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# Weather delays Belmont bridge work

BELMONT — Town officials want residents to know that work will start soon on the Church Street bridge — if and when the weather cooperates.

The bridge over the Tioga River is one of the most heavily used roads in the village. A routine state inspection of the bridge early last month by the Department of Transportation found corroded steel culverts and other signs of wear that required its closure.

The bridge was closed for safety reasons, and there have been detour signs on both sides. The bridge is adjacent to Monument Square, and is one of a few entry roads into the center of Belmont Village.

The detour route takes drivers on Dearborn Street and Seavey Road, requiring users of the bridge to drive more than a mile out of their way to get to the village and Route 106.

Johnson Street is not being used a detour because it was not deemed appropriate, Fortin said.

Town officials were a bit surprised by the closure, as the bridge had passed inspection in previous years, said Jim Fortin, the town's director of public works.

Work was supposed to begin this week, said Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin. The contractor, Busby Construction, is being paid \$125,575 out of a town capital reserve funds for road and bridge repair, she said.

But workers have delayed the start because of the heavy rains of late.

"They need a good string of dry days," Beaudin said.

With more rain in the forecast for Friday, they may not start work until next week, she said, and it will take about three weeks to complete.

"We're still shooting to have it done by Thanksgiving," Beaudin said.

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