



September 10, 2024

2024 - 10

FHWA to complete repairs on the Queen Mary Highway Bridge

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS—The Department of Public Works (DPW) is advising the community on necessary repairs scheduled for the Queen Mary Highway Bridge on St. Croix.

Late last month, Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Eastern Federal Lands division and DPW became aware of minor defects on the bridge approaches along with signs of "shoving"—the formation of ripples across a pavement—on the bridge deck. Since then, a meeting was held with the project contractor—Custom Builders—to address the issue.

The defects on the approaches were rectified, however, the contractor is currently awaiting the bridge membrane to arrive on island to help the asphalt adhere to the bridge super structure. To be clear, the bridge is not "sinking," as has been wrongfully stated numerous times online and on radio broadcasts.

"We have received several calls from concerned citizens about the condition of the recently re-opened bridge. I want to assure the public the irregularities are not being caused by structural issues at all," DPW Commissioner Derek Gabriel said. "We worked with our partners at Eastern Federal Lands, the project managers, to make sure the bridge remains safe. DPW will make sure the repairs are made as quickly as possible, and all concerns are addressed. The public's safety remains our number one priority."

According to FHWA, once the bridge membrane arrives on island it will be installed to assist in the asphalt adhering to the deck. Repairs to the bridge are expected to take no more than 48-72 hours to address pending weather conditions.

DPW will issue an alert prior to the bridge closing for repairs. In the meantime, the motoring public is reminded to travel at no more than 20 mph as stated on posted signs near the bridge and to proceed with caution.

Follow DPW on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. You can also visit dpw.vi.gov to stay abreast of all things V.I. Public Works.

DPW...On the move!