$44,000 Needed to Finish

DUFFY TO ASK COUNCIL FOR SECIAL FUND

City Will Lose $4200 if Work on High Street Project is Delayed.

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38 BEAMS RECLAIMED

May have to Readjust Improvement Program to Provide Money.

(Columbus Sunday Dispatch, March 4, 1928) Col. W.H. Duffy, city director of public service, will go before city council, Monday night to urge that body to devise way and means to raise $44,000 with which to complete the reinforcement of the girders supporting the Union Station viaduct.

Colonel Duffy will lay before the councilmen a letter from city engineer Robert H. Simpson, whereon the latter states that if the project is not completed at the present time, the city will lose approximately $4200. This expense will be incurred, Duffy pointed out, by paying the contractors Fritz, Rumer & Cooke for moving their machinery and equipment from the site of operations and replacing them at a time when council can raise the necessary $44,000 to complete this work.

HAVE ASSIGNED LIMIT.

At the present time city council is powerless to issue any further bonds for improvements, having assigned its limit for the first half of the year. It has also set aside $200,000 for the second half toward construction of the east wing of the new city hall, which it can issue in bonds for the second six months of the year. The division in the issuing power of city council is restrained by state bond statutes.

It may, therefore, be necessary for council to readjust the improvement program, financed from general bonds if it desires to complete the Union Station project now. Several members of council have expressed their desire to see the work completed as soon as possible.

STARTED IN FALL.

Work of reinforcing the girders was begun last fall when council contracted for $50,000 worth of work with the contracting company, with the stipulation that the contract would be renewed at the same rate of construction when funds were available. In January an additional $20,000 was expended.

The huge I-beams, 76 feet long, four feet wide and 14 inches thick at the lower flange, have been eaten away by the sulfur and, smoke blast of locomotives during the 35 years existence of the bridge. Engineers say that the beams have lost almost half of their supporting power, placing the structure in jeopardy of collapsing.

RESTORE 38 BEAMS.

Thirty-eight of these beams have been practically reclaimed by the gunite method. The contactors have replaced the lost steel in each beam, covered it with a heavy electrically welded wire and then encased all with concrete by a process of shooting the gunite into place with compressed air. Engineers and contractors claim the process insures the beams against further corrosion and practically restores them to their original strength.

Thirty more beams remain to be reclaimed. Prof. Clyde Morris, consulting engineer for the city and instructor of structural engineering at Ohio State university, reported to the city engineer that some of the unrepaired beams must have immediate attention.

Colonel Duffy expressed himself in favor of completing the work at the earliest possible moment in order to affect the $4200 saving and to avid any possible mishap as the result of the deteriorated girders.

Fritz, Rumer & Cooke, the contractors devised the method of reinforcing the beams, placed their own idea before engineers at Ohio State university, who put the construction method under a rigid test and found it to be entirely feasible. Upon recommendation of engineers the plan was carried out by city council, with the result that other engineering concerns throughout the country are inspecting the method with a view to remedying similar conditions of bridges and viaducts in their cities.

Railroads using the Union Station viaduct have co-operated to the fullest extent with the city and the contractors in making the repairs. The contractor pointed out that the Pennsylvania railroad depressed their tracks under the viaduct three inches to allow for the additional two inches which has been added to the bottom of the girders by the application of gunite.