

LAGOON POND DRAWBRIDGE COMMITTEE
c/o Martha's Vineyard Commission

January 23, 2006

Re: **Invitation to an Open Meeting on Feb. 8 at 9AM at the MV Commission to discuss with the Lagoon Pond Committee its Request to Truckers to Avoid Overloading the Lagoon Pond Drawbridge**

Dear Vineyard Truckers:

In order to keep the drawbridge in operation, the Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee has asked the State and town police to strictly enforce the existing speed limits, has asked the State to consider reduced weight and speed limits, and is asking truckers to voluntarily avoid overloading the bridge. To that end, the committee requests that truckers, particularly those carrying loads approaching the bridge's capacity, voluntarily follow the alternative route via Vineyard Haven-Edgartown Road to reach Edgartown, also using either Barnes Road or County Road to reach Oak Bluffs, from Vineyard Haven. A map of the alternative route is on the back.

Because the Beach Road route is such a vital one for the Island and the Lagoon Pond Bridge represents a vital link along this route, we hope to take any steps necessary to prevent its premature closure by the State and the tremendous traffic nightmare that would ensue for all of us.

The Drawbridge Committee – made up of representatives of the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury, the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the County Engineer – has been studying the condition of our drawbridge connecting Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs via Beach Road. MassHighway plans to replace this bridge because it has reached its reasonable life expectancy and is in poor condition. The State expects to build a temporary bridge that will be ready to carry traffic by the fall of 2007.

Recently an engineering firm hired by the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven conducted a thorough assessment of the condition of this bridge and made suggestions for its repair in the hopes of extending its life until the new bridge is built. While the bridge is currently rated for the posted weight limits of 12, 15 and 24 tons for 2-axle, 3-axle and 5-axle trucks, the engineers have recommended decreasing the weight and speeds of vehicles using the bridge in order to limit the stress on the decking and approaches.



For further information, please visit the MV Commission's website (www.mvcommission.org) and search for "drawbridge". **We welcome your comments and questions and invite you to attend our meeting on February 8th at 9AM at the MV Commission.**

The committee and the island thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Melinda Loberg, Chair

P.O. Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts 02557
508-693-3453

Alternative Route to Oak Bluffs & Edgartown from the Vineyard Haven Ferry Dock

Alternative Route from SSA Vineyard Haven

Roads

Major Road

Secondary Road

1. Left out of the Ferry Parking Lot

2. Right at 1st Stop Sign (at Five Corners)

3. Left onto Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Rd.

4. Left onto Barnes Rd. or County Rd.
for Oak Bluffs

OR

5. Continue Straight for Edgartown

