Repairs to fire damage, wear and tear to cost minimum $1.1 million

“The bridge, which carries traffic from Webster Avenue onto Franklin Avenue over a set of railroad tracks, has had at least one lane closed since a fire destroyed a distribution used warehouse below the bridge in October 2016. The city learned of minor issues about six months before the fire, through a federal program that evaluates bridges every two years, Public Works Director Amy Burlarley-Hyland said. The bids cover repairs to address dress fi re damage, and to address the wear and tear identified before the fire.

“We did have some minor repair needs that we needed to address from the bridge inspection report, but they were things that weren’t urgent,” Burlarley-Hyland said. “Once we had the fire, we decided it would be smarter to address all of the issues we had, large and small.”

She said this can make the metal working inside the concrete expand, cracking the concrete and weakening the structure.

“There’s been some minor damage since we had the fire under there, but it’s pretty much what we’d expect for a bridge of that age,” she said.

Engineering manager Steve Martin said parts of the concrete deck are worn down to the rebar underneath, “which is a concern, and it would take a lot of work to get it fixed.”

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