

7TH STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto are proposing to replace the existing 7th Street Bridge. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2020.

The 7th Street Bridge was built in 1916 and is among the lowest rated bridges within California. On a scale of 1 to 100, with 100 being the best, the 7th Street Bridge has a sufficiency rating of 2. The bridge is listed as structurally deficient on the “Caltrans Structures Maintenance and Investigation Local Bridge List”. Structurally deficient means that the bridge has low scores on the bridge deck and superstructure and that the bridge is eligible for replacement utilizing Federal funding.

The 7th Street Bridge was designed and built before the modern truck and the design load was more applicable to horse drawn wagons than trucks. Although the bridge is open for vehicles, it has been weight restricted to 4 tons gross load since 1979. The standard weight restriction for a bridge of this type is 40 tons. Also, the bridge has been weight restricted from legal loads for 79 of the 100 years that it has been in existence.

The bridge span is approximately 1,170 feet in length and the average daily traffic volume is approximately 15,700 vehicles, which is one of our highest traffic volume roads. The replacement of the bridge will expand vehicular capacity, and improve safety for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. For complete details on the 7th Street Bridge project go to <http://www.7thstreetbridge.org>.