Barre, VT 05641
<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/docs/bridge-inspections>

February 15, 2024

Mr. James Faulkner, Selectboard Chair and
Mr. Nathan Bareham, Town Administrator
Town of Charlotte
c/o Ms. Mary Mead, Town Clerk
159 Ferry Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

RE: Charlotte, bridge #27 on TH-9 over Holmes Creek

Dear Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Bareham:

The Federal National Bridge Inspection Standards require inspection of all publicly owned bridges over 20 feet in length on a 24-month cycle. A two-member team performs the inspection, with at least one member specially trained for this work. The Agency of Transportation provides this inspection in the interest of public safety and as a service to the municipalities with the cost shared between the Federal government and the State.

The above referenced structure is a single span timber covered bridge with timber deck spanning Holmes Creek. During a recent inspection by the consultant team designing the repair project and a new load rating, the following problems were noted which prompted a re-rating of the bridge and your attention.

- At all Four (4) corners of the covered bridge the consultant noticed that there was blocking missing along the ends of the bottom chord.



To: Town of Charlotte
RE: Charlotte, bridge #27 on TH-9 over Holmes Creek
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Based on these findings, it is recommended that the Town legally post the bridge at both ends for a maximum gross weight of 6,000 pounds or 3 tons and install blocking at all Four (4) corners of the bridge in the next 30 days or bridge should be closed until repairs are made.

This structure is owned by the town and as such is the responsibility of the town. **Failure to comply with the recommendations may compromise public safety, result in additional damage, and/or substantially reduce the service life of the structure.**

Even though a bridge is recommended for weight, width, or height posting or closure by the State, the decision to properly post or close the structure is the responsibility of municipal officials. However, it is in the best interest of the municipality to post or sign the bridges in accordance with these recommendations. A failure to warn motorists of potential bridge hazards may result in tort liability claims.

Also, we have been notified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that failure by the town/city to properly post or close the structure (in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards) will jeopardize federal-aid highway funds for town-owned projects in your municipality. **Currently, this results in withholding authorization of funds for Project #BO CVBR(6) to replace bridge no. 27 on TH-9 in Charlotte crossing the Holmes Creek.**

Please send WRITTEN notification of your intent to comply with, your compliance with, or reasons for non-compliance with these recommendations within 60 days from receipt of this letter. We are required by the Federal Highway Administration to report to them when the recommended posting, closure, and/or safety repairs have been implemented. A response form has been provided for your use.

If you have any questions concerning the matter, please contact your local District Transportation Administrator, DTA Ashley Atkins at 363-1182 or me at 498-8263. A representative from Bridge Inspection would be willing to meet with you at the site to discuss the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

Spencer Howard P.E.

Spencer Howard, P.E.
Bridge Management and Inspection Program Manager

cc: Ashley Atkins, DTA District #5
NBIS Inspection Files via JWW



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RE: Charlotte, bridge #27 on TH-9 over Holmes Creek

The Selectboard of the town of Charlotte,

WILL, legally post the bridge for 6,000 lbs or 3 Tons and block all Four (4) corners of the bridge in the next 30 days or the town should close the bridge until repairs are made. Anticipated date of completion of this work is _____ (date). *Charlotte WILL notify the State in writing when work is complete.

OTHER *Reason(s) for non-compliance _____

Printed Name and _____

Signatures: _____

Town of _____

Charlotte _____

Selectboard _____

DATE: _____

