

NWA Extends Restriction of Rio Grande Bridge Use by Articulated Vehicles

The National Works Agency (NWA) is advising that the restricted use of the Rio Grande Bridge by vehicles that are over 40 feet in length, introduced last November has been extended.

The Rio Grande Bridge is located outside St. Margaret's Bay in western Portland. The restriction will be in effect for a further period of two (2) months and is expected to be lifted at the end of March 2012.

It has been extended because the project has experienced delays due largely to heavy rainfall in the area during the past month.

The restriction became necessary to facilitate construction activities now in progress to replace the vehicular bridge that collapsed during the passage of Hurricane Dennis in July 2005, when it suffered extensive damage to its centre pier.

Operators of articulated vehicles 40 feet or longer, who wish to enter or leave the town of Port Antonio are advised to use the alternative route through St. Thomas.

The new bridge is expected to be completed by July 2012 at a cost of US\$28.3 million. This construction project is being undertaken through the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP).

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NWA is advising motorists to obey posted warning signs and the instructions of flag persons.

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