



Menominee County Highway Department

W2703 Chief Carron Road
Keshena, WI 54135
Ph: 715-799-3369
Fax: 715-799-3789

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, January 16, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jeremy C. Weso, Highway Commissioner
715-799-3369

FAVORABLE INSPECTION OF THE BRAVE ISLAND BRIDGE

KESHENA, Wis. – On the evening of Saturday, January 13, 2018, a pickup truck driving on the ice slammed into two of the five beams supporting the bridge deck on the Brave Island Bridge. Those two beams were heavily damaged, leaving the Highway Department to close the west side (south bound lane) of the bridge. A bridge engineering inspection team from Ayres Associates carefully inspected the bridge on Tuesday, January 16th. It found that the beam damage did not result in any damage to the bridge deck or abutments, and will not compromise the integrity of the bridge as it relates to the traffic load on the eastern side of the bridge. The engineering firm is recommending we continue to keep the west lane closed until the two beams can be replaced. In addition, the engineering firm is not advising the currently posted weight of 45 tons be reduced at this time.

Over the next several weeks, Menominee County will be contacting bridge construction firms and vendors specializing in wooden beam manufacturing and installation. It is likely that these beams are special order items requiring several months of lead time to manufacture. Accordingly, traffic on the Brave Island Bridge may be reduced to one lane for several months. In the interim, Menominee County will work to improve signage in that area and better define the one lane bridge closure boundaries. Future updates will be provided as developments warrant. We thank the community and residents living in the affected area for their patience and cooperation over the last few days, as well as in the weeks to come.

