



**Figure 16.2.18** Vertical Lift Bridge with Power and Drive System on Towers

### 16.2.5

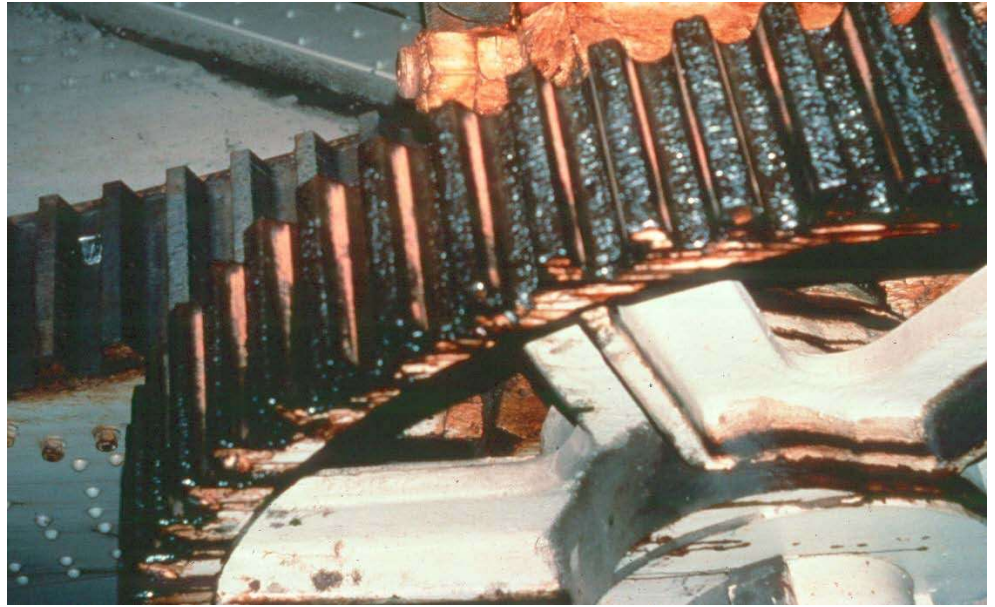
#### **Special Elements Common to All Movable Bridges**

Give particular attention to the special elements found in swing bridges, bascule bridges, and vertical lift bridges during inspection. These elements are commonly found on all types of movable bridges:

- Open Gearing
- Speed Reducers Including Differentials
- Shafts and Couplings
- Bearings
- Brakes
- Drives
- Air Buffers and Shock Absorbers
- Span Locks
- Counterweights
- Live Load shoes and Strike Plates
- Traffic Barriers

#### **Open Gearing**

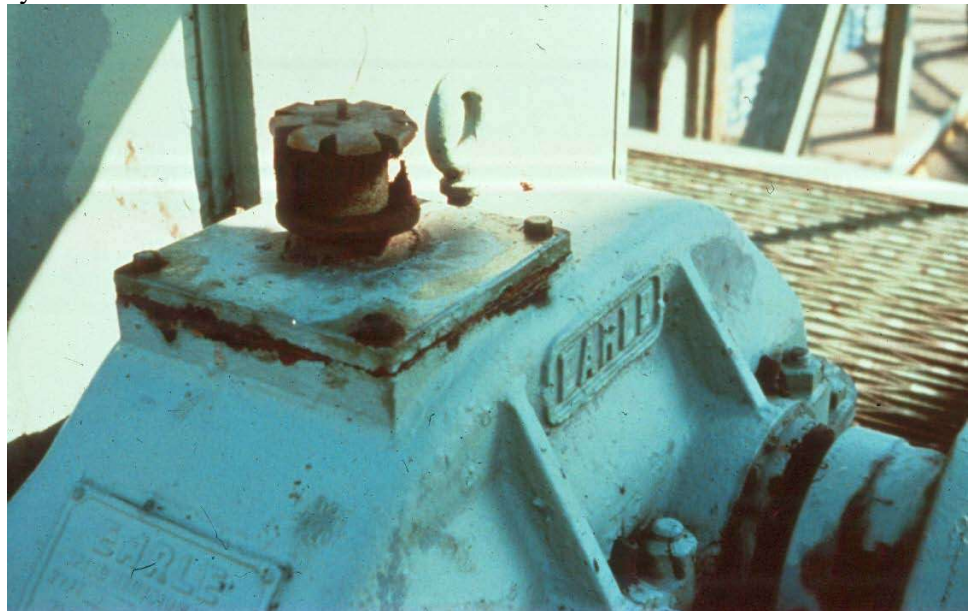
Open gearing is used to transmit power from one shaft to another and to alter the speed and torque output of the machinery. Beveled gears are also used to change direction (see Figure 16.2.19).



**Figure 16.2.19** Open Gearing

### **Speed Reducers Including Differentials**

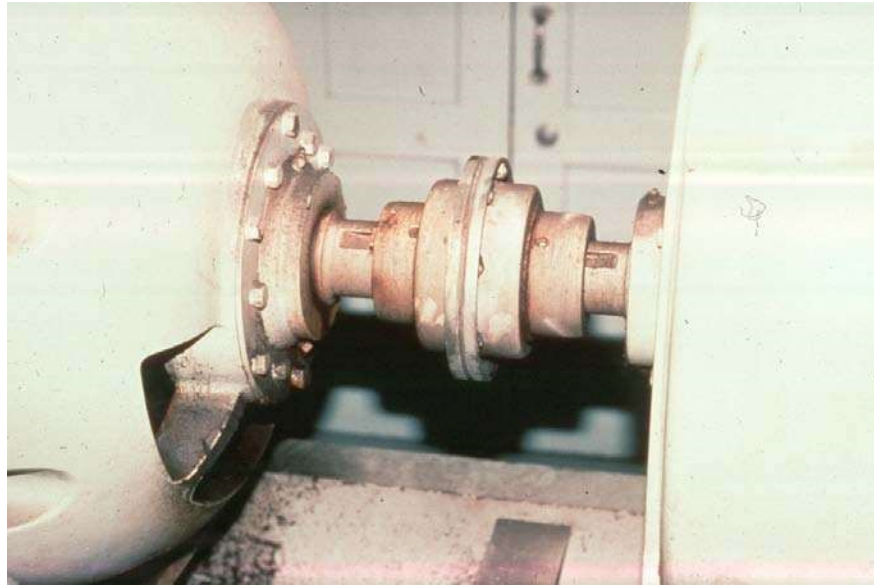
Speed reducers including differentials serve the same function as open gearing (see Figure 16.2.20). However, they may contain several gear sets, bearings, and shafts to provide a compact packaged unit, which protects its own mechanical elements and lubrication system with an enclosed housing. Differential speed reducers also function to equalize torque and speed from one side of the mechanical operating system to the other.



**Figure 16.2.20** Speed Reducer

### **Shafts and Couplings**

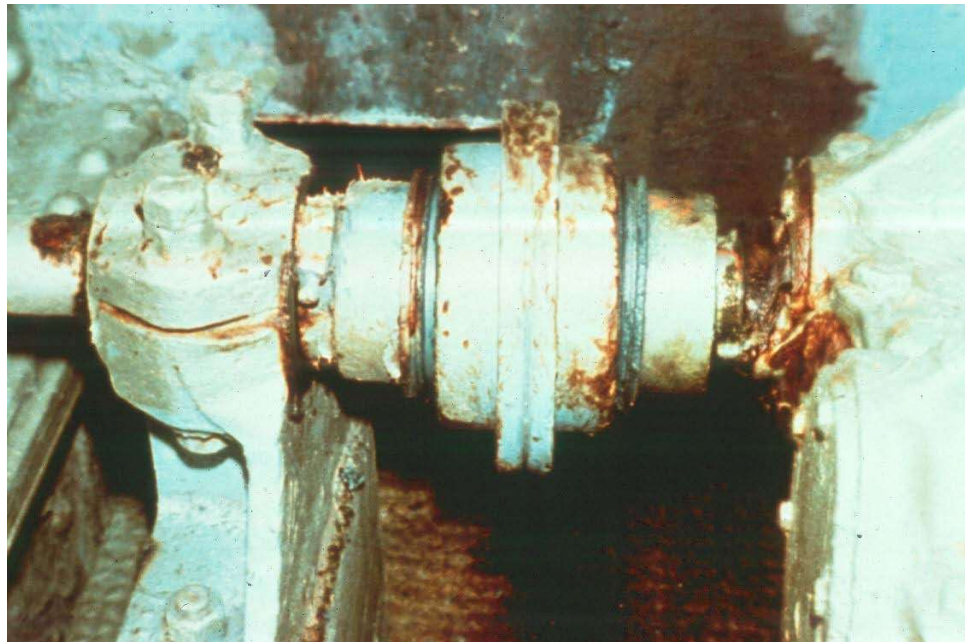
Shafts transmit mechanical power from one part of the machinery system to another. Couplings transmit power between the ends of shafts in line with one another, and several types can be used to compensate for slight imperfections in alignment between the shafts (see Figure 16.2.21).



**Figure 16.2.21** Coupling

**Bearings**

Bearings provide support and prevent misalignment of rotating shafts, trunnions, and pins (see Figure 16.2.22).



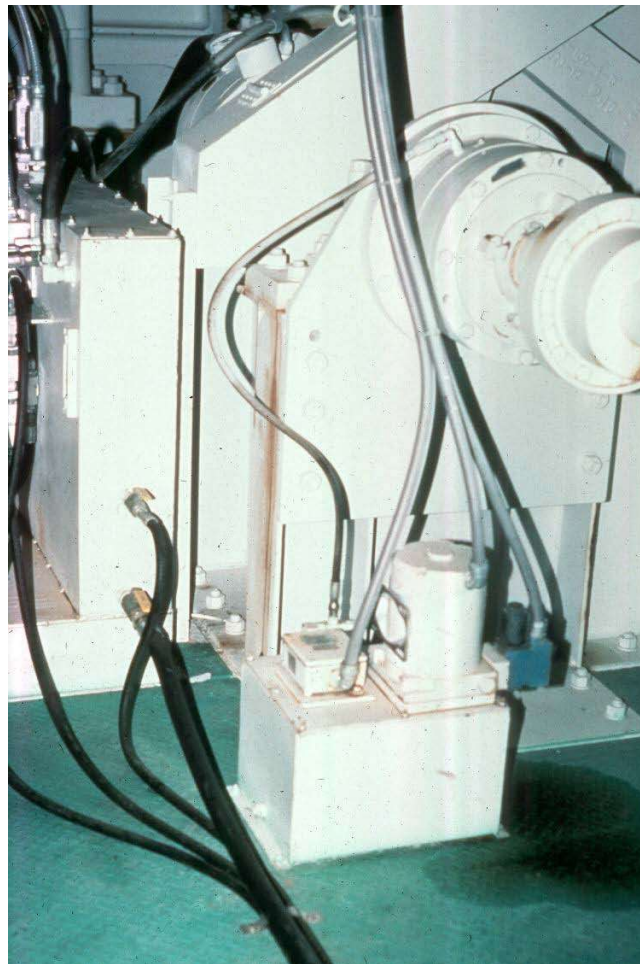
**Figure 16.2.22** Bearing

**Brakes**

Brakes can be of either the shoe type or disc type, and can be released manually, electrically, or hydraulically (see Figures 16.2.23 and 16.2.24). They are generally spring applied for fail safe operation. Motor brakes are located close to the drive to provide dynamic braking capacity, except that some types of drives can provide their own braking capability, thereby eliminating the need for separate motor brakes. Machinery brakes are located closer to the operating interface between movable and fixed parts of the bridge and are used to hold the span statically, in addition to serving as emergency brakes in many cases. Supplemental emergency brakes are sometimes also provided.



**Figure 16.2.23** Shoe Type Break



**Figure 16.2.24** Spring Set Hydraulically Released Disc Break

## Drives

Drives can consist of electric motors, hydraulic equipment, or auxiliary drives.

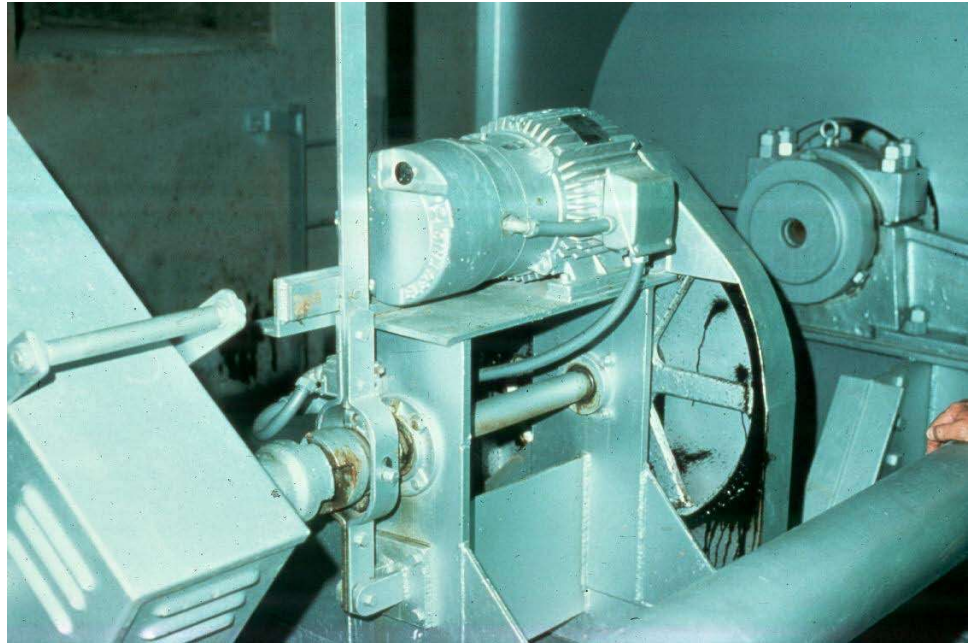
For electric motors, either AC or DC power may be used. AC power is often used to power wound rotor motors with torque controllers on older bridges, while new bridges may utilize squirrel cage induction motors with adjustable frequency speed control. DC motors can also provide speed control.

For hydraulic equipment, prime movers may include either large actuating cylinders or hydraulic motors (see Figure 16.2.25). Either type of drive must be supplied with pressure to provide force and fluid flow to provide speed to the operating system. Electrically operated hydraulic power units consisting of a reservoir and pump, with controls, provide power to the operating systems.

For auxiliary drives, emergency generators are provided to serve in the event of power failure. Auxiliary motors and hand operators, with their clutches and other mechanical power transmission components, are provided to serve in the event the main drive fails (see Figure 16.2.26). In some cases, to prevent the need for larger auxiliary generators, the auxiliary motors are required for use any time the auxiliary generators are used, requiring increased time of operation.



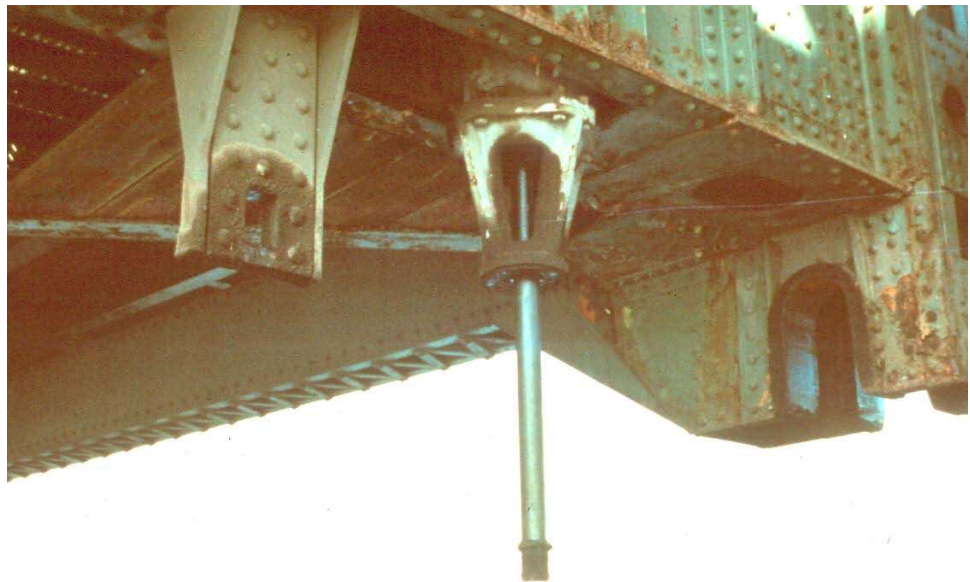
**Figure 16.2.25** Low Speed High Torque Hydraulic Motor



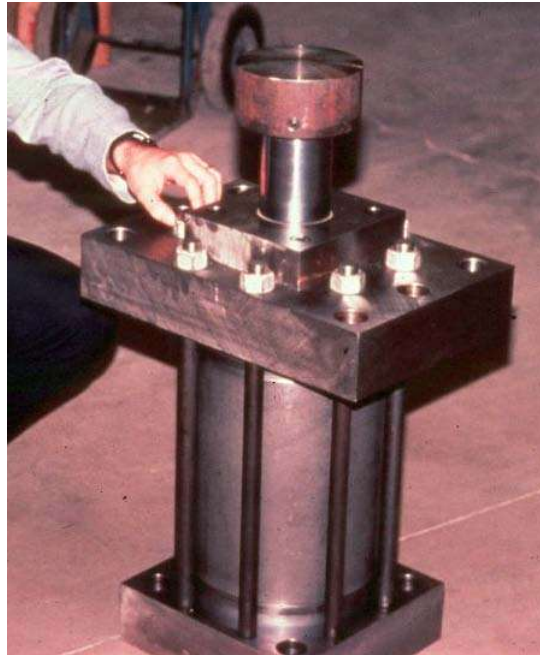
**Figure 16.2.26** AC Emergency Motor

**Air Buffers and Shock Absorbers**

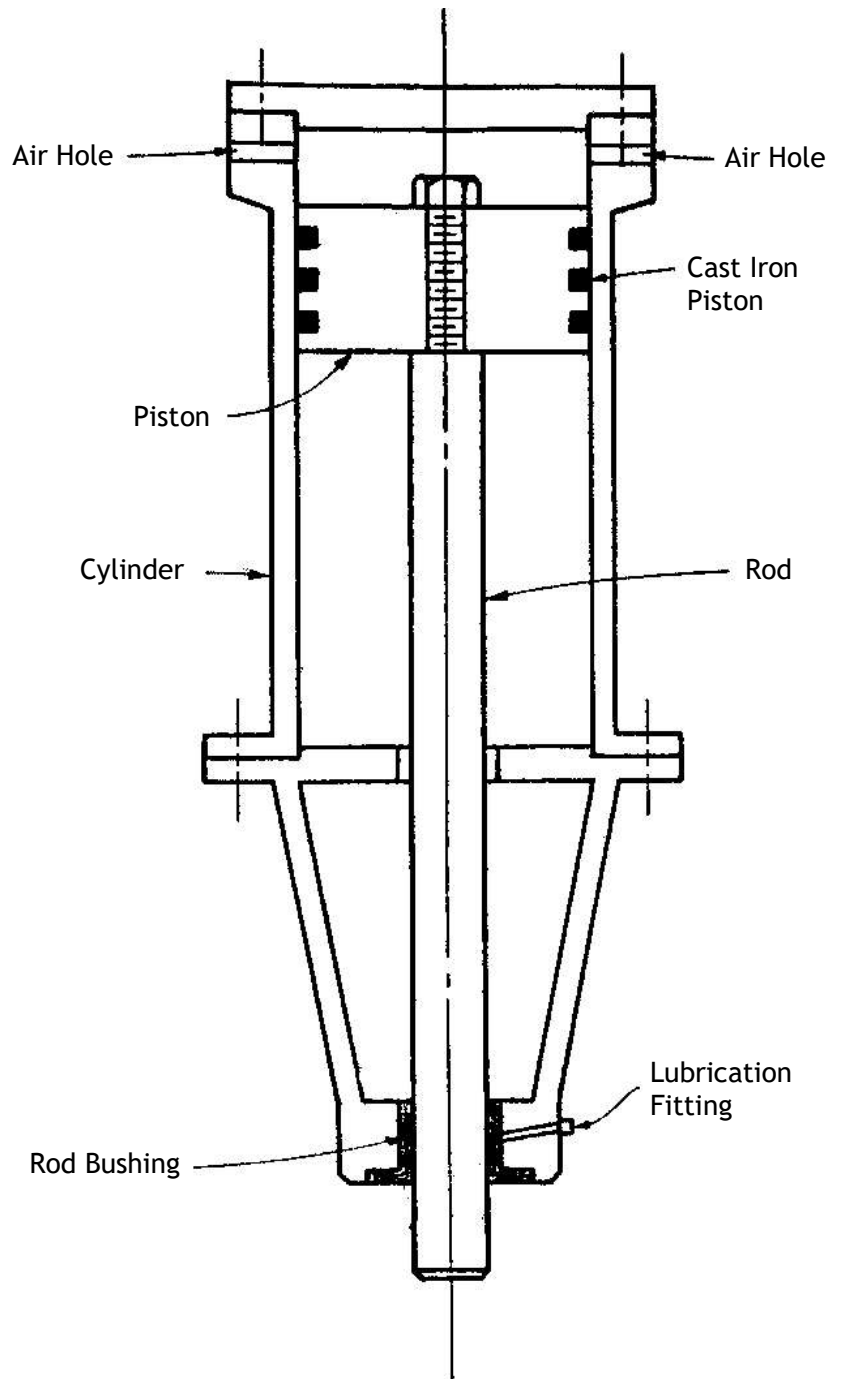
Air buffers and shock absorbers are located between the span and the pier at points where impact may occur between the two (see Figures 16.2.27 and 16.2.28). A cross section of the buffer shows the air chamber and seals on the piston. As the span lowers, the rod is pushed in, causing the air inside to be compressed (see Figure 16.2.29). A pressure relief valve allows the air to escape beyond the pressure setting. Forces are required to build-up and keep the pressure of the air at the movement of the span for a “soft” touchdown on the bearings. Shock absorbers provide the same purpose as the air buffers. However, they are completely self-contained and, therefore, require very little maintenance.



**Figure 16.2.27** Air Buffer



**Figure 16.2.28** Shock Absorber

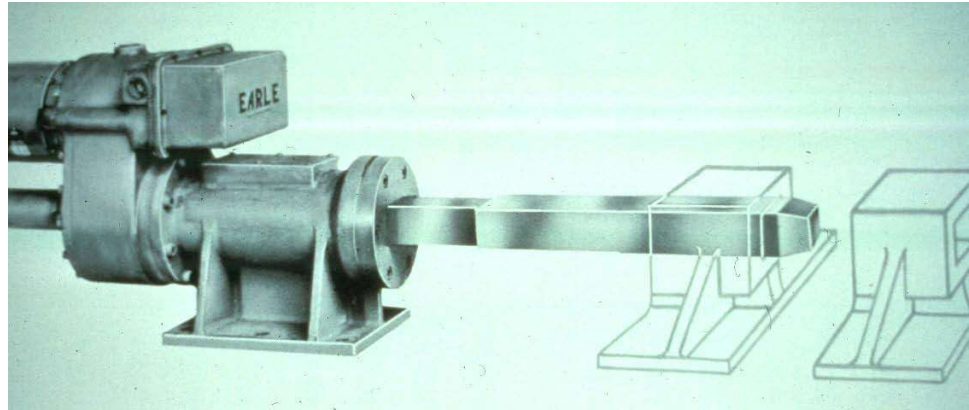


**Figure 16.2.29** Typical Air Buffer Schematic

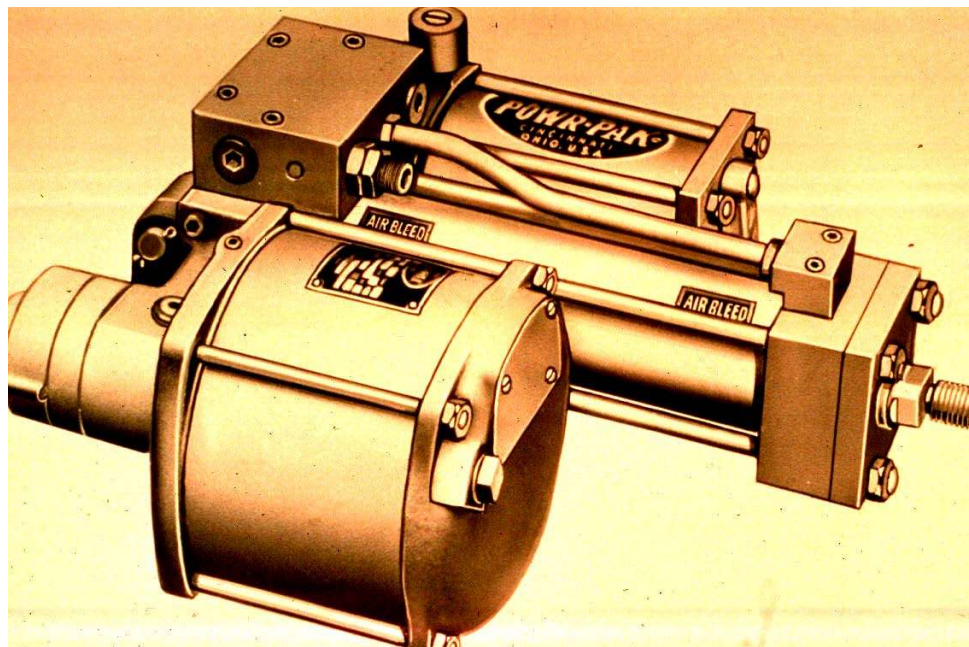


### Span Locks

Span lock bars at the end of the span are driven when the span is fully closed to prevent movement under live load. Span locks may also be provided at other locations on the span to hold the span in an open position against strong winds or to prevent movement from an intermediate position. They can be driven either mechanically or hydraulically (see Figures 16.2.30 and 16.2.31).



**Figure 16.2.30** Typical Mechanically Operated Span Lock



**Figure 16.2.31** Hydraulic Cylinder that Drives Lock Bars

### Counterweights

Adjustable quantities of counterweight blocks are provided in addition to the permanent counterweight, which is part of the structure so that adjustments may be made from time to time due to changes in conditions (see Figures 16.2.32 and 16.2.33). A movable span is designed to function in a balanced condition, and serious unbalanced conditions will cause overstress or even failure of the mechanical or structural elements.



**Figure 16.2.32** Concrete Counterweight on a Single-Leaf Bascule Bridge



**Figure 16.2.33** Concrete Counterweight on a Vertical Lift Bridge

**Live Load Shoes and Strike Plates**

Live load shoes and strike plates between the movable and fixed portions of the bridge are designed to bear most or all of the live load when the bridge is carrying traffic (see Figure 16.2.34).

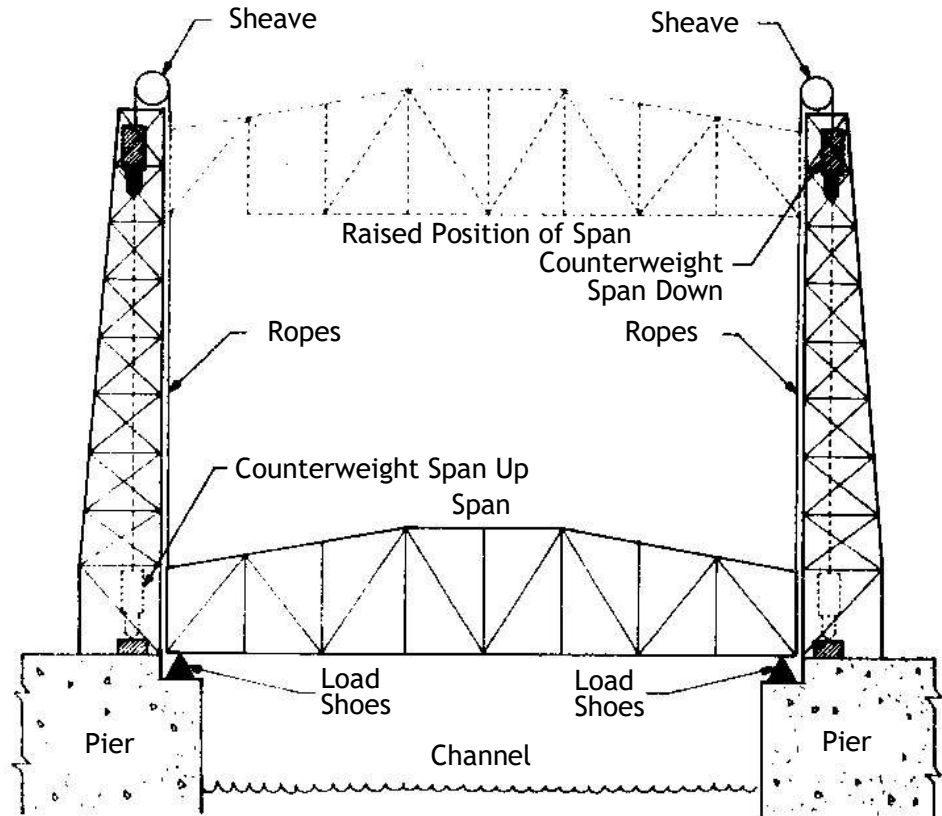


Figure 16.2.34 Closed Span Resting on Live Load Shoes

### Traffic Barriers

Traffic barriers are heavy-duty movable gates or posts that are designed to prevent a vehicle from plunging from the roadway into the draw or into the pit below the bridge (see Figure 16.2.35). Their operation is important for public safety. They are used mainly in situations where a large opening exists between the approach span and the movable span when it is open.



Figure 16.2.35 Traffic Barrier

## 16.2.6

### Swing Bridge Special Elements

Swing bridges are designed utilizing the following special elements:

- Pivot Bearings
- Balance Wheels
- Rim-Bearing Rollers
- Wedges
- End Latches

### Pivot Bearings

In center-bearing types (with balance wheels), the axially loaded thrust bearing is usually composed of spherical discs, attached to top and bottom bases, enclosed in an oil box to provide lubrication and prevent contamination (see Figure 16.2.36). In rim-bearing types, the pivot bearing is also enclosed but will be radial loaded, maintaining the position of the pivot shaft or king pin.



**Figure 16.2.36** Center Pivot Bearing

### Balance Wheels

On center-bearing types only, non-tapered balance wheels bear on the circular rail concentric to the pivot bearing only when the span is subjected to unbalanced loading conditions (see Figure 16.2.37). At other times, when the span is not subjected to unbalanced loads, a gap will be present between each wheel and the rail.



**Figure 16.2.37** Balance Wheel in-place over Circular Rack

### Rim-Bearing Rollers

Usually tapered to allow for the differential rolling distance between the inside and outside circumferences of the rail circle, rim-bearing rollers usually bear at all times.

## Wedges

End wedges are used to raise the ends of the span and support live load under traffic (see Figure 16.2.38). The end wedge bearings are under all four corners of the span. Center wedges are used to stabilize the center of the span and to prevent the center bearing from supporting live load. Wedges may be actuated by machinery and linkage, which connects wedges to actuate together or each wedge may have its own actuator (see Figure 16.2.39).

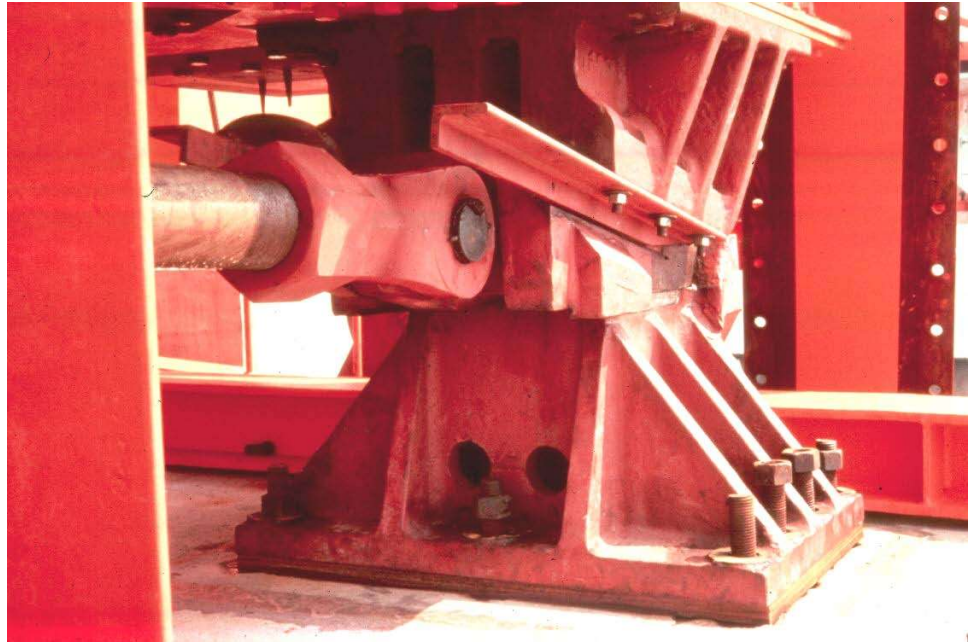


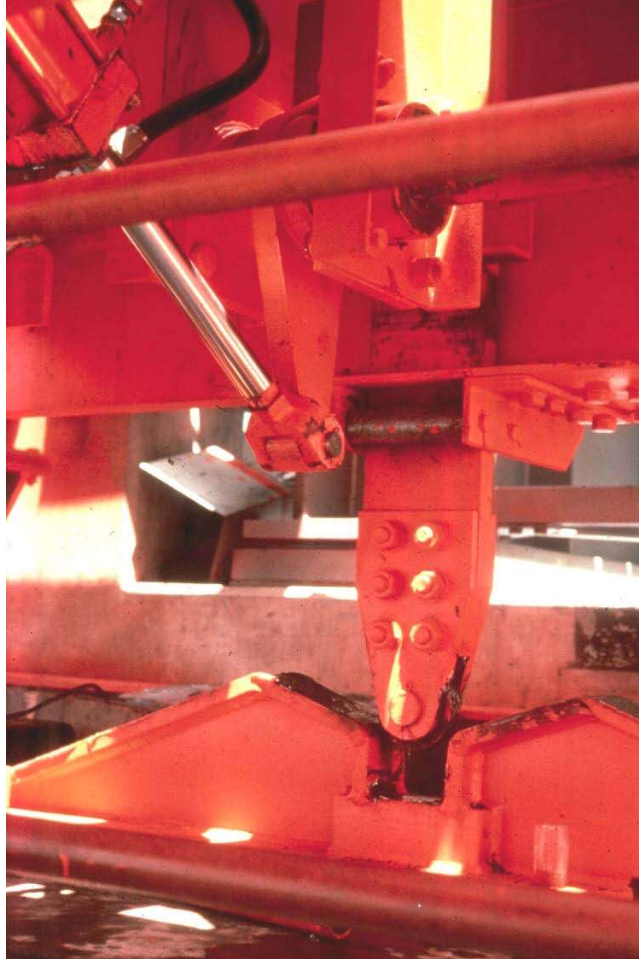
Figure 16.2.38 End Wedge



Figure 16.2.39 Hydraulic Cylinder Actuator

### End Latches

Located at the center of one or both rest piers, end latches generally consist of a guided tongue with roller mounted on the movable span that occupies a pocket mounted on the rest pier when the span is in the closed position. To open the span, the tongue is lifted until it clears the pocket at the time the wedges are withdrawn (see Figure 16.2.40). As the span is swung open, the latch tongue is allowed to lower or fall into a position in which the roller may follow along a rail or track mounted on the pier. When closing, the tongue rolls along the rail or track and up a ramp which leads to the end latch pocket where the tongue is allowed to drop to center the span.



**Figure 16.2.40** End Wedges Withdrawn and End Latch Lifted

## 16.2.7

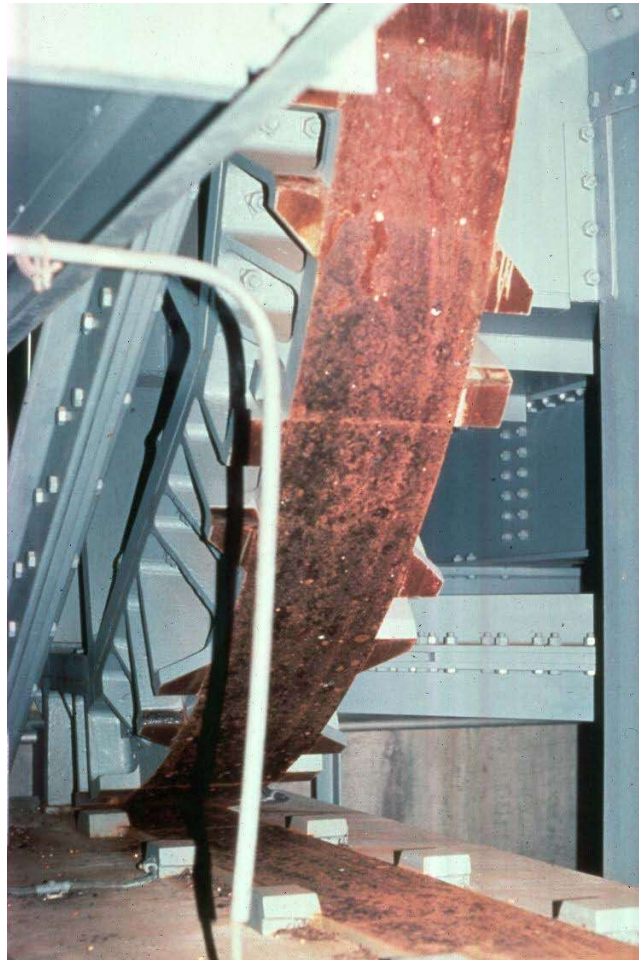
### **Bascule Bridge Special Elements**

Bascule bridges utilize the following elements specific to their design:

- Rolling Lift Tread and Track Castings
- Racks and Pinions
- Trunnions and Trunnion Bearings
- Hopkins Frame
- Tail (Rear) Locks
- Center Locks
- Transverse Locks

### **Rolling Lift Tread and Track Castings**

Rolling lift tread and track castings are rolling surfaces which support the bascule leaves as they roll open or closed (see Figure 16.2.41). Tread sockets and track teeth prevent transverse and lateral movement of the span due to unbalanced conditions, such as wind, during operation and especially when held in the open position.



**Figure 16.2.41** Circular Lift Tread and Track Castings

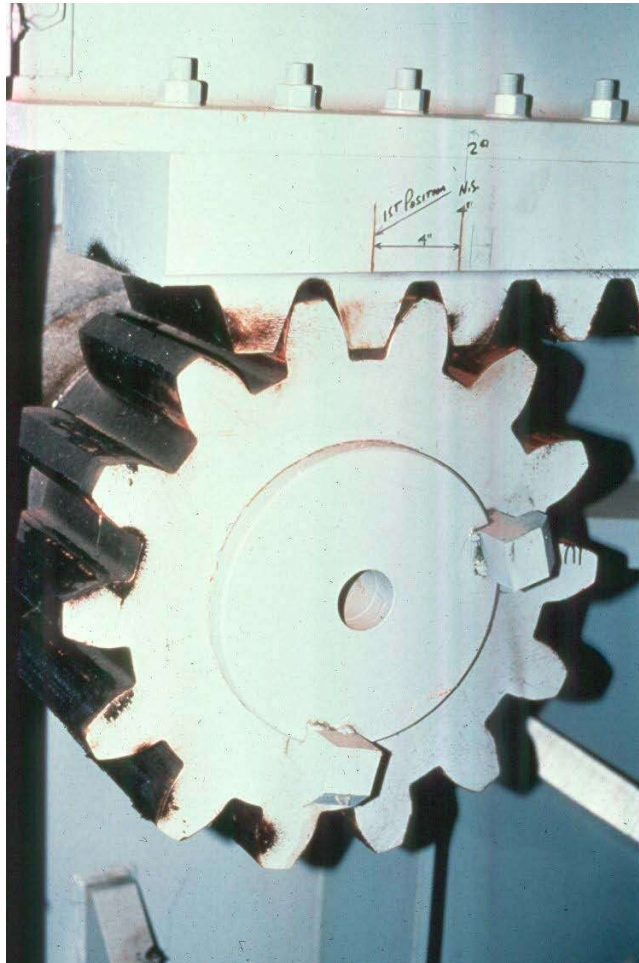


### Racks and Pinions

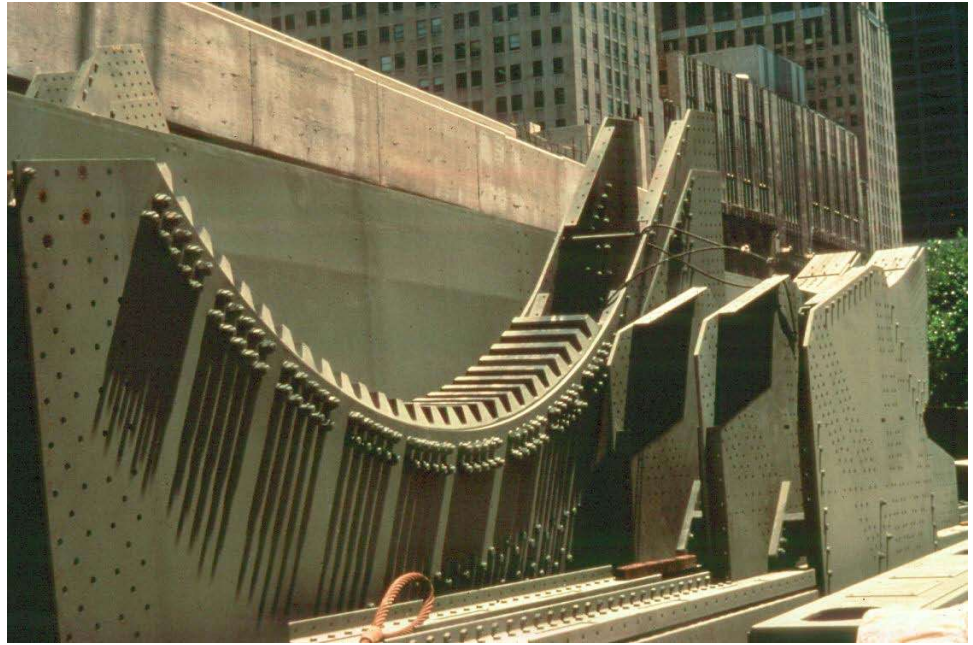
In the rolling lift rack and pinion, the driving pinion engages the rack teeth at the centerline of the roll (see Figure 16.2.42).

In the trunnion rack and pinion, the circular rack castings are attached in the plane of the truss (or girder) in front of the counterweight (see Figures 16.2.43 and 16.2.44).

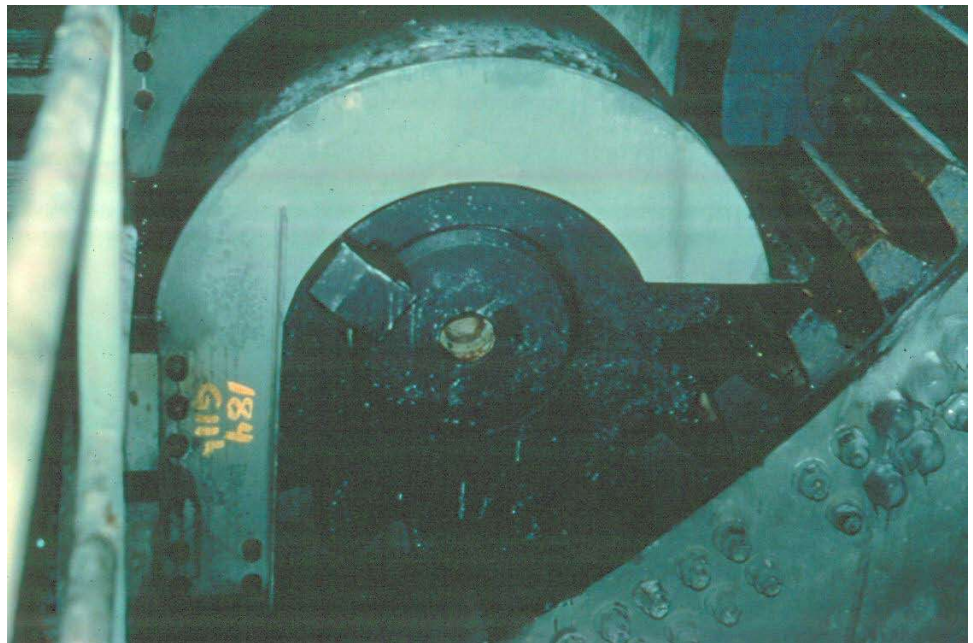
The drive pinions are overhung in order to engage the rack teeth. A cover is placed over the pinions for safety and to keep debris from falling on it.



**Figure 16.2.42** Rack Casting and Pinion



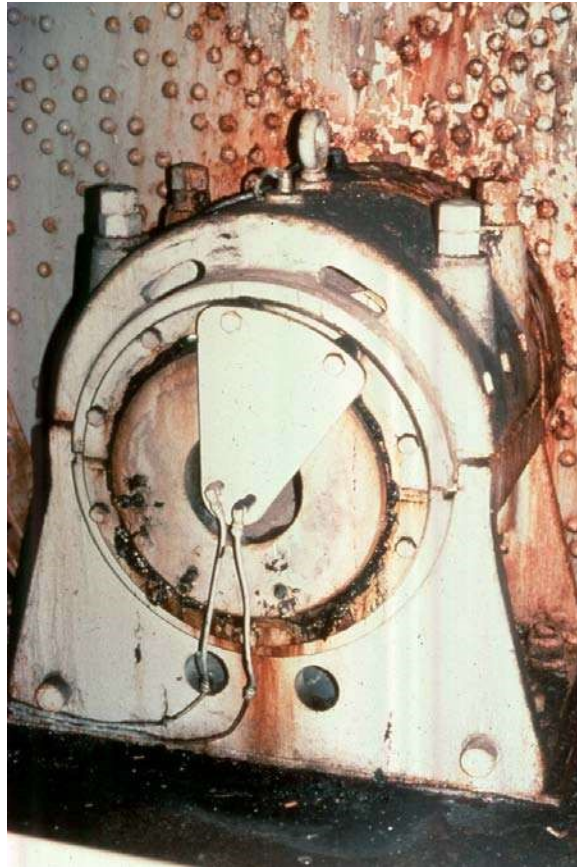
**Figure 16.2.43** Rack Casting Ready for Fabrication



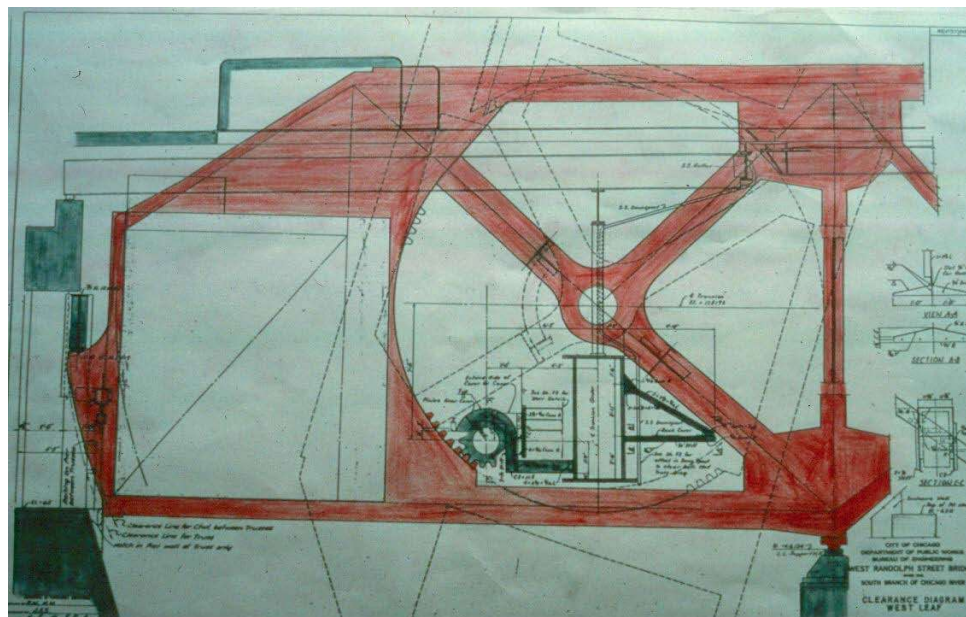
**Figure 16.2.44** Drive Pinion

**Trunnions and Trunnion Bearings**

Trunnions and trunnion bearings (see Figure 16.2.45) are large pivot pins or shafts. Their bearings support the leaf as it rotates during operation as well as supporting dead load when the bridge is closed. Some designs require the trunnions to carry live load in addition to dead load (see Figure 16.2.46).



**Figure 16.2.45** Trunnion Bearing



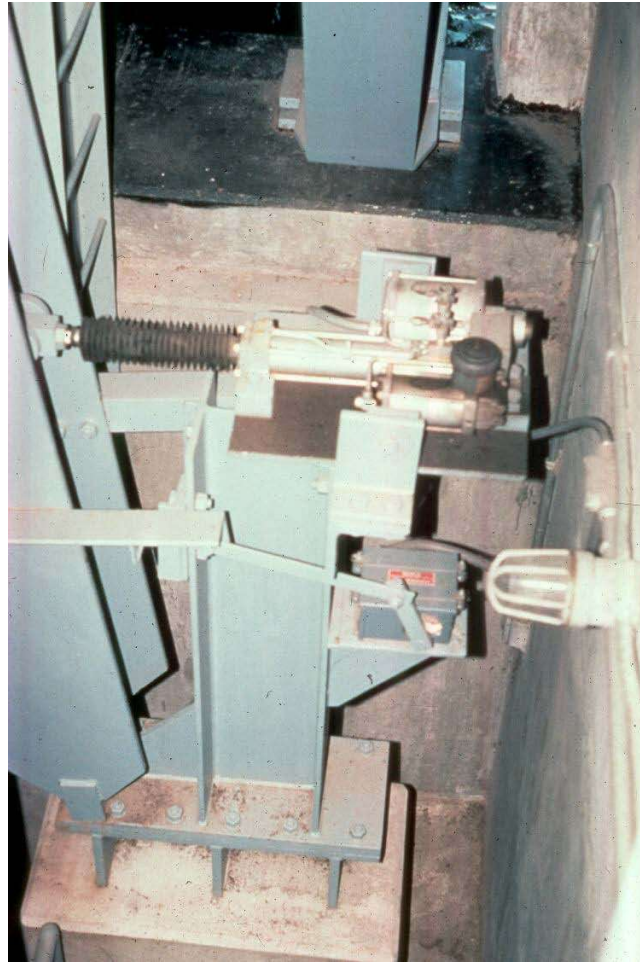
**Figure 16.2.46** Trunnion Design Drawing

**Hopkins Frame**

A Hopkins frame machinery arrangement is provided on some trunnion bascule bridges. The main drive pinion locations are established in relationship to their circular racks by a pivot point on the pier and pinned links attached to the trunnions.

**Tail (Rear) Locks**

Located at the rear of the bascule girder on the pier, tail locks prevent inadvertent opening of the span under traffic or under a counterweight-heavy condition if the brakes fail or are released (see Figure 16.2.47).

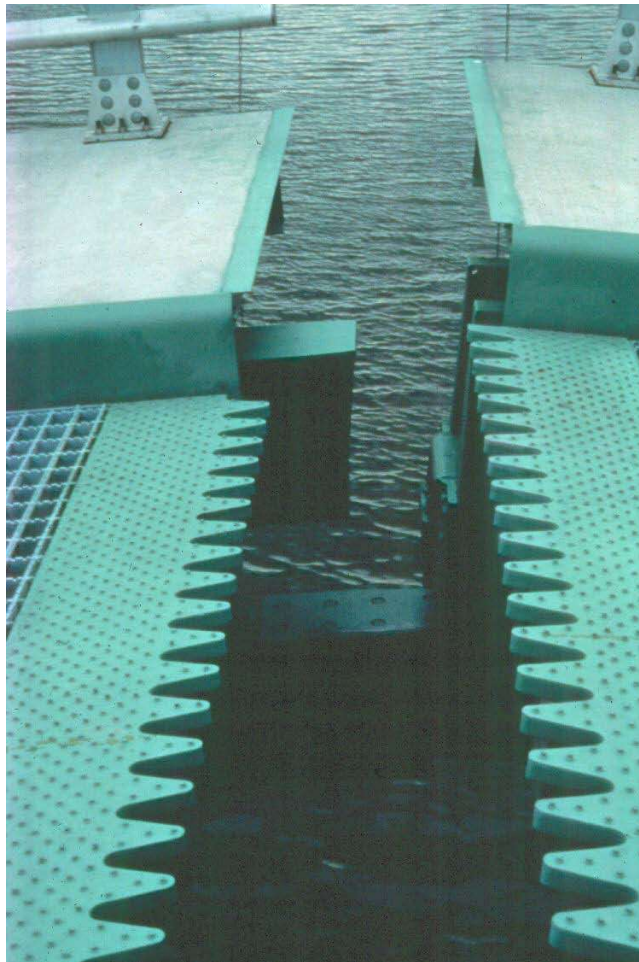


**Figure 16.2.47** Rear Lock Assembly

### Center Locks

Center locks are provided to transfer shear load from one leaf to the other when the bridge is under traffic. Center locks may consist of a driven bar or jaw from one leaf engaging a socket on the other leaf, or may be a meshing fixed jaw and diaphragm arrangement with no moving parts (see Figure 16.2.48).

The superstructure acts as a cantilever when opening and closing the bridge with the maximum negative moment near the supporting piers and zero moment at the ends of the cantilever. Once the bridge is lowered into position, center locks are engaged. These locking mechanisms are designed to transmit shear necessary to produce equal deflections at mid point under unbalanced transient loads. These center locks are not normally designed to carry superstructure moment.



**Figure 16.2.48** Center Lock Jaws

### Transverse Locks

In twin bascule bridges that are split longitudinally to allow flexibility during construction, repair, or rehabilitation; transverse locks between the inside girders are used to keep the pairs together during operation (see Figure 16.2.49). These are usually operated manually, as they are not normally released for long periods of time.



**Figure 16.2.49** Transverse Locks on Underside can be Disengaged

## 16.2.8

### Vertical Lift Bridge Special Elements

Vertical lift bridges may utilize the following elements peculiar to their design:

- Wire Ropes and Sockets
- Drums, Pulleys, and Sheaves
- Span and Counterweight Guides
- Balance Chains
- Span Leveling Devices

**Wire Ropes and Sockets** Wire ropes and sockets include up-haul and down-haul operating ropes and counterweight ropes (see Figures 16.2.50 and 16.2.51). Ropes consist of individual wires twisted into several strands that are wound about a steel core. Fittings secure the ends of the rope and allow adjustments to be made.

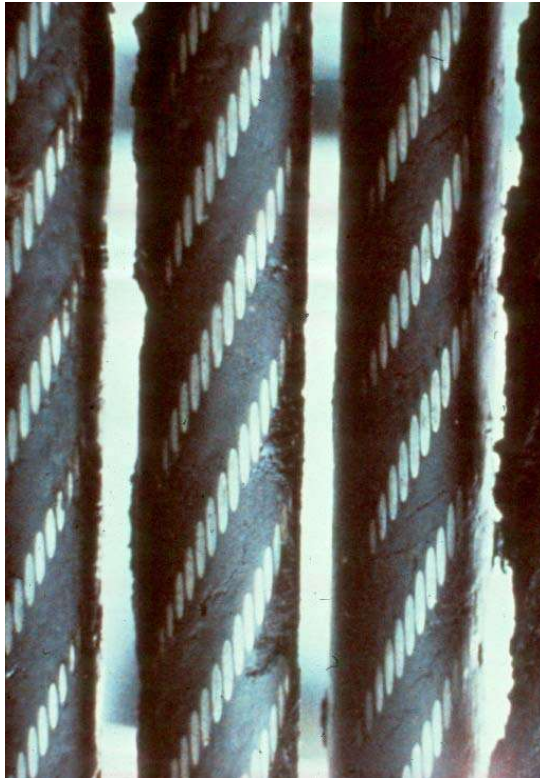


Figure 16.2.50 Wire Rope

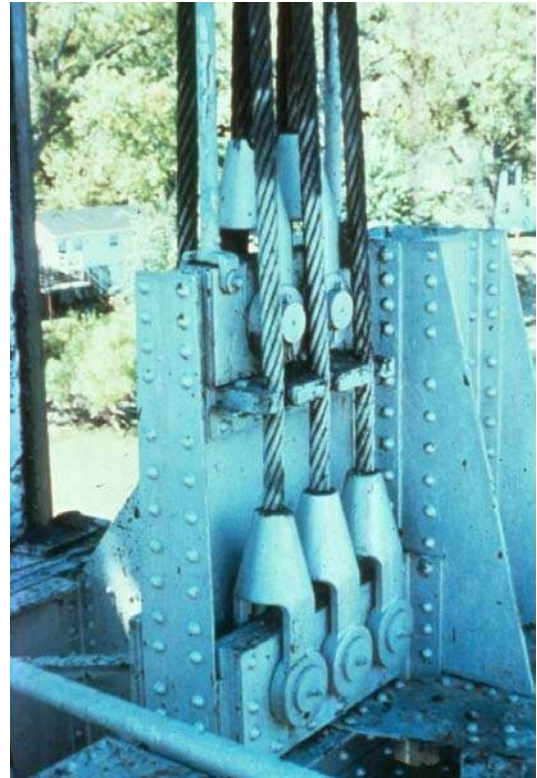
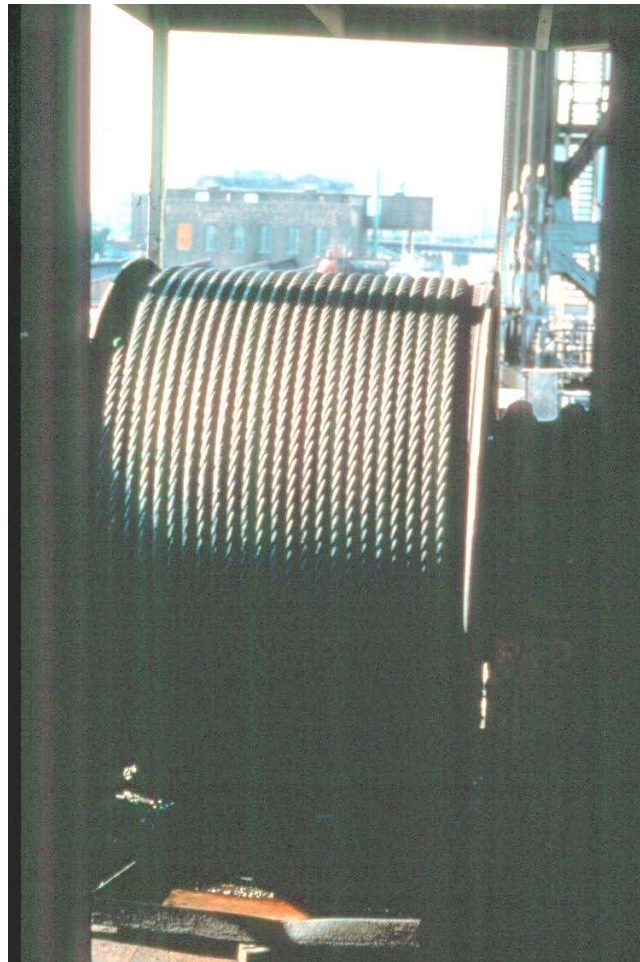


Figure 16.2.51 Wire Rope Sockets and Fittings

**Drums, Pulleys, and Sheaves**

Drums are used to wind a rope several times around to extend or retract portions of the bridge (see Figure 16.2.52). Pulleys and sheaves change the direction of the rope or guide it at intermediate points between ends of the rope.



**Figure 16.2.52** Drums Wind Up the Up-Haul (Lifting) Ropes as they Simultaneously Unwind the Down-Haul Ropes

**Span and Counterweight Guides** Span and counterweight guides are located between tower and span or counterweight to prevent misalignment.

**Balance Chains** Balance chains are provided to compensate for the weight of counterweight rope that travels from the span side to the counterweight side of the sheaves at the top of the tower as the span is raised. Weight of chain is removed from the counterweight and is supported by the tower as rope weight is increased on the counterweight side of the sheaves on the tower.

**Span Leveling Devices** Mechanical or electrical, span leveling devices compensate and adjust the movement of the two ends of the span during operation to prevent unsynchronized movement.



## 16.2.9

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### Overview of Common Deficiencies

#### Steel

Common deficiencies that can occur to steel members of movable bridges include:

- Corrosion
- Fatigue cracking
- Overloads
- Collision damage
- Heat damage
- Paint failures

See to Topics 6.3.4 – 6.3.7 for a detailed presentation of the properties of steel, types and causes of steel deficiencies, and the examination of steel. Refer to Topic 6.4 for Fatigue and Fracture in Steel Bridges.

#### Concrete

Common deficiencies that occur to concrete members of movable bridges include:

- Cracking (structural, flexure, shear, crack size, nonstructural, crack orientation)
- Scaling
- Delamination
- Spalling
- Chloride contamination
- Freeze-thaw
- Efflorescence
- Alkali silica reactivity (ASR)
- Ettringite formation
- Honeycombs
- Pop-outs
- Wear
- Collision damage
- Abrasion
- Overload damage
- Internal steel corrosion
- Loss of prestress
- Carbonation

Refer to Topics 6.2.3 – 6.3.8 for a detailed explanation of the properties of concrete, types and causes of concrete deficiencies, and the examination of concrete.

## 16.2.10

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### **Inspection Locations and Methods - Safety**

#### **Movable Bridge Inspector Safety**

It is imperative that a movable bridge inspectors coordinate their work with the Bridge Operator and emphasize the need for advance warning of a bridge opening. The Bridge Operator cannot operate the bridge until being notified by all inspectors that they are ready for an opening. There are many ways that this can be accomplished, such as placing a warning note on the control console or opening the circuit breakers and locking the compartment to the equipment that they will be inspecting.

#### **Inspection Considerations**

Important considerations for a movable bridge inspector include observing and making comments in the inspection report on the following safety considerations.

#### **Public Safety**

Public safety considerations include good visibility of roadway and sidewalk for the Bridge Operator (see Figure 16.2.53), adequate time delay on traffic signals for driver reaction and before lowering gates, all “gates down” before raising bridge (bypass available if traffic signals are on), the bridge is closed before gates can be raised (bypass available if locks are driven), and traffic signals do not turn off until all gates are fully raised (bypass available).

Observe the location of the bridge opening in relation to the gates, traffic lights and bells, and determine whether approaching motorists can easily see them. Check their operation and physical condition to determine if they are functioning and well maintained. Recommend replacement when conditions warrant.

Unprotected approaches, such as both ends of a swing bridge and vertical lift bridge and the open end of a single-leaf bascule bridge, preferably have positive resistance barriers across the roadway, with flashing red lights as provided on the gate arms (see Figure 16.2.54). High-speed roadways and curved approaches to a movable bridge preferably have advanced warning lights (flashing yellow).



**Figure 16.2.53** Operator's House with Clear View of Traffic Signals and Lane Gates



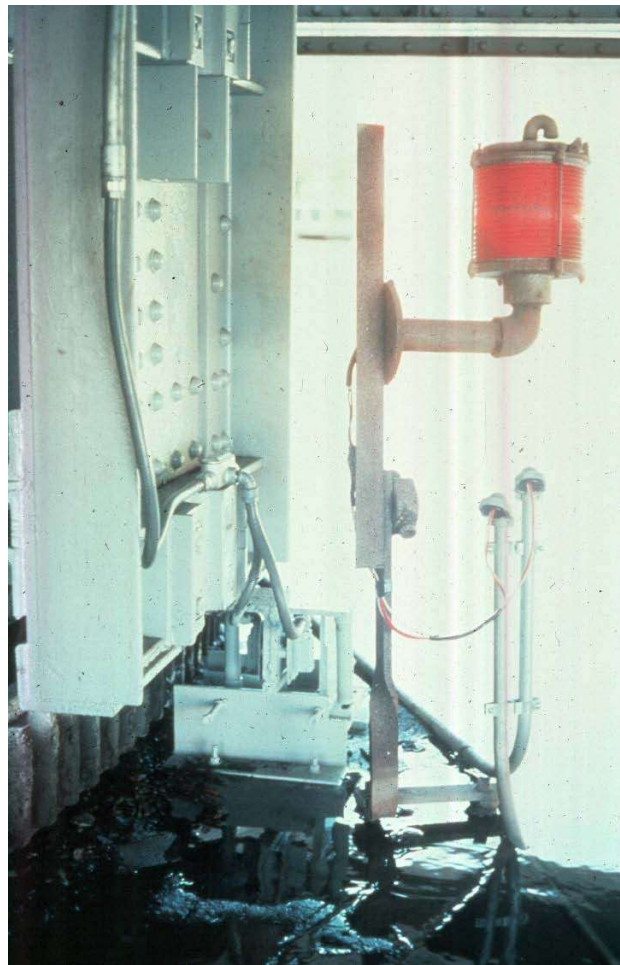
**Figure 16.2.54** Traffic Control Gate

## Navigational Safety

Navigational safety considerations include compliance with minimum channel width with any restriction on vertical clearance when span is open for navigation. Minimum underclearance designated on the permit drawing are to be provided. Inspect underclearance gauges for closed bridges for accuracy, visibility, and legibility.

See that all navigation lights have a relay for backup light, and red span lights do not change to green until both leaves are fully open (see Figure 16.2.55). Check navigation lights for broken lenses, deteriorated insulation of wiring and cable, and dry and clean interior, as these lights are very important to navigational safety.

Check that the marine radio communication equipment is functional (see Figure 16.2.56). Verify that the Operator can automatically sound the emergency signal to navigation vessels if bridge cannot be opened.



**Figure 16.2.55** Navigational Light



**Figure 16.2.56** Marine Two-Way Radio Console

**Structure Safety**

Structure safety considerations include the structural ability to carry the anticipated loads. Pressure relief valves on hydraulic power units are used to limit hydraulic forces applied to machinery and structure. Horsepower applied to machinery and structure are to be kept within design limits by limiting speed.

**Dependable Operation**

Operate the movable bridge in both normal and emergency modes to check all interrelated interlocks and to verify every component is operating correctly.

**16.2.11**

**Inspection  
Locations and  
Methods of  
Movable Bridge  
Opening and  
Closing Sequences**

Movable bridges are considered to be complex according to the NBIS regulations. The NBIS requires identification of specialized inspection methods, and additional inspector training and experience required to inspect these complex bridges. The bridges are then to be inspected according to these methods.

**Interlocking for Normal  
Operation**

During normal operation, verify that each interlock functions properly and can be bypassed (when provided). Verify the controls for the traffic signals, traffic gates, center or rear locks, emergency brakes, and the bridge operation are interlocked so that they can only be operated in the following sequences.

**Opening Sequence**

The bridge opening sequence:

1. Activate traffic signals.
2. Lower oncoming gates and, when traffic has cleared, lower off-going gates. "All gates down" interlocked for withdrawing locks (bypass provided).
3. Press "raise" button if automatic operation is provided or, if manual operation is provided, proceed as follows:

- a. Withdraw locks – “Locks Withdrawn.” Interlocked for bridge operation (no bypass).
- b. Release emergency brakes - no interlock provided. Warning buzzer sounds if brakes are not released when power is applied to motors to move bridge.
- c. Accelerate leaves to full speed.
- d. When advanced to nearly open position, decelerate leaves to slow speed and stop at nearly open position.
- e. At nearly open position, with reduced power, lower leaves to stop at fully open position.
- f. Set emergency brakes.

### Closing Sequence

The bridge closing sequence:

1. Press “lower” button if automatic operation is provided or, if manual operation is provided, proceed as follows:
  - a. Release emergency brakes.
  - b. Accelerate leaves to full speed.
  - c. For all types of bridges with lock bars:
    - (1) At advanced nearly closed position, decelerate leaves to slow speed. Leaves stop at nearly closed position by action of the bridge limit switch.
    - (2) At nearly closed position with reduced power, lower leaves to stop at fully closed position.
    - (3) With machinery wound up (basculer bridges and counterweight heavy vertical lift bridges) or when span is fully closed (swing bridges and span heavy vertical lift bridges), set the brakes and drive lock bars.
  - d. For rolling lift bridges having jaw and diaphragm shear locks with no moving parts:
    - (1) At advanced nearly closed position, decelerate to slow speed. The jaw leaf stops at the “locking position” (within the “window” to receive the diaphragms) by action of the bridge limit switch.
    - (2) At advance nearly closed position, decelerate to slow speed. The diaphragm leaf stops in the “clear position” (where the lower jaw will clear the diaphragm) by action of the bridge limit switch.
    - (3) Depress foot switch to provide reduced power from this point until both leaves are closed.
    - (4) Lower the diaphragm leaf to make “soft” contact with lower jaw.
    - (5) Close both leaves together with diaphragm castings against lower jaws.
    - (6) When leaves are fully closed, drive the rear locks. “Fully closed” interlock provided for rear lock operation (no

- bypass).
- (7) Set emergency brakes with reduced power applied to motors to hold machinery wound up.
2. Deactivate automatic traffic control, or manually raise gates:
    - a. All gates raise, off-going gates start up before oncoming gates raise.
    - b. Warning signals and red lights do not turn off until all gates are raised, even if the power switch is turned “off” (bypass is provided), after which the green traffic lights are turned “on”.

Bypass Note: All bypass switches have handles that are spring returned to “off”. When the switch is turned to bypass momentarily, a holding relay holds the bypass activated until power is removed from the controls or the switch is turned to cancel bypass. Verify these circuits are provided in order to prevent inadvertent use of any bypass. Until a malfunction is corrected, the operator is required to initiate the use of any bypass switch that is needed every time the bridge is operated.

## 16.2.12

### **Inspection Locations and Methods for the Control House**

Inspection of the control house is necessary to assure the safety of a movable bridge. The operator is responsible for public and navigational safety during operation and, together with maintenance personnel, is usually the most familiar with any known structural or operational issues. Operational and maintenance log books are to be kept in the control house for reference. The resources within the control house can therefore provide a great deal of general information, through the knowledge of its personnel and the records stored there. The position of the control house provides the best general view of the bridge itself.

Consult with the bridge operators to ascertain whether there are any changes from the normal operation of the bridge. Note whether all Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, and local instructional bulletins are posted. Check for obvious hazardous operating conditions involving the safety of the operator and maintenance personnel.

Note where the control panel is located in relation to roadway and waterway, and also whether the bridge operator has a good view of approaching boats, vehicles, and pedestrians (see Figure 16.2.57). Check operation of all closed circuit TV equipment, and evaluate its position for safe operation. If controls are in more than one location, note description of the other locations and include their condition as well as the information about the control house. Note whether alternate warning devices such as bullhorns, lanterns, flasher lights, or flags are available.

Note whether the structure shows cracks, and determine whether it is windproof and insulated. Check for any accumulations of debris, which may be readily combustible. Check controllers while bridge is opening and closing. Look for excess play and for sparking during operation. Note whether the submarine cables are kinked, hooked, or deteriorated, especially at the exposed area above or below the water. In tidal areas, check for marine and plant growth. Note if the ends of the cable have been protected from moisture.



Figure 16.2.57 Control Panel

### 16.2.13

## Inspection Locations and Methods for Structural Members

### Deficiencies

During the inspection of any type of movable structures, be sure to note any deficiencies that are detrimental to all steel and concrete structures. Most of the bridge structure deficiencies are listed in Chapter 6: Materials, as potential problems apply to movable spans also.

### Fatigue

Fatigue can be a problem with movable bridges due to the reversal or the fluctuation of stresses as the spans open and close (see Figure 16.2.58). Carefully inspect any member or connection subject to such stress variations for signs of fatigue.





**Figure 16.2.58** Stress Reversals in Members

### **Counterweights and Attachments**

Inspect the counterweights to determine if they are sound and are properly affixed to the structure. Also check temporary supports for the counterweights that are to be used during bridge repair and determine their availability in the event such an occasion arises. Determine whether the counterweight pockets are properly drained. On vertical lift bridges, be sure that the sheaves and their supports are well drained. Examine every portion of the bridge where water can collect. All pockets that are exposed to rain and snow are to have a removable cover. Check for debris, birds, animals, and insect nests in the counterweight pockets.

Where steel members pass through or are embedded in the concrete, check for any corrosion of the steel member and for rust stains on the concrete. Look for cracks and spalls in the concrete.

Where lift span counterweight ropes are balanced by chains (or other means), make sure the links hang freely, and check these devices along with slides, housings, and storage devices for deficiencies and for adequacy of lubrication, where applicable.

Determine whether the bridge is balanced and whether extra balance blocks are available. A variation in the power demands on the motor, according to the span's position, is an indication of an unbalanced leaf or span. If the controls provide a "drift" position, use this to test the balance. Several coats of paint can increase the structure dead load. Otherwise, the counterweights will eventually be inadequate due to excess paint dead load.

**Piers**

Take notice of any rocking of the piers when the leaf is lifted. This is an indicator of a serious deficiency or critical finding and is to be reported at once. Survey the spans including towers to check both horizontal and vertical displacements. This will help to identify any foundation movements that have occurred.

Check the braces, bearings, and all housings for cracks, especially where stress risers would tend to occur. Inspect the concrete for cracks in areas where machinery bearing plates or braces are attached (see Figure 16.2.59). Note the tightness of bolts and the tightness of other fastening devices used.

Check the pier protection system (see Figure 16.2.60).



**Figure 16.2.59** Concrete Bearing Areas



**Figure 16.2.60** Pier Protection Systems – Dolphins and Fenders

### **Steel Grid Decks**

Verify that structural welds are sound and the grid decks have adequate skid resistance. Check the roadway surface for evenness of grade and for adequate clearance at the joints where the movable span meets the fixed span. For more information on steel grid decks, see Topic 7.4.

### **Concrete Decks**

A solid concrete deck is used over the pier areas (pivot or bascule pier) to keep water and debris from falling through onto the piers and mechanical devices. Since the machinery room is usually under the concrete deck, check the ceiling for leaks or areas that allow debris and rust to fall on the machinery. For more information of concrete decks, see Topic 7.2.

### **Other Structural Considerations**

Other structural considerations include:

- Examine the live load bearings and wedges located under the trusses or girders at the pivot pier for proper fit alignment and amount of lift.
- Inspect the fully open bumper blocks and the attaching bolts for cracks in the concrete bases.
- Examine the counterweight pit for water. Check the condition of the sump pump, the concrete for cracks, and the entire area for debris.
- See if the shear locks are worn. Measure the exterior dimensions of the lock bars or diaphragm casting and the interior dimensions of sockets or space between jaws to determine the amount of clearance (wear). Report excessive movement and investigate further.
- On swing bridges, check the wedges and the outer bearings at the rest piers for alignment and amount of lift. This can be recognized by excessive vibration of span or uplift when load comes upon the other span.
- On double-leafed bascule bridges, measure the differential vertical movement at the joint between the two leaves under heavy loads. On other types, check for this type of movement at deck joints (breaks in floor) between movable and fixed portions of the structure. This can indicate excessive wear on lock bars or shear lock members.
- Inspect the joint between the two leaves on double-leaf bascule bridges, or the joints between fixed and movable portions of the structure for adequate longitudinal clearance for change in temperature (thermal expansion).
- On bascule bridges, see if the front live load bearings fit snugly. Also observe the fit of tail locks at rear arm and of supports at outer end of single-leaf bridges.
- On rolling lift bascule bridges, check the segmental and track castings and their respective supporting track girders (if used) for wear on sides of track teeth due to movement of sockets on segmental castings. Compare all wear patterns for indications of movement of the leaves. Check for cracking at the fillet of the angles forming the flanges of the segmental and track girders, cracking in the flanges opposite joints in the castings, and cracking of the concrete under the track. Inspect rack support for lateral movement when bridge is in motion.
- On multi-trunnion (Strauss) bascule bridges, check the strut connecting the counterweight trunnion to the counterweight for fatigue cracks. On several bridges, cracking has been noted in the web and lower flanges near the

gusset connection at the end nearer the counterweights. The crack would be most noticeable when the span is opened.

## 16.2.14

### **Inspection Locations and Methods for Machinery Members**

Mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic equipment includes specialized areas, which are beyond the scope of this reference manual. Since operating equipment is the heart of the movable bridge, it is recommended that expert assistance be obtained when conducting an inspection of movable spans. In many cases, the owners of these movable bridges follow excellent programs of inspection, maintenance, and repair. However, there is always the possibility that some important feature may have been overlooked. Any problems noted during the inspection are reported to the owner.

### **Trial Openings**

Conduct trial openings as necessary to insure proper operational functioning and that the movable span is properly balanced. Trial openings are specifically for inspection. During the trial openings, the safety of the inspection personnel, traveling public and boat operators is a primary concern.

### **Machinery Inspection Considerations**

On all movable structures, the machinery is so important that considerable time is to be devoted to its inspection. The items covered and termed as machinery include all motors, brakes, gears, tracks, shafts, couplings, bearings, locks, linkages, over-speed controls, and any other integral part that transmits the necessary mechanical power to operate the movable portion of the bridge. Inspect machinery not only for its current condition, but also for operational and maintenance methods and analysis of the characteristics of operation. The items listed below and items similar to them are to be inspected and analyzed by a machinery or movable bridge specialist. Refer to FHWA-IP-77-10, *Bridge Inspector's Manual for Movable Bridges* and the *AASHTO Movable Bridge Inspection, Evaluation and Maintenance Manual, Manual for Bridge Evaluation* for further information on inspecting these items. The FHWA-IP-77-10 manual is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), but is currently out of print.

### **Operation and General System Condition**

Observe the general condition of the machinery as a whole, and its performance during operation. Check for smoothness of operation, and note any abnormal performance of components. Note any noise or vibration and the source determined. Document any unsafe or detrimental methods followed by the operator to prevent injury to the public or to personnel, or deficiencies to the equipment. Also note the condition of the paint system.

### **Maintenance Methods**

Perform an evaluation of maintenance methods in light of design details for the equipment. Check application methods and frequency of lubrication in the maintenance logbook, if available. Note general appearance of existing applied lubricant.

### **Open Gearing**

Check open gearing for tooth condition and alignment including over- and under-engagement. Verify that the pitch lines match. Note excessive or abnormal wear. Inspect the teeth, spokes, and hub for cracks. Observe and note the general appearance of the applied lubricants on open gearing. If the lubricant has been contaminated, especially with sand or other gritty material, remove the old lubricant and have new lubricant applied. If there is a way to prevent future contamination, recommend this appropriate procedure as part of the inspector's

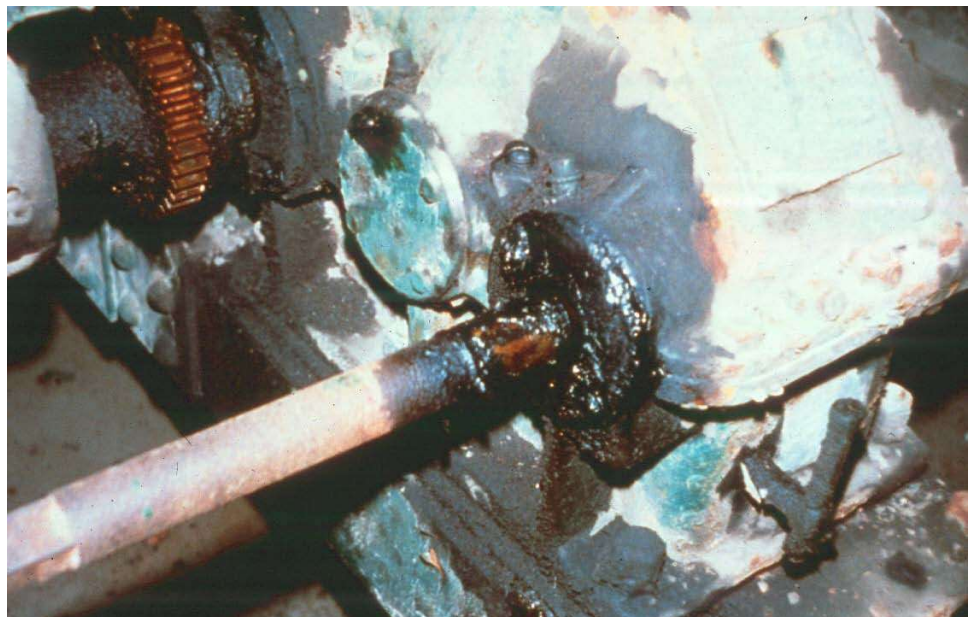
comments in the report. Check the teeth of all gears for wear, cleanliness, corrosion, and for proper alignment.

**Speed Reducers  
Including Differentials**

Examine the exterior of the housing and mountings for cracks and deficiencies (see Figure 16.2.61 and 16.2.62). Check bolts for tightness and note any corrosion. Inspect the interior of the housing for condensation and corrosion. Check the condition of gears. Watch for abnormal shaft movement during operation, indicating bearing and seal wear. Periodically check oil levels and condition of lubricant. Check that circulating pumps and lubricating lines are properly operating. Any abnormal noise is to be documented. Leaking oil may indicate the presence of a crack.



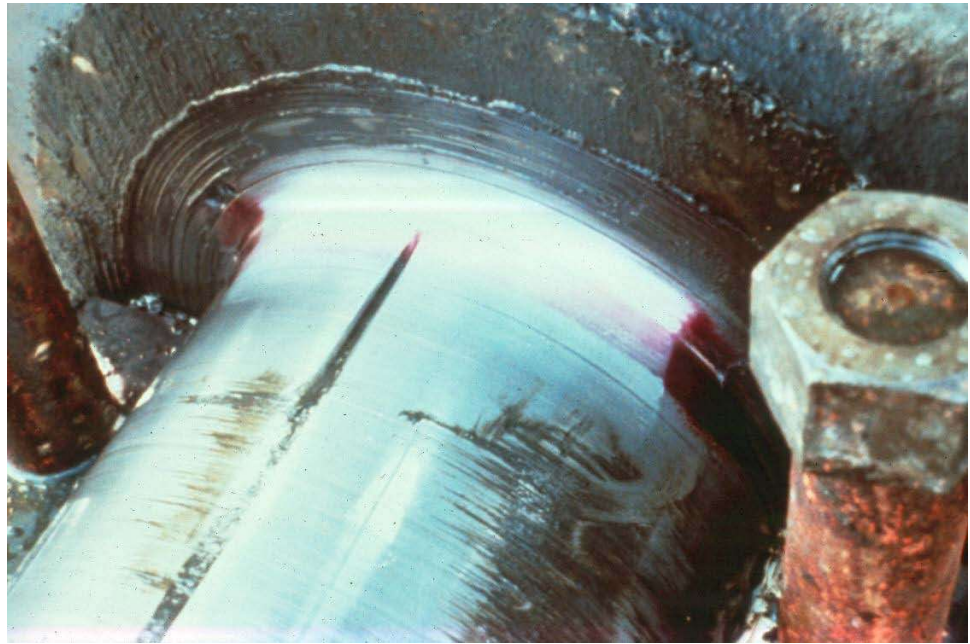
**Figure 16.2.61** Cracked Speed Reducer Housing



**Figure 16.2.62** Leaking Speed Reducer

### Shafts and Couplings

Examine shafts damage, twisting, and strain. Cracks, if suspected, may be detected using non-destructive evaluations (NDE) such as magnetic particle or dye penetrant (see Figure 16.2.63). Various advanced inspection methods for steel members are presented in Topic 15.3. Cracks in mechanical components may be determined to be a critical finding. Note misalignment with other parts of the machinery system. Document cracks in shafts and record the exact location. Examine other shafts in the same locations as they were probably made from the same material and fabricated to the same details. They have also been exposed to the same magnitude and frequency of loading. Check coupling hubs, housings, and bolts for condition. Inspect seals and gaskets for leaks. Internal inspection of couplings is warranted if problems are suspected and can be used to determine tooth wear in gear couplings.



**Figure 16.2.63** Hairline Crack Revealed on Shaft from Dye Penetrant Test

## Bearings

Examine bearing housings, pedestals, and supports for external condition, noting any cracks. Check bolts in housings and those used for anchors for tightness, damage, and corrosion, noting apparent lubrication characteristics. Grinding noises can be caused the lack of lubricant (see Figure 16.2.64). In sleeve bearings, inspect the bushings for damage and excessive wear. Note evidence of seal damage in anti-friction bearings. Investigate any unusual noise. Check the trunnion bearings for excessive wear, lateral slip, and loose bolts.



**Figure 16.2.64** Leaking Bearing

## Brakes

Inspect all braking devices for proper setting of braking torque and for complete release of the brakes when actuated. On shoe brakes, check drums and shoes for wear, damage, and corrosion, for misalignment of shoes with drums, and for clearance when released. Determine if worn linings need replaced. Check for proper actuation without leakage by actuators. Verify that linkages and hand releases are free but not sloppy. On enclosed hydraulic disc brakes, make certain there is proper actuation without leakage at connections or seals. Check the brakes, limit switches, and stops (cylinders and others) for excessive wear and slip movement. Note whether the cushion cylinder ram sticks or inserts too easily. Inspect the brake limit switches for proper setting. Observe the surface of the brake drum for indications of contact with the brake shoes. Check the pressure developed by each disc brake power unit to be sure the brakes are releasing. Also check the manual release on all of the brakes.

**Drives - Electric Motors** Check the housing and mountings for damage, corrosion, and fastener condition. Inspect bearings for lubrication and note indications of wear (movement) and seal leakage at shaft extensions.

**Drives - Hydraulic Equipment** Look for any leakage at connections and seals. Note any corrosion on the cylinder rods. Listen to motors and pumps, and note any unusual noise. Check power units to make sure all components are functioning and that pressures are properly adjusted. Sample fluid periodically and examine for contamination and wear metal. Check all main hydraulic power units for charge pressure setting and maximum pressure that can be developed by the unit. Check all filters routinely and replace as needed. Also check the level of fluid in the vertical reservoir.

**Auxiliary Drives** Check emergency generators for operation and readiness, verifying that there are no oil leaks or abnormal noises. Mechanical service specialists and electrical inspectors are required for more thorough inspections. Auxiliary motors and hand operators, with their clutches and other transmission components, are to be checked for adjustment and readiness to perform when called upon.

**Drives - Internal Combustion Engines** Detailed inspections of internal combustion engines are made by mechanical engine specialists. The inspection may include but is not limited to checking of the following conditions:

- If a belt drive is used, look for any wear or slippage. Note the condition of all belts and the need for replacement, if any.
- If a friction drive is used, check that all bracing and bearings are tight.
- If a liquid coupling is used, make sure that the proper quantity of fluid is used. Look for leaks.

**Locks** Examine the center locks and tail locks (if used) on double-leafed bascule spans, and the end locks on single-leaf bascule bridges, swing bridges, and vertical lift bridges. Note whether there is excessive deflection at these joints or vibration on the bridge. Inspect the locks for fit and for movement of the span or leaf (or leaves). Check lubrication and for loose bolts. Verify that the lock housing and its braces have no noticeable movement or misalignment. The paint adjacent to the locks will have signs of paint loss or wear if there is movement. Check lock bars, movable posts, linkages, sockets, bushings, and supports for damage, cracks, wear, and corrosion.

Check all rear locks in the withdrawn position for clearance from the path of the moving leaf as it opens and for full engagement when the leaf is closed. Measure the gap, if any, between the lock plate and the moving leaf bearing plate. Check each rear lock hydraulic drive unit for leakage of oil and operation for correct length of movement of the lock.

On bascule bridges, see if the front live load bearings fit snugly. Also observe the fit of tail locks at the rear arm and of supports at the outer end of single-leaf bridges.

Examine actuators for operational characteristics, including leakage if hydraulic. Note both the quantity and quality of the lubricant. Check for alignment, and analyze the type of wear that is occurring. Note condition of movable operators.



<b>Live Load Shoes and Strike Plates</b>	Inspect the fasteners and structure for deficiencies and corrosion. Note contact surface conditions. Check for alignment and movement under load.
<b>Air Buffer Cylinders and Shock Absorbers</b>	Note indications of lack of pressure or stickiness during operation. Check piston rod alignment with strike plate. Note the condition of the rod and housing, and verify if hydraulic leakage is present. Check the air filter and function of any pressure reading or adjusting devices and the operating pressure, if possible. Verify that the air buffers have freedom of movement and development of pressure when closing. Inspect the fully open bumper blocks and the attaching bolts for cracks in the concrete bases.
<b>Machinery Frames, Supports, and Foundations</b>	Check that there is no cracking in the steel or concrete. Note corrosion and damage. Check for deflection and movement under load. Ensure that the linkages and pin connections have the proper adjustment and are in functional condition. Check motor mounting brackets to ensure secure mounting.
<b>Fasteners</b>	Inspect the fasteners for corrosion, loss of section, and tightness.
<b>Wedges</b>	<p>Check the wedges and the outer bearings at the rest piers for alignment and amount of lift. This can be recognized by excessive vibration of span or uplift when load comes upon the other span.</p> <p>Examine the live load bearings and wedges located under the trusses or girders at the pivot pier for proper fit alignment and amount of lift.</p>
<b>Special Machinery for Swing Bridges</b>	<p>Check center bearings for proper and adequate lubrication, oil leaks, and noise. Examine the housing for cracking, pitting, fit of joints, and note indications of span translation (irregular rotation) at racks and track. Measure for proper clearance of balance wheels above track. Verify that the tracks and balance wheels are free of wear, pitting, and cracking. Check for proper and adequate lubrication at all lubrication points.</p> <p>Note balance characteristics as indicated by loads taken by balance wheels, and by drag on the rest pier rail.</p> <p>Check the rim bearing for wear on tracks and rollers, particularly at rest positions where the bridge is carrying traffic. Examine the center pivots and guide rings for proper fit, and for wear, pitting, and cracking. Check for proper and adequate lubrication at all lubrication points.</p> <p>Examine the center (live load) wedges located under the trusses or girders at the pivot pier for proper fit (no lifting) and alignment. Check end wedges and bearings at the rest piers for alignment and amount of lift. This can be recognized by excessive vibration of the span or uplift when live load crosses the other span. Inspect the end lift jacks, shoes, and all linkages for wear, proper bearing under load, and proper adjustment.</p> <p>Note the condition of end latches, including any modification that adversely affects their functional design.</p>

**Special Machinery for  
Bascule Bridges**

On rolling lift bascule bridges, check the segmental and track castings and their respective supporting track girders (if used) for wear on the sides of track teeth due to movement of sockets on segmental castings. Inspect the trunnion assemblies for deflection, buckling, lateral slip, and loose bolts. Examine the trunnions for any signs of corrosion, pitting, or cracking, particularly at stress risers. Laser leveling may be used during the inspection of trunnions. Check the balance of each leaf. Compare all wear patterns for indications of movement of the leaves. Check for cracking at the fillet of the angles forming the flanges of the segmental and track girders, cracking in the flanges opposite joints in the castings, and cracking of the concrete under the track. Inspect rack support for lateral movement when bridge is in motion.

Check trunnion bearings for lubrication of the full width of the bearing. Verify that extreme pressure (EP) lubrication oil of the proper grade is used.

**Special Machinery for  
Vertical Lift Bridges**

The condition of wire ropes and sockets, including wire rope lubrication, is important. Look for flattening or fraying of the strands and deficiencies between them. This is reason for replacement. Similarly, check the up-haul and down-haul ropes to see if they are winding and unwinding properly on the drums. Note any need for tension adjustments in up-haul and down-haul ropes. Determine whether ropes have freedom of movement and are running properly in sheave grooves. Look for any obstructions to prevent movement of the ropes through the pulley system, and check the supports on span drive type bridges. Check rope guides for alignment, proper fit, free movement, wear, and structural integrity of the longitudinal and transverse grooved guide castings. Inspect the grooved guide castings closely for wear in the grooves. Examine the cable hold-downs, turnbuckles, cleats, guides, clamps, splay castings, and the travel rollers and their guides.

Check that balance chains hang freely, that span leveling devices are functioning, and that span and counterweight balance closely. Observe if span becomes "out of level" during lifting operation. Inspect spring tension, brackets, braces, and connectors of power cable reels.

Check for damage, including cracking, at drums and sheaves. Note the condition and alignment of span guides.

**16.2.15**

**Electrical  
Inspection  
Considerations**

An available electrical specialist is required for the inspection of the electrical equipment. For this inspection, use current AASHTO guidance on inspection of movable bridges. Observe the functional operation of the bridge and look for abnormal performance of the equipment. Check the operational methods and safety features provided. Evaluate the maintenance methods being followed and check the frequency of services performed.

## **Power Supplies**

Examine the normal power supply, standby power supply, and standby generator set (for emergency operation of bridge and service lighting) and note the following:

- Take megger readings on the cable insulation values, noting the weather conditions, namely temperature and humidity.
- Make sure all cable connections are properly tightened.
- Measure the voltage and the current to the motors at regular intervals during the operation of the bridge.
- Check the collector rings and windings on the generator set.
- Test starting circuitry for automatic starting and manual starting.
- See if the unit is vibrating while running under load.

If the power cable has been repaired with a splice, note the condition of the splice box seal.

If no standby power supply has been provided, determine whether a portable generator could be used. A manual transfer switch would be a convenient way of connecting it.

## **Motors**

Examine span drive motors, lock motors, brake thruster motors, and brake solenoids for the same items as given for power supplies.

## **Transformers**

Check dry transformer coil housings, terminals, and insulators, including their temperature under load. Observe the frames and supports for rigidity to prevent vibration. Check the liquid filled transformer in the same way, along with checking the oil level while looking for leakage. Examine oil insulation test records.

## **Circuit Breakers**

Check circuit breakers (e.g., air, molded case, and oil) and fuses, including the arc chute, contact surfaces, overload trip settings, insulation, and terminal connections. Examine oil insulation test records, and observe the closing and tripping operation. Record all fuse types and sizes being used.

## **Wires and Cables**

Examine the wiring and cables for both power and control. Note whether the submarine cables are kinked, hooked, or deteriorated, especially at the exposed area above and below the water. In tidal areas, look for marine and plant growth. Note if the ends of the cable have been protected from moisture. Record the insulation value of each wire as measured by megger. Look for cracking, overheating, and deterioration of the insulation. Check for wear against surfaces and especially sharp edges. Check the adequacy of supports and that dirt and debris do not accumulate against the conduit and supports. Check terminal connections, clamps, and securing clips for tightness, corrosion, and verify that there are wire numbers on the end of each wire. The weight of the wires or cables will be carried by the clamps and not by the wire connections at the terminal strips.

## Cabinets

Examine the programmable logic controller (PLC) cabinets, control consoles and stations, switchboards (see Figure 16.2.65), relay cabinets, motor control centers (MCC), and all enclosures for deficiencies, debris inside, drainage, operations of heater to prevent condensation, and their ability to protect the equipment inside. Check the operation of all traffic signals, traffic gates, traffic barriers, and navigation lights. Verify that the bridge is open to provide the clearance shown on the permit drawing before the green span light turns on. Check the traffic warning equipment and control circuits, including the advanced warning signals (if used), traffic lights/signals, gates, barriers, and the public address and communication equipment.



**Figure 16.2.65** Open Switchboard

## Conduit

See if conduit is far enough away from all surfaces to avoid debris from collecting against it. Note if it is adequately supported and pitched to drain away from junction boxes and pull boxes, so that water is not trapped within. Also, note if all conduits have covers with seals. Report deteriorated conduit so that it can be replaced with new conduit. Seal and re-coat the connectors at the ends of all PVC coated conduit after all fittings are installed.

<b>Junction Boxes</b>	Examine the covers on all junction boxes (JBs) for an effective seal, dry interior, functioning breather-drains, heaters having enough power to prevent condensation inside, and terminal strips all secured to the bottom of horizontal JBs or to the back of vertical JBs.
<b>Meters</b>	Observe if all voltmeters, ammeters, and watt meters are freely fluctuating with a change in load. Check that all switches and meters are operable.
<b>Control Starters and Contactors/Relays</b>	Check the operation of this equipment under load, and watch for arcing between contacts, snap action of contacts, deterioration of any surfaces, and drainage of any moisture. Look for signs of corrosion and overheating.
<b>Limit Switches</b>	Set all limit switches so they do not operate until they are intended to stop the equipment or complete an interlock. Verify that the interior is clean and dry, with all springs active.
<b>Selsyn Transmitters and Receivers</b>	Check for power to the field and signal being sent from the transmitter to the receiver. Observe the receiver tracking the rotation of the bridge as it operates. Observe the mechanical coupling between the driving shaft and the transmitter, checking for damage and misalignment.
<b>Service Light and Outlet</b>	Check to see if power is going to each light and outlet. Note if there is a shield or bar for protecting each bulb and socket. It is desirable to have service lights available when power is removed from all movable bridge controls and equipment.

### 16.2.16

#### Hydraulic Inspection Considerations

A hydraulic power specialist is required for the inspection of the hydraulic equipment (see Figure 16.2.66). Observe the functional operation of the bridge and look for abnormal performance of the equipment. Check the safety features provided and evaluate the maintenance methods being followed, checking the frequency of services performed. Due to the inter-related function of components, the requirements for fluid cleanliness, and the need for personnel safety, do not open the reservoir or hydraulic lines. In addition, do not shut off or adjust any component or part of the power circuit without complete understanding of their function and knowledge of the effect such action will have upon the system. Items which are checked during a hydraulic inspection include the following:

- Note leakage anywhere in the system. Significant leakage is immediately brought to the attention of the bridge authority.
- Check for corrosion of reservoir, piping, and connections.
- Inspect sight gauges for proper fluid level in reservoir. Note gauges with low fluid levels or gauges which cannot be read.
- Note unusual noises from any part of the system.
- Check filter indicators to make sure filters are clean.
- Collect a sample of the hydraulic fluid for analysis by a testing laboratory during periodic inspections.



**Figure 16.2.66** Hydraulic Power Specialists

## 16.2.17

### **Recordkeeping and Documentation**

#### **General**

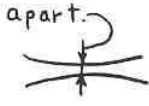
The owner of a movable bridge keeps a complete file available for the engineer who is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the bridge. See Topic 4.4 for general record keeping and documentation. The file includes (if applicable), but not be limited to, the following:

- Copy of the latest approved permit drawing
- Complete set of design plans and special provisions
- “As-built” shop plans for the structural steel, architectural, mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic
- Machinery Maintenance Manual
- Electrical Maintenance Manual
- Hydraulic Maintenance Manual
- Copy of maintenance methods being followed
- Copy of the latest Operator's Instruction being followed
- Copies of all inspection reports
- Copy of all maintenance reports
- Copy of all repair plans
- Up-to-date running log on all spare parts that are available, on order, or out of stock

Review inspection and maintenance reports with preventative maintenance measures in mind. An example would be the “megger” readings on wiring insulation; especially those taken on damp rainy days when moisture could influence (reduce) the values. An acceptable minimum reading is usually 1 megaohm. If the value on a wire is decreasing on progressive reports, preventative maintenance may save a “short” that could burn out equipment and put the bridge out of operation.

**Inspection and Maintenance Data**

Examples of inspection and maintenance records are shown in Figures 16.2.67 through 16.2.73.

South Tower Differential Assembly GEARS - General 1.						
Gear	General Condition	Lubri-cation	Keys	Alignment		
				Center Distance	Axial	Parallel
Pinion P5	Very Good. Tooth profiles show normal wear	Very Good	Good	Good. Pitch Lines Tangent	Good	Good
Gear I5	Very Good. Tooth profiles normal.	Very Good	Good	No Pitch Line on G5. Looks good. Measured backlash.		
Gear G5	Very Good. Tooth profiles normal	Very Good	Good			
Pinion P4	Very Good. Tooth profiles normal.	Very Good	Integral with shaft	No pitch line on P4. Center distance looks. Looks good. Measured backlash.	Good	Good
Gear G4	Very Good. Tooth profiles normal.	Very Good	Not keyed to shaft. Clutch locks G4 to shaft.			
Bevel Gears BG3 (2)	Very Good. Tooth profiles normal.	Very Good	Integral with sleeves.	Good. Pitch Lines $\frac{1}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{8}$ " apart.	Good	Good
Bevel Pinions BP3 (2)	Very Good. Tooth profiles normal.	Very Good	Integral with shafts.			

**Figure 16.2.67** Example of Notes on Operating Machinery (Gears-General)



South Tower Differential Assembly GEARS - Teeth 2.										
Gear	Chordal Thickness		Backlash		Condition of Teeth					
	Original	Measured	Original	Measured	Normal	Pitting	Rolling-Peening	Abnormal		
								Scoring	Interference	Rust & Corr.
Pinion P5	.625"	Did not measure	.011" min to .020" max.	Did not measure. Pitch lines indicate good backlash.	✓					
Gear I5	.625"		.011" min to .020" max.		✓					
Gear G5	.625"		.011" min to .020" max.	.0135" Good.	✓					
Pinion P4	.625"		.011" min to .020" max.	.020" Good	✓					
Gear G4	.625"		.011" min to .020" max.		✓					
Bevel Gears BG3 (2)	.875" at large end of teeth		.015" min to .029" max.	Did not measure.	✓					
Bevel Pinions BP3 (2)	.875" at large end of teeth	▼	.015" min to .029" max.	Pitch lines indicate good backlash.	✓					

Figure 16.2.68 Example of Notes on Operating Machinery (Gears-Teeth)

South Tower Differential Assembly		BEARINGS			3	
Bearing	General Condition	Clearance		Bolts	Lubri- cation	
		Original	Measured			
West end Emer. Motor Shaft	Good. Fairly clean, paint good. Bearing has 45° angle lube fitting w/dust cap.	.0025" min. to .0073" max.	.006" Good	Good. Nuts tight. Clean, paint good.	Good.	
East end Emer. Motor Shaft		.0025" min. to .0073" max.	.006" Good			
West end Intermediate Shaft		.0025" min. to .0073" max.	.007" Good			
East end Intermediate Shaft		.0025" min. to .0073" max.	.005" Good			
West end Normal Motor Shaft		.0025" min. to .0073" max.	.007" Good			
East end Normal Motor shaft	▽	.0025" min. to .0073" max.	.009" Fair	▽	▽	

Figure 16.2.69 Example of Notes on Operating Machinery (Bearings)

South Tower Differential Assembly MECHANICAL COMPONENTS		4.
Item	General Condition	
Housing Cover	Very good condition. Cover has four hinged maintenance panels, secured with studs and wingnuts. Cover bolted to lower supports with 20 bolts.	
Normal (Main) Drive Clutch Cone	Very good condition. No slippage during span operation, starting or stopping. Clutch cone is inside differential assembly and impossible to inspect without disassembly of differential.	
Emergency Drive Clutch Cone Assembly	Very good condition. Design plans show cone type clutch. Actually have jaw type clutch.	
Differential Clutch Operating Linkage	Very good condition. Well lubricated. Linkage operates smooth and quiet.	
Emergency Drive Clutch Operating Linkage	Very good condition. Well lubricated. Linkage operates smooth and quiet.	
Gear Motor for operation of Differential Clutch	Good condition. Operates smoothly. Operated with hand crank, turned fairly easy. GE AC Gearmotor, Model KY3AC2345, Motor 1800 rpm, 1/8 HP, ratio 250:1	
Support for above Gear Motor	Good. Some debris and oil on support.	
Gear Motor for operation of Emer. Drive Clutch	Good. Operates smoothly. Turned easily with hand crank. Same gearmotor as at differential clutch	
Support for above Gear Motor	Good. Some debris and oil on support.	
Housing Support	Good condition. Some debris and oil on support and floor. Paint good. 2 lights attached to supports inside	

Figure 16.2.70 Example of Notes on Operating Machinery (Mechanical Components)

Electrical Equipment 125HP, 600RPM, 3 $\phi$ , 60H				
Motor A (Normal-Traction) Tower South-Side W				
General Items		General Condition		
Stiffness of Supports		Good		
Connection to "		Bolts tight		
Condition of Frame		Dirty & Dusty Inside & out		
Inspection Covers		Wire Mesh, 2 on Top (2 on Bottom missing)		
Gaskets on "		None		
Bolts on "		Tight		
Ventilation		Open Ends		
Operation-Noise		Normal		
" -Vibration		Minimal		
" --Bearings		Normal wear		
Lubrication		Needs normal application		
Oil-Dirt Build-Up		None (Except at couplings)		
Insulation		See Megger test		
Cable Connections		Good		
Wound Rotor Motors		Wire No.	Raising Span Amps.	Lowering Span Amps.
Motor Current - $\phi$ A		T1A	122	91
B		T3A	124	93
C		T2A	124	92
Motor Voltage - A-B				} 460V
A-C				
B-C				
Rings - Surface		Normal wear		
" - Arcing		None Visible		
Brushes - Contact		Good		
" - Spring Pressure		Good, Springs Rusty		
" - Condition		Good, 24" length		
Wiring - Connection		Tight, Bolts Rusty		
" - Insulation		Good		
Rotor Current 3 $\phi$		A	B	C
A		M1A	50	31
B		M3A	48	32
C		M2A	50	32

Figure 16.2.71 Example of Notes on Electrical Equipment (Motors)

Megger Insulation Test Temp <u>60's</u> Weather <u>Dry</u>						
Rotating Cam - Normal Height				Limit Switch.		
contacts shown for Bridge Closed.				Tower <u>South Side W</u>		
Bottom Connection			Gear Drive End North	Top Connection ..		
Remarks	500V M $\Omega$ to Ground	Wire No. Tagged U.N.		Wire No.	500V M $\Omega$ to Ground	Remarks
	0.2	1084	1	1081	10.	
	0.2	1085	2			
	16.	No Tag 1083	3	1003	8.	
	18.	1105	4	1010.	0.2	
	20.	No Tag 1110	5			
	18.	1117	6			
	18.	1125	7			
	0.2	2051	8	2022	0.2	
	0.2	2052	9			
Spare		No Wires	10			

*Remarks: Cover has probably been left OFF for a period of time. No gaskets, clips on some switches not hooked. Connection screws inside all rusty on the bottom. Springs rusty but still springy. Contacts are clean with fair contact alignment.*

Figure 16.2.72 Example of Notes on Electrical Equipment (Limit Switch)

Equipment Being Controlled		Wire No. on Plans	Emergency Cables			Normal Cables		
			No. in Cable	500V M-Ω	Remarks	No. in Cable	500V M-Ω	Remarks
North Tower Elev.	261	1	6		2	500		
	261	3	6		4	500		
	263	5	1.5		6	<.2	>20K-Ω	
	263	7	1.5		8	.1		
	262	9	.9		10	.1		
	262	11	.9		12	.1		
Service Brake C	447	13	2.0		14	1000		
	446	15	40.		16	1000		
	448	17	15.		18	1000		
Service Brake D	467	19	2.		20	1000		
	466	21	25.		22	1000		
	468	23	5.		24	1000		
Drag Brake L	519	25	20.		26	1000		
	516	27	35.		28	1000		
	520	29	5.		30	1000		
Drag Brake M 516	529	31	4.		32	1000		
	526	33	5.		34	1000		
	535	35	1.		36	1000		
North Locks Motor	617	37	0.8		38	1000		
	616	39	10.		40	1000		
	618	41	0.2		42	1000		
North Barrier Gate Motor	647	43	12.		44	1000		
	646	45	.7		46	1000		
	648	47	90		48	∞		
N.W. Traffic Gate Motor	687	49	.2		50	1000		
	686	51	35.		52	∞		
	688	52	100.		54	∞		
N.E. Traffic Gate Motor	697	55	9.		56	1000		
	696	57	6.		58	1000		
	698	59	3.		60	1000		

Figure 16.2.73 Example of Notes on Electrical Equipment (Megger Insulation Test of the Submarine Cables)

## 16.2.18

### Evaluation

State and Federal rating guideline systems have been developed to aid in the inspection of movable bridges. The two major rating guideline systems currently in use are the FHWA's *Recording and Coding Guide for the Structural Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges* used for the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) component condition rating method and the AASHTO *Guide Manual for Bridge Element Inspection* for element level condition state assessment.

### NBI Component Condition Rating Guidelines

Using the NBI component condition rating guidelines, a one-digit code on the Federal Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) sheet indicates the condition of the superstructure. Component condition rating codes range from 9 to 0 where 9 is the best rating possible. See Topic 4.2 (Item 59) for additional details about NBI component condition rating guidelines.

Consider previous inspection data along with current inspection findings to determine the correct component condition rating.

### Element Level Condition State Assessment

In an element level condition state assessment of a movable bridge, possible AASHTO National Bridge Element (NBEs) and Bridge Management Elements (BMEs) are:

<u>NBE No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Superstructure</b>	
	<b>Box Girder</b>
102	Steel Closed Web/Box Girder
	<b>Floor System</b>
107	Steel Open Girder/Beam
113	Steel Stringer (Stringer-Floorbeam System)
152	Steel Floorbeam (Stringer-Floorbeam System)
	<b>Steel Truss</b>
120	Steel Truss
162	Steel Gusset Plate
	<b>Steel Arch</b>
141	Steel Arch
	<b>Cable</b>
147	Steel Main Cable (not embedded in concrete)
148	Steel Secondary Cable (not embedded in concrete)
<u>BME No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Wearing Surfaces and Protection Systems</b>	
515	Steel Protective Coating

The unit quantity for the superstructure elements is feet. The total length is distributed among the four available condition states depending on the extent and severity of the deficiency. The unit quantity for gusset plates is each, with each gusset plate element placed in one of the four available condition states depending on the extent and severity of the deficiency. The unit quantity for protective coating is square feet, and the total area is distributed among the four available condition states depending on the extent and severity of the deficiency. The sum

of all condition states equals the total quantity of the National Bridge Element or Bridge Management Element. Condition State 1 is the best possible rating. See the *AASHTO Guide Manual for Bridge Element Inspection* for condition state descriptions.

For mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic movable bridge members, individual bridge owners may choose to create their own Agency Developed Elements (ADEs).

The following Defect Flags are applicable in the evaluation of movable bridges:

<b><u>Defect Flag No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
356	Steel Cracking/Fatigue
357	Pack Rust
362	Superstructure Traffic Impact (load capacity)
363	Steel Section Loss
364	Steel out-of-plane (compression members)

See the *AASHTO Guide Manual for Bridge Element Inspection* for the application of Defect Flags.



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# Table of Contents

## Chapter 16 Complex Bridges

---

16.3	Floating Bridges.....	16.3.1
16.3.1	Introduction.....	16.3.1
16.3.2	Design Characteristics.....	16.3.2
	Pontoons .....	16.3.3
	Continuous Pontoons .....	16.3.5
	Separate Pontoons.....	16.3.6
	Anchoring Systems.....	16.3.7
	Types of Anchoring Systems .....	16.3.8
	Precast Concrete Fluke Style Anchor .....	16.3.8
	Pile Anchor .....	16.3.9
	Open-Cell Gravity Block Anchor .....	16.3.10
	Solid Gravity Slab Anchor (Stackable).....	16.3.11
16.3.3	Overview of Common Deficiencies.....	16.3.12
16.3.4	Inspection Locations and Methods .....	16.3.12
	Methods.....	16.3.12
	Visual .....	16.3.12
	Physical.....	16.3.13
	Advanced Inspection Methods.....	16.3.15
	Locations .....	16.3.15
	Pontoons.....	16.3.15
	Joints .....	16.3.15
	Cables.....	16.3.15
	Anchors.....	16.3.16
16.3.5	Evaluation .....	16.3.17
	NBI Component Condition Rating Guidelines.....	16.3.17
	Element Level Condition State Assessment.....	16.3.17

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# Topic 16.3 Floating Bridges

## 16.3.1

### Introduction

Although uncommon, some states have floating bridges that are not supported by a substructure. Instead, they are supported by, or float on the water. The bridge elevation will change as the water level fluctuates (see Figure 16.3.1).

Floating bridges are cost-effective solutions for crossing large bodies of very deep water with a very soft bottom where conventional piers are impractical. For a site with a 100- to 200-foot deep water and a very soft bottom extending another 100 to 200 feet, a floating bridge is estimated to cost three to five times less than a conventional multi-span fixed bridge or a tunnel.

Floating bridges perform well in areas subjected to high winds, moderate currents and moderate waves. They also have low environmental impact and perform well in seismic events.

Washington State is known for its floating bridges with four of the longest and heaviest floating bridges. They are the SR 520 Evergreen Point Bridge, the I-90 Lacey V. Murrow Bridge, the I-90 Homer M. Hadley Bridge, and the SR 104 Hood Canal Bridge.



**Figure 16.3.1** Floating Bridge, SR 520 Evergreen Point Bridge, Seattle, WA During Stormy Weather

## 16.3.2

### Design Characteristics

Floating bridges take advantage of the natural law of buoyancy of water to support the loads. This is achieved through the use of giant pontoons secured into place by an anchoring system. Conventional piers and foundations are not used.

Since a floating bridge "sits" on the water, the bridge itself creates an obstacle to vessels attempting to cross the waterway. For this reason, many floating bridges employ a movable bridge section for vessels to pass through, or an elevated span for vessels to pass under (see Figures 16.3.2 and 16.3.3).



**Figure 16.3.2** Movable Bridge Section of Evergreen Point Bridge, Seattle, WA



**Figure 16.3.3** Elevated Section of Evergreen Point Bridge, Seattle, WA

## Pontoons

Floating bridges may be constructed of wood (see Figure 16.3.4), concrete, steel, or a combination of materials depending on the design requirements although concrete pontoons are generally used in the newer bridges.

The pontoons are large water-tight chambers constructed off site and floated into place (see Figures 16.3.5 and 16.3.6). Despite their heavy concrete composition, the weight of the water displaced by the pontoons is equal to the weight of the structure (including all traffic), which allows the bridge to float. They may be prestressed concrete or reinforced concrete and are classified as either continuous pontoon type or separate pontoon type. The pontoons are held into place by huge steel cables anchored deep in the soil below water.



**Figure 16.3.4** Brookfield, Vermont, Floating Bridge Constructed from Timber



**Figure 16.3.5** Concrete Pontoons Under Construction



**Figure 16.3.6** Concrete Pontoons Transported for Hood Canal Project

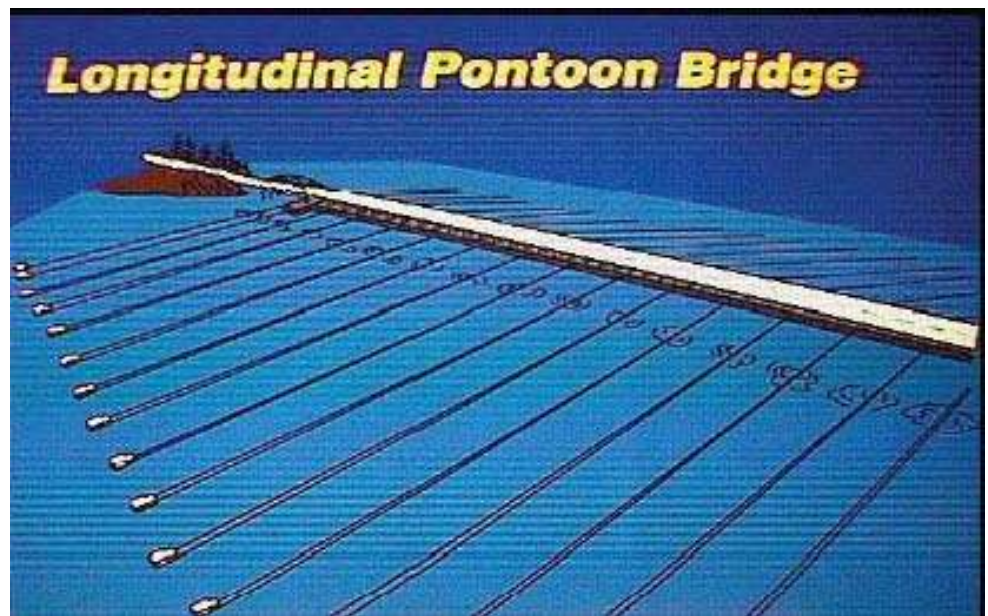
To control water leaking into the interior of the pontoons and ultimately sinking the bridges, each pontoon contains several water tight cells. This confines any flooding to a small area of the bridge. Access doors to the interior cells are watertight. Each cell may be equipped with water sensors for early detection of any leaks in the pontoons and a bilge pumping system to pump out water.

Bridge pontoons are designed to safely withstand wind and wave forces, major storms and vessel collisions.

### **Continuous pontoons**

Continuous pontoon bridges are made of individual pontoons, longitudinally connected to each other. The top of the pontoons may be the roadway or a superstructure may be built on top of the pontoons. The size of each pontoon is determined by design requirements as well as constraints imposed by the constructions facilities and the transportation route to the bridge site.

The floating bridges in use today in Washington State are of the continuous type (see Figure 16.3.7).

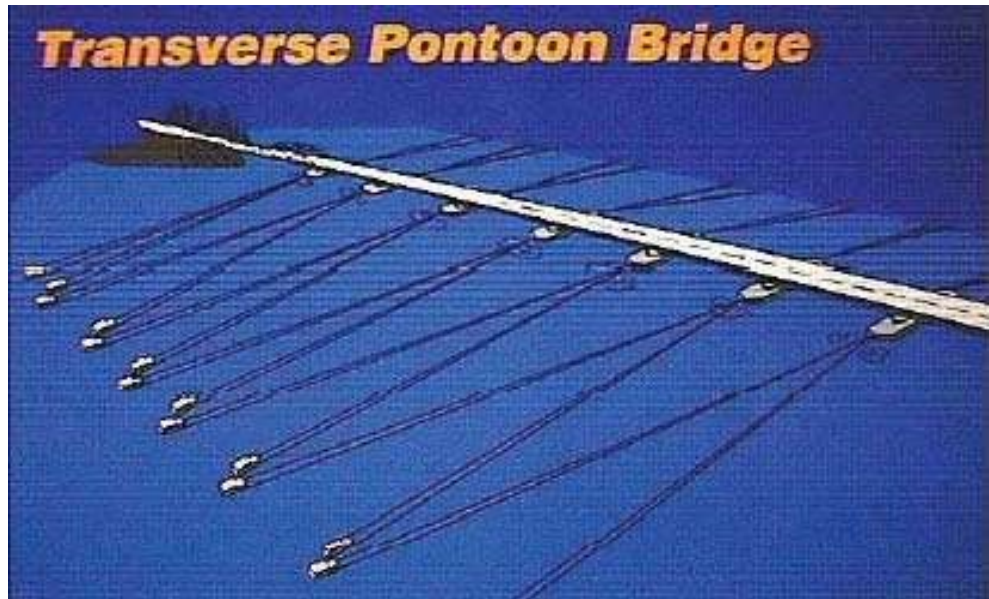


**Figure 16.3.7** Continuous Pontoon-Type Structure



### Separate Pontoons

A separate pontoon type of floating bridge consists of individual pontoons. These pontoons are placed transversely to the structure and are spanned by a steel or concrete superstructure (see Figures 16.3.8 and 16.3.9). The superstructure needs to be strong enough and rigid enough to maintain the position of the separated pontoons. A series of cables are attached to each pontoon and are anchored deep in the soil below water.



**Figure 16.3.8** Separate Pontoon Type Structure



**Figure 16.3.9** Bridge Constructed with Separate Pontoons

### Anchoring Systems

Floating bridges are held in place in various ways such as a system of piles, caissons, cables, anchors and fixed guide structures. The most common type of system consists of cables and anchors. Anchor cables are normally two and one half inches in diameter and consist of dozens of individual steel strands (see Figure 16.3.10).



**Figure 16.3.10** Cross-Section of Anchor Cable

Anchor cable saddles are used within the pontoon to guide and hold the cable in place (see Figure 16.3.11). Hydraulic jacks inside the pontoon tighten or release the pressure on the cables as the water level fluctuates under the bridge.



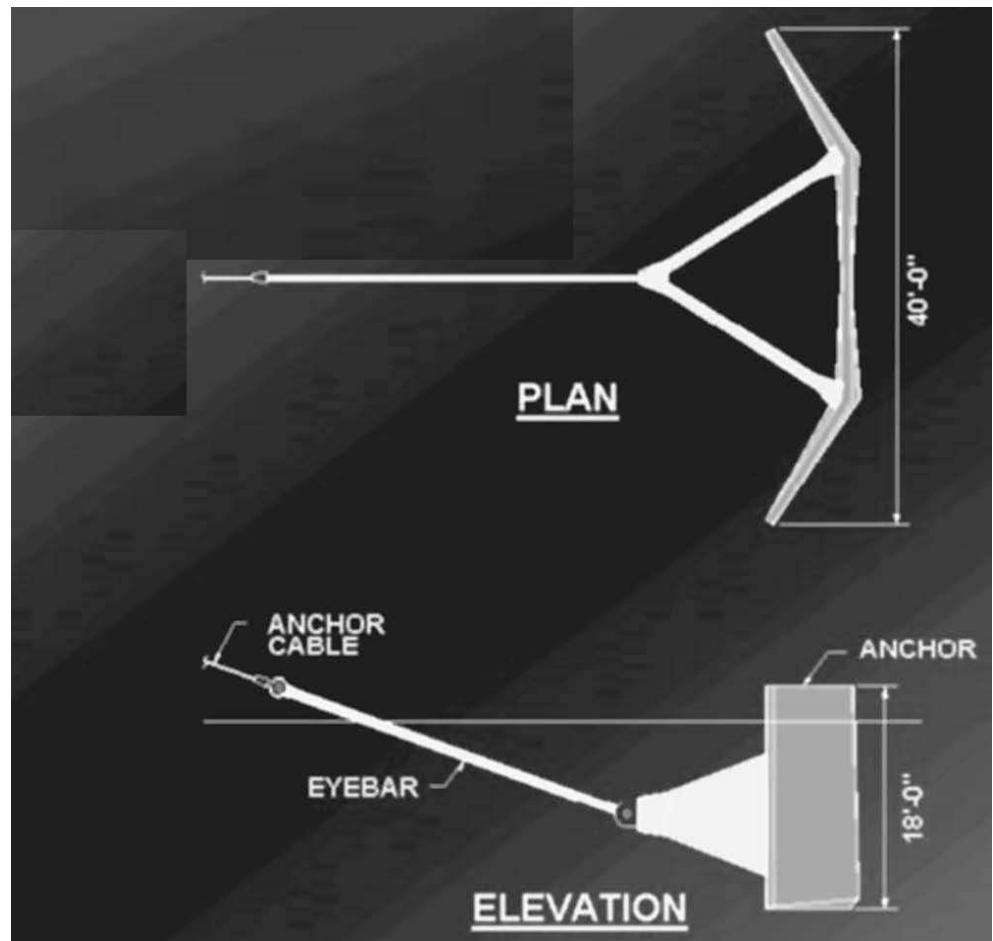
**Figure 16.3.11** Anchor Cable Saddle

**Types of Anchoring Systems**

Depending on the depth of the water and the soil conditions, there are four primary types of anchoring systems used on the floating bridges: precast concrete fluke style anchor, pile anchor, open-cell gravity block anchor, and solid gravity slab anchor (stackable).

**Precast Concrete Fluke Style Anchor**

Precast concrete fluke style anchors are used in deep water with very soft soil conditions. Anchors weighing 60 to 86 tons are lowered to the soil below water. Water jets are turned on allowing the anchors to sink to the proper depth (see Figure 16.3.12).



**Figure 16.3.12** Precast Concrete Fluke Style Anchor

### Pile Anchor

Pile anchors are designed for use in water depths less than 88 feet and with hard soil. Piles are driven into the surface to a specified depth and tied together to increase capacity (see Figure 16.3.13).

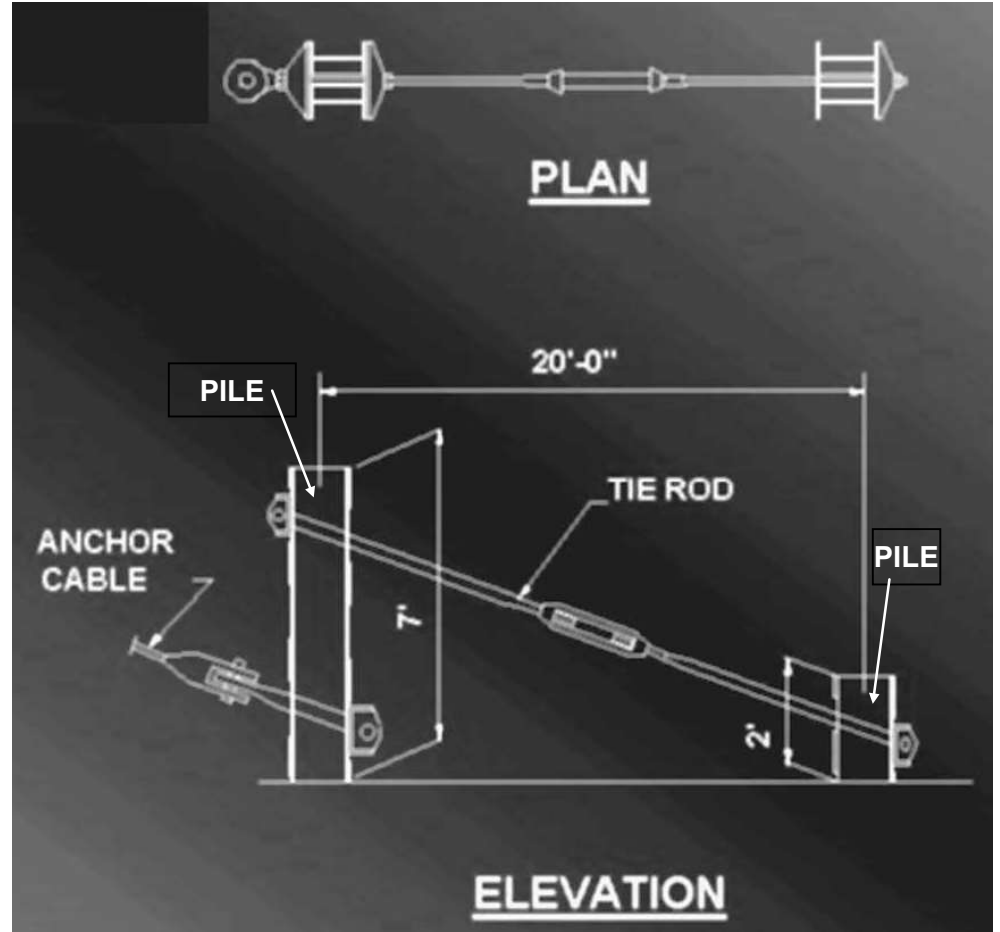
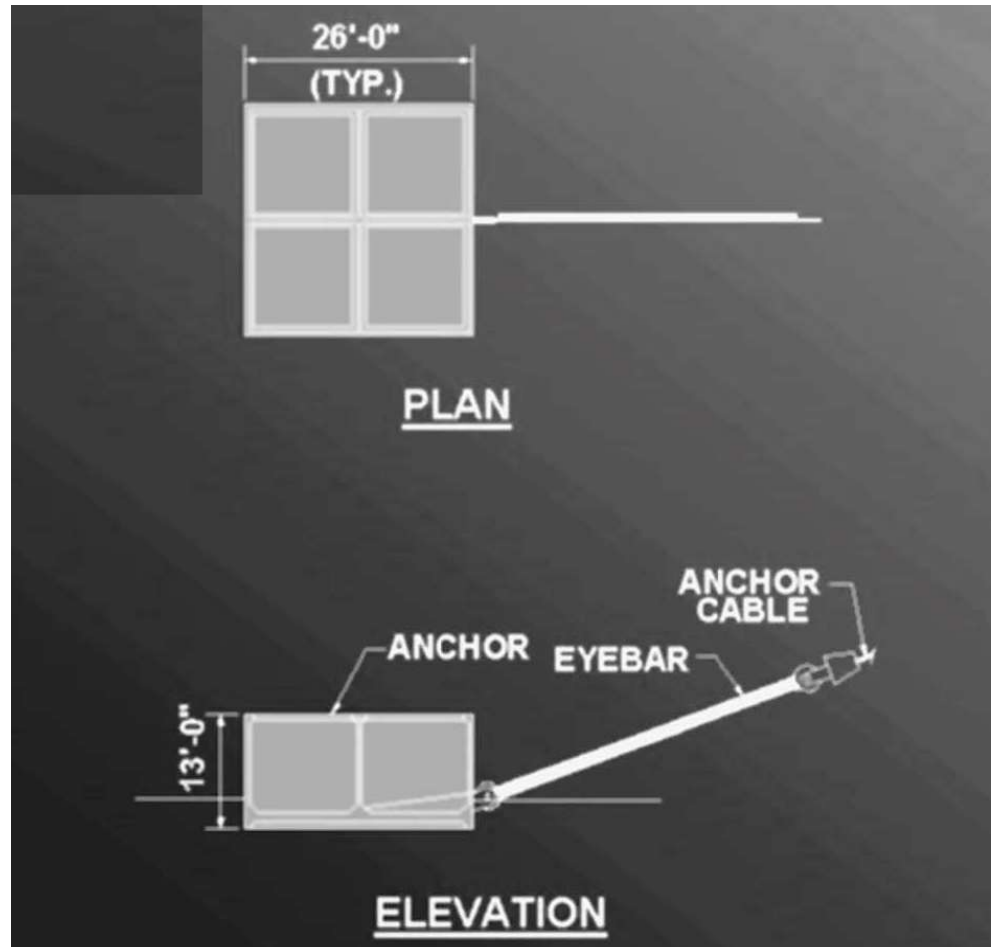


Figure 16.3.13 Pile Anchor

### Open-Cell Gravity Block Anchor

Open-cell gravity block anchors are a gravity type of anchor. They are reinforced concrete boxes with an open top that are lowered into position and filled with gravel to a predetermined weight. This type of anchor is used in deep water where the soil is hard (see Figure 16.3.14).



**Figure 16.3.14** Open-Cell Gravity Block Anchor

### Solid Gravity Slab Anchor (Stackable)

Solid gravity slab anchors are a gravity type of anchor. They can be used in either shallow or deep water where the soil is hard. These anchors are solid reinforced concrete slabs weighing up to 270 tons each. The first slab is lowered into position, and then additional slabs are added until the required anchoring capacity has been reached. Solid gravity slab anchors are the preferred anchor type because they are easy to cast and can be placed quickly (see Figure 16.3.15).

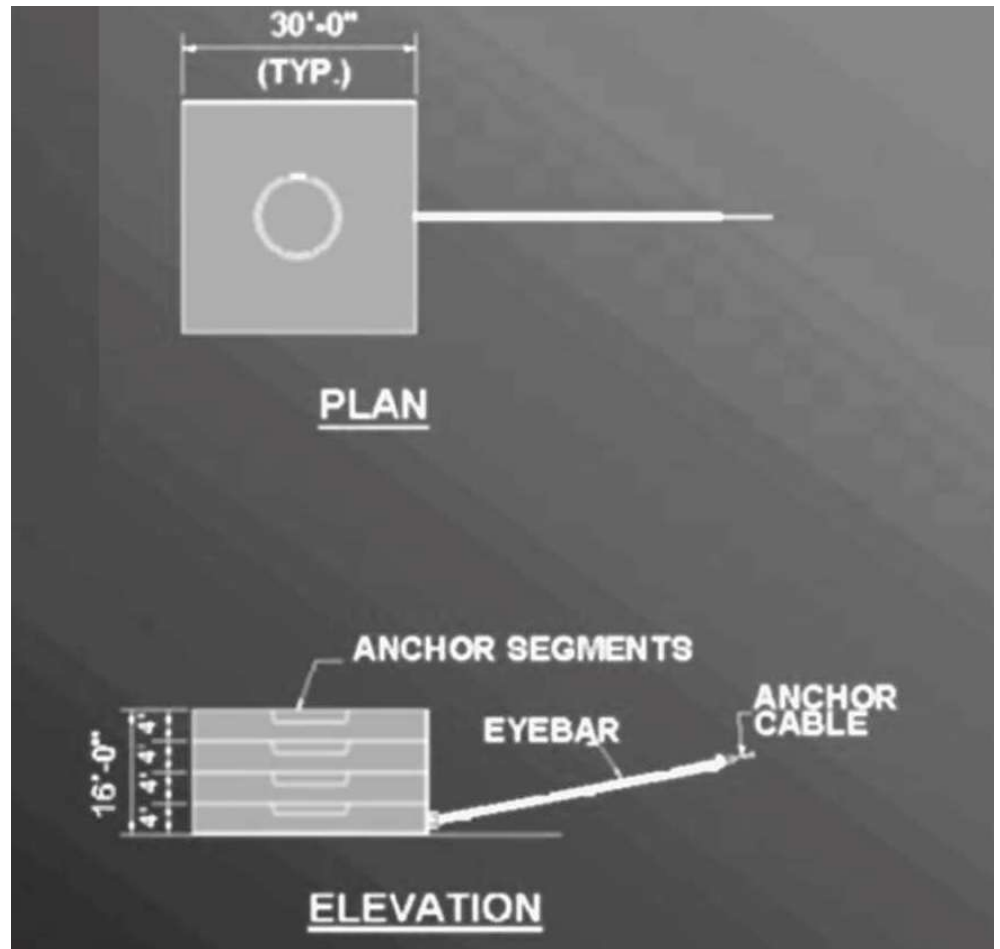


Figure 16.3.15 Solid Gravity Slab Anchor

### 16.3.3

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#### Overview of Common Deficiencies

Common deficiencies that occur on floating bridges are:

- Corrosion of anchor cables
- Fatigue cracking
- Overloads
- Collision damage
- Water infiltration

Floating bridges may be constructed from steel, concrete or timber. Therefore, deficiencies will depend on the material used to construct the bridge. See Topics 6.1 (Timber), 6.2 (Concrete), and 6.3 (Steel) for specific information regarding deficiencies of each material type.

### 16.3.4

---

#### Inspection Locations and Methods

Because of their uniqueness and depending on the material used, floating bridges can prove challenging to an inspector. Floating bridges can be constructed of steel, concrete or timber, therefore a variety of inspection methods are utilized to thoroughly inspect the bridge. Additionally, since many floating bridges include an elevated conventional bridge structure or a moveable bridge section, those inspection methods and locations are to be considered by the inspection team.

See Chapter 6 for detailed description of anticipated modes of deterioration for common bridge materials. See Chapters 8 through 12 for the inspection and evaluation of timber superstructures, concrete superstructures, steel superstructures, bearings and substructures. See Topic 16.2 for detailed information about movable bridges.

#### Methods

##### Visual

Visual inspection of each pontoon cell will reveal any cracks or leaks. pontoons have access hatches to allow for maintenance and inspection (see Figure 16.3.16).

Visually inspect concrete pontoons for the following deficiencies:

- Cracking
- Spalling
- Delamination
- Overload damage
- Collision damage
- Abrasion
- Loss of watertight seals on access doors and hatches
- Damaged cable connections

Visually inspect steel pontoons for the following deficiencies:

- Cracking
- Overload damage
- Collision damage
- Loss of watertight seals on access doors and hatches
- Coating failure
- Corrosion and section loss
- Damaged cable connections



**Figure 16.3.16** Inspector Opening Pontoon Access Hatch

### **Physical**

Measure and record the depth of any water found in each cell. The length, location and width of cracks found are to be accurately measured and recorded (see Figure 16.3.17). For steel pontoons and cables, remove corrosion and rust down to bare metal. With calipers or a D-meter, measure and record remaining section thickness. Use a hammer to check for delaminated areas in concrete pontoons.



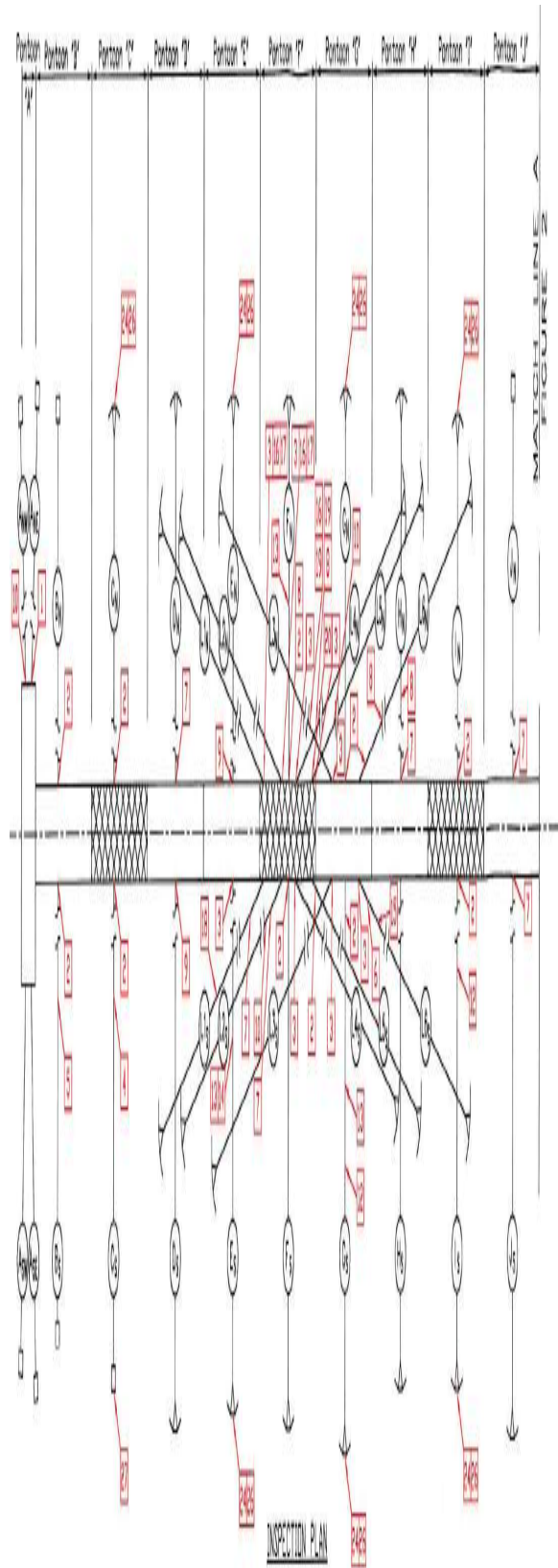


Figure 16.3.17 Sample Pontoon Inspection Plan

### **Advanced Inspection Methods**

Many of the advanced inspection tools used above water have been adopted for underwater use. See Chapter 15 for the advanced inspection methods of timber, steel and concrete.

Anchors may be embedded 100 or more feet below the water surface. Inspection of the anchors will require underwater divers and equipment with the ability to detect any deficiencies present. See Topic 13.3, Underwater Inspection. Underwater cameras, sonar and other specialized equipment can provide access to cables and anchors.

### **Locations**

#### **Pontoons**

Examine the floor of each pontoon cell for standing water. Examine pontoon walls and surfaces for cracks. Examine access doors, locks and hatches verifying that they are water tight and in proper working condition. Check the bilge pumping system and verify that it is in working order. Convey any noted problems with the pumping system to specialized maintenance personnel responsible for the system.

Examine the cable ends and anchor cable saddle inside the pontoon. Look at the connections in the pontoons for frayed or broken strands. Verify the presence and functioning of any cathodic protection system on the anchor cables.

#### **Joints**

When continuous pontoons are used, inspect the joint between the pontoons. Typically a rubber membrane or grout is used between the pontoons. Examine the alignment of the pontoons across the structure looking for signs of differential movement or distortion. This may indicate water leaking into one of the pontoons or some type of ballast balancing problem within the structure.

#### **Cables**

Examine the cable ends at the pontoon portals and check for cable misalignment and fraying. Check for broken wires that may indicate undue stress on the cable securing the pontoon (see Figure 6.3.18). Also check cables for heavy corrosion or section loss (see Figure 6.3.19).



**Figure 16.3.18** Frayed Cables Removed from a Floating Bridge



**Figure 16.3.19** Typical View of Heavy Corrosion within Pontoon Port

### **Anchors**

Floating bridges are subjected to wind, tides and wave forces that are unpredictable and always changing. This exerts high levels of strain and stress on the cables and the anchors. Inspection of the anchors is not easily accomplished. Underwater remote equipment can provide information on each anchor. Look for any indication of anchor movement, misalignment or undermining of the anchor. Check the ballast on open-cell gravity block anchors to verify if there is enough material to keep the anchors in place.

### 16.3.5

#### **Evaluation**

State and Federal rating guideline systems have been developed to aid in the inspection of floating bridges. The two major rating guideline systems currently in use are the FHWA's *Recording and Coding Guide for the Structural Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges* used for the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) component condition rating method and the AASHTO *Guide Manual for Bridge Element Inspection* for element level condition state assessment.

#### **NBI Component Condition Rating Guidelines**

Using the NBI component condition rating guidelines, a one-digit code on the Federal Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) sheet indicates the condition of the superstructure. Component condition rating codes range from 9 to 0 where 9 is the best rating possible. See Topic 4.2 (Item 59) for additional details about NBI component condition rating guidelines.

Consider previous inspection data along with current inspection findings to determine the correct component condition rating.

#### **Element Level Condition State Assessment**

In an element level condition state assessment of a floating bridge, possible AASHTO National Bridge Elements (NBEs) and Bridge Management Elements (BMEs) are:

<u>NBE No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Superstructure</b>	
107	Steel Girder/Beam
102	Steel Closed Web/Box Girder
113	Steel Stringer
152	Steel Floorbeam
147	Steel Cables
109	Prestressed Concrete Girder/Beam
104	Prestressed Concrete Closed Web/Box Girder
115	Prestressed Concrete Stringer
154	Prestressed Concrete Floorbeam
110	Reinforced Concrete Girder/Beam
105	Reinforced Concrete Closed Web/Box Girder
116	Reinforced Concrete Stringer
155	Reinforced Concrete Floorbeam
111	Timber Girder/Beam
117	Timber Stringer
156	Timber Floorbeam
<b>Substructure</b>	
310	Elastomeric Bearing
311	Moveable Bearing (roller, sliding, etc)
312	Enclosed/Concealed Bearing
313	Fixed Bearing
314	Pot Bearing
315	Disk Bearing

<b><u>BME No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
<b>Wearing Surfaces and Protection Systems</b>	
510	Wearing Surfaces
515	Steel Protective Coating
525	Concrete Protective Coating

The unit quantity for the superstructure elements is feet. The total length is distributed among the four available condition states depending on the extent and severity of the deficiency. The unit of quantity for bearings is each, with each bearing element placed in one of the four available condition states depending on the extent and severity of the deficiency. The unit quantity for wearing surfaces and protective coatings is area, and the total area is distributed among the four available condition states depending on the extent and severity of the deficiency. The sum of all condition states equals the total quantity of the National Bridge Element or Bridge Management Element. Condition State 1 is the best possible rating. See the *AASHTO Guide Manual for Bridge Element Inspection* for condition state descriptions.

The following Defect Flags are applicable in the evaluation of floating bridges:

<b><u>Defect Flag No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
356	Steel Cracking/Fatigue
357	Pack Rust
358	Concrete Cracking
359	Concrete Efflorescence
360	Settlement
361	Scour
362	Superstructure Traffic Impact (load capacity)
363	Steel Section Loss
364	Steel out-of-plane (Compression Member)

See the *AASHTO Guide Manual for Bridge Element Inspection* for the application of Defect Flags.

## Appendix A

### Sample Inspection Report

**PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

**REPORT ON THE  
NBIS INSPECTION  
OF  
CHARTIERS CREEK BRIDGE**

**BMS No. 02 7421 0000 9061**

Submitted By:

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.  
100 Airside Drive  
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania  
15108

September, 2011

**STRUCTURE B.M.S. NUMBER:** 02 7421 0000 9061

**BRIDGE NAME:** Chartiers Creek Bridge

**LOCATION:** Crafton, Pennsylvania

**INSPECTION DATE:** June 23, 2011

**INSPECTED BY:** Michael Baker Jr., Inc.  
Patrick A. Leach, P.E.  
Charles L. Molnar

**PREPARED FOR:** Port Authority of Allegheny County

**PREPARED BY:** Michael Baker Jr., Inc.  
Written By: Joseph E. Salvadori, E.I.T.  
Reviewed By: Raymond A. Hartle, P.E.

**PORT AUTHORITY  
AGREEMENT NUMBER:** 11-08

**OWNER OF BRIDGE:** Port Authority of Allegheny County

**COST INFORMATION:**

Inspection & Report	\$4,662.00
Rigging	\$2,340.00
Traffic Control	\$ 0
Railroad	\$ 0
Insurance	\$ 0

**DATE SUBMITTED:** (Seal removed for BIRM)



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**I Location Map**

**II Introduction**

**III Inspection Findings**

- Inspection Summary
- Photographs
- Drawings (*Note – Drawings for this structure are not included in this example.*)
- Forms D-450's

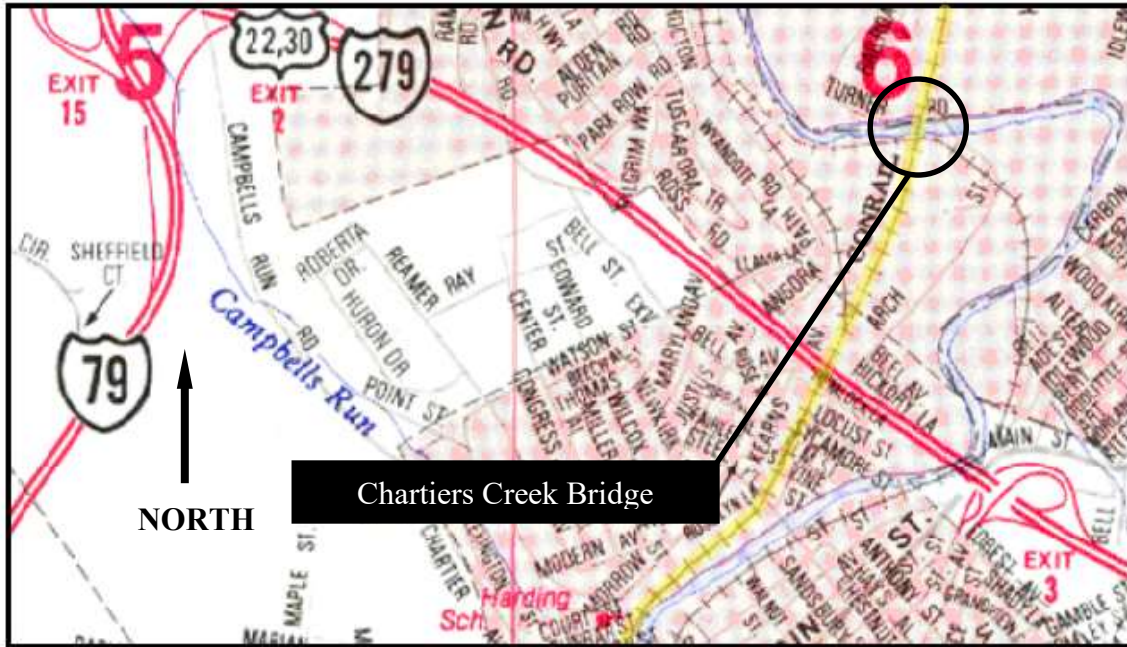
**IV Structural Analysis**

**V Recommendations And Cost Estimate**

**VI Appendix**

- BMS Forms D-491's (*Note – Not included in this example.*)

# Chartiers Creek Bridge



**Location Map**  
(No Scale)

**REPORT ON THE INITIAL NBIS INSPECTION  
OF  
CHARTIERS CREEK BRIDGE**

**PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

**II. INTRODUCTION:**

- Location

Located in the Borough of Crafton, the Chartiers Creek Bridge carries two (2) lanes of the Port Authority of Allegheny County's West Busway over Chartiers Creek, and the Pittsburgh Industrial Railroad, Inc.

- Year Built

The approximate date of the original construction of the Chartiers Creek Bridge is 1948. The structure was built by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Rehabilitation was completed in July 1997.

- Load Posting

None required.

- Description

The Chartiers Creek Bridge is a three (3) span, non-composite, riveted and bolted built-up plate girder bridge with a total length of 253'-11" (see photo no. 1). The 3 spans consist of one (1) main simple span 124'-0", one (1) simple south end span 55'-3", and one (1) simple north end span 68'-3" long. The span lengths are measured between centerline of bearings. The skew angle measured between the centerline of the abutment and West Busway is 90°. There are AT&T conduits mounted under the deck, and light poles mounted on top of the concrete parapets (see photo no.'s 8 & 2, respectively).

## Chartiers Creek Bridge

The superstructure consists of four girders spaced at 7'-0" – 6'-0" – 7'-0" on centers, are laterally restrained with angle cross framing, and support an 8 1/2" reinforced concrete deck. The deck thickness includes a 1/2" integral-wearing surface. The deck measures 28'-0" between the reinforced concrete parapets present on both sides of the structure. Galvanized stay-in-place deck forms are present on the underside of the deck (see photo no. 8).

Span 1 girders are made up of a 5'-11" deep by 1/2" thick web plates, and 18" wide by 3/4" thick top and bottom flange plates (see photo no. 8). The main span consists of a 10'-4 1/2" deep by 1/2" thick web plate, and top and bottom flange plates varying from 20" wide by 7/8" thick, to 20" wide by 1" thick (see photo no. 9). Span 3 girders are made up of a 6'-10 1/2" deep by 1/2" thick web plate, and 18" wide by 3/4" and 7/8" thick top and bottom flange plates (see photo no. 10). New knee brackets, bolted to the fascia girders, measure 4'-9" wide, from the centerline of existing fascia girders to the centerline of the new W24x55 fascia stringers, with 1/2" thick web plates, and 6" wide by 1/2" thick top and bottom flange plates (see photo no. 4). Lateral bracing and diaphragms consist of angles, and angle x-bracing, respectively. Laminated elastomeric bearing pads are present at the girder ends.

The main span vertical underclearance, from the existing concrete channel bottom, at the centerline of the railroad measures 60'-9" and 36'-7" in span 1.

Gravity type substructures consist of a combination of original stone construction with newly constructed reinforced concrete abutment backwalls and pier caps (see photo no.'s 4 to 7).

## Chartiers Creek Bridge

### III. INSPECTION FINDINGS:

Michael Baker Jr., Inc. performed this initial inspection, which follows NBIS procedures, on June 23, 2011, via a UB-40 underbridge inspection crane. In general, the structure was in good condition with a few minor problems. Several conduits at the south abutment and in span 1 have severely buckled segments, and broken couplers and/or adapters (see photo no.'s 12 & 13). In addition, a conduit in span 3 is split and leaking water (see photo no. 14). These problems are due to the junction boxes being allowed to fill with rainwater during construction.

#### Approach

The north and south approach roadway and slabs are newly constructed with no deficiencies noted.

#### Deck

No deficiencies noted – new construction (see photo no. 11). All PennDOT Type 1 scuppers are in excellent condition. A few scuppers exhibit minor debris accumulation but are fully functional (see photo no. 15). Random hairline (< 0.01”) shrinkage cracks along the length of the concrete parapets are present (see photo no. 16). Deck expansion joints consist of strip seals in good condition with minor debris accumulation (see photo no. 17).

#### Superstructure

The superstructure has no visible structural deficiencies. Girders, fascia stringers, knee brackets, and lateral bracing are newly painted. The paint shows no visual defects, but the girders and bracing exhibit evidence of prior minor section loss and member pitting. Fascia stringers and knee brackets are in new condition with no deficiencies noted (see photo no. 4). Diaphragms are in good condition, but show areas of freckled surface rust under the broken

## **Chartiers Creek Bridge**

conduit in span 1. Approximately 50% of lateral bracing connections between girders 3 & 4, in span 2, were not painted with final paint coat (see photo no. 18). Laminated elastomeric bearing pads are functioning properly with no problems noted.

### **Substructure**

The north and south abutments are in good condition, with a few minor problems noted. Both abutments have newly constructed reinforced concrete backwalls, bridge seats, and wingwalls with no visual deficiencies noted (see photo no.'s 4 & 5). The stem tops consist of new reinforced concrete construction, also with no visual deficiencies noted, and are attached to the existing stone masonry bases. Some locations of the stone masonry show minor cracking and loosening of mortar.

Piers 1 & 2 are in good condition with minor cracking and loosening of mortar on the existing stone masonry portion of the stems. The bridge seats, caps, and stem tops are newly constructed reinforced concrete with no visual deficiencies noted (see photo no.'s 6 & 7).

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No. 1      General Elevation (Upstream)



Photo No.2      South Approach (near)

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No.3 North Approach (far)



Photo No.4 South Abutment (near) - Elevation



## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No.5 North Abutment (far) - Elevation



Photo No.6 Pier 1 - North Face (Looking South)

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No.7 Pier 2 - North Face (Looking South), note electrical lines



Photo No.8 General Underside View – Span 1

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No.9      General Underside View – Span 2



Photo No. 10      General Underside View – Span 3

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No. 11      General Deck View



Photo No. 12      Conduit, Span 1 – note longitudinal crack/split

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No. 13 Conduit and Couplers, Span 1 – note bend in conduit, and coupler separation



Photo No.14 Conduit , Span 3 – note conduit is split and leaking water

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No. 15 Typical PennDOT Type 1 Scupper



Photo No.16 Typical parapet crack

## Chartiers Creek Bridge



Photo No. 17 Strip Seal at North Abutment (typ.) – note minor debris accumulation



Photo No.18 Lateral bracing connection between beam #3 and #4, in span 2 – note no final paint coat, and rust freckles

## Chartiers Creek Bridge

### IV. STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS:

#### Bridge Load Ratings (Tons)

<b>LOAD FACTOR</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>ML</b>	<b>P</b>
Inventory w/o F.W.S	115	159	152	---
Inventory w/ F.W.S	112	155	148	---
Operating w/o F.W.S	191	265	253	346
Operating w/ F.W.S	187	259	247	338

Note: 1) Critical rating is for a beam controlled by shear in span 3  
 2) Due to no analysis being performed as part of the inspection, the above table is reproduced from contract drawings.

### V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND COST ESTIMATE:

#### Repairs

<b>Item</b>	<b>Estimated Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Drain junction boxes, and conduits filled with water. Repair bent conduits, and broken couplers/adapters.	N/A	Lump Sum	\$7,500.00
Paint locations requiring final paint coat between girders 3 & 4 in span 2.	20 SF	Lump Sum	\$1,500.00

**TOTAL COST \$9,000.00**

Note: The above costs are only for the items listed and do not include additional costs which would be incurred when the work is performed, such as mobilization, maintenance and traffic protection, engineering, etc.



**Site Data**

**BRIDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**  
BRIDGE INSPECTION REPORT

BMS Updated by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**A01** | **0** | **2** | **7** | **4** | **2** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **9** | **0** | **6** | **1** | **C05** Structure Type (Dept.)  
Main **STL. RIVETED I-BEAM** | **1** | **9** | **1** | **1** | **0**

**CHARTIERS CREEK BRIDGE** Over **CHARTIERS CREEK** Approach \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Date **E06** | **0** | **6** | **2** | **3** | **0** | **0** Name of Consultant and/or Inspectors **E12** | **M** | **I** | **C** | **H** | **A** | **E** | **L** | **B** | **A** | **K** | **E** | **R** | **J** | **R.** | **I** | **N** | **C.**

Inspection Type **E07** | **1** Inspected by **E08** | **8** Hired by **E13** | **8** Time started **7:30 A.M.** Weather Conditions: Temp: **84**

**CRAFTON** Time completed **4:30 P.M.** **MOSTLY SUNNY**

City  Borough  Township

Optional Reminder:  
Check boxes if Maintenance Activities are needed -->

**Bridge Signing Verification**

BMS Item	Type of Sign	Required Sign	SIGNING IN FIELD			Comments
			Near Advance	Bridge Site Near Far	Far Advance	
D15	Bridge Weight Limit	N/A T				NONE POSTED
D15	Except Combination	N/A T				
D14	One Truck at a Time	Yes / (No)				
B22/B23	Vert. Clearance - On	N/A				See Sketch
B22/B23	Vert. Clearance - Und	N/A				See Sketch
	One Lane Bridge	Yes / (No)	(Opt)		(Opt)	
	Narrow Bridge	Yes / (No)	(Opt)		(Opt)	
	Hazard Clearance	Yes / (No)				
	Other					
(Opt)	Other					

Key --> OK: Signs properly installed M: Signs missing D: Signs damaged / incorrect New Wearing Surface Under Bridge: YES  NO

Notes

Vert. Clear. Sign **On Feature:** **B01** =  **B31** =  **Under Feature:** **B01** =  **B31** =

**E26** Underclearance Appraisal **5** Controlling: Lateral **12'-2"** Vertical **36'-7"**

**E28-A** Traffic Safety Features (Subfields shown vertically) Posted Speed Limit \_\_\_\_\_ mph

**6** Bridge Railing **PARAPET - JERSEY BARRIER. (GOOD CONDITION - MINOR CRACKING THROUGHOUT)**

**8** Transition **PARAPET EXTENSIONS.**

**8** Approach Guiderail **ON RIGHT - CONTINUOUS NJ BARRIER - GOOD. W-BEAM AND STL. POSTS ON NEAR LT. AND FAR LT.**

**6** Approach Rail Ends **FLARED AND TURNED DOWN W-BEAM ON NEAR LT. AND FAR LT.**

**E28** Approach Alignment **8** **NO SPEED REDUCTION. GOOD SIGHT DISTANCE.**

**E15** Approach Roadway **8** **NEW PAVEMENT GOOD CONDITION.**

Pavement **GOOD**

Drainage **GOOD (ALL NEW CONSTRUCTION)**

Shoulders **GOOD**

**E14** Approach Slab **8** **NEW CONSTRUCTION.**

Bump at Bridge Yes  No

**C19** Relief Joint **1**

**Bridge 1 Data**

Inspection Date  
E06 0 6 2 3 1 1

A01 0 2 7 4 2 1 0 0 0 0 9 0 6 1

For Non-State Roadways

B01 Ref	B27 ADT	B28 ADTYR	B30A ADTT %

For State highways, data from RMS will be used.

E25 Deck Geometry 6 Table \_\_\_\_\_ Controlling Values: B27 / B34 / B22 \_\_\_\_\_ A31 / A31 / B18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Design Exception granted? \_\_\_\_\_

E16 Deck Wearing Surface 9 NEW CONSTRUCTION (CONCRETE INTEGRAL)

C10 Wearing Surface Type 1 0 1 C10A Wearing Surface Thickness 0 5

E17 Deck 9 Estimated Spall or Delamination \_\_\_\_\_ % Est. Chloride Content \_\_\_\_\_  
Top EXCELLENT CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Underside STAY IN PLACE FORMS (NO RUSTING NOTED) GALVANIZED AND IN GOOD CONDITION.

Exp Joint No. 4 C22 Exp Jt Types M B G \_\_\_\_\_  
GOOD CONDITION - SOME MINOR DIRT BUILD UP. (STRIP SEALS)

Deck Drainage GOOD - SOME SCUPPERS HAVE DEBRIS BUT NOT IN THE DOWNSPOUT.

E18 Superstructure 7 See Sheet \_\_\_\_\_ for Additional Details. Form 491-J attached for FCM details Yes/No

Girders / Beams GOOD CONDITION - SUPERSTRUCTURE HAS BEEN RECONSTRUCTED FOR NEW BUSWAY BRIDGE. NEW PAINT/COATING OVER PREVIOUS PITTING/MORE SECTION LOSS. ALSO, SOME AREAS OVER LIGHT SURFACE RUST ON BOTTOM FLANGE. (THROUGHOUT)

Floorbeams N/A

Stringers NEW (FASCIA STRINGERS) W24 X 55 EXCELLENT CONDITION.

Diaphragms GOOD CONDITION. FEW AREAS OF FRECKLED SURFACE RUST UNDER BROKEN CONDUIT IN SPAN 1.

Truss Members N/A

Portals / Bracing FEW AREAS OF FRECKLED SURFACE RUST UNDER BROKEN CONDUIT IN SPAN 1. SEVERAL AREAS BETWEEN G3 AND G4 IN SPAN 2 WERE NOT PAINTED WITH FINAL COAT.

Bearings GOOD CONDITION. (LAMINATED ELASTOMERIC)

Drainage System (Below Deck) EXCELLENT CONDITION. (TYPE 1 SCUPPERS)

**Abutment Data**

(DEC 1996)

A01 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 1 | E06 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1

E20 Substructure 7 Details on Sheet

**NAB - Near Abutment (Use same notation as W09)**

Backwall GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Bridge Seats GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION. VERY MINOR DEBRIS.

Cheekwalls

Stem GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION AT TOP ON EXISTING STONE MASONRY BASE. SOME LOCATIONS HAVE MINOR CRACKING AND LOOSENING OF MORTAR.

Wings GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Footing NOT VISIBLE.

Piles NOT VISIBLE.

Scour / Undermine Yes  No  See Details on Form Sheet

ABUTMENT IS NOT IN CHANNEL. ALSO, CHANNEL IS CONCRETE LINED.

Settlement NONE NOTED.

Embank-Slope-Wall GOOD CONDITION - HEAVY VEGETATION.

Wall Drainage

**FAB - Far Abutment (Use same notation as W09)**

Backwall GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Bridge Seats GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION. MINOR DEBRIS.

Cheekwalls

Stem GOOD CONDITION - SAME AS NEAR ABUTMENT.

Wings GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Footing NOT VISIBLE.

Piles NOT VISIBLE.

Scour / Undermine Yes  No  See Details on Form Sheet

ABUTMENT IS NOT IN THE CHANNEL.

Settlement NONE NOTED.

Embank-Slope-Wall HEAVY VEGETATION.

Wall Drainage

**Pier Data**

Inspection Date

A01	0	2	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	6	1	E06	0	6	2	3	1	1
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Substructure (Cont.)**

**Pier / Bent Number** 1 (Use same notation as W09)

Bridge Seats GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Caps GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Cheekwalls

Columns/Stems GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION ON TOP OF EXISTING STONE MASONRY BASE. MINOR CRACKING AND LOOSE MORTAR.

Footings NOT VISIBLE.

Piles NOT VISIBLE.

Scour / Undermine Yes  No  See Details on Form \_\_\_\_\_ Sheet \_\_\_\_\_

NOT IN CHANNEL - CHANNEL IS CONCRETE LINED.

Settlement NONE NOTED.

**Pier / Bent Number** 2 (Use same notation as W09)

Bridge Seats GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Caps GOOD CONDITION - NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Cheekwalls

Columns/Stems GOOD CONDITION - SAME AS PIER 1.

Footings NOT VISIBLE.

Piles NOT VISIBLE.

Scour / Undermine Yes  No  See Details on Form \_\_\_\_\_ Sheet \_\_\_\_\_

CHANNEL IS CONCRETE LINED.

Settlement NONE NOTED.

### Waterway 1 Data

### BRIDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BRIDGE INSPECTION REPORT

A01	0	2	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	6	1	U.W. Inspection Date	W01-A				
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----------------------	-------	--	--	--	--

Over \_\_\_\_\_ Weather Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Type	U.W. Inspection Type	Regular U.W. Insp. Freq.	Interm U.W. Inps. Freq.	Time started
W02	N	W02-A	W03	W04
				Time completed

Name of Consultant and/or Inspectors	Hired by	Inspection Cost
W16	W17	W15

Scour Critical Rating	No. of Units Inspected
E29A	W06
9	9
based on: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observed Scour <input type="checkbox"/> Scour Calculation	W14

Streambed Material (36 SPACES)

W07	C	8	CONCRET LINED CHANNEL.
-----	---	---	------------------------

E21	Channel/Channel Protection - Cond. Rating	7	Details on Sheet
-----	-------------------------------------------	---	------------------

Channel CHANNEL IS LINED WITH CONCRETE.

Banks GOOD CONDITION - HEAVY VEGETATION.

Streambed Movements NONE NOTED.

Debris, Vegetation SOME DEBRIS IN CHANNEL.

River (Stream) Control Devices N/A

Embankment / Streambed Controls N/A

Drift, Other NONE NOTED.

E27	Waterway Adequacy	9
-----	-------------------	---

Risk of Overtopping  Remote  Slight  Occasional  Frequent

Traffic Delay  Insignificant  Significant  Severe **B18 - Functional Class.**

High Water Mark: ELEV: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE (mmyyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  New HW Mark  HW since last inspection

W09	W10	W11	W11-A	W11-B	W11-C	W11-F
Substructure Unit	Foundation Type	Water Depth	Observed Scour Rating	U.W. Insp Performed	Observed Depth	Counter-Measures
N	A	B	P	0	0	0
			9	E		

Findings: ABUTMENT OUT OF FLOOD PLANE.

W09	W10	W11	W11-A	W11-B	W11-C	W11-F
Substructure Unit	Foundation Type	Water Depth	Observed Scour Rating	U.W. Insp Performed	Observed Depth	Counter-Measures
P	0	1	P	0	0	0
			9	E		

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_

### Waterway 2 Data

U.W. Inspection Date

A01	0	2	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	6	1	W01-A					
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-------	--	--	--	--	--

<b>W09</b> Substructure Unit P 0 2	<b>W10</b> Foundation Type P	<b>W11</b> Water Depth 0 0	<b>W11-A</b> Observed Scour Rating 9	<b>W11-B</b> U.W. Insp Performed E	<b>W11-C</b> Observed Depth 0 0 0	<b>W11-F</b> Counter- Measures □
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>W09</b> Substructure Unit F A B	<b>W10</b> Foundation Type P	<b>W11</b> Water Depth 0 0	<b>W11-A</b> Observed Scour Rating 9	<b>W11-B</b> U.W. Insp Performed E	<b>W11-C</b> Observed Depth 0 0 0	<b>W11-F</b> Counter- Measures □
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Findings: ABUTMENT OUT OF FLOOD PLANE.

<b>W09</b> Substructure Unit □ □ □	<b>W10</b> Foundation Type □	<b>W11</b> Water Depth □ □	<b>W11-A</b> Observed Scour Rating □	<b>W11-B</b> U.W. Insp Performed □	<b>W11-C</b> Observed Depth □ □ □	<b>W11-F</b> Counter- Measures □
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>W09</b> Substructure Unit □ □ □	<b>W10</b> Foundation Type □	<b>W11</b> Water Depth □ □	<b>W11-A</b> Observed Scour Rating □	<b>W11-B</b> U.W. Insp Performed □	<b>W11-C</b> Observed Depth □ □ □	<b>W11-F</b> Counter- Measures □
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>W09</b> Substructure Unit □ □ □	<b>W10</b> Foundation Type □	<b>W11</b> Water Depth □ □	<b>W11-A</b> Observed Scour Rating □	<b>W11-B</b> U.W. Insp Performed □	<b>W11-C</b> Observed Depth □ □ □	<b>W11-F</b> Counter- Measures □
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>W09</b> Substructure Unit □ □ □	<b>W10</b> Foundation Type □	<b>W11</b> Water Depth □ □	<b>W11-A</b> Observed Scour Rating □	<b>W11-B</b> U.W. Insp Performed □	<b>W11-C</b> Observed Depth □ □ □	<b>W11-F</b> Counter- Measures □
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Waterway 3 Data

(DEC 1996)

U.W. Inspection Date

A01	0	2	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	6	1	W01-A				
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-------	--	--	--	--

### OBSERVED SCOUR RATING GUIDE

Rating	ITEM NUMBER								Rating
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	Change Since Last Inspection	Scour Hole	Debris Potential	Substructure Scourability	Opening Adequacy/ Channel	Sediment	Alignment	Velocity/ Stream Slope	
9	None	None	None	NF/P9/R9	Good	None	Good	Low	9
8	None	Minor	None	P8/C8/R8	Good	Minor	Good	Low	8
7	Minor	Minor	Minor	P7/C7/R7	Fair	Minor	Good	Medium	7
6	Minor	Advanced	Medium*	A6	Fair	Medium	Medium	Medium	6
5	Medium*	Advanced	High*	A5	Fair	High	Medium	High	5
4	Medium	Serious*	High	R4*/A4*	Poor*	High	Poor*+	High	4
3	High*	Serious*	Present*	A3	Overtop*	High	Poor	High	3
2	Bridge is scour critical, IMMEDIATE action is required *								2
1	Bridge is scour critical, bridge is CLOSED *								1
0	Bridge has failed due to scour *								0

**NOTES:**

Rating considerations given in highest to lowest level of importance from left to right.  
 \* If an item is so marked, it cannot be given a higher ranking.  
 s founded on competent rock and no problems exist.

C = Effective Countermeasures  
 P = Pile Supported Substructures

### DETERMINATION OF RATING FOR BMS ITEM

W11-A

Substructure Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	W11-A
	Change Since Last Inspection	Scour Hole	Debris Potential	Scourability	Opening Adequacy/ Channel	Sediment	Alignment	Velocity/ Stream Slope	Overall Observed Scour Rating
P02	9	9	8	8	9	7	9	7	9

If Underwater Inspection only

Signatures and Date:

**Bridge 2 Data**

Inspection Date

A01 0 2 7 4 2 1 0 0 0 0 9 0 6 1

E06 0 6 2 3 1 1

E19 Paint Condition 8 8 New Paint Y/N If Yes:  Spot  Zone  Full  Revise item G08-G17

Interior Beam / Girder VERY GOOD - RECENTLY REPAINTED.

Fascias VERY GOOD - NEW.

Splash Zone: Truss / Girder \_\_\_\_\_

Truss \_\_\_\_\_

Bearings VERY GOOD.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

E23 Est. Remaining Life BMS to Calculate Yes/No 3 4 Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Recalculate IR/OR: Yes  Due to: Deterioration  New Wearing Surf.  Other   
No  Previous Rating Dated \_\_\_\_\_ is still valid

E30 Inventory Rating 1 9 8 2 9 8 8 9 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 9 8

E31 Operating Rating 1 9 8 2 9 8 8 9 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 9 8  
H HS ML-80 Other Other HS Load Factor

E32 Rate Meth 2 S E33 Typ Mem 1 AASHTO E37 Spec 9 4 E38 Manual 9 4

E29 Bridge Post 9 CONTROLLING: H \_\_\_\_\_ HS \_\_\_\_\_ ML80  Engineering Judgement \_\_\_\_\_

E24 Structural Condition Appraisal 7 Based upon  Table 1 B27-ADT \_\_\_\_\_ B30-IR \_\_\_\_\_  
or E18-Super 7 E20-Sub 7, E22-Culvert \_\_\_\_\_

E01 Next Insp. Freq. 2 4 E03 Equip. Next Insp. B SNOOPER TRUCK (UB-40)

E04 Spec. Insp. Type  E05 By Date \_\_\_\_\_

Is bridge over water?  Yes. E22 = N Complete Forms D-450E through G  
 No. E22 = N E21 = N E27 = N E29A = N

Notes: ONE SPAN IS OVER WATER AND ONE SPAN IS OVER RAILROAD.  
HAD RAILROAD REPRESENTATIVE ON SITE. CREW WAS OUT OF SPAN 1 (RR LOCATION) BY TIME  
REQUIRED. (9 A.M.)  
INSPECTION WAS FIRST ON NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BUSWAY BRIDGE WHICH USED AN EXISTING RR BRIDGE.  
CONDUITS ON BRIDGE WERE BUSTED AT ADAPTERS AT ABUTMENT 1. ALSO, ONE EXPANSION COUPLER WAS  
BROKEN AND NEEDED REPLACED. SEVERAL CONDUIT SEGMENTS IN SPAN 1 WERE SEVERELY BUCKLED  
AND NEEDED REPLACED.

Signatures and Date: PATRICK LEACH, P.E. - 6/23/11  
CHARLES MOLNAR - 6/23/11





## Chartiers Creek Bridge

**Note: The Appendix section for this report is not included here. The BMS 491 Forms for PENNDOT are that state's version of the FHWA SI&A sheet with additional state items. The documents included in the report are typically red marked revisions to the file copy and reflect changes identified during the inspection.**

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## Appendix B

### National Bridge Inspection Standards

## Subpart C

### National Bridge Inspection Standards

**Source:** 69 FR 74436, Dec. 14, 2004, unless otherwise noted.

#### **§ 650.301 Purpose.**

This subpart sets the national standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway bridges in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 151.

#### **§ 650.303 Applicability.**

The National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) in this subpart apply to all structures defined as highway bridges located on all public roads.

#### **§ 650.305 Definitions.**

Terms used in this subpart are defined as follows:

*American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual* . “The Manual for Bridge Evaluation,” First Edition, 2008, published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (incorporated by reference, *see* §650.317).

*Bridge*. A structure including supports erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water, highway, or railway, and having a track or passageway for carrying traffic or other moving loads, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than 20 feet between undercopings of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of openings for multiple boxes; it may also include multiple pipes, where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening.

*Bridge inspection experience*. Active participation in bridge inspections in accordance with the NBIS, in either a field inspection, supervisory, or management role. A combination of bridge design, bridge maintenance, bridge construction and bridge inspection experience, with the predominant amount in bridge inspection, is acceptable.

*Bridge inspection refresher training*. The National Highway Institute “Bridge Inspection Refresher Training Course”<sup>1</sup> or other State, local, or federally developed instruction aimed to improve quality of inspections, introduce new techniques, and maintain the consistency of the inspection program. <sup>1</sup> The National Highway Institute training may be found at the following URL: <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/>

*Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual (BIRM)*. A comprehensive FHWA manual on programs, procedures and techniques for inspecting and evaluating a variety of in-service highway bridges. This manual may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 and from National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161, and is available at the following URL: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bripub.htm>.

*Complex bridge* . Movable, suspension, cable stayed, and other bridges with unusual characteristics.

*Comprehensive bridge inspection training*. Training that covers all aspects of bridge inspection and enables inspectors to relate conditions observed on a bridge to established criteria (see the

Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual for the recommended material to be covered in a comprehensive training course).

*Critical finding.* A structural or safety related deficiency that requires immediate follow-up inspection or action.

*Damage inspection.* This is an unscheduled inspection to assess structural damage resulting from environmental factors or human actions.

*Fracture critical member (FCM).* A steel member in tension, or with a tension element, whose failure would probably cause a portion of or the entire bridge to collapse.

*Fracture critical member inspection.* A hands-on inspection of a fracture critical member or member components that may include visual and other nondestructive evaluation.

*Hands-on.* Inspection within arms length of the component. Inspection uses visual techniques that may be supplemented by nondestructive testing.

*Highway.* The term “highway” is defined in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(11).

*In-depth inspection.* A close-up, inspection of one or more members above or below the water level to identify any deficiencies not readily detectable using routine inspection procedures; hands-on inspection may be necessary at some locations.

*Initial inspection.* The first inspection of a bridge as it becomes a part of the bridge file to provide all Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) data and other relevant data and to determine baseline structural conditions.

*Legal load.* The maximum legal load for each vehicle configuration permitted by law for the State in which the bridge is located.

*Load rating.* The determination of the live load carrying capacity of a bridge using bridge plans and supplemented by information gathered from a field inspection.

*National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET).* The NICET provides nationally applicable voluntary certification programs covering several broad engineering technology fields and a number of specialized subfields. For information on the NICET program certification contact: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314–2794.

*Operating rating.* The maximum permissible live load to which the structure may be subjected for the load configuration used in the rating.

*Professional engineer (PE).* An individual, who has fulfilled education and experience requirements and passed rigorous exams that, under State licensure laws, permits them to offer engineering services directly to the public. Engineering licensure laws vary from State to State, but, in general, to become a PE an individual must be a graduate of an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, gain four years of experience working under a PE, and pass the Principles of Practice of Engineering exam.

*Program manager.* The individual in charge of the program, that has been assigned or delegated the duties and responsibilities for bridge inspection, reporting, and inventory. The program manager provides overall leadership and is available to inspection team leaders to provide guidance.

*Public road.* The term “public road” is defined in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(27).

*Quality assurance (QA).* The use of sampling and other measures to assure the adequacy of quality control procedures in order to verify or measure the quality level of the entire bridge inspection and load rating program.

*Quality control (QC).* Procedures that are intended to maintain the quality of a bridge inspection and load rating at or above a specified level.

*Routine inspection.* Regularly scheduled inspection consisting of observations and/or measurements needed to determine the physical and functional condition of the bridge, to identify any changes from initial or previously recorded conditions, and to ensure that the structure continues to satisfy present service requirements.

*Routine permit load.* A live load, which has a gross weight, axle weight or distance between axles not conforming with State statutes for legally configured vehicles, authorized for unlimited trips over an extended period of time to move alongside other heavy vehicles on a regular basis.

*Scour.* Erosion of streambed or bank material due to flowing water; often considered as being localized around piers and abutments of bridges.

*Scour critical bridge.* A bridge with a foundation element that has been determined to be unstable for the observed or evaluated scour condition.

*Special inspection.* An inspection scheduled at the discretion of the bridge owner, used to monitor a particular known or suspected deficiency.

*State transportation department.* The term “State transportation department” is defined in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(34).

*Team leader.* Individual in charge of an inspection team responsible for planning, preparing, and performing field inspection of the bridge.

*Underwater diver bridge inspection training.* Training that covers all aspects of underwater bridge inspection and enables inspectors to relate the conditions of underwater bridge elements to established criteria (see the Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual section on underwater inspection for the recommended material to be covered in an underwater diver bridge inspection training course).

*Underwater inspection.* Inspection of the underwater portion of a bridge substructure and the surrounding channel, which cannot be inspected visually at low water by wading or probing, generally requiring diving or other appropriate techniques.

[69 FR 74436, Dec. 14, 2004, as amended at 74 FR 68379, Dec. 24, 2009]

### **§ 650.307 Bridge inspection organization.**

(a) Each State transportation department must inspect, or cause to be inspected, all highway bridges located on public roads that are fully or partially located within the State's boundaries, except for bridges that are owned by Federal agencies.

(b) Federal agencies must inspect, or cause to be inspected, all highway bridges located on public roads that are fully or partially located within the respective agency responsibility or jurisdiction.

(c) Each State transportation department or Federal agency must include a bridge inspection organization that is responsible for the following:

(1) Statewide or Federal agency wide bridge inspection policies and procedures, quality assurance and quality control, and preparation and maintenance of a bridge inventory.

(2) Bridge inspections, reports, load ratings and other requirements of these standards.

(d) Functions identified in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section may be delegated, but such delegation does not relieve the State transportation department or Federal agency of any of its responsibilities under this subpart.

(e) The State transportation department or Federal agency bridge inspection organization must have a program manager with the qualifications defined in §650.309(a), who has been delegated responsibility for paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section.

### **§ 650.309 Qualifications of personnel.**

(a) A program manager must, at a minimum:

(1) Be a registered professional engineer, or have ten years bridge inspection experience; and

(2) Successfully complete a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

(b) There are five ways to qualify as a team leader. A team leader must, at a minimum:

(1) Have the qualifications specified in paragraph (a) of this section; or

(2) Have five years bridge inspection experience and have successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course; or

(3) Be certified as a Level III or IV Bridge Safety Inspector under the National Society of Professional Engineer's program for National Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) and have successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course, or

(4) Have all of the following:

(i) A bachelor's degree in engineering from a college or university accredited by or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology;

(ii) Successfully passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Fundamentals of Engineering examination;

(iii) Two years of bridge inspection experience; and

(iv) Successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course, or

(5) Have all of the following:

(i) An associate's degree in engineering or engineering technology from a college or university accredited by or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology;

(ii) Four years of bridge inspection experience; and



(iii) Successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

(c) The individual charged with the overall responsibility for load rating bridges must be a registered professional engineer.

(d) An underwater bridge inspection diver must complete an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course or other FHWA approved underwater diver bridge inspection training course.

#### **§ 650.311 Inspection frequency.**

(a) *Routine inspections.* (1) Inspect each bridge at regular intervals not to exceed twenty-four months.

(2) Certain bridges require inspection at less than twenty-four-month intervals. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency to which these bridges are inspected considering such factors as age, traffic characteristics, and known deficiencies.

(3) Certain bridges may be inspected at greater than twenty-four month intervals, not to exceed forty-eight-months, with written FHWA approval. This may be appropriate when past inspection findings and analysis justifies the increased inspection interval.

(b) *Underwater inspections.* (1) Inspect underwater structural elements at regular intervals not to exceed sixty months.

(2) Certain underwater structural elements require inspection at less than sixty-month intervals. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency to which these members are inspected considering such factors as construction material, environment, age, scour characteristics, condition rating from past inspections and known deficiencies.

(3) Certain underwater structural elements may be inspected at greater than sixty-month intervals, not to exceed seventy-two months, with written FHWA approval. This may be appropriate when past inspection findings and analysis justifies the increased inspection interval.

(c) *Fracture critical member (FCM) inspections.* (1) Inspect FCMs at intervals not to exceed twenty-four months.

(2) Certain FCMs require inspection at less than twenty-four-month intervals. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency to which these members are inspected considering such factors as age, traffic characteristics, and known deficiencies.

(d) Damage, in-depth, and special inspections. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency of these inspections.

#### **§ 650.313 Inspection procedures.**

(a) Inspect each bridge in accordance with the inspection procedures in the AASHTO Manual (incorporated by reference, *see* §650.317).

(b) Provide at least one team leader, who meets the minimum qualifications stated in §650.309, at the bridge at all times during each initial, routine, in-depth, fracture critical member and underwater inspection.

(c) Rate each bridge as to its safe load-carrying capacity in accordance with the AASHTO Manual (incorporated by reference, *see* §650.317). Post or restrict the bridge in accordance with

the AASHTO Manual or in accordance with State law, when the maximum unrestricted legal loads or State routine permit loads exceed that allowed under the operating rating or equivalent rating factor.

(d) Prepare bridge files as described in the AASHTO Manual (incorporated by reference, *see* §650.317). Maintain reports on the results of bridge inspections together with notations of any action taken to address the findings of such inspections. Maintain relevant maintenance and inspection data to allow assessment of current bridge condition. Record the findings and results of bridge inspections on standard State or Federal agency forms.

(e) Identify bridges with FCMs, bridges requiring underwater inspection, and bridges that are scour critical.

(1) Bridges with fracture critical members. In the inspection records, identify the location of FCMs and describe the FCM inspection frequency and procedures. Inspect FCMs according to these procedures.

(2) Bridges requiring underwater inspections. Identify the location of underwater elements and include a description of the underwater elements, the inspection frequency and the procedures in the inspection records for each bridge requiring underwater inspection. Inspect those elements requiring underwater inspections according to these procedures.

(3) Bridges that are scour critical. Prepare a plan of action to monitor known and potential deficiencies and to address critical findings. Monitor bridges that are scour critical in accordance with the plan.

(f) *Complex bridges.* Identify specialized inspection procedures, and additional inspector training and experience required to inspect complex bridges. Inspect complex bridges according to those procedures.

(g) *Quality control and quality assurance.* Assure systematic quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) procedures are used to maintain a high degree of accuracy and consistency in the inspection program. Include periodic field review of inspection teams, periodic bridge inspection refresher training for program managers and team leaders, and independent review of inspection reports and computations.

(h) *Follow-up on critical findings.* Establish a statewide or Federal agency wide procedure to assure that critical findings are addressed in a timely manner. Periodically notify the FHWA of the actions taken to resolve or monitor critical findings.

### **§ 650.315 Inventory.**

(a) Each State or Federal agency must prepare and maintain an inventory of all bridges subject to the NBIS. Certain Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) data must be collected and retained by the State or Federal agency for collection by the FHWA as requested. A tabulation of this data is contained in the SI&A sheet distributed by the FHWA as part of the "Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges," (December 1995) together with subsequent interim changes or the most recent version. Report the data using FHWA established procedures as outlined in the "Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges."

(b) For routine, in-depth, fracture critical member, underwater, damage and special inspections enter the SI&A data into the State or Federal agency inventory within 90 days of the date of

inspection for State or Federal agency bridges and within 180 days of the date of inspection for all other bridges.

(c) For existing bridge modifications that alter previously recorded data and for new bridges, enter the SI&A data into the State or Federal agency inventory within 90 days after the completion of the work for State or Federal agency bridges and within 180 days after the completion of the work for all other bridges.

(d) For changes in load restriction or closure status, enter the SI&A data into the State or Federal agency inventory within 90 days after the change in status of the structure for State or Federal agency bridges and within 180 days after the change in status of the structure for all other bridges.

#### **§ 650.317 Reference manuals.**

(a) The materials listed in this subpart are incorporated by reference in the corresponding sections noted. These incorporations by reference were approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. These materials are incorporated as they exist on the date of the approval, and notice of any change in these documents will be published in the Federal Register. The materials are available for purchase at the address listed below, and are available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These materials may also be reviewed at the Department of Transportation Library, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-0761. For information on the availability of these materials at NARA call (202) 741-6030, or go to the following URL: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.htm](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.htm) . In the event there is a conflict between the standards in this subpart and any of these materials, the standards in this subpart will apply.

(b) The following materials are available for purchase from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Suite 249, 444 N. Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001, (202) 624-5800. The materials may also be ordered via the AASHTO bookstore located at the following URL: <http://www.transportation.org> .

(1) The Manual for Bridge Evaluation, First Edition, 2008, AASHTO, incorporation by reference approved for §§650.305 and 650.313.

(2) [Reserved]

[74 FR 68379, Dec. 24, 2009]

## Glossary

# GLOSSARY

## A

**AASHTO** - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, name changed from AASHO (American Association of State Highway Officials) in 1973

*American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual* - "Manual for Condition Evaluation of Bridges," second edition, published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (incorporated by reference into 23 CFR 650)

**abrasion** - wearing or grinding away of material by friction; usually caused by sand, gravel, or stones, carried by wind or water

**absorption** - the process of a liquid being taken into a permeable solid (e.g., the wetting of concrete)

**abutment** - part of bridge substructure at either end of bridge which transfers loads from superstructure to foundation and provides lateral support for the approach roadway embankment

**ADT** - Average Daily Traffic

**ADTT** - Average Daily Truck Traffic

**admixture** - an ingredient added to concrete other than cement, aggregate or water (e.g., air entraining agent)

**aggradation** - progressive raising of a streambed by deposition of sediment

**aggregate** - hard inert material such as sand, gravel, or crushed rock that may be combined with a cementing material to form mortar or concrete

**air entrainment** - the addition of air into a concrete mixture in order to increase the durability and resist thermal forces

**alkali silica reactivity (ASR)** - an expansive reaction that results in swelling and expansion of concrete.

**alignment** - the relative horizontal and vertical positioning between components, such as the bridge and its approaches

**alignment bearing** - a bearing embedded in a bridge seat to prevent lateral movements (see BEARING)

**alligator cracking** - cracks initiated by inadequate base support or drainage that form on the surface of a road in adjacent, rectangular shapes (like the skin of an alligator)

**alloy** - two or more metals, or metal and non-metal, intimately combined, usually by dissolving together in a molten state to form a new base metal

**anchorage** - the complete assemblage of members and parts, embedded in concrete, rock or other fixed material, designed to hold a portion of a structure in correct position

**anchor bolt** - a metal rod or bar commonly threaded and fitted with a nut and washer at one end only, used to secure in a fixed position upon the substructure the bearings of a bridge, the base of a column, a pedestal, shoe, or other member of a structure

**anchor span** - the span that counterbalances and holds in equilibrium the cantilevered portion of an adjacent span; also called the back span; see CANTILEVER BEAM, GIRDER, or TRUSS

**angle** - a basic member shape, usually steel, in the form of an "L"

**anisotropy** - the property of certain materials, such as crystals, that exhibits different strengths in different directions

**anode** - the positively charged pole of a corrosion cell at which oxidation occurs

**anti-friction bearing** - a ball or roller-type bearing; a bearing that reduces transfer of horizontal loads between components

**appraisal rating** - a judgment of a bridge component's adequacy in comparison to current standards

**approach** - the part of the roadway immediately before and after the bridge structure

**approach pavement** - an approach which has a cross section that is either the same as or slightly wider than the bridge deck width

**approach slab** - a reinforced concrete slab placed on the approach embankment adjacent to and usually resting upon the abutment back wall; the function of the approach slab is to carry wheel loads on the approaches directly to the abutment, thereby transitioning any approach roadway misalignment due to approach embankment settlement

**appurtenance** - an element that contributes to the general functionality of the bridge site (e.g., lighting, signing)

**apron** - a form of scour (erosion) protection consisting of timber, concrete, riprap, paving, or other construction material placed adjacent to abutments and piers to prevent undermining

**arch** - a curved structure element primarily in compression that transfers vertical loads through inclined reactions to its end supports

**arch barrel** - a single arch member that extends the width of the structure

**arch rib** - the main support element used in open spandrel arch construction; also known as arch ring

**armor** - a secondary steel member installed to protect a vulnerable part of another member, e.g., steel angles placed over the edges of a joint; also scour protection such as rip rap

**armorings countermeasures** - devices that resist erosive forces caused by the flow, but do not alter the flow direction.

**as-built plans** - plans made after the construction of a project, showing all field changes to the final design plans (i.e.. showing how the bridge was actually built)

**asphalt** - a brown to black bituminous substance that is found in natural beds and is also obtained as a residue in petroleum refining and that consists chiefly of hydrocarbons; an asphaltic composition used for pavements and as a waterproof cement

**ASTM** - American Society for Testing and Materials

**auger** - a drill with a spiral channel used for boring

**axial** - in line with the longitudinal axis of a member

**axial force** - the force that acts through the longitudinal axis of a member.

**axle load** - the load borne by one axle of a traffic vehicle, a movable bridge, or other motive equipment or device and transmitted through a wheel or wheels

## **B**

**back** - see EXTRADOS

**backfill** - material, usually soil or coarse aggregate, used to fill the unoccupied portion of a substructure excavation such as behind an abutment stem and backwall

**backstay** - cable or chain attached at the top of a tower and extending to and secured upon the anchorage to resist overturning stresses exerted upon the tower by a suspended span

**backwall** - the topmost portion of an abutment above the elevation of the bridge seat, functioning primarily as a retaining wall with a live load surcharge; it may serve also as a support for the extreme end of the bridge deck and the approach slab

**backwater** - the back up of water in a stream due to a downstream obstruction or constriction

**bank** - sloped sides of a waterway channel or approach roadway, short for embankment

**bascule bridge** - a bridge over a waterway with one or two leaves which rotate from a horizontal to a near-vertical position, providing unlimited overhead clearance

**base course** - a layer of compacted material found just below the wearing course that supports the pavement

**base metal** - the surface metal of a steel element to be incorporated in a welded joint; also known as structure metal, parent metal

**base plate** - steel plate, whether cast, rolled or forged, connected to a column, bearing or other member to transmit and distribute its load to the substructure

**batten plate** - a plate with two or more fasteners at each end used in lieu of lacing to tie together the shapes comprising a built-up member

**batter** - the inclination of a surface in relation to a horizontal or a vertical plane; commonly designated on bridge detail plans as a ratio (e.g., 1:3, H:V); see RAKE

**battered pile** - a pile driven in an inclined position to resist horizontal forces as well as vertical forces

**bay** - the area of a bridge floor system between adjacent multi-beams or between adjacent floor beams

**beam** - a linear structural member designed to span from one support to another and support vertical loads

**bearing** - a support element transferring loads from superstructure to substructure while permitting limited movement capability

**bearing capacity** - the load per unit area which a structural material, rock, or soil can safely carry

**bearing failure** - crushing of material under extreme compressive load

**bearing pile** - a pile which provides support through the tip (or lower end) of the pile

**bearing plate** - a steel plate, which transfers loads from the superstructure to the substructure

**bearing pressure** - the bearing load divided by the area to which it is applied

**bearing seat** - a prepared horizontal surface at or near the top of a substructure unit upon which the bearings are placed

**bearing stiffener** - a vertical web stiffener at the bearing location

**bearing stress** - see BEARING PRESSURE

**bedding** - the soil or backfill material used to support pipe culverts

**bedrock** - the undisturbed rock layer below the surface soil

**bench mark** - an established reference point with known elevation and coordinates, used to document dimensions, elevations or position movement

**bending moment** - a combination of tension and compression forces developed when an external load is applied transversely to a bridge member, causing it to bend

**bent** - a substructure unit made up of two or more column or column-like members connected at their top-most ends by a cap, strut, or other member holding them in their correct positions



**berm** - the line that defines the location where the top surface of an approach embankment or causeway is intersected by the surface of the side slope

**beveled washer** - a wedge-shaped washer used in connections incorporating members with sloped flange legs, e.g., channels and S-beams

**bitumen** - a black sticky mixture of hydrocarbons obtained from natural deposits or from distilling petroleum; tar

**bituminous concrete** - a mixture of aggregate and liquid asphalt or bitumen, which is compacted into a dense mass

**blanket** - a streambed protection against scour placed adjacent to abutments and piers

**BMS** - Bridge Management System

**bolt** - a mechanical fastener with machine threads at one end to receive a nut, and an integral head at the other end

**bolster** - a block-like member used to support a bearing on top of a pier cap or abutment bridge seat; see PEDESTAL

**bond** - in reinforced concrete, the grip of the concrete on the reinforcing bars, which prevents slippage of the bars relative to the concrete mass

**bond stress** - a term commonly applied in reinforced concrete construction to the stress developed by a force tending to produce movement or slippage at the interface between the concrete and the reinforcement bars

**bowstring truss** - a general term applied to a truss of any type having a polygonal arrangement of its top chord members conforming to or nearly conforming to the arrangement required for a parabolic truss; a truss with a curved top chord

**box beam** - a hollow structural beam with a square, rectangular, or trapezoidal cross-section that supports vertical loads and provides torsional rigidity

**box culvert** - a culvert of rectangular or square cross-section

**box girder** - a hollow, rectangular or trapezoidal shaped girder, a primary member along the longitudinal axis of the bridge, which provides good torsional rigidity

**bracing** - a system of secondary members that maintains the geometric configuration of primary members

**bracket** - a projecting support fixed upon two intersecting members to strengthen and provide rigidity to the connection

**breastwall** - the portion of an abutment between the wings and beneath the bridge seat; the breast wall supports the superstructure loads, and retains the approach fill; see STEM

**bridge** - a structure including supports erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water, highway, or railway, and having a track or passageway for carrying traffic or other moving loads, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than 20 feet between undercopings of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of openings for multiple boxes; it may also include multiple pipes, where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening

**bridge deficiency** - a defect in a bridge component or member that makes the bridge less capable or less desirable for use

**bridge elements** - structural elements that are commonly used in highway bridge construction and are encountered on bridge safety inspections

**bridge inspection experience** - active participation in bridge inspections in accordance with the NBIS, in either a field inspection, supervisory, or management role. A combination of bridge design, bridge maintenance, bridge construction and bridge inspection experience, with the predominant amount in bridge inspection, is acceptable.

**bridge inspection refresher training** - the National Highway Institute "Bridge Inspection Refresher Training Course"<sup>1</sup> or other State, local, or federally developed instruction aimed to improve quality of inspections, introduce new techniques, and maintain the consistency of the inspection program.

<sup>1</sup> The National Highway Institute training may be found at the following URL: <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/>

**Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual (BIRM)** - a comprehensive FHWA manual on programs, procedures and techniques for inspecting and evaluating a variety of in-service highway bridges. This manual may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 and from National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161, and is available at the following URL: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bripub.htm>.

**bridge pad** - the raised, leveled area upon which the pedestal, masonry plate or other corresponding element of the superstructure bears on the substructure; also called bridge seat bearing area

**bridge seat** - the top surface of an abutment or pier upon which the superstructure span is placed and supported; for an abutment it is the surface forming the support for the superstructure and from which the backwall rises; for a pier it is the entire top surface

**bridge site** - the position or location of a bridge and its surrounding area

**bridging** - a carpentry term applied to the crossbracing fastened between timber beams to increase the rigidity of the floor construction, limit differential deflection and minimize the effects of impact and vibration

**brittle fracture** - the failure of a steel member occurring without warning, prior to plastic deformation

**brittleness** - the ability of a material to break while exhibiting little to no plastic deformation

**brush curb** - a narrow curb, 9 inches or less in width, which prevents a vehicle from brushing against the railing or parapet

**buckle** - to fail by an inelastic change in alignment (deflection) as a result of compression in axial loaded members

**buckle plate** - an obsolete style of steel deck using dished steel plates as structural members

**built-up member** - a column or beam composed of plates and angles or other structural shapes united by bolting, riveting or welding to enhance section properties

**bulb t-girder** - a t-shaped concrete girder with a bulb shape at the bottom of the girder cross section

**bulkhead** - a retaining wall-like structure commonly composed of driven sheet piles or a barrier of wooden timbers or reinforced concrete members

**buoyancy** - upward pressure exerted by the fluid in which an object is immersed

**butt joint** - a joint between two pieces of metal that have been connected in the same plane

**buttress** - a bracket-like wall, of full or partial height, projecting from another wall; the buttress strengthens and stiffens the wall against overturning forces; all parts of a buttress act in compression

**buttressed wall** - a retaining wall designed with projecting buttresses to provide strength and stability

**butt weld** - a weld joining two plates or shapes end to end; also splice weld

## C

**cable** - a tension member comprised of numerous individual steel wires or strands twisted and wrapped in such a fashion to form a rope of steel; see SUSPENSION BRIDGE

**cable band** - a steel casting with clamp bolts which fixes a floor system suspender cable to the catenary cable of a suspension bridge

**cable-stayed bridge** - a bridge in which the superstructure is directly supported by cables, or stays, passing over or attached to towers located at the main piers

**caddisfly** - a winged insect closely related to the moth and butterfly whose aquatic larvae seek shelter by digging small shallow holes into submerged timber elements

**caisson** - a rectangular or cylindrical chamber for keeping water or soft ground from flowing into an excavation

**camber** - the slightly arched or convex curvature provided in beams to compensate for dead load deflection; in general, a structure built with perfectly straight lines appears slightly sagged

**cantilever** - a structural member that has a free end projecting beyond a support; length of span overhanging the support

**cantilever abutment** - an abutment that resists lateral earth pressure through the opposing cantilever action of a vertical stem and horizontal footing

**cantilever bridge** - a general term applying to a bridge having a superstructure incorporating cantilever design

**cantilever span** - a superstructure span composed of two cantilever arms, or of a suspended span supported by one or two cantilever arms

**cap** - the topmost portion of a pier or a pile bent serving to distribute the loads upon the columns or piles and to hold them in their proper relative positions; see PIER CAP, PILE CAP

**cap beam** - the top member in a bent that ties together the supporting members

**capstone** - the topmost stone of a masonry pillar, column or other structure requiring the use of a single capping element

**carbon steel** - steel (iron with dissolved carbon) owing its properties principally to its carbon content; ordinary, unalloyed steel

**cast-in-place (C.I.P.)** - the act of placing and curing concrete within formwork to construct a concrete element in its final position

**cast iron** - relatively pure iron, smelted from iron ore, containing 1.8 to 4.5% free carbon and cast to shape

**catch basin** - a receptacle, commonly box shaped and fitted with a grided inlet and a pipe outlet drain, designed to collect the rainwater and floating debris from the roadway surface and retain the solid material so that it may be periodically removed

**catchment area** - see DRAINAGE AREA

**catenary** - the curve obtained by suspending a uniformly loaded rope or cable between two points

**cathode** - the negatively charged pole of a corrosion cell that accepts electrons and does not corrode

**cathodic protection** - a means of preventing metal from corroding by making it a cathode through the use of impressed direct current or by attaching a sacrificial anode

**catwalk** - a narrow walkway for access to some part of a structure

**causeway** - an elevated roadway crossing a body of water

**cellular abutment** - an abutment in which the space between wings, abutment stem, approach slab, and footings is hollow. Also known as a vaulted abutment

**cement mortar** - a mixture of sand and cement with enough water to make it plastic

**cement paste** - the plastic combination of cement and water that supplies the cementing action in concrete

**centerline of bearings** - a horizontal line that passes through the centers of the bearings, used in abutment/pier layout and beam erection

**center of gravity** - the point at which the entire mass of a body acts; the balancing point of an object

**centroid** - that point about which the static moment of all the elements of area is equal to zero

**chain drag** - a chain or a series of short medium weight chains attached to a T-shaped handle; used as a preliminary technique for sounding a large deck area for delamination

**chamfer** - an angled edge or corner, typically formed in concrete

**channel** - a waterway connecting two bodies of water or containing moving water; a rolled steel member having a C-shaped cross section

**channel lining** - rigid concrete pavement or flexible protective revetment mats placed on the bottom of a streambed

**channel profile** - a longitudinal section of a channel along its centerline

**checks** - a crack in wood occurring parallel with the grain and through the rings of annual growth

**cheek wall** - see KNEE WALL

**chipping hammer** - hammer such as a geologist's pick or masonry hammer used to remove corrosion from steel members and to sound concrete for delamination; a welder's tool for cleaning slag from steel after welding

**chloride** - an ingredient in deicing agents that can damage concrete and steel bridge elements

**chloride contamination** - the presence of recrystallized soluble salts, which causes accelerated corrosion of the steel reinforcement

**chord** - a generally horizontal member of a truss

**circular arch** - an arch in which the intrados surface has a constant radius

**clearance** - the unobstructed vertical or horizontal space provided between two objects

**clear headroom** - the vertical clearance beneath a bridge structure available for navigational use

**clear span** - the unobstructed space or distance between support elements of a bridge or bridge member

**clip angle** - see CONNECTION ANGLE

**closed spandrel arch** - a stone, brick or reinforced concrete arch span having spandrel walls to retain the spandrel fill or to support either entirely or in part the floor system of the structure when the spandrel is not

filled

**coarse aggregate** - aggregate that stays on a sieve of 5 mm (1/4") square opening

**coating** - a material that provides a continuous film over a surface in order to protect or seal it; a film formed by the material

**coefficient of thermal expansion** - the unit change in dimension produced in a material by a change of one degree in temperature

**cofferdam** - a temporary dam-like structure constructed around an excavation to exclude water; see SHEET PILE COFFERDAM

**cold chisel** - short bar with a sharp end used for cold-cutting soft metals when struck with a hammer

**collision damage** - a special case of overload that occurs when any vehicle, railroad car, marine traffic or flowing ice strikes a bridge member, railing or column

**column** - a general term applying to a vertical member resisting compressive stresses and having, in general, a considerable length in comparison with its transverse dimensions

**column bent** - a bent shaped pier that uses columns incorporated with a cap beam

**compaction** - the process by which a sufficient amount of energy (compressive pressure) is applied to soil or other material to increase its density

**complex bridge** - movable, suspension, cable stayed, and other bridges with unusual characteristics

**component** - a general term reserved to define a bridge deck, superstructure or substructure

**composite action** - the contribution of a concrete deck to the moment resisting capacity of the superstructure beam when the superstructure beams are not the same material as the deck

**composite construction** - a method of construction whereby a cast-in-place concrete deck is mechanically attached to superstructure members by shear connectors

**comprehensive bridge inspection training** - training that covers all aspects of bridge inspection and enables inspectors to relate conditions observed on a bridge to established criteria (see the Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual for the recommended material to be covered in a comprehensive training course).

**compression** - a type of stress involving pressing together; tends to shorten a member; opposite of tension

**compression failure** - buckling, crushing, or collapse caused by compression stress

**compression flange** - the part of a beam that is compressed due to a bending moment

**compression seal joint** - a joint consisting of a neoprene elastic seal squeezed into the joint opening

**concentrated load** - a force applied over a small contact area; also known as point load

**concrete** - a stone-like mass made from a mixture of aggregates and cementing material, which is moldable prior to hardening; see BITUMINOUS CONCRETE and PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE

**concrete beam** - a structural member of reinforced concrete designed to carry bending loads

**concrete pile** - a pile constructed of reinforced concrete either precast and driven into the ground or cast-in-place in a hole bored into the ground

**concrete tee beam** - "T" shaped section of reinforced concrete; cast-in-place monolithic deck and beam system

**condition rating** - a judgment of a bridge component condition in comparison to its original as-built condition

**conductor** - a material that is suitable for carrying electric current

**connection angle** - a piece of angle serving to connect two elements of a member or two members of a structure; also known as clip angle

**consolidation** - the time dependent change in volume of a soil mass under compressive load caused by water slowly escaping from the pores or voids of the soil

**construction joint** - a pair of adjacent surfaces in reinforced concrete where two pours have met, reinforcement steel extends through this joint

**continuous beam** - a general term applied to a beam that spans uninterrupted over one or more intermediate supports

**continuous bridge** - a bridge designed to extend without joints over one or more interior supports

**continuous footing** - a common footing that is underneath a wall, or columns

**continuous span** - spans designed to extend without joints over one or more intermediate supports

**continuous truss** - a truss without hinges having its chord and web members arranged to continue uninterrupted over one or more intermediate points of support

**continuous weld** - a weld extending throughout the entire length of a connection

**contraction** - the thermal action of the shrinking of an object when cooled; opposite of expansion

**contraction scour** - the removal of the material under the structure only

**coping** - a course of stone laid with a projection beyond the general surface of the masonry below it and forming the topmost portion of a wall; a course of stone capping the curved or V-shaped extremity of a pier,

providing a transition to the pier head proper, when so used it is commonly termed the "starling coping," "nose coping," the "cutwater coping" or the "pier extension coping"

**corbel** - a piece constructed to project from the surface of a wall, column or other portion of a structure to serve as a support for another member

**core** - a cylindrical sample of concrete or timber removed from a bridge component for the purpose of destructive testing to determine the condition of the component

**corrosion** - the general disintegration of metal through oxidation

**corrugated** - an element with alternating ridges and valleys

**counter** - a truss web member that undergoes stress reversal and resists only live load tension; see WEB MEMBERS

**counterfort** - a bracket-like wall connecting a retaining wall stem to its footing on the side of the retained material to stabilize the wall against overturning; a counterfort, as opposed to a buttress, acts entirely in tension

**counterforted abutment** - an abutment that develops resistance to bending moment in the stem by use of counterforts. This permits the breast wall to be designed as a horizontal beam or slab spanning between counterforts, rather than as a vertical cantilever slab

**counterforted wall** - a retaining wall designed with projecting counterforts to provide strength and stability

**counterweight** - a weight which is used to balance the weight of a movable member; in bridge applications counterweights are used to balance a movable span so that it rotates or lifts with minimum resistance. Also sometimes used in continuous structures to prevent uplift

**couplant** - a viscous fluid material used with ultrasonic gages to enhance transmission of sound waves

**couple** - two forces that are equal in magnitude, opposite in direction, and parallel with respect to each other

**coupon** - a sample of steel taken from an element in order to test material properties

**course** - a horizontal layer of bricks or stone

**cover** - the clear thickness of concrete between a reinforcing bar and the surface of the concrete; the depth of backfill over the top of a pipe or culvert

**covered bridge** - an indefinite term applied to a wooden bridge having its roadway protected by a roof and enclosing sides

**cover plate** - a plate used in conjunction with a flange or other structural shapes to increase flange section properties in a beam, column, or similar member

**crack** - a break without complete separation of parts; a fissure



**crack comparator card** - A crack comparator card can be used to measure the width of cracks. This type of crack width measuring device is a transparent card about the size of an identification card. The card has lines on it that represent crack widths. The line on the card that best matches the width of the crack lets the inspector know the measured width of the crack.

**cracking (reflection)** - visible cracks in an overlay indicating cracks in the concrete underneath

**crack initiation** - the beginning of a crack usually at some microscopic defect

**crack propagation** - the growth of a crack due to energy supplied by repeated stress cycles

**creep** - an inelastic deformation that occurs under a constant load, below the yield point, and increases with time

**creosote** - an oily liquid obtained by the distillation of coal or wood tar and used as a wood preservative

**crevice corrosion** - occurs between adjacent surfaces but the rust may not expand, even though significant section loss may have occurred

**crib** - a structure consisting of a foundation grillage combined with a superimposed framework providing compartments or coffer which are filled with gravel, concrete or other material satisfactory for supporting the structure to be placed thereon

**cribbing** - a construction consisting of wooden, metal or reinforced concrete units so assembled as to form an open cellular-like structure for supporting a superimposed load or for resisting horizontal or overturning forces acting against it.

**cribwork** - large timber cells that are submerged full of concrete to make an underwater foundation

**critical finding** - a structural or safety related deficiency that requires immediate follow-up inspection or action

**cross** - transverse bracings between two main longitudinal members; see DIAPHRAGM, BRACING

**cross frame** - steel elements placed in "X" shaped patterns to act as stiffeners between the main carrying superstructure members

**cross girders** - transverse girders, supported by bearings, which support longitudinal beams or girders

**cross-section** - the shape of an object cut transversely to its length

**cross-sectional area** - the area of a cross-section

**crown** - the highest point of the transverse cross section of a roadway, pipe or arch; also known as soffit or vertex

**crown of roadway** - the vertical dimension describing the total amount the surface is convexed or raised from

gutter to centerline; this is sometimes termed the cross fall or cross slope of roadway

**crushing** - occurs perpendicular to the grain, usually at support points

**culvert** - a drainage structure beneath an embankment (e.g., corrugated metal pipe, concrete box culvert)

**curb** - a low barrier at the side limit of the roadway used to guide the movement of vehicles

**curb inlet** - see SCUPPER

**curtain wall** - a term commonly applied to a thin wall between main columns designed to withstand only secondary loads. Also the wall portion of a buttress or counterfort abutment that spans between the buttresses or counterforts

**curvature** - the degree of curving of a line or surface

**curved girder** - a girder that is curved in the horizontal plane in order to adjust to the horizontal alignment of the bridge

**cutoff wall** - vertical wall at the end of an apron or slab to prevent scour undermining

**cutwater** - a sharp-edged structure, facing the water channel current, built around a bridge pier to protect it from the flow of water and debris in the water

**cyclic stress** - stress that varies with the passage of live loads; see STRESS RANGE

## D

**damage inspection** - this is an unscheduled inspection to assess structural damage resulting from environmental factors or human actions

**dead load** - a static load due to the weight of the structure itself

**debris** - material including floating wood, trash, suspended sediment or bed load moved by a flowing stream

**decay** - the result of fungi feeding on the cell walls of the wood

**deck** - that portion of a bridge which provides direct support for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, supported by a superstructure

**deck arch** - an arch bridge with the deck above the top of the arch

**deck bridge** - a bridge in which the supporting members are all beneath the roadway

**decking** - bridge flooring installed in panels, e.g., timber planks

**deck joint** - a gap allowing for rotation or horizontal movement between two spans or an approach and a span

**deficiency** - see BRIDGE DEFICIENCY

**deflection** - elastic movement of a structural member under a load

**deformation** - distortion of a loaded structural member; may be elastic or inelastic

**deformed bars** - concrete reinforcement consisting of steel bars with projections or indentations (deformations) to increase the mechanical bond between the steel and concrete

**degradation** - general progressive lowering of a stream channel by scour

**delamination** - surface separation of concrete into layers; separation of glulam timber plies

**design load** - the force for which a structure is designed; the most severe combination of loads

**distributed loads** - loads that are applied along a significant length of a structure

**deterioration** - decline in quality over a period of time due to chemical or physical degradation

**diagonal** - a sloping structural member of a truss or bracing system

**diagonal stay** - a cable support in a suspension bridge extending diagonally from the tower to the roadway to add stiffness to the structure and diminish the deformations and undulations resulting from traffic service

**diagonal tension** - the tensile force due to horizontal and vertical shear in a beam

**diaphragm** - a transverse member placed within a member or superstructure system to distribute stresses and improves strength and rigidity; see BRACING

**diaphragm wall** - a wall built transversely to the longitudinal centerline of a spandrel arch serving to tie together and reinforce the spandrel walls, together with providing a support for the floor system in conjunction with the spandrel walls; also known as cross wall

**differential settlement** - uneven settlement of individual or independent elements of a substructure; tilting in the longitudinal or transverse direction due to deformation or loss of foundation material

**dike** - an earthen embankment constructed to retain or redirect water; when used in conjunction with a bridge, it prevents stream erosion and localized scour and so directs the stream current such that debris does not accumulate; see SPUR

**discharge** - the volume of fluid per unit of time flowing along a pipe or channel

**displacement induced stress** - stresses caused by differential deflection of adjacent parts

**distributed load** - a load uniformly applied along the length of an element or component of a bridge

**ditch** - a trough-like excavation made to collect water

**diver** - a specially trained individual who inspects the underwater portion of a bridge substructure and the surrounding channel

**dolphin** - a group of piles driven close together or a caisson placed to protect portions of a bridge exposed to possible damage by collision with river or marine traffic

**double movable bridge** - a bridge in which the clear span over the navigation channel is produced by joining the arms of two adjacent swing spans or the leaves of two adjacent bascule spans at or near the center of the navigable channel; see MOVABLE BRIDGE

**dowel** - a length of bar embedded in two parts of a structure to hold the parts in place and to transfer stress

**drainage** - a system designed to remove water from a structure

**drainage area** - an area in which surface run-off collects and from which it is carried by a drainage system; also known as catchment area

**drain hole** - hole in a box shaped member or a wall to provide means for the exit of accumulated water or other liquid; also known as drip hole; see WEEP HOLE

**drain pipes** - pipes that carry storm water

**drawbridge** - a general term applied to a bridge over a navigable body of water having a movable superstructure span of any type

**drift bolt** - a short length of metal bar used to connect and hold in position wooden members placed in contact; similar to a dowel

**drift pin** - tapered steel rod used by ironworkers to align bolt holes

**drip notch** - a recess cast on the underside of an overhang that prevents water from following the concrete surface onto the supporting beams

**drop inlet** - a type of inlet structure that conveys the water from a higher elevation to a lower outlet elevation smoothly without a free fall at the discharge

**duct** - the hollow space where a prestressing tendon is placed in a post-tensioned prestressed concrete girder

**ductile** - capable of being molded or shaped without breaking; plastic

**ductile fracture** - a fracture characterized by plastic deformation

**ductility** - the ability to withstand nonelastic deformation without rupture

**dumbbell pier** - a pier consisting of two cylindrical or rectangular shaped piers joined by an integral web

**dummy member** - truss member that carries no primary loads; may be included for bracing or for appearance

## E

**E** - modulus of elasticity of a material; Young's modulus; the stiffness of a material

**efflorescence** - a deposit on concrete or brick caused by crystallization of carbonates brought to the surface by moisture in the masonry or concrete

**elastic** - capable of sustaining deformation without permanent loss of shape

**elastic strain** - the reversible distortion of a material

**elastic deformation** - non-permanent deformation; when the stress is removed, the material returns to its original shape

**elasticity** - the property whereby a material changes its shape under the action of loads but recovers its original shape when the loads are removed

**elastomer** - a natural or synthetic rubber-like material

**elastomeric pad** - a synthetic rubber pad used in bearings that compresses under loads and accommodates horizontal movement by deforming

**electrolyte** - a medium of air, soil, or liquid carrying ionic current between two metal surfaces, the anode and the cathode

**electrolytic cell** - a device for producing electrolysis consisting of the electrolyte and the electrodes

**electrolytic corrosion** - corrosion of a metal associated with the flow of electric current in an electrolyte

**elevation view** - a drawing of the side view of a structure

**elliptic arch** - an arch in which the intrados surface is a full half of the surface of an elliptical cylinder; this terminology is sometimes incorrectly applied to a multicentered arch

**elongation** - the elastic or plastic extension of a member

**embankment** - a mound of earth constructed above the natural ground surface to carry a road or to prevent water from passing beyond desirable limits; also known as bank

**end block** - in a prestressed concrete I-beam, the widened beam web at the end to provide adequate anchorage bearing for the post tensioning steel and to resist high shear stresses; similarly, the solid end diaphragm of a box beam

**end post** - the end compression member of a truss, either vertical or inclined in position and extending from top chord to bottom chord

**end rotation** - Occurs when a structure deflects

**end section** - a concrete or steel appurtenance attached to the end of a culvert for the purpose of hydraulic efficiency, embankment retention or anchorage

**end span** - a span adjacent to an abutment

**epoxy** - a synthetic resin which cures or hardens by chemical reaction between components which are mixed together shortly before use

**epoxy coated reinforcement** - reinforcement steel coated with epoxy; used to prevent corrosion

**equilibrium** - in statics, the condition in which the forces acting upon a body are such that no external effect (or movement) is produced

**equivalent uniform load** - a load having a constant intensity per unit of its length producing an effect equal to that of a live load consisting of vehicle axle or wheel concentrations spaced at varying distances

**erosion** - wearing away of soil by flowing water not associated with a channel; see SCOUR

**expansion** - an increase in size or volume

**expansion bearing** - a bearing designed to permit longitudinal or lateral movements resulting from temperature changes and superimposed loads with minimal transmission of horizontal force to the substructure; see BEARING

**expansion dam** - the part of an expansion joint serving as an end form for the placing of concrete at a joint; also applied to the expansion joint device itself; see EXPANSION JOINT

**expansion joint** - a joint designed to permit expansion and contraction movements produced by temperature changes, loadings or other forces

**expansion rocker** - a bearing device at the expansion end of a beam or truss that allows the longitudinal movements resulting from temperature changes and superimposed loads through a tilting motion

**expansion roller** - a cylinder so mounted that by revolution it facilitates expansion, contraction or other movements resulting from temperature changes, loadings or other forces

**expansion shoe** - expansion bearing, generally of all metal construction

**exterior girder** - an outermost girder supporting the bridge floor

**extrados** - the curve defining the exterior (upper) surface of an arch; also known as back

**eyebars** - a member consisting of a rectangular bar with enlarged forged ends having holes for engaging connecting pins

## F

**failure** - a condition at which a structure reaches a limit state such as cracking or deflection where it is no longer able to perform its usual function; collapse; fracture

**falsework** - a temporary wooden or metal framework built to support the weight of a structure during the period of its construction and until it becomes self-supporting

**fascia** - an outside, covering member designed on the basis of architectural effect rather than strength and rigidity, although its function may involve both

**fascia girder** - an exposed outermost girder of a span sometimes treated architecturally or otherwise to provide an attractive appearance

**fatigue** - the tendency of a member to fail at a stress below the yield point when subjected to repetitive loading

**fatigue crack** - any crack caused by repeated cyclic loading at a stress below the yield point

**fatigue damage** - member damage (crack formation) due to cyclic loading

**fatigue life** - the length of service of a member subject to fatigue, based on the number of cycles it can undergo

**fender** - a structure that acts as a buffer to protect the portions of a bridge exposed to floating debris and water-borne traffic from collision damage; sometimes called an ice guard in regions with ice floes

**fender pier** - a pier-like structure which performs the same service as a fender but is generally more substantially built; see GUARD PIER

**field coat** - a coat of paint applied after the structure is assembled and its joints completely connected; quite commonly a part of the field erection procedure; field painting

**fill** - material, usually earth, used to change the surface contour of an area, or to construct an embankment

**filler** - a piece used primarily to fill a space beneath a batten, splice plate, gusset, connection angle, stiffener or other element; also known as filler plate

**filler metal** - metal prepared in wire, rod, electrode or other form to be fused with the structure metal in the formation of a weld

**filler plate** - see FILLER

**fillet** - a curved portion forming a junction of two surfaces that would otherwise intersect at an angle

**fillet weld** - a weld of triangular or fillet shaped crosssection between two pieces at right angles

**filling** - see FILL

**fine aggregate** - sand or grit for concrete or mortar that passes a No. 4 sieve (4.75 mm)

**finger dam** - expansion joint in which the opening is spanned by meshing steel fingers or teeth

**fish belly** - a term applied to a girder or a truss having its bottom flange or its bottom chord constructed either haunched or bowshaped with the convexity downward; see LENTICULAR TRUSS

**fixed beam** - a beam with a fixed end

**fixed bearing** - a bearing that allows only rotational movement; see BEARING

**fixed bridge** - a bridge having constant position, i.e., without provision for movement to create increased navigation clearance

**fixed end** - movement is restrained

**fixed-ended arch** - see VOUSOIR ARCH

**fixed span** - a superstructure span having its position practically immovable, as compared to a movable span

**fixed support** - a support that will allow rotation only, no longitudinal movement

**flange** - the (usually) horizontal parts of a rolled I-shaped beam or of a built-up girder extending transversely across the top and bottom of the web

**flange angle** - an angle used to form a flange element of a built-up girder, column, strut or similar member

**floating bridge** - see PONTOON BRIDGE

**floating foundation** - used to describe a soil-supported raft or mat foundation with low bearing pressures; sometimes applied to a "foundation raft" or "foundation grillage"

**flood frequency** - the average time interval in years in which a flow of a given magnitude will recur

**flood plain** - area adjacent to a stream or river subject to flooding

**floor** - see DECK

**floorbeam** - a primary horizontal member located transversely to the general bridge alignment

**floor system** - the complete framework of members supporting the bridge deck and the traffic loading

**flow capacity** - maximum flow rate that a channel, conduit, or culvert structure is hydraulically capable of carrying

**flux** - a material that protects the weld from oxidation during the fusion process



**footbridge** - a bridge designed and constructed to provide means of traverse for pedestrian traffic only; also known as pedestrian bridge

**footing** - the enlarged, lower portion of a substructure, which distributes the structure load either to the earth or to supporting piles; the most common footing is the concrete slab; footer is a colloquial term for footing

**footing aprons** - protective layers of material surrounding the footing of a substructure unit

**foot wall** - see TOE WALL

**force** - an influence that tends to accelerate a body or to change its movement

**forms** - the molds that hold concrete in place while it is hardening; also known as form work, shuttering; see LAGGING, STAY-IN-PLACE FORMS

**form work** - see FORMS

**foundation** - the supporting material upon which the substructure portion of a bridge is placed

**foundation excavation** - the excavation made to accommodate a footing for a structure; also known as foundation pit

**foundation failure** - failure of a foundation by differential settlement or by shear failure of the soil

**foundation grillage** - a construction consisting of steel, timber, or concrete members placed in layers; each layer is perpendicular to those above and below it and the members within a layer are generally parallel, producing a crib or grid-like effect. Grillages are usually placed under very heavy concentrated loads

**foundation load** - the load resulting from traffic, superstructure, substructure, approach embankment, approach causeway, or other incidental load increment imposed upon a given foundation area

**foundation pile** - see PILE

**foundation pit** - see FOUNDATION EXCAVATION

**foundation seal** - a mass of concrete placed underwater within a cofferdam for the base portion of structure to close or seal the cofferdam against incoming water; see TREMIE

**fracture** - see BRITTLE FRACTURE

**fracture critical member (FCM)** - a steel member in tension, or with a tension element, whose failure would probably cause a portion of or the entire bridge to collapse

**fracture critical member inspection** - a hands-on inspection of a fracture critical member or member components that may include visual and other nondestructive evaluation

**frame** - a structure which transmits bending moments from the horizontal beam member through rigid joints to vertical or inclined supporting members

**framing** - the arrangement and connection of the component members of a bridge superstructure

**freeboard** - the vertical distance between the design flood water surface and the lowest point of the structure to account for waves, surges, drift and other contingencies

**free end** - movement is not restrained

**freeze-thaw** - freezing of water within the capillaries and pores of cement paste and aggregate resulting in internal overstressing of the concrete, which leads to deterioration including cracking, scaling, and crumbling.

**fretting corrosion** - occurs in elements in close contact that are subject to vibrations such as intersecting truss diagonals

**friction pile** - a pile that provides support through friction resistance between the pile and the surrounding earth along the lateral surface of the pile

**friction roller** - a roller placed between members intended to facilitate change in their relative positions by reducing the frictional resistance to translation movement

**frost heave** - the upward movement of, or force exerted by, soil due to freezing of retained moisture

**frost line** - the depth to which soil may be frozen

**functionally obsolete** – a bridge that has deck geometry, load carrying capacity, clearance or approach roadway alignment that no longer meets the criteria for the system of which the bridge is a part

## G

**gabion** - rock filled wire baskets used to retain earth and provide erosion control

**galvanic action** - electrical current between two unlike metals

**galvanize** - to coat with zinc

**gauge** - the distance between parallel lines of rails, rivet holes, etc; a measure of thickness of sheet metal or wire; also known as gage

**general scour** - the lowering of a streambed across the waterway at the bridge, which may or may not be uniform

**geometry** - shape or form; relationship between lines or points

**girder** - a horizontal flexural member that is the main or primary support for a structure; any large beam, especially if built up

**girder bridge** - a bridge whose superstructure consists of two or more girders supporting a separate floor

system as differentiated from a multi-beam bridge or a slab bridge

**girder span** - a span in which the major longitudinal supporting members are girders

**glue laminated** - a member created by gluing together two or more pieces of lumber

**grade** - the fall or rise per unit horizontal length; see GRADIENT

**grade crossing** - a term applicable to an intersection of two highways, two railroads or a railroad and a highway at a common grade or elevation; now commonly accepted as meaning the last of these combinations

**grade intersection** - the location where two roadway slopes meet in profile; to provide a smooth transition from one to the other they are connected by a vertical curve and the resulting profile is a sag or a crest

**grade separation** - roadways crossing each other at different elevations; see OVERPASS, UNDERPASS

**gradient** - the rate of inclination of the roadway and/or sidewalk surface(s) from the horizontal, applying to a bridge and its approaches; it is commonly expressed as a percentage relation (ratio) of horizontal to vertical dimensions

**gravity abutment** - a thick abutment that resists horizontal earth pressure through its own dead weight

**gravity wall** - a retaining wall that is prevented from overturning or sliding by its own dead weight

**grid flooring** - a steel floor system comprising a lattice pattern that may or may not be filled with concrete

**grillage** - assembly of parallel beams, usually steel or concrete, placed side by side, often in layers with alternating directions; see FOUNDATION GRILLAGE

**groin** - a wall built out from a river bank to check scour

**grout** - mortar having a sufficient water content to render it free-flowing, used for filling (grouting) the joints in masonry, for fixing anchor bolts and for filling cored spaces; usually a thin mix of cement, water and sometimes sand or admixtures

**grouting** - the process of filling in voids with grout

**guard pier** - a pier-like structure built to protect a swing span in its open position from collision with passing vessels or water-borne debris; may be equipped with a rest pier upon which the swing span in its open position may be latched; see FENDER PIER

**guardrail** - a safety feature element intended to redirect an errant vehicle

**guide banks** - dikes that extend upstream from the approach embankment at either or both sides of the bridge opening to direct flow through the opening

**guide rail** - see GUARDRAIL

**gunite** - the process of blowing Portland cement mortar or concrete onto a surface using compressed air

**gusset plate** - a plate that connects the members of a structure and holds them in correct position at a joint

**gutter** - a paved ditch; area adjacent to a roadway curb used for drainage

**guy** - a cable member used to anchor a structure in a desired position

## H

**H Loading** - a combination of loads used to represent a two-axle truck developed by AASHTO

**hairline cracks** - very narrow cracks that form in the surface of concrete due to tension caused by loading

**hammer** - hand tool used for sounding and surface inspection

**hammerhead pier** - a pier with a single cylindrical or rectangular shaft and a relatively long, transverse cap; also known as a tee pier or cantilever pier

**hand hole** - hole provided in component plate of built-up box section to permit access to the interior for construction and maintenance purposes

**hand rail** - commonly applies only to sidewalk railing presenting a latticed, barred, balustered or other open web construction

**hands-on** - inspection within arms length of the component. Inspection uses visual techniques that may be supplemented by nondestructive testing

**hands-on access** - close enough to the member or component so that it can be touched with the hands and inspected visually

**hanger** - a tension member serving to suspend an attached member; allows for expansion between a cantilevered and suspended span

**haunch** - an increase in the depth of a member usually at points of support; the outside areas of a pipe between the spring line and the bottom of the pipe

**haunched girder** - a horizontal beam whose cross sectional depth varies along its length

**H-beam** - a rolled steel member having an H-shaped cross-section (flange width equals beam depth) commonly used for piling; also H-pile

**head** - a measure of water pressure expressed in terms of an equivalent weight or pressure exerted by a column of water; the height of the equivalent column of water is the head

**head loss** - the loss of energy between two points along the path of a flowing fluid due to fluid friction; reported in feet of head

**headwall** - a concrete structure at the ends of a culvert to retain the embankment slopes, anchor the culvert, and prevent undercutting

**headwater** - the source or the upstream waters of a stream

**heat treatment** - any of a number of various operations involving controlled heating and cooling that are used to impart specific properties to metals; examples are tempering, quenching, and annealing

**heave** - the upward motion of soil caused by outside forces such as excavation, pile driving, moisture or soil expansion; see FROST HEAVE

**heel** - the portion of a footing behind the stem

**helical** - having the form of a spiral

**high carbon steel** - carbon steel containing 0.5 to 1.5% dissolved carbon

**high strength bolt** - bolt and nut made of high strength steel, usually A325 or A490

**highway** - the term 'highway' includes:

- A) a road, street, and parkway;
- B) a right-of-way, bridge, railroad-highway crossing, tunnel, drainage structure, sign, guardrail, and protective structure, in connection with a highway; and
- C) a portion of any interstate or international bridge or tunnel and the approaches thereto, the cost of which is assumed by a State transportation department, including such facilities as may be required by the United States Customs and Immigration Services in connection with the operation of an international bridge or tunnel

**hinge** - a point in a structure at which a member is free to rotate

**hinged joint** - a joint constructed with a pin, cylinder segment, spherical segment or other device permitting rotational movement

**honeycomb** - an area in concrete where mortar has separated and left spaces between the coarse aggregate, usually caused by improper vibration during concrete construction

**horizontal alignment** - a roadway's centerline or baseline alignment in the horizontal plane

**horizontal curve** - a roadway baseline or centerline alignment defined by a radius in the horizontal plane

**horizontal shear splits** - separations of the wood fibers parallel to the grain due to excessive loading

**Howe truss** - a truss of the parallel chord type with a web system composed of vertical (tension) rods at the panel points with an X pattern of diagonals

**HS Loading** - a combination of loads developed by AASHTO used to represent a truck and trailer

**hybrid girder** - a girder whose flanges and web are made from steel of different grades

**hydraulic countermeasures** - man-made or man-placed devices designed to direct streamflow and to protect against lateral migration and scour

**hydraulics** - the mechanics of fluids

**hydrology** - study of the accumulation and flow of water from watershed areas

**hydroplaning** - loss of contact between a tire and the roadway surface when the tire planes or glides on a film of water

## I

**I-beam** - a structural member with a cross-sectional shape similar to the capital letter "I"

**ice guard** - see FENDER

**impact** - A factor that describes the effect on live load due to dynamic and vibratory effects of a moving load; in bridge design, a load based on a percentage of live load to include dynamic and vibratory effects; in fracture mechanics, a rapidly applied load, such as a collision or explosion

**incomplete fusion** - a weld flaw where the weld metal has not combined metallurgically with the base metal

**in-depth inspection** - a close-up, inspection of one or more members above or below the water level to identify any deficiencies not readily detectable using routine inspection procedures; hands-on inspection may be necessary at some locations

**indeterminate stress** - stress in a structural member which cannot be calculated directly; it is computed by the iterative application of mathematical equations, usually with an electronic computer; indeterminate stresses arise in continuous span and frame type structures

**individual column footing** - footing supporting one column

**inelastic compression** - compression beyond the yield point

**initial inspection** - the first inspection of a bridge as it becomes a part of the bridge file to provide all Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) data and other relevant data and to determine baseline structural conditions.

**inlet** - an opening in the floor of a bridge leading to a drain; roadway drainage structure which collects surface water and transfers it to pipes

**inspection frequency** - the frequency with which the bridge is inspected -- normally every two years

**integral abutment** - an abutment cast monolithically with the end diaphragm of the deck; such abutments usually encase the ends of the deck beams and are pile supported

**integral deck** - a deck which is monolithic with the superstructure; concrete tee beam bridges have integral decks

**intercepting ditch** - a ditch constructed to prevent surface water from flowing in contact with the toe of an embankment or causeway or down the slope of a cut

**interior girder** - any girder between exterior or fascia girders

**interior span** - a span of which both supports are intermediate substructure units

**intermittent weld** - a noncontinuous weld commonly composed of a series of short welds separated by spaces of equal length

**internal redundancy** - a bridge member having several elements that are mechanically fastened together

**internal steel corrosion** - occurs due to the elimination of the protection of steel caused by chlorides

**intrados** - the curve defining the interior (lower) surface of the arch; also known as soffit

**inventory item** - data contained in the structure file pertaining to bridge identification, structure type and material, age and service, geometric data, navigational data, classification, load rating and posting, proposed improvements, and inspections

**inventory rating** - the capacity of a bridge to withstand loads under normal service conditions based on 55% of yield strength

**invert elevation** - the bottom or lowest point of the internal surface of the transverse cross section of a pipe or culvert

**iron** - a metallic element used in cast iron, wrought iron and steel

**isotropic** - having the same material properties in all directions, e.g., steel

## J

**jack arch** - a deck support system comprised of a brick or concrete arch springing from the bottom flanges of adjacent rolled steel beams

**jacking** - the lifting of elements using a type of jack (e.g., hydraulic), sometimes acts as a temporary support system

**jack stringer** - the outermost stringer supporting the bridge floor in a panel or bay

**jacket** - a protective shell surrounding a pile made of fabric, concrete or other material

**jersey barrier** - a concrete barrier with sloping front face that was developed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

**joint** - in masonry, the space between individual stones or bricks; in concrete, a division in continuity of the concrete; in a truss, point at which members of a truss are joined

## K

**keeper plate** - a plate, which is connected to a sole plate, designed to prohibit a beam from becoming dislodged from the bearing

**key** - a raised portion of concrete on one face of a joint that fits into a depression on the adjacent face

**keystone** - the symmetrically shaped, wedge-like stone located in a head ring course at the crown of an arch; the final stone placed, thereby closing the arch

**king-post** - the vertical member in a "king-post" type truss; also known as king rod

**king-post truss** - two triangular panels with a common center vertical; the simplest of triangular system trusses

**kip** - a kilo pound (1000 lb.); convenient unit for structural calculations

**knee brace** - a short member engaging at its ends two other members that are joined to form a right angle or a near-right angle to strengthen and stiffen the connecting joint

**knee wall** - a return of the abutment backwall at its ends to enclose the bridge seat on three of its sides; also called cheek wall

**knife edge** - a condition in which corrosion of a steel member has caused a sharp edge

**knuckle** - an appliance forming a part of the anchorage of a suspension bridge main suspension member permitting movement of the anchorage chain

**knots** - separations of the wood fibers due to the trunk growing around an embedded limb

**K-truss** - a truss having a web system wherein the diagonal members intersect the vertical members at or near the mid-height; the assembly in each panel forms a letter "K"

## L



**L-abutment** - a cantilever abutment with the stem flush with the toe of the footing, forming an "L" in cross section

**laced column** - a riveted, steel built-up column of usually four angles or two channels tied together laterally with lacing

**lacing** - small flat plates, usually with one rivet at each end, used to tie individual sections of built up members; see LATTICE

**lagging** - horizontal members spanning between piles to form a wall; forms used to produce curved surfaces; see FORMS

**lamellar tear** - incipient cracking parallel to the face of a steel member

**laminated timber** - timber planks glued together face to face to form a larger member; see GLUE LAMINATED

**lane loading** - a design loading which represents a line of trucks crossing over a bridge

**lap joint** - a joint between two members in which the end of one member overlaps the end of the other

**lateral** - a member placed approximately perpendicular to a primary member

**lateral bracing** - the bracing assemblage engaging a member perpendicular to the plane of the member; intended to resist transverse movement and deformation; also keeps primary parallel elements in truss bridges and girder bridges aligned; see BRACING

**lateral stream migration** - the relocation of the channel due to lateral streambank erosion

**lattice** - a crisscross assemblage of diagonal bars, channels, or angles on a truss; also known as latticing, lacing

**lattice truss** - in general, a truss having its web members inclined but more commonly the term is applied to a truss having two or more web systems composed entirely of diagonal members at any interval and crossing each other without reference to vertical members

**leaching** - the action of removing substances from a material by passing water through it

**lead line** - a weighted cord incrementally marked, used to determine the depth of a body of water; also known as sounding line

**leaf** - the movable portion of a bascule bridge that forms the span of the structure

**legal load** - the maximum legal load for each vehicle configuration permitted by law for the State in which the bridge is located

**lenticular truss** - a truss having parabolic top and bottom chords curved in opposite directions with their ends

meeting at a common joint; also known as a fish belly truss

**levee** - an embankment built to prevent flooding of low-lying land

**leveling course** - a layer of bituminous concrete placed to smooth an irregular surface

**light-weight concrete** - concrete of less than standard unit weight; may be no-fines concrete, aerated concrete, or concrete made with lightweight aggregate

**link** - a hanger plate in a pin and hanger assembly whose shape is similar to an eyebar, e.g., the head (at the pinhole) is wider than the shank

**link and roller** - a movable bridge element consisting of a hinged strutlike link fitted with a roller at its bottom end, supported upon a shoe plate or pedestal and operated by a thrust strut serving to force it into a vertical position and to withdraw it therefrom; when installed at each outermost end of the girders or the trusses of a swing span their major function is to lift them to an extent that their camber or droop will be removed and the arms rendered free to act as simple spans; when the links are withdrawn to an inclined position fixed by the operating mechanism the span is free to be moved to an open position

**live load** - a temporary dynamic load such as vehicular traffic that is applied to a structure; also accompanied by vibration or movement affecting its intensity

**load** - a force carried by a structure component

**load factor design** - a design method used by AASHTO, based on limit states of material and arbitrarily increased loads

**load indicating washer** - a washer with small projections on one side, which compress as the bolt is tightened; gives a direct indication of the bolt tension that has been achieved

**load path redundancy** - a bridge having three or more main load-carrying members

**load rating** - the determination of the live load carrying capacity of a bridge using bridge plans and supplemented by information gathered from a field inspection

**load and resistance factor design (LRFD)** - design method used by AASHTO, based on limit states of material with increased loads and reduced member capacity based on statistical probabilities

**local buckling** - localized buckling of a beam's plate element, can lead to failure of member

**local scour** - the removal of streambed material adjacent to an obstruction in a waterway, that has been placed within the stream (such as a pier or abutment), and causes the acceleration of the flow induced by the obstruction

**longitudinal bracing** - bracing that runs lengthwise with a bridge and provides resistance against longitudinal movement and deformation of transverse members

**loss of prestress** - loss of prestressing force due to a variety of factors, including shrinkage and creep of the

concrete, creep of the prestressing tendons, and loss of bond

**low-carbon steel** - steel with 0.04 to 0.25% dissolved carbon; also called mild steel

**lower chord** - the bottom horizontal member of a truss

**luminaire** - a lighting fixture

## M

**macadam** - roadway pavement made with crushed stone aggregate, of coarse open gradation, compacted in place; asphaltic macadam included asphalt as a binder

**main beam** - a horizontal structural member which supports the span and bears directly on a column or wall

**maintenance** - basic repairs performed on a facility to keep it at an adequate level of service

**maintenance and protection of traffic** - the management of vehicular and pedestrian traffic through a construction zone to ensure the safety of the public and the construction workforce; MPT; TRAFFIC PROTECTION

**marine borers** - mollusks and crustaceans that live in water and destroy wood by digesting it

**masonry** - that portion of a structure composed of stone, brick or concrete block placed in courses and usually cemented with mortar

**masonry cement** - Portland cement and lime used to make mortar for masonry construction

**masonry plate** - a steel plate placed on the substructure to support a superstructure bearing and to distribute the load to the masonry beneath

**mattress** - a flexible scour protection blanket composed of interconnected timber, gabions, or concrete units.

**meander** - a twisting, winding action from side to side; characterizes the serpentine curvature of a narrow, slow flowing stream in a wide flood plain

**median** - separation between opposing lanes of highway traffic; also known as median strip

**member** - an individual angle, beam, plate, or built component piece intended ultimately to become an integral part of an assembled frame or structure

**metal corrosion** - oxidation of metal by electro-galvanic action involving an electrolyte (moisture), an anode (the metallic surface where oxidation occurs), a cathode (the metallic surface that accepts electrons and does not corrode), and a conductor (the metal piece itself)

**midspan** - a reference point halfway between the supports of a beam or span

**mild steel** - steel containing from 0.04 to 0.25% dissolved carbon; see LOW CARBON STEEL

**military loading** - a loading pattern used to simulate heavy military vehicles passing over a bridge

**mill scale** - dense iron oxide on iron or steel that forms on the surface of metal that has been forged or hot worked

**modular joint** - a bridge joint designed to handle large movements consisting of an assembly of several strip or compression seals

**modulus of elasticity** - the ratio between the stress applied and the resulting elastic strain

**moisture content** - the amount of water in a material expressed as a percent by weight

**moment** - the couple effect of forces about a given point; see BENDING MOMENT

**monolithic** - forming a single mass without joints

**mortar** - a paste of portland cement, sand, and water laid between bricks, stones or blocks

**movable bridge** - a bridge having one or more spans capable of being raised, turned, lifted, or slid from its normal service location to provide a clear navigation passage; see BASCULE BRIDGE, VERTICAL LIFT BRIDGE, PONTOON BRIDGE, RETRACTILE DRAW BRIDGE, ROLLING LIFT BRIDGE, and SWING BRIDGE

**movable span** - a general term applied to a superstructure span designed to be swung, lifted or otherwise moved longitudinally, horizontally or vertically, usually to provide increased navigational clearance

**moving load** - a live load which is moving, for example, vehicular traffic

**MPT** - see MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC

**MSE** - mechanically stabilized earth; see REINFORCED EARTH

**multi-centered arch** - an arch in which the intrados surface is outlined by two or more arcs symmetrically arranged and having different radii that intersect tangentially

## N

**nail laminated** - a laminated member produced by nailing two or more pieces of timber together face to face

**National Bridge Inspection Standards NBIS** - National Bridge Inspection Standards, first established in 1971 to set national policy regarding bridge inspection frequency, inspector qualifications, report formats, and inspection and rating procedures

**National Bridge Inventory (NBI)** - A database of Structure Inventory and Appraisal data collected by each state or Federal bridge-owning agency to fulfill the requirements of the NBIS

**NCHRP** - National Cooperative Highway Research Program

**NICET** - National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, the NICET provides nationally applicable voluntary certification programs covering several broad engineering technology fields and a number of specialized subfields. For information on the NICET program certification contact: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2794.

**NDE** - nondestructive evaluation

**NDT** - nondestructive testing; any testing method of checking structural quality of materials that does not damage them

**necking** - the elongation and contraction in area that occurs when a ductile material is stressed

**negative bending** - bending of a member that causes tension in the surface adjacent to the load, e.g., moment at interior supports of a span or at the joints of a frame

**negative moment** - bending moment in a member such that tension stresses are produced in the top portions of the member; typically occurs in continuous beams and spans over the intermediate supports

**neoprene** - a synthetic rubber-like material used in expansion joints and elastomeric bearings

**neutral axis** - the internal axis of a member in bending along which the strain is zero; on one side of the neutral axis the fibers are in tension, on the other side the fibers are in compression

Non-homogeneous -

**nose** - a projection acting as a cut water on the upstream end of a pier; see STARLING

**notch effect** - stress concentration caused by an abrupt discontinuity or change in section

## O

**offset** - a horizontal distance measured at right angles to a survey line to locate a point off the line

**on center** - a description of a typical dimension between the centers of the objects being measured

**open spandrel arch** - a bridge that has open spaces between the deck and the arch members allowing "open" visibility through the bridge

**open spandrel ribbed arch** - a structure in which two or more comparatively narrow arch rings, called ribs, function in the place of an arch barrel; the ribs are rigidly secured in position by arch rib struts located at intervals along the length of the arch; the arch ribs carry a column type open spandrel construction which supports the floor system and its loads

**operating rating** - the capacity of a bridge to withstand loads based on 75% of yield strength; the maximum

permissible live load to which the structure may be subjected for the load configuration used in the rating

**operator's house** - the building containing control devices required for opening and closing a movable bridge span

**orthotropic** - having different properties in two or more directions at right angles to each other (e.g., wood); see ANISOTROPY

**outlet** - in hydraulics, the discharge end of drains, sewers, or culverts

**out-of-plane distortion** - distortion of a member in a plane other than that which the member was designed to resist

**overlay** - see WEARING SURFACE

**overload** - a weight greater than the structure is designed to carry

**overload damage** - occurs when concrete members are sufficiently overstressed

**overpass** - bridge over a roadway or railroad

**overturning** - tipping over; rotational movement

**oxidation** - the chemical breakdown of a substance due to its reaction with oxygen from the air

**oxidized steel** - rust

## P

**pack** - a steel plate inserted between two others to fill a gap and fit them tightly together; also known as packing; fill; filler plate

**pack rust** - rust forming between adjacent steel surfaces in contact which tends to force the surfaces apart due to the increase in material volume

**paddleboard** - striped, paddle-shaped signs or boards placed on the roadside in front of a narrow bridge as a warning of reduced roadway width

**panel** - the portion of a truss span between adjacent points of intersection of web and chord members

**panel point** - the point of intersection of primary web and chord members of a truss

**parabolic arch** - an arch in which the intrados surface is a segment of a symmetrical parabolic surface (suited to concrete arches)

**parabolic truss** - a polygonal truss having its top chord and end post vertices coincident with the arc of a parabola, its bottom chord straight and its web system either triangular or quadrangular; also known as a parabolic arched truss

**parapet** - a low wall along the outmost edge of the roadway of a bridge to protect vehicles and pedestrians

**pedestal** - concrete or built-up metal member constructed on top of a bridge seat for the purpose of providing a specific bearing seat elevation

**pedestal pier** - one or more piers built in block-like form that may be connected by an integrally built web between them; when composed of a single, wide blocklike form, it is called a wall or solid pier

**pedestrian bridge** - see FOOT BRIDGE

**penetration** - when applied to creosoted lumber, the depth to which the surface wood is permeated by the creosote oil; when applied to pile driving; the depth a pile tip is driven into the ground

**permanent loads** - loads that are constant for the life of the structure

**physical testing** - the testing of bridge members in the field or laboratory

**pier** - a substructure unit that supports the spans of a multi-span superstructure at an intermediate location between its abutments

**pier cap** - the topmost horizontal portion of a pier that distributes loads from the superstructure to the vertical pier elements

**pile** - a shaft-like linear member which carries loads to underlying rock or soil strata

**pile bent** - a row of driven or placed piles extending above the ground surface supporting a pile cap; see BENT

**pile bridge** - a bridge carried on piles or pile bents

**pile cap** - a slab or beam which acts to secure the piles in position laterally and provides a bridge seat to receive and distribute superstructure loads

**pile foundation** - a foundation supported by piles in sufficient number and to a depth adequate to develop the bearing resistance required to support the substructure load

**pile pier** - see PILE BENT

**piling** - collective term applied to group of piles in a construction; see PILE, SHEET PILES

**pin** - a cylindrical bar used to connect elements of a structure

**pin-connected truss** - a general term applied to a truss of any type having its chord and web members connected at each panel point by a single pin

**pin and hanger** - a hinged connection detail designed to allow for expansion and rotation between a cantilevered and suspended span at a point between supports.

**pin joint** - a joint in a truss or other frame in which the members are assembled upon a single cylindrical pin

**pin packing** - arrangement of truss members on a pin at a pinned joint

**pin plate** - a plate rigidly attached upon the end of a member to develop the desired bearing upon a pin or pin-like bearing, and secure additional strength and rigidity in the member; doubler plate

**pintle** - a relatively small steel pin engaging the rocker of an expansion bearing, in a sole plate or masonry plate, thereby preventing sliding of the rocker

**pipe** - a hollow cylinder used for the conveyance of water, gas, steam etc.

**pipng** - removal of fine particles from within a soil mass by flowing water

**plain concrete** - concrete with no structural reinforcement except, possibly, light steel to reduce shrinkage and temperature cracking

**plan and profile** - a drawing that shows both the roadway plan view and profile view in the same scale; see PLAN VIEW, PROFILE

**plan view** - drawing that represents the top view of the road or a structure

**plastic deformation** - permanent deformation of material beyond the elastic range

**plastic strain** - the irreversible or permanent distortion of a material

**plate** - a flat sheet of metal which is relatively thick; see SHEET STEEL

**plate girder** - a large I-shaped beam composed of a solid web plate with flange plates attached to the web plate by flange angles or fillet welds

**plug weld** - a weld joining two members produced by depositing weld metal within holes cut through one or more of the members; also known as slot weld

**plumb bob** - a weight hanging on a cord used to provide a true vertical reference

**plumb line** - a true vertical reference line established using a plumb bob

**pneumatic caisson** - an underwater caisson in which the working chamber is kept free of water by compressed air at a pressure nearly equal to the water pressure outside it

**point loads** - loads that are applied to a localized area

**pointing** - the compacting of the mortar into the outermost portion of a joint and the troweling of its exposed surface to secure water tightness or desired architectural effect; replacing deteriorated mortar

**ponding** - accumulation of water



**pontoon bridge** - a bridge supported by floating on pontoons moored to the riverbed; a portion may be removable to facilitate navigation

**pony truss** - a through truss without top chord lateral bracing

**pop-out** - conical fragment broken out of a concrete surface by pressure from reactive aggregate particles

**portable bridge** - a bridge that may be readily erected for a temporary communication-transport service and disassembled and reassembled at another location

**portal** - the clear unobstructed space of a through truss bridge forming the entrance to the structure

**portal bracing** - a system of sway bracing placed in the plane of the end posts of the trusses

**portland cement** - a fine dry powder made by grinding limestone clinker made by heating limestone in a kiln; this material reacts chemically with water to produce a solid mass

**portland cement concrete** - a mixture of aggregate, portland cement, water, and usually chemical admixtures

**positive moment** - a force applied over a distance that causes compression in the top fiber of a beam and tension in the bottom fiber

**post** - a member resisting compressive stresses, located vertical to the bottom chord of a truss and common to two truss panels; sometimes used synonymously for vertical; see COLUMN

**posting** - a limiting dimension, speed, or loading indicating larger dimensions, higher speeds, or greater loads cannot be safely taken by the bridge

**post-stressing** - see POSTTENSIONING

**posttensioning** - a method of prestressing concrete in which the tendons are stressed after the concrete has been cast and hardens

**pot bearing** - a bearing type that allows for multi-dimensional rotation by using a piston supported on an elastomer contained on a cylinder ("pot"), or spherical bearing element

**pot holes** - irregular shaped, disintegrated areas of bridge deck or roadway pavement caused by the failure of the surface material

**Pratt truss** - a truss with parallel chords and a web system composed of vertical posts with diagonal ties inclined outward and upward from the bottom chord panel points toward the ends of the truss; also known as N-truss

**precast concrete** - concrete members that are cast and cured before being placed into their final positions on a construction site

**prestressed concrete** - concrete with strands, tendons, or bars that are stressed before the live load is applied

**prestressing** - applying forces to a structure to deform it in such a way that it will withstand its working loads more effectively; see POSTTENSIONING, PRETENSIONING

**pretensioning** - a method of prestressing concrete in which the strands are stressed before the concrete is placed; strands are released after the concrete has hardened, inducing internal compression into the concrete

**primary member** - a member designed to resist flexure and distribute primary live loads and dead loads

**priming coat** - the first coat of paint applied to the metal or other material of a bridge; also known as base coat, or primer

**probing** - investigating the location and condition of submerged foundation material using a rod or shaft of appropriate length; checking the surface condition of a timber member for decay using a pointed tool, e.g., an ice pick

**Professional engineer (PE)** - an individual, who has fulfilled education and experience requirements and passed rigorous exams that, under State licensure laws, permits them to offer engineering services directly to the public. Engineering licensure laws vary from State to State, but, in general, to become a PE an individual must be a graduate of an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, gain four years of experience working under a PE, and pass the Principles of Practice of Engineering exam

**profile** - a section cut vertically along the center line of a roadway or waterway to show the original and final ground levels

**program manager** - the individual in charge of the program, that has been assigned or delegated the duties and responsibilities for bridge inspection, reporting, and inventory. The program manager provides overall leadership and is available to inspection team leaders to provide guidance

**programmed repair** - those repairs that may be performed in a scheduled program

**protective system** - a system used to protect bridges from environmental forces that cause steel and concrete to deteriorate and timber to decay, typically a coating system

**PS&E** - Plans, Specifications, and Estimate; the final submission of the designers to the owner

**public road.** - the term "public road" means any road or street under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public travel

**punching shear** - shear stress in a slab due to the application of a concentrated load

## Q

**quality assurance (QA)** - the use of sampling and other measures to assure the adequacy of quality control procedures in order to verify or measure the quality level of the entire bridge inspection and load rating program

**quality control (QC)** - procedures that are intended to maintain the quality of a bridge inspection and load rating at or above a specified level

**queen-post truss** - a parallel chord type of truss having three panels with the top chord occupying only the length of the center panel

## R

**railing** - a fence-like construction built at the outermost edge of the roadway or the sidewalk portion of a bridge to protect pedestrians and vehicles; see HANDRAIL

**rake** - an angle of inclination of a surface in relation to a vertical plane; also known as batter

**ramp** - an inclined traffic-way leading from one elevation to another

**range of stress** - the algebraic difference between the minimum and maximum stresses in a member

**raveling** - the consistent loss of aggregate from a pavement resulting in a poor riding surface

**reaction** - the resistance of a support to a load

**rebar** - see REINFORCING BAR

**redundancy** - the structural condition where there are more elements of support than are necessary for stability.

**redundant member** - a member in a bridge which renders it a statically indeterminate structure; the structure would be stable without the redundant member whose primary purpose is to reduce the stresses carried by the determinate structure

**rehabilitation** - significant repair work to a structure

**reinforced concrete** - concrete with steel reinforcing bars embedded in it to supply increased tensile strength and durability

**reinforced concrete pipe** - pipe manufactured of concrete reinforced with steel bars or welded wire fabric

**Reinforced Earth** - proprietary retaining structure made of earth and steel strips connected to concrete facing; the steel strips are embedded in backfill and interlock with the facing; see MSE

**reinforcement** - rods or mesh embedded in concrete to strengthen it

**reinforcing bar** - a steel bar, plain or with a deformed surface, which bonds to the concrete and supplies tensile strength to the concrete

**relaxation** - a decrease in stress caused by creep

**residual stress** - a stress that is trapped in a member after it is formed into its final shape

**resistivity of soil** - an electrical measurement in ohm-cm that estimates the corrosion activity potential of a given soil

**resurfacing** - a layer of wearing surface material that is put over the approach or deck surface in order to create a more uniform riding surface

**Retained Earth** - proprietary retaining structure made of weld wire fabric strips connected to concrete facing; see MSE

**retaining wall** - a structure designed to restrain and hold back a mass of earth

**retractile draw bridge** - a bridge with a superstructure designed to move horizontally, either longitudinally or diagonally, from "closed" to "open" position, the portion acting in cantilever being counterweighted by that supported on rollers; also known as traverse draw bridge

**rib** - curved structural member supporting a curved shape or panel

**rigger** - an individual who erects and maintains scaffolding or other access equipment such as that used for bridge inspection

**rigid frame** - a structural frame in which bending moment is transferred between horizontal and vertical or inclined members by joints

**rigid frame bridge** - a bridge with moment resisting joints between the horizontal portion of the superstructure and vertical or inclined legs

**rigid frame pier** - a pier with two or more columns and a horizontal beam on top constructed monolithically to act like a frame

**rip-rap** - stones, blocks of concrete or other objects placed upon river and stream beds and banks, lake, tidal or other shores to prevent scour by water flow or wave action

**river training structures** - devices that alter the flow of the river

**rivet** - a one-piece metal fastener held in place by forged heads at each end

**riveted joint** - a joint in which the assembled members are fastened by rivets

**roadway** - the portion of the road intended for the use of vehicular traffic

**roadway shoulder** - drivable area immediately adjoining the traveled roadway

**rocker bearing** - a bridge support that accommodates expansion and contraction of the superstructure through a tilting action

**rocker bent** - a bent hinged or otherwise articulated at one or both ends to provide the longitudinal movements resulting from temperature changes and superimposed loads

**rolled shape** - forms of rolled steel having "I", "H", "C", "Z" or other cross sectional shapes

**rolled-steel section** - any hot-rolled steel section including wide flange shapes, channels, angles, etc.

**roller** - a steel cylinder intended to provide longitudinal movements by rolling contact

**roller bearing** - a single roller or a group of rollers so installed as to permit longitudinal movement of a structure

**roller nest** - a group of steel cylinders used to facilitate the longitudinal movements resulting from temperature changes and superimposed loads

**rolling lift bridge** - a bridge of bascule type devised to roll backward and forward upon supporting girders when operated through an "open and closed" cycle

**routine inspection** - regularly scheduled inspection consisting of observations and/or measurements needed to determine the physical and functional condition of the bridge, to identify any changes from initial or previously recorded conditions, and to ensure that the structure continues to satisfy present service requirements.

**routine permit load** - a live load, which has a gross weight, axle weight or distance between axles not conforming with State statutes for legally configured vehicles, authorized for unlimited trips over an extended period of time to move alongside other heavy vehicles on a regular basis.

**rubble** - irregularly shaped pieces of stone in the undressed condition obtained from a quarry and varying in size

**runoff** - the quantity of precipitation that flows from a catchment area past a given point over a certain period

## S

**sacrificial anode** - the anode in a cathodic protection system

**sacrificial coating** - a coating over the base material to provide protection to the base material; examples include galvanizing on steel and aluclading on aluminum

**sacrificial protection** - see CATHODIC PROTECTION

**sacrificial thickness** - additional material thickness provided for extra service life of a member in an aggressive environment

**saddle** - a member located upon the topmost portion of the tower of a suspension bridge which acts as a bearing surface for the catenary cable passing over it

**safe load** - the maximum load that a structure can support with an appropriate factor of safety

**safety belt** - a belt worn in conjunction with a safety line to prevent falling a long distance when working at heights; no longer acceptable as fall protection under OSHA rules

**safety curb** - a curb between 9 inches and 24 inches wide serving as a limited use refuge or walkway for pedestrians crossing a bridge

**safety factor** - the difference between the ultimate strength of a member and the maximum load it is expected to carry

**safety harness** - harness with shoulder, leg, and waist straps of approved OSHA design used as personal fall protection in conjunction with appropriate lanyards and tie off devices

**sag** - to sink or bend downward due to weight or pressure

**scab** - a plank bolted over the joint between two timber members to hold them in correct alignment and strengthen the joint; a short piece of I-beam or other structural shape attached to the flange or web of a metal pile to increase its resistance to penetration; also known as scab piece

**scaling** - the gradual disintegration of a concrete surface due to the failure of the cement paste caused by chemical attack or freezethaw cycles

**scour** - removal of a streambed or bank area by stream flow; erosion of streambed or bank material due to flowing water; often considered as being localized around piers and abutments of bridges

**scour critical bridge** - a bridge with a foundation element that has been determined to be unstable for the observed or evaluated scour condition.

**scour protection** - protection of submerged material by steel sheet piling, rip rap, concrete lining, or combination thereof

**scuba** - self-contained underwater breathing apparatus; a portable breathing device for free swimming divers

**scupper** - an opening in the deck of a bridge to provide means for water accumulated upon the roadway surface to drain

**seam weld** - a weld joining the edges of two members placed in contact; in general, it is not a stress-carrying weld

**seat** - a base on which an object or member is placed

**seat angle** - a piece of angle attached to the side of a member to provide support for a connecting member either temporarily during its erection or permanently; also known as a shelf angle

**secondary member** - a member that does not carry calculated live loads; bracing members

**section loss** - loss of a member's cross sectional area usually by corrosion or decay

**section view** - an internal representation of a structure element as if a slice was made through the element

**seepage** - the slow movement of water through a material

**segmental** - constructed of individual pieces or segments which are collectively joined to form the whole

**segmental arch** - a circular arch in which the intrados is less than a semi-circle

**segregation** - in concrete construction, the separation of large aggregate from the paste during placement

**seismic** - a term referring to earthquakes (e.g., seismic forces)

**semi-stub abutment** - cantilever abutment founded part way up the slope, intermediate in size between a full height abutment and a stub abutment

**service load design** - AASHTO's description for Working Stress Design

**settlement** - the movement of substructure elements due to changes in the soil properties

**shadow vehicle** - vehicle used to prevent vehicles from entering the work zone if the motorist drifts into the lane closure

**shakes** - separations of the wood fibers parallel to the grain between the annual growth rings

**shear** - the load acting across a beam near its support

**shear connectors** - devices that extend from the top flange of a beam and are embedded in the above concrete slab, forcing the beam and the concrete to act as a single unit

**shear force** - equal but opposite forces that tend to slide one section of a member past the adjacent section

**shear spiral** - a coil-shaped component welded to the top flange of a beam, as a shear connector

**shear stress** - the shear force per unit of cross-sectional area; also referred to as diagonal tensile stress

**shear stud** - a type of shear connector in the form of a rod with a head that is attached to a beam with an automatic stud-welding gun

**sheet pile cofferdam** - a wall-like barrier composed of driven piling constructed to surround the area to be occupied by a structure and permit dewatering of the enclosure so that the excavation may be performed in the open air

**sheet piles** - flattened Z-shaped interlocking piles driven into the ground to keep earth or water out of an excavation or to protect an embankment

**sheet piling** - a general or collective term used to describe a number of sheet piles installed to form a crib, cofferdam, bulkhead, etc.; also known as sheeting

**sheet steel** - steel in the form of a relatively thin sheet or plate; for flat rolled steel, specific thicknesses vs. widths are classified by AISI as bar, strip, sheet or plate

**shelf angle** - see SEAT ANGLE

**shim** - a thin plate inserted between two elements to fix their relative position and to transmit bearing stress

**shoe** - a steel or iron member, usually a casting or weldment, beneath the superstructure bearing that transmits and distributes loads to the substructure bearing area

**shop** - a factory or workshop

**shop drawings** - detailed drawings developed from the more general design drawings used in the manufacture or fabrication of bridge components

**shoring** - a strut or prop placed against or beneath a structure to restrain movement; temporary soil retaining structure

**shoulder abutment** - a cantilever abutment extending from the grade line of the road below to that of the road overhead, usually set just off the shoulder; see FULL HEIGHT ABUTMENT

**shoulder area** - see ROADWAY SHOULDER

**shrinkage** - a reduction in volume caused by moisture loss in concrete or timber while drying

**sidewalk** - the portion of the bridge floor area serving pedestrian traffic only

**sidewalk bracket** - frame attached to and projecting from the outside of a girder to serve as a support for the sidewalk stringers, floor and railing or parapet

**sight distance** - the length of roadway ahead that is easily visible to the driver; required sight distances are defined by AASHTO's "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets"

**silt** - very finely divided siliceous or other hard rock material removed from its mother rock through erosive action rather than chemical decomposition

**simple span** - beam or truss with two unrestraining supports near its ends

**S-I-P forms** - see STAY-IN-PLACE FORMS, FORMS

**skew angle** - the angle produced when the longitudinal members of a bridge are not perpendicular to the substructure; the skew angle is the acute angle between the alignment of the bridge and a line perpendicular to the centerline of the substructure units

**skewback** - the inclined support at each end of an arch



**skewback shoe** - the member transmitting the thrust of an arch to the skewback course or cushion course of an abutment or piers; also known as skewback pedestal

**slab** - a wide beam, usually of reinforced concrete, which supports load by flexure

**slab bridge** - a bridge having a superstructure composed of a reinforced concrete slab constructed either as a single unit or as a series of narrow slabs placed parallel with the roadway alignment and spanning the space between the supporting substructure units

**slide** - movement on a slope because of an increase in load or a removal of support at the toe; also known as landslide

**slip form** - to form concrete by advancing a mold

**slope** - the inclination of a surface expressed as a ratio of one unit of rise or fall for so many horizontal units

**slope protection** - a thin surfacing of stone, concrete or other material deposited upon a sloped surface to prevent its disintegration by rain, wind or other erosive action; also known as slope pavement

**slot weld** - see PLUG WELD

**slump** - a measurement taken to determine the stiffness of concrete; the measurement is the loss in height after a cone-shaped mold is lifted

**soffit** - underside of a bridge deck; also see INTRADOS

**soldier beam** - a steel pile driven into the earth with its projecting butt end used as a cantilever beam

**soldier pile wall** - a series of soldier beams supporting horizontal lagging to retain an excavated surface; commonly used in limited right-of-way applications

**soil interaction structure** - a subsurface structure that incorporates both the strength properties of a flexible structure and the support properties of the soil surrounding the structure

**sole plate** - a plate attached to the bottom flange of a beam that distributes the reaction of the bearing to the beam

**solid sawn beam** – a section of tree cut to the desired size at a saw mill

**sounding** - determining the depth of water by an echo-sounder or lead line; tapping a surface to detect delaminations (concrete) or decay (timber)

**spall** - depression in concrete caused by a separation of a portion of the surface concrete, revealing a fracture parallel with or slightly inclined to the surface

**span** - the distance between the supports of a beam; the distance between the faces of the substructure elements; the complete superstructure of a single span bridge or a corresponding integral unit of a multiple span structure; see CLEAR SPAN

**spandrel** - the space bounded by the arch extrados and the horizontal member above it

**spandrel column** - a column constructed on the rib of an arch span and serving as a support for the deck construction of an open spandrel arch; see OPEN SPANDREL ARCH

**spandrel fill** - the fill material placed within the spandrel space of a closed spandrel arch

**spandrel tie** - a wall or a beam-like member connecting the spandrel walls of an arch and securing them against bulging and other deformation; in stone masonry arches the spandrel tie walls served to some extent as counterforts

**spandrel wall** - a wall built on the extrados of an arch filling the space below the deck; see TIE WALLS

**special inspection** - an inspection scheduled at the discretion of the bridge owner, used to monitor a particular known or suspected deficiency

**specifications** - a detailed description of requirements, materials, tolerances, etc., for construction which are not shown on the drawings; also known as specs

**spider** - inspection access equipment consisting of a bucket or basket which moves vertically on wire rope, driven by an electric or compressed air motor

**spillway** - a channel used to carry water away from the top of a slope to an adjoining outlet

**splice** - a structural joint between members to extend their effective length

**splits** - advanced checks that extended completely through the piece of wood

**spread footing** - a foundation, usually a reinforced concrete slab, which distributes load to the earth or rock below the structure

**spring line** - the horizontal line along the face of an abutment or pier at which the intrados of an arch begins

**spurs** - a projecting jetty-like construction placed adjacent to an abutment or embankment to prevent scour

**stage** - inspection access equipment consisting of a flat platform supported by horizontal wire-rope cables; the stage is then slid along the cables to the desired position; a stage is typically 20 inches wide, with a variety of lengths available

**staged construction** - construction performed in phases, usually to permit the flow of traffic through the site

**state transportation department** - the term "state transportation department" means that department, commission, board, or official of any State charged by its laws with the responsibility for highway construction

**statics** - the study of forces and bodies at rest

**station** - 100 feet (U.S. customary); 100 meters (metric)

**stationing** - a system of measuring distance along a baseline

**stay-in-place forms** - a corrugated metal sheet for forming deck concrete that will remain in place after the concrete has set; the forms do not contribute to deck structural capacity after the deck has cured; see FORMS, S.I.P FORMS

**stay plate** - a tie plate or diagonal brace to prevent movement

**steel** - an alloy of iron, carbon, and various other elements

**stem** - the vertical wall portion of an abutment retaining wall, or solid pier; see BREASTWALL

**stiffener** - a small member attached to another member to transfer stress and to prevent buckling

**stiffening girder** - a girder incorporated in a suspension bridge to distribute the traffic loads uniformly among the suspenders and reduce local deflections

**stiffening truss** - a truss incorporated in a suspension bridge to distribute the traffic loads uniformly among the suspenders and reduce local deflections

**stirrup** - U-shaped bar used as a connection device in timber and metal bridges; U-shaped bar placed in concrete to resist diagonal tension (shear) stresses

**stone masonry** - the portion of a structure composed of stone, generally placed in courses with mortar

**straight abutment** - an abutment whose stem and wings are in the same plane or whose stem is included within a length of retaining wall

**strain** - the change in length of a body produced by the application of external forces, measured in units of length; this is the proportional relation of the amount of change in length divided by the original length

**strain hardening** - the effect of increased yield strength when a material has been plastically deformed

**strand** - a number of wires grouped together usually by twisting

**streambanks** - the sloped sides of the channel

**streambed** - the bottom of the channel

**streamflow** - the water, suspended sediment and any debris moving through the channel

**strengthening** - adding to the capacity of a structural member

**stress** - the force acting across a unit area in a solid material

**stress concentration** - local increases in stress caused by a sudden change of cross section in a member

**stress corrosion** – occurs in metals with high tensile forces such as prestressed reinforcement exposed to contaminants such as chlorides

**stress range** - the variation in stress at a point with the passage of live load, from initial dead load value to the maximum additional live load value and back

**stress raiser** - a detail that causes stress concentration

**stress reversal** - change of stress type from tension (+) to compression (-) or vice versa

**stress sheet** - a drawing showing all computed stresses resulting from the application of a system of loads together with the design composition of the individual members resulting from the application of assumed unit stresses for the material to be used in the structure

**stress-laminated timber** – consists of multiple planks mechanically clamped together to perform as one unit

**stringer** - a longitudinal beam spanning between transverse floorbeams and supporting a bridge deck

**strip seal joint** - a joint using a relatively thin neoprene seal fitted into the joint opening

**structural analysis** - engineering computation to determine the carrying capacity of a structure

**structural member** - an individual piece, such as a beam or strut, which is an integral part of a structure

**structural redundancy** - the ability of an interior continuous span to resist total collapse by cantilever action in the event of a fracture

**structural shapes** - the various types of rolled iron and steel having flat, round, angle, channel, "I", "H", "Z" and other cross-sectional shapes adapted to heavy construction

**structural stability** - the ability of a structure to maintain its normal configuration, not collapse or tip in any way, under existing and expected loads

**structural tee** - a tee-shaped rolled member formed by cutting a wide flange longitudinally along the centerline of web

**structurally deficient** – bridges where 1) significant load carrying elements are found to be in poor or worse condition due to deterioration and/or damage or, 2) the adequacy of the waterway opening provided by the bridge is determined to be extremely insufficient to the point of causing intolerable traffic interruptions

**structure** - something, such as a bridge, that is designed and built to sustain a load

**strut** - a member acting to resist axial compressive stress; usually a secondary member

**stub abutment** - an abutment within the topmost portion of an embankment or slope having a relatively small vertical height and usually pile supported; stub abutments may also be founded on spread footings

**subbase** - a layer of material placed between the base course and the subgrade within a flexible pavement structure

**subgrade** - natural earth below the roadway pavement structure

**sub-panel** - a truss panel divided into two parts by an intermediate web member, generally a subdiagonal or a hanger

**substructure** - the abutments and piers built to support the span of a bridge superstructure

**superelevation** - the difference in elevation between the inside and outside edges of a roadway in a horizontal curve; required to counteract the effects of centrifugal force

**superimposed dead load** - dead load that is applied to a compositely designed bridge after the concrete deck has cured; for example, the weight of parapets or railings placed after the concrete deck has cured

**superstructure** - the entire portion of a bridge structure that primarily receives and supports traffic loads and in turn transfers these loads to the bridge substructure

**surface breakdown** - see scaling

**surface corrosion** - rust that has not yet caused measurable section loss

**suspended span** - a simple span supported from the free ends of cantilevers

**suspender** - a vertical wire cable, metal rod, or bar connecting the catenary cable of a suspension bridge or an arch rib to the bridge floor system, transferring loads from the deck to the main members

**suspension bridge** - a bridge in which the floor system is supported by catenary cables that are supported upon towers and are anchored at their extreme ends

**suspension cable** - a catenary cable which is one of the main members upon which the floor system of a suspension bridge is supported; a cable spanning between towers

**swale** - a drainage ditch with moderately sloping sides

**sway anchorage** - a guy, stay cable or chain attached to the floor system of a suspension bridge and anchored upon an abutment or pier to increase the resistance of the suspension span to lateral movement; also known as sway cable

**sway bracing** - diagonal brace located at the top of a through truss, transverse to the truss and usually in a vertical plane, to resist transverse horizontal forces

**sway frame** - a complete panel or frame of sway bracing

**swedged anchor bolt** - anchor bolt with deformations to increase bond in concrete; see ANCHOR BOLT

**swing span bridge** - a movable bridge in which the span rotates in a horizontal plane on a pivot pier, to permit passage of marine traffic

## T

**tack welds** - small welds used to hold member elements in place during fabrication or erection

**tail water** - water ponded below the outlet of a waterway, thereby reducing the amount of flow through the waterway; see HEADWATER

**tape measure** - a long, flexible strip of metal or fabric marked at regular intervals for measuring

**team leader** - individual in charge of an inspection team responsible for planning, preparing, and performing field inspection of the bridge

**tee beam** - a rolled steel section shaped like a "T"; reinforced concrete beam shaped like the letter "T"

**temperature steel** - reinforcement in a concrete member to prevent cracks due to stresses caused by temperature changes

**temporary bridge** - a structure built for emergency or interim use, intended to be removed in a relatively short time

**tendon** - a prestressing cable, strand, or bar

**tensile force** - a force caused by pulling at the ends of a member; see TENSION

**tensile strength** - the maximum tensile stress at which a material fails

**tension** - stress that tends to pull apart material

**thalweg elevation** - lowest elevation of the streambed

**thermal movement** - contraction and expansion of a structure due to a change in temperature

**three-hinged arch** - an arch that is hinged at each support and at the crown

**through arch** - an arch bridge in which the deck passes between the arches

**through girder bridge** - normally a two-girder bridge where the deck is between the supporting girders

**tie** - a member carrying tension

**tie plate** - relatively short, flat member carrying tension forces across a transverse member; for example, the plate connecting a floor beam cantilever to the main floor beam on the opposite side of a longitudinal girder; see STAY PLATE

**tie rod** - a rod-like member in a frame functioning to transmit tensile stress; also known as tie bar

**tie walls** - one of the walls built at intervals above an arch ring connecting and supporting the spandrel walls; any wall designed to serve as a restraining member to prevent bulging and distortion of two other walls connected thereby; see DIAPHRAGM WALL

**timber** - wood suitable for construction purposes

**toe** - the front portion of a footing from the intersection of the front face of the wall or abutment to the front edge of the footing; the line where the side slope of an embankment meets the existing ground

**toe of slope** - the location defined by the intersection of the embankment with the surface existing at a lower elevation; also known as toe

**toe wall** - a relatively low retaining wall placed near the "toe of slope" location of an embankment to protect against scour or to prevent the accumulation of stream debris; also known as footwall

**ton** - a unit of weight equal to 2,000 pounds

**torque** - the angular force causing rotation

**torque wrench** - a hand or power tool used to turn a nut on a bolt that can be adjusted to deliver a predetermined amount of torque

**torsion** - twisting about the longitudinal axis of a member

**torsional force** - an external moment that tends to rotate or twist a member about its longitudinal axis

**torsional rigidity** - a beam's capacity to resist a twisting force along the longitudinal axis

**toughness** - a measure of the energy required to break a material

**tower** - a pier or frame supporting the catenary cables of a suspension bridge

**traffic control** - modification of normal traffic patterns by signs, cones, flagmen, etc.

**transducer** - a device that converts one form of energy into another form, usually electrical into mechanical or the reverse; the part of ultrasonic testing device which transmits and receives sound waves\

**transient loads** - temporary loads that change over time

**transverse bracing** - the bracing assemblage engaging the columns of bents and towers in planes transverse to the bridge alignment that resists the transverse forces tending to produce lateral movement and deformation of the columns

**transverse girder** - see CROSS GIRDER

**travel way** - the roadway

**tremie** - a piece of construction equipment (e.g., pipe or funnel) used to place concrete underwater

**trestle** - a bridge structure consisting of spans supported on braced towers or frame bents

**truck loading** - a combination of loads used to simulate a single truck passing over a bridge

**truss** - a jointed structure made up of individual members primarily carrying axial loads arranged and connected in triangular panels

**truss bridge** - a bridge having a pair of trusses for a superstructure

**trussed beam** - a beam stiffened to reduce its deflection by a steel tie-rod that is held at a short distance from the beam by struts

**truss panel** - see PANEL

**tubular sections** - structural steel tubes, rectangular, square or circular; also known as hollow sections

**tubular truss** - a truss whose chords and struts are composed of pipes or cylindrical tubes

**tunnel** - an underground passage, open to daylight at both ends

**turnbuckle** - a long, cylindrical, internally threaded nut with opposite hand threads at either end used to connect the elements of adjustable rod and bar members

**two-hinged arch** - a rigid frame that may be arch-shaped or rectangular with hinges at both supports

## U

**U-bolt** - a bar bent in the shape of the letter "U" and fitted with threads and nuts at its ends

**ultimate strength** - the highest stress that a material can withstand before breaking

**ultrasonic thickness gage** - an instrument used to measure the thickness of a steel element using a probe which emits and receives sound waves

**ultrasonic testing** - nondestructive testing of a material's integrity using sound waves

**undermining** - the scouring away of stream and supporting foundation material from beneath the substructure footing



**underpass** - the lowermost feature of a grade separated crossing; see OVERPASS

**underwater diver bridge inspection training** - training that covers all aspects of underwater bridge inspection and enables inspectors to relate the conditions of underwater bridge elements to established criteria (see the Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual section on underwater inspection for the recommended material to be covered in an underwater diver bridge inspection training course).

**underwater inspection** - inspection of the underwater portion of a bridge substructure and the surrounding channel, which cannot be inspected visually at low water by wading or probing, generally requiring diving or other appropriate techniques.

**uniform load** - a load of constant magnitude along the length of a member

**unit stress** - the force per unit of surface or cross-sectional area

**uplift** - a negative reaction or a force tending to lift a beam, truss, pile, or any other bridge element upwards

**upper chord** - the top longitudinal member of a truss

## V

**vertical** - describes the axis of a bridge perpendicular to the underpass surface

**vertical alignment** - a roadway's centerline or baseline alignment in the vertical plane

**vertical clearance** - the distance between the structure and the underpass

**vertical curve** - a sag or crest in the profile of a roadway, usually in the form of a parabola, to transition between grades

**vertical lift bridge** - a bridge in which the span moves up and down while remaining parallel to the roadway

**viaduct** - a series of spans carried on piers at short intervals

**vibration** - the act of vibrating concrete to compact it

**Vierendeel truss** - a truss with only chords and verticals joined with rigid connections designed to transfer moment

**voided slab** - a precast concrete deck unit cast with cylindrical voids to reduce dead load

**voids** - an empty or unfilled space in concrete

**Vousoir** - one of the truncated wedge-shaped stones composing a ring course in a stone arch; also known as ring stone

**voussoir arch** - an arrangement of wedge shaped blocks set to form an arched bridge

## W

**wale, waler** - horizontal bracing running along the inside walls of a sheeted pit or cofferdam

**Warren truss** - a triangular truss consisting of sloping members between the top and bottom chords and no verticals; members form the letter W

**washer** - a small metal ring used beneath the nut or the head of a bolt to distribute the load or reduce galling during tightening

**watercement ratio** - the weight of water divided by the weight of portland cement in concrete; this ratio is a major factor in the strength of concrete

**waterproofing membrane** - an impervious layer placed between the wearing surface and the concrete deck, used to protect the deck from water and corrosive chemicals that could damage it

**waterway area** - the entire area beneath the bridge which is available to pass flood flows

**waterway opening** - the available width for the passage of water beneath a bridge

**wear** - gradual removal of surface mortar due to friction

**wearing surface** - the topmost layer of material applied upon a roadway to receive the traffic loads and to resist the resulting disintegrating action; also known as wearing course

**web** - the portion of a beam located between and connected to the flanges; the stem of a dumbbell type pier

**web crippling** - damage caused by high compressive stresses resulting from concentrated loads

**web members** - the intermediate members of a truss, not including the end posts, usually vertical or inclined

**web plate** - the plate forming the web element of a plate girder, built-up beam or column

**web stiffener** - a small member welded to a beam web to prevent buckling of the web

**weep hole** - a hole in a concrete retaining wall to provide drainage of the water in the retained soil

**weld** - a joint between pieces of metal at faces that have been made plastic and caused to flow together by heat or pressure

**weldability** - the degree to which steel can be welded without using special techniques, such as pre-heating

**welded bridge structure** - a structure whose metal elements are connected by welds

**welded joint** - a joint in which the assembled elements and members are connected by welds

**welding** - the process of making a welded joint

**weld layer** - a single thickness of weld metal composed of beads (runs) laid in contact to form a pad weld or a portion of a weld made up of superimposed beads

**weld metal** - fused filler metal added to the fused structure metal to produce a welded joint or a weld layer

**weld penetration** - the depth beneath the original surface to which the structure metal has been fused in the making of a fusion weld; see PENETRATION

**weld sequence** - the order of succession required for making the welds of a built-up piece or the joints of a structure, to minimize distortion and residual stresses

**weld toe** - particularly in a fillet weld, the thin end of the taper furthest from the center of the weld cross section

**wheel guard** - a raised curb along the outside edge of traffic lanes to safeguard constructions outside the roadway limit from collision with vehicles

**wheel load** - the load carried by and transmitted to the supporting structure by one wheel of a traffic vehicle, a movable bridge, or other motive equipment or device; see AXLE LOAD

**weep hole** - a hole in a concrete element (abutment backwall or retaining wall) used to drain water from behind the element; any small hole installed for drainage

**Whipple truss** - a double-intersecting through Pratt truss where the diagonals extend across two panels

**wide flange** - a rolled I-shaped member having flange plates of rectangular cross section, differentiated from an S-beam (American Standard) in that the flanges are not tapered

**wind bracing** - the bracing systems that function to resist the stresses induced by wind forces

**wind lock** - a lateral restraining device found on steel girder and truss bridges

**wingwall** - the retaining wall extension of an abutment intended to restrain and hold in place the side slope material of an approach roadway embankment

**wire mesh reinforcement** - a mesh made of steel wires welded together at their intersections used to reinforce concrete; welded wire fabric

**wire rope** - steel cable of multiple strands which are composed of steel wires twisted together

**working stress** - the unit stress in a member under service or design load

**working stress design** - a method of design using the yield stress of a material and a factor of safety that determine the maximum allowable stresses

**wrought iron** - cast iron that has been mechanically worked to remove slag and undissolved carbon

**wythe** - a single layer of brick or stone in the thickness direction

## **X**

**X-ray testing** - nondestructive testing technique used for detecting internal flaws by passing X-rays through a material to film or other detector

## **Y**

**yield** - permanent deformation (permanent set) which a metal piece takes when it is stressed beyond the elastic limit

**yield point** - see YIELD STRESS

**yield stress** - the stress at which noticeable, suddenly increased deformation occurs under slowly increasing load

**yield strength** - the stress level at which plastic deformation begins

## **Z**

**zee** - steel member shaped like a modified "Z" in cross section

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# Index

## INDEX

	Page		Page
AASHTO	5.1.1	Alternate military loading	5.1.7
AASHTO detail categories for load induced fatigue	6.4.33	Aluminum	6.3.35
Categories A to E'	6.4.33	properties of	6.3.35
Category A	6.4.34	deficiencies	6.3.35
Category B	6.4.34	Anchor blocks	9.11.32
Category B'	6.4.36	Anodic protection	6.2.40
Category C	6.4.34	Appendices, report	4.6.5
Category C'	6.4.37		4.6.10
Category D	6.4.34	Appraisal Rating Items	4.1.15
Category E	6.4.35		4.2.7
Category E'	6.4.37	Approach guardrail	7.6.2
Category F (former)	6.4.33	identification and appraisal	7.6.13
Abrasion	6.2.31	inspection	7.6.17
Absorption	6.2.5	Approach roadway and embankment, culvert	14.1.29
	6.2.35	Approach roadway alignment	4.2.8
Abutments	12.1.1	Arch bridges	3.1.42
design characteristics	12.1.2	Arch bridges, concrete	9.5.1
abutment members	12.1.15	common deficiencies	9.5.9
abutment types	12.1.2	design characteristics	9.5.1
foundation types	12.1.17	evaluation	9.5.16
primary materials	12.1.12	inspection methods and locations	9.5.10
reinforcement	12.1.14	primary and secondary members	9.5.5
evaluation	12.1.42	steel reinforcement	9.5.7
inspection methods and locations	12.1.23	Arch bridges, steel	10.5.1
Accelerometers	15.4.4	Arch bridges, timber	8.1.6
Access,	2.1.8		5.2.4
tools for	2.4.5	Arch shaped culverts	14.1.12
Access equipment,	2.5.1	Armoring countermeasures	13.1.9
underwater inspection	13.3.47	Asbestos sheet packing between metal plates	11.1.6
Access, methods of	2.5.1	Asphaltic expansion joint	7.5.7
Access vehicles	2.5.11	ASR evaluation	15.2.14
Accidents, causes of	2.2.8	Assembly joint seal	7.5.5
Acoustic emissions testing	15.3.1	Assembly joint without seal	7.5.9
Acoustic wave sonic/ultrasonic		At-grade casting	9.11.4
velocity measurements	15.2.1	Attire, proper inspection	2.2.2
ADT	4.4.5	Axial forces	5.1.10
	4.6.2	Backwall	12.1.14
ADTT	4.4.5	Balanced cantilever construction	9.11.12
	4.6.2	Barges	2.5.4
Admixture	6.2.2	Barrel, culvert	14.1.35
Advanced bridge evaluation	15.4.1	Bascule bridges	3.1.45
Aerial obstruction lighting	7.5.17		16.2.6
Agency developed elements	4.3.10	Design characteristics	16.2.6
Aggradation	13.2.4	multi-trunnion (Strauss) bridge	16.2.11
Aggregate	6.2.2	rolling lift (Scherzer) bridge	16.2.7
Air entrainment	6.2.2	simple trunnion (Chicago) bridge	16.2.8
Alignment of deck joints	7.5.21	Special elements	16.2.29
Alkali-Silica Reaction	6.2.28	center locks	16.2.34
Allowable stress design	5.1.22	Hopkins frame	16.2.33
		racks and pinions	16.2.30
		rolling lift tread and track castings	16.2.29

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
tail (rear) locks	16.2.33	deck interaction	10.3.5
transverse locks	16.2.35	design characteristics	10.3.2
trunnions and trunnion bearings	16.2.32	evaluation	10.3.11
Beams, timber	8.1.8	fracture critical areas	10.3.5
	8.2.2	fracture critical members	10.3.10
Bearings	3.1.50	inspection methods and locations	10.3.6
elements	3.1.50	primary and secondary members	10.3.3
materials	3.1.50	Braided rivers	13.1.6
purpose	3.1.50	Breakaway end treatments	7.6.14
types	3.1.50	Breastwall	12.1.15
Bearing areas, timber	8.1.9	Bridge barriers	3.1.33
	8.2.8	Bridge closing procedure	4.5.6
	8.3.7	Bridge design loadings	5.1.1
Bearing surface	11.1.2	Bridge Inspection forms	4.4.7
Bearings,		Bridge inspection reporting	4.1.1
general inspection procedures for	2.1.11	Bridge inspectors, fundamentals for	2.1.1
inspection and evaluation of	11.1.1	Bridge length N.B.I.S.	3.1.2
elements of	11.1.2	Bridge management	4.1.16
evaluation of	11.1.39	elements	4.3.7
inspection of	11.1.24	Bridge member orientation	4.4.12
types and functionality	11.1.4	Bridge posting	5.1.26
Bending forces	5.1.11	Bridge railing	3.1.33
Bending moment	5.1.11		7.6.2
Bent cap	12.2.13	identification and appraisal	7.6.11
Bents	3.1.55	inspection	7.6.16
	12.2.1	AASHTO requirements for	7.6.5
Bituminous coating, culverts	14.1.36	Bridge record, maintain accurately	1.2.3
Bituminous paved inverts, culverts	14.1.36	Bridge response to loadings	5.1.10
Bituminous wearing surfaces	7.1.6	Bridge seat	12.1.15
	7.2.7	Bridge structure file	2.1.3
	7.3.2		4.4.1
	7.4.8	Bridge terminology	3.1.1
Blocked flanges	6.4.66	Brinell hardness test	15.3.13
Boats	2.5.4	Brittle fracture	6.4.9
Boatswain chairs	2.5.6	Brittleness	5.1.20
Boring	15.1.6	Bronze bearing plates	11.1.5
Bosun chairs	2.5.6	Bucket trucks	2.5.12
Box culverts	14.1.13	Buckle plate decks	7.4.2
	14.3.6	Buckling	5.1.19
Box culverts, concrete	14.2.1	Burying end treatments	7.6.14
Box girders, concrete	9.11.1	Cable-stayed bridges	16.1.2
common deficiencies	9.11.17	anchorage and connections	16.1.19
construction methods	9.11.2	cable arrangements and systems	16.1.14
design characteristics	9.11.2	cable planes	16.1.16
evaluation	9.11.37	vibrations	16.1.21
inspection methods and locations	9.11.18	inspection methods and procedures	16.1.27
primary members	9.11.5	anchorage	16.1.35
steel reinforcement	9.11.5	cable sheathing assembly	16.1.29
Box girders, steel	10.3.1	cable wrapping	16.1.28
common deficiencies	10.6.6	dampers	16.1.31
configurations	10.3.2		



## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
inspection elements	16.1.28	Channel elements	13.1.4
other inspection items	16.1.36	Channel protection	4.2.5
recordkeeping and documentation	16.1.37	Channel types	13.1.5
Cable-supported bridges,	3.1.43	Charpy impact test	15.3.13
advanced inspection	16.1.1	Cheek wall	12.1.15
common deficiencies	16.1.37	Chemical analysis	15.3.14
design characteristics	16.1.22	Chemical attack	6.1.19
evaluation	16.1.2		6.2.34
Cables	16.1.38	Chloride test	15.2.13
Caddisflies	3.1.17	Circular culverts	14.1.11
Caissons	6.1.16	Cleaning, tools for	2.4.3
Camber	5.1.35	Cleaning, underwater inspection	13.3.48
	9.8.8	Cleanout plugs	7.5.13
	9.10.18	Climbers	2.5.5
Cantilever pier	12.2.4	Climbing	2.5.6
Cantilever span	5.1.30	Climbing safety	2.2.10
Carbonation	6.2.34	Closed spandrel arch,	9.5.2
	15.2.12	common deficiencies	9.5.9
Carbon equivalent equation	15.3.14	design characteristics	9.5.2
Carpenter ants	6.1.16	evaluation	9.5.16
Cast-in-place slab,	9.1.1	inspection methods and locations	9.5.10
common deficiencies	9.1.3	primary members	9.5.6
design characteristics	9.1.2	steel reinforcement	9.5.8
evaluation	9.1.10	Coating failures	6.3.13
inspection methods and locations	9.1.4	Collision damage	6.1.22
steel reinforcement	9.1.2		6.2.30
Cast iron,	6.3.33		6.3.12
properties of	6.3.34	Column	12.2.13
deficiencies	6.3.34	Column bent	12.2.5
Category A	6.4.34		13.3.21
Category B	6.4.34	Column pier	12.2.2
Category B'	6.4.36	Column pier with a web wall	12.2.3
Category C	6.4.34	Comparator	6.2.18
Category C'	6.4.37	Complex bridges	16.1.1
Category D	6.4.34	Components, bridge	3.1.2
Category E	6.4.35	Composite action	5.1.32
Category E'	6.4.34		7.2.3
Cathodic protection	6.2.39		9.9.7
	7.2.9		9.10.2
Catwalks,		Component condition rating guidelines	4.2.1
general	2.5.8	Comprehensive routine inspection report,	4.6.8
safety	2.2.13	basic components of	4.6.8
Cellular seal	7.5.4	Compression	5.1.19
Centrifugal force, vehicular	5.1.9	Compression members, axially-loaded	3.1.9
Channel beams,	9.4.1	Compression joint seal	7.5.3
common deficiencies	9.4.4	Computed tomography	15.3.7
design characteristics	9.4.2	Conclusions, report	4.6.9
evaluation	9.4.10	Concrete	6.2.1
inspection methods and locations	9.4.4	Concrete advanced inspection methods	15.2.1
primary and secondary members	9.4.2	Concrete arch culverts	14.2.5
steel reinforcement	9.4.2	Concrete arches	9.5.1

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Concrete box culverts	14.2.2	Concrete permeability	15.2.12
Concrete bridge coatings,		Concrete pipe culverts	14.2.4
inspection of	6.2.43	Concrete, prestressed	6.2.11
areas to inspect	6.2.43	Concrete, properties of	6.2.5
coating failures	6.2.43	basic ingredients	6.2.1
Concrete bridges, protective systems for	6.2.36	high performance	6.2.6
Concrete coatings,		mechanical properties	6.2.5
types and characteristics of	6.2.36	physical properties	6.2.5
epoxy paint	6.2.37	ultra-high performance	6.2.7
latex paint	6.2.36	Concrete strength	15.2.12
oil-based paint	6.2.36	Concrete two-girder systems	9.3.1
paint	6.2.36	common deficiencies	9.3.4
urethanes	6.2.37	design characteristics	9.3.2
water repellent sealers	6.2.38	evaluation	9.3.10
Concrete conventionally reinforced	6.2.7	inspection methods and locations	9.3.5
Concrete culverts	14.1.15	primary and secondary members	9.3.3
Concrete decks,	7.2.1	steel reinforcement	9.3.3
common deficiencies	7.2.11	Concrete wearing surfaces	7.1.6
design characteristics	7.2.1		7.2.6
evaluation	7.2.16		7.4.7
inspection methods and locations	7.2.12	Condition, overall	2.1.6
protective systems	7.2.8	Condition rating items	4.1.15
wearing surfaces	7.2.6		4.2.1
Concrete deficiencies,		Condition state assessment	4.3.11
anticipated modes of	6.2.15	Confined spaces	2.2.15
abrasion	6.2.31	Condition states	4.3.11
alkali-Silica Reaction	6.2.28	Connections	3.1.18
carbonation	6.2.34	Connections, bolted	3.1.21
chloride contamination	6.2.26	Connections, pin	3.1.18
collision damage	6.2.30	Connections, pin and hanger	3.1.22
cracking	6.2.15	Connections, riveted	3.1.20
delamination	6.2.25	Connections, splice	3.1.23
efflorescence	6.2.27	Connections, welded	3.1.22
ettringite formation	6.2.29	Construction data	4.6.2
freeze-thaw	6.2.26	Continuity	9.9.5
honeycombs	6.2.29	Continuous roving	6.6.7
internal steel corrosion	6.2.33	Continuous span	5.1.29
loss of prestress	6.2.33	Conventionally reinforced cast-in-place decks	7.2.1
overload damage	6.2.32	Coped flanges	6.4.65
pop-outs	6.2.29	Core sampling, concrete	15.2.12
scaling	6.2.23	Corrosion areas	6.4.67
spalling	6.2.25	Corrosion of steel	6.3.9
wear	6.2.30	Corrosion sensors	15.3.3
Concrete, fiber reinforced polymer applications	6.2.11	Corrugated metal culverts	14.3.12
Concrete-filled decks	7.4.5	Corrugated steel decks	7.4.2
Concrete frame culverts	14.2.6	Coupons, steel test	15.3.13
Concrete inspection, general principles of	2.1.13	Covered bridge arches	8.1.6
Concrete, inspection methods of	6.2.40	Covered bridges, timber	8.1.3
advanced inspection methods	6.2.41	Covered bridges, arches	8.1.4
physical examination	6.2.40	Covers, timber	8.1.4
visual examination	6.2.40	Crack initiation	6.4.8

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Crack propagation	6.4.8	Dead loads	5.1.2
Cracking	6.2.15	Decay	6.1.10
Crack orientation	6.4.66	Deck	3.1.24
Cracks parallel to primary stress	6.4.66	function	3.1.25
Cracks perpendicular to primary stress	6.4.66	materials	3.1.26
Creep	5.1.17	purpose	3.1.24
	6.6.11	types	3.1.25
Critical findings	4.6.12	composite	3.1.25
	5.1.20	non-composite	3.1.25
Critical findings	4.5.1	Deck appurtenances	3.1.31
bridge closing procedure	4.5.6	Deck arches	10.5.2
definition	4.5.1	common deficiencies	10.5.11
office priority maintenance procedures	4.5.4	design characteristics	10.5.2
procedures	4.5.1	evaluation	10.5.21
procedures for Inspectors	4.5.2	fracture critical members	10.5.6
Critical findings, examples of	4.5.6	general characteristics	10.5.2
concrete	4.5.7	inspection methods and locations	10.5.12
other examples of critical findings	4.5.9	load transfer	10.5.6
roadside hardware or safety features	4.5.8	primary and secondary members	10.5.5
signs and lighting	4.5.8	Decks, basic inspection procedures for	2.1.10
steel	4.5.8	Deck drainage	7.5.13
timber	4.5.6	Deck drainage system	3.1.33
Culvert	14.1.1		7.5.13
differentiation, culverts and bridges	14.1.4	Deck drains and inlets	7.5.13
distress	14.1.26	Deck joints	3.1.31
durability	14.1.6		7.5.1
	14.1.35	common problems	7.5.18
end treatments	14.1.18	components of	7.5.1
hydraulic features	14.1.5	evaluation	7.5.27
	14.1.22	function of	7.5.1
inspection	14.1.2	inspection locations and methods	7.5.19
	14.1.28	Deck trusses	10.4.3
maintenance needs	14.1.4	Decompression sickness	13.3.38
materials	3.1.61	Deep foundations	5.1.35
	14.1.15		12.1.18
performance	14.1.25	Defect flags	4.3.9
protective systems	14.1.36	Deficiencies	
purpose	3.1.61	identification	4.4.18
	14.1.2	location	4.4.19
safety	2.2.17	qualification	4.4.19
	14.1.3	quantification	4.4.19
shapes	14.1.11	Deformation	5.1.16
soil and water conditions	14.1.35	Degradation	13.2.4
structural characteristics	14.1.6	Delamination,	
types	3.1.61	concrete	6.2.25
Culvert condition ratings	4.2.6	timber	6.1.20
Current, dealing with	13.3.35	Delamination detection machinery	15.2.3
Damage inspections	2.1.15	Design data	4.6.2
Data recording	2.4.12	Details and deficiencies	6.4.44
hardware	2.4.12	initial deficiencies	6.4.44
software	2.4.12	low fatigue strength details	6.4.44

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Deviation blocks	9.11.33	Drilling	15.1.6
Diagonals	10.4.12	Ductile fracture	6.4.9
Diaphragms and cross bracing, general		Ductility	5.1.20
timber bridges	8.1.7		6.6.11
	8.2.5	Duties of the bridge inspection team	2.1.1
concrete bridges	8.3.5	Dye penetrant	15.3.4
	9.2.2	Dynamic load testing	15.4.5
	9.3.3	E-glass	6.6.7
	9.4.2	Earth loads	5.1.2
	9.8.3	Earth pressure	5.1.2
	9.9.7	Earthquake	5.1.9
steel bridges	9.10.7	Eddy current	15.3.11
	10.1.9	Efflorescence	6.2.27
	10.2.5	Elastic deformation	5.1.17
	10.3.3	Elastomeric bearings	11.1.13
	10.4.24	Electrical methods	15.2.3
	10.5.5	Electrical resistivity	14.1.35
	10.5.8	Electrochemical fatigue sensor (EFS)	15.3.12
	10.5.10	Electromagnetic methods	15.2.6
	10.6.7	Element dimensions	4.4.14
Dimensions	4.4.14	Element identification	4.4.12
Dirt and debris accumulation in deck joints	7.5.20	Element level,	4.3.1
Discontinuous roving	6.6.8	evaluation	4.3.1
Displacement sensor	15.4.3	Elements, bridge	2.1.12
Dive team requirements	13.3.15	Element level rating terminology	4.3.3
Diver-inspectors, qualifications of	13.3.13	agency developed elements	4.3.3
Diver training and certification	13.3.14	Bridge Management Elements (BMEs)	4.3.3
Diving equipment	13.3.42	condition state	4.3.3
Diving inspection intensity levels	13.3.4	defect flags	4.3.3
Level I	13.3.4	environments	4.3.3
Level II	13.3.4	feasible actions	4.3.3
Level III	13.3.6	National Bridge Elements (NBEs)	4.3.3
Diving regulations, federal commercial	13.3.13	sub-elements	4.3.3
Documentation, tools for	2.4.4	Elliptical culverts	14.1.12
Dolphins and fenders	12.2.14	Elongation	5.1.19
inspection locations	12.2.37	Endoscopes and videoscopes	15.2.13
Downspout pipes	7.5.13	End treatments	7.6.3
	7.5.25	identification and appraisal	7.6.14
Drainage systems	3.1.33	inspection	7.6.19
common problems	7.5.1	End treatments, culvert	14.1.18
components of	7.5.18	distress	14.1.31
evaluation	7.5.1	Environments	4.3.12
function of	7.5.27	Epoxies	6.3.18
inspection locations and methods	7.5.1		6.6.7
Drainage troughs	7.5.19	Epoxy coated reinforcement bars	7.2.8
	7.5.13	Epoxy mastics	6.3.19
	7.5.24	Epoxy paint	6.2.37
Drawings and sketches	4.4.16	Epoxy polymers	7.2.8
	4.6.7		7.3.2
	4.6.11	Equilibrium	5.1.10
Drift and debris, dealing with	13.3.36	Equipment, inspection	2.2.11

## INDEX

	Page		Page
Equipment, inspection safety	2.2.2	factors that determine fatigue behavior	6.4.10
boats/skiff	2.2.8	fatigue life	6.4.9
dust mask/respirator	2.2.6	fracture toughness	6.4.11
gloves	2.2.4	fracture	6.4.8
hard hat	2.2.3	Fan cable system	16.1.15
life jacket	2.2.5	Fathometer	13.3.58
reflective safety vest	2.2.3	Fatigue	5.1.20
safety goggles	2.2.4		6.4.3
safety harness and lanyard	2.2.7	Fatigue and fracture in steel	6.4.1
Ettringite formation	6.2.29	Flange terminations	6.4.64
Executive summary	4.6.2	Fatigue life	6.4.9
Exodermic decks	7.4.7	Feasible actions	4.3.11
External permanent load	5.1.2	Federal Highway Administration training	1.1.7
Eyebars	10.7.1	Fenders	12.2.14
common deficiencies	10.9.12	FHWA Structure, Inventory, and Appraisal	4.1.1
design characteristics	10.9.5	Fiber reinforced concrete deck	7.2.7
development	10.9.5	Fiber reinforced polymer composites for	
evaluation	10.9.24	repair and retrofit of,	
forging	10.9.7	concrete	6.6.1
inspection methods and locations	10.9.13	steel	6.6.2
redundancy	10.9.11	timber	6.6.3
Fabricated multi-girders	10.1.1	Fiber reinforced polymer (FRP)	
common deficiencies	10.1.11	construction methods	6.6.12
design characteristics	10.1.3	fiber reinforced concrete	6.6.13
evaluation	10.1.20	fiber reinforced polymer	6.6.12
fracture critical areas	10.1.10	hand lay-up	6.6.12
function of stiffeners	10.1.8	pultrusion	6.6.13
haunched girder design	10.1.7	vacuum assisted resin-transfer	
inspection methods and locations	10.1.11	molding	6.6.12
primary and secondary members	10.1.9	deficiencies of	6.6.14
Fabrication flaws	6.4.17	blistering	6.6.14
Factors affecting fatigue crack initiation	6.4.11	cracking	6.6.17
fabrication deficiencies	6.4.17	discoloration	6.6.15
in-service deficiencies	6.4.24	fiber Exposure	6.6.16
material deficiencies	6.4.16	scratches	6.6.17
transportation and erection deficiencies	6.4.24	voids and delamination	6.6.15
welds	6.4.12	wrinkling	6.6.15
fillet welds	6.4.12	inspection locations	6.6.22
groove welds	6.4.12	inspection methods of,	6.6.18
plug welds	6.4.12	advanced inspection methods	6.6.20
tack welds	6.4.12	physical	6.6.19
Factors affecting fatigue crack propagation	6.4.25	visual	6.6.18
flange crack failure process	6.4.27	new construction of,	6.6.1
inspection of details	6.4.47	decks and slabs	6.6.4
number of cycles	6.4.26	reinforcement	6.6.4
stress range	6.4.26	superstructure members	6.6.5
type of detail	6.4.26	properties of,	6.6.6
web crack failure process	6.4.31	composition	6.6.6
Failure mechanics	6.4.8	forms of reinforcement fibers	6.6.8
crack initiation	6.4.8	types of additives	6.6.7
crack propagation	6.4.8	types of matrix resins	6.6.7

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
types of reinforcement fibers	6.6.7	Floor system arrangement	10.2.3
mechanical properties	6.6.10		10.4.19
physical properties	6.6.10		10.6.6
Fiber reinforced polymer deck	3.1.29	inspection	10.4.35
	7.3.1		10.5.13
common deficiencies	7.3.3	Footing	12.1.14
design characteristics	7.3.1		12.2.13
evaluation	7.3.7	Footing aprons	13.1.10
inspection methods and locations	7.3.3	Force	5.1.16
wearing surfaces	7.3.2	Forging	10.9.7
Fiberglass reinforced polymer (FRP) bars	7.2.9	Forms, standard	4.4.7
Field inspection notes	4.6.7	Foundations	5.1.35
	4.6.11	Fracture	6.4.8
Field Ohmmeter	15.1.9	Fracture critical bridge members and	
Fillet welds	6.4.12	connections	6.4.43
Finger plate joints	7.5.9	arches	10.5.6
Fire	6.1.21	arches, through	10.5.9
Fire retardants	6.1.28	arches, tied	10.5.11
	7.1.6	box girders	10.3.10
Fixed bearings	11.1.2	eyebars	10.9.22
Flange terminations	6.4.64	fabricated girders	10.1.10
Flaring end treatments	7.6.14	two girders	10.2.16
Flat jack testing	15.2.7	Fracture critical bridge types	6.4.43
Flexible culverts	14.3.1	Fracture critical inspections	2.1.16
common deficiencies	14.3.7	Fracture critical member	6.4.3
design characteristics	14.3.2	Fracture critical member, evaluation	6.4.67
evaluation	14.3.10	Fracture criticality	6.4.43
inspection methods and locations	14.3.8	Details and deficiencies	6.4.44
structural behavior	14.3.2	Fracture toughness	6.4.11
types and shapes	14.3.3	Frame culverts	14.1.14
box	14.3.6	Frame girder	10.6.7
corrugated pipe	14.3.5	Frame knee	10.6.7
long span culvert	14.3.5	Frame leg	10.6.7
plastic	14.3.6	Friction pendulum bearings	11.1.19
structural plate	14.3.5	Full height abutment	12.1.6
Flexure cracks	6.2.11	Fumigants	7.1.6
Floating bridges	3.1.46	Functionally obsolete	4.2.11
	16.3.1	Fundamentals for bridge inspectors	2.1.1
common deficiencies	16.3.12	Fungi	6.1.11
design characteristics	16.3.2	Gabions	13.1.9
anchoring systems	16.3.7	Galvanic action	6.3.19
open-cell gravity block anchor	16.3.10	Galvanized reinforcement bars	7.2.8
pile anchor	16.3.9	Galvanizing	6.3.20
pontoons	16.3.3		7.4.8
solid gravity slab anchor	16.3.11	Geosynthetic reinforced soil abutment (GRS)	12.1.10
precast concrete fluke style anchor	16.3.8	Girder-floorbeam-stringer system	10.2.3
evaluation	16.3.17	Girder-floorbeam system	10.2.3
inspection methods and locations	16.3.12	Global positioning satellite (GPS)	15.4.4
Floats	2.5.6	Glue-laminated deck panels	7.1.2
Floorbeams, timber	8.1.4	Glue-laminated multi-beam bridges	8.2.2
	8.1.7	common deficiencies	8.2.6

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
design characteristics	8.2.2	Hydraulic opening	13.1.8
evaluation	8.2.12		13.2.2
inspection methods and locations	8.2.7	Hydrologic analysis, culvert	14.1.22
Glulam arch bridges	8.2.4	Ice load	5.1.9
Grates	7.5.13	Identification of components and elements	2.1.3
Gravel wearing surface	7.4.8	“Imaginary cable-imaginary arch” rule	10.4.12
Grid decks	7.4.3	Impact-echo testing	15.2.7
Groove welds	6.4.12	In-depth bridge inspection report	4.6.1
Ground-penetrating radar	13.3.59	basic components of	4.6.1
	15.2.4	In-depth inspections	2.1.16
Guide signs	7.5.18	In-service flaws	6.4.24
Gusset plates	10.8.1	Incremental launching construction	9.11.16
common deficiencies	10.8.12	Infrared thermography	15.2.8
design characteristics	10.8.4	Initial deficiencies	6.4.44
connecting primary members	10.8.4	Initial inspections	2.1.15
connecting secondary members	10.8.11	Inlet systems	7.5.13
evaluation	10.8.12		7.5.24
inspection methods and locations	10.8.12	Insects	6.1.14
areas with corrosion	10.8.15	caddisflies	6.1.16
areas subject to overstress	10.8.23	carpenter ants	6.1.16
areas susceptible to fatigue cracking	10.8.21	powder-post or lyctus beetles	6.1.15
areas with paint failure	10.8.24	termites	6.1.14
areas with tack welds	10.8.22	Inspection forms	4.6.7
general	10.8.14		4.6.11
loose, missing, deteriorated fasteners	10.8.25	Inspection history	4.4.5
out-of-plane distortion	10.8.28	Inspection notes and sketches	4.4.16
repairs and retrofits	10.8.26	Inspection locations, steel fatigue	6.4.49
Hammerhead pier	12.2.4	blocked flanges	6.4.66
Hammering	10.9.7	coped flanges	6.4.65
Hand lay-up	6.6.12	corrosion areas	6.4.67
Handrails	2.5.9	crack orientation	6.4.66
Hands-on inspection of material		flange terminations	6.4.64
underwater	13.3.31	nicks and gouges	6.4.67
Harp cable system	16.1.15	problematic details	6.4.49
Heat treating and annealing	10.9.9	back-up bars	6.4.62
High damping rubber bearings	11.1.22	cantilevered-suspended span	6.4.52
High level casting	9.11.3	cover plates	6.4.51
High performance concrete	9.9.4	field welds: patch and splice plates	6.4.54
	9.10.3	insert plates	6.4.53
High speed under clearance		intermittent welds	6.4.55
measurement system	2.4.11	intersecting welds	6.4.50
High strength/strain carbon	6.6.7	mechanical fasters	6.4.63
Highway lighting	7.5.16	miscellaneous connections	6.4.63
Hollow core sandwich	7.3.2	out-of-plane bending	6.4.56
Hollow piers	12.2.5	pin and hanger assemblies	6.4.62
Honeycomb sandwich	7.3.1	tack welds	6.4.63
Honeycombs	6.2.29	triaxial constraint	6.4.49
HS truck loading, AASHTO	5.1.4	Inspection methods, steel fatigue	6.4.46
H truck loading, AASHTO	5.1.3	advanced inspection methods	6.4.47
Hydraulic analysis, culvert	14.1.23	physical examination	6.4.46
Hydraulic countermeasures	13.1.8	visual examination	6.4.46

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Inspection report documentation	4.4.11	Load capacity analysis	4.6.7
Inspection report, importance of the	4.6.12		4.6.11
Inspection report, preparing	2.1.14	Load capacity ratings	5.1.22
Inspection results	4.6.2	Load factor design	5.1.22
comprehensive routine inspection	4.6.8	Load and resistance factor design	5.1.22
in-depth bridge inspection	4.6.3	Load path redundancy	5.1.34
Inspection robots	2.5.10		6.4.4
	15.3.8	Load rating analysis	4.6.13
Inspection, tools for	2.4.3	Load rating summary	4.6.4
Inspection vehicles, safety	2.2.13		4.6.9
Integral abutment	12.1.7	Loads, permanent	5.1.2
Integral deck	5.1.33	Loads, transient	5.1.3
Integral piers	12.2.6		5.1.9
Interim inspections	2.1.17	Location map	4.6.1
Internal redundancy	5.1.35		4.6.8
	6.4.6	Long span culverts	14.3.5
Internal steel corrosion	6.2.33	Longitudinal force	5.1.16
Inventory inspections	2.1.15	Loss of prestress	6.2.33
Inventory items	4.1.14	Low fatigue strength details	6.4.44
Inventory ratings	5.1.23	LRFD live loads	5.1.6
Isolation bearings	11.1.19	Lubricated steel plates	11.1.4
Isophthalic polyester	6.6.7	Magnetic field disturbance	15.2.10
Isotropy	5.1.21	Magnetic flux leakage	15.3.12
Joint anchorage devices	7.5.23	Magnetic particle	15.3.5
Joints, deck	7.5.1	Maintenance	4.6.12
Joint drainage	7.5.15	Maintenance and repair records	
Joint supports	7.5.23	Major bridge components	3.1.2
Ladders, access	2.5.1	Manlift	2.5.11
safety	2.2.12	Marine borers	6.1.17
Laminated neoprene pads	11.1.14	Marine traffic	13.3.38
Lane loadings, AASHTO	5.1.6	Masonry culverts	14.1.16
Laser vibrometer	15.3.12		14.2.6
Laser scanning	2.4.11	Masonry plate	11.1.3
Laser ultrasonic testing	15.2.10	Mass concrete cracks	6.2.19
Lateral bracing	10.4.20	Mats	6.6.9
Lateral clearance signs	7.5.17	Material deficiencies, underwater	
Lateral movement	12.1.32	inspection for	13.3.27
	12.2.31	composite materials	13.3.30
	6.2.36	concrete	13.3.27
Latex paint	11.1.5	masonry	13.2.28
Lead sheets between steel plates	1.2.4	steel	13.3.29
Legal responsibilities	1.2.6	timber	13.3.28
Liabilities	3.1.45	Material defects,	
Lift	3.1.35	abutments	12.1.23
Lighting	7.5.1	piers	12.2.18
common problems	7.5.18	Material deficiencies, fracture critical	6.4.16
components of	7.5.1	Material response to loadings	5.1.16
evaluation	7.5.27	Materials, testing results	4.6.7
function of	7.5.1	Matrix resin	6.6.7
inspection locations and methods	7.5.19	Meandering rivers	13.1.5
Live load deflections	5.1.21	Measuring, tools for	2.4.4



## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Mechanically stabilized earth abutment (MSE)	12.1.9	fasteners	16.2.54
Mechanics, bridge	5.1.1	live load shoes and strike plates	16.2.54
Median barriers	7.6.21	locks	16.2.53
Metal culverts	14.1.15	machinery frames, supports, and foundations	16.2.54
Metal inspection, general principles of	2.1.13	machinery inspection considerations	16.2.49
Metalizing	6.3.19	maintenance methods	16.2.49
	7.4.8	open gearing	16.2.49
Mill scale	6.3.31	operation and general system condition	16.2.49
Modular joint seal	7.5.5	shafts and couplings	16.2.51
Modulus of elasticity	5.1.18	special machinery for bascule bridges	16.2.55
	6.6.11	special machinery for swing bridges	16.2.54
Moisture, decay	6.1.12	special machinery for vertical lift bridges	16.2.55
Moisture content	6.1.7	speed reducers including differentials	16.2.50
testing, timber	15.1.8	trail openings	16.2.49
testing, concrete	15.2.13	wedges	16.2.54
Moment	5.1.10	opening and closing sequences, inspection procedures and locations	16.2.42
Monolithic action	9.7.2	closing sequence	16.2.43
	9.10.5	interlocking for normal operation	16.2.42
Mortar	6.5.2	opening sequence	16.2.42
Movable bearings	11.1.2	recordkeeping and documentation	16.2.60
Movable bridges	3.1.44	safety, inspection methods and locations	16.2.39
Movable bridges	16.2.1	dependable operation	16.2.42
common deficiencies	16.2.37	inspection considerations	16.2.39
control house, inspection		movable bridge inspector safety	16.2.39
methods and procedures	16.2.44	navigational safety	16.2.41
electrical inspection considerations	16.2.55	public safety	16.2.39
cabinets	16.2.57	structure safety	16.2.42
circuit breakers	16.2.56	special elements common to	
conduit	16.2.57	all movable bridges	16.2.14
control starters and contactors-relays	16.2.58	air buffers and shock absorbers	16.2.19
junction boxes	16.2.58	bearings	16.2.16
limit switches	16.2.58	brakes	16.2.16
meters	16.2.58	counterweights	16.2.22
motors	16.2.56	drives	16.2.18
power supplies	16.2.56	live load shoes and strike plates	16.2.23
Selsyn transmitters and receivers	16.2.58	open gearing	16.2.14
service light and outlet	16.2.58	shafts and couplings	16.2.15
transformers	16.2.56	span locks	16.2.22
wires and cables	16.2.56	speed reducers including differentials	16.2.15
evaluation	16.2.68	traffic barriers	16.2.24
hydraulic inspection considerations	16.2.59	structural members, inspection	
machinery members, inspection		locations and procedures	16.2.45
methods and procedures	16.2.49	concrete decks	16.2.48
air buffer cylinders and shock absorbers	16.2.54	counterweights and attachments	16.2.46
auxiliary drives	16.2.53	deficiencies	16.2.45
bearings	16.2.52	fatigue	16.2.45
brakes	16.2.52		
drives-electrical motors	16.2.53		
drives-hydraulic equipment	16.2.53		
drives-internal combustion engines	16.2.53		

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
other structural considerations	16.2.48	primary and secondary members	9.5.5
piers	16.2.47	steel reinforcement	9.5.7
steel grid decks	16.2.48	Operating ratings	5.1.23
Multiple barrel culverts	14.1.14	Orientation	
Multi-trunnion (Strauss) bridge	16.2.11	bridge member	4.4.12
Nailed laminated decks	7.1.2	structure site	4.4.12
Narrow underpass signs	7.5.18	Orthophthalic polyester	6.6.7
National Bridge Inspection Program	1.1.1	Orthotropic decks	5.1.33
history of	1.1.2		7.4.1
today's programs	1.1.6	OSHA safety requirements, diving	13.3.14
National Bridge Elements	4.3.4	Other testing methods	15.1.6
basic requirements	4.3.4		15.2.12
identification	4.3.5		15.3.13
role of	4.3.12	Outlet system	7.5.13
National Bridge Inspection Standards(NBIS)	1.2.5		7.5.25
Navigation lighting	7.5.17	Out-of-plane bending	6.4.56
Neoprene pot bearings	11.1.15	inspection procedures and locations	6.4.58
Neutron probe for detection of chlorides	15.2.11	cantilevered floorbeams	6.4.58
Nicks and gouges	6.4.67	diaphragm connections to gusset	
Night work, safety	2.2.16	plates	6.4.58
Non-crimp fabric	6.6.9	girder web connection for	
Non-composite deck	5.1.31	diaphragms and floorbeams	6.4.57
	7.2.3	lateral bracing gussets and diaphragm	
Nondestructive evaluation		connection plates	6.4.58
equipment underwater	13.3.50	staggered floorbeams or lateral	
Nondestructive testing methods, timber	15.1.1	gusset plate locations	6.4.58
concrete	15.2.1	Overlays, indiscriminate	7.5.20
steel	15.3.1	Overload damage	5.1.19
timber	15.1.1	concrete	6.2.32
Non-destructive evaluation equipment	2.4.5	Overloads	5.1.19
Nonredundant configurations	5.1.35	Pachometer	15.2.11
	6.4.7	Packing	10.9.10
Notes, forms and sketches, preparation of	2.1.6	Paint, concrete	6.2.36
Nuclear methods	15.2.11	steel	6.3.17
Numbering system		timber	6.1.28
deck element	2.1.4	Paint adhesion, steel	6.3.31
substructure element	2.1.5	timber	6.1.31
superstructure element	2.1.4	Paint dry film thickness, steel	6.3.31
Number of cycles	6.4.26	timber	6.1.32
Office priority maintenance procedures	4.5.4	Paint layers	6.3.17
Oil-alkyd paints	6.3.18	Panel points	10.4.16
Oil-based paint	6.2.36	Panels	10.4.16
Open abutment	12.1.7	Peak travel times	2.1.8
Open bent	12.2.5	Penetration methods	15.2.11
Open-cell gravity block anchor	16.3.10	Permanent loads	5.1.2
Open expansion joint	7.5.8	Permits	2.1.9
Open spandrel arch	9.5.1	Permit loading	5.1.24
common deficiencies	9.5.9	Permit vehicles	5.1.8
design characteristics	9.5.1	Personal protection	2.2.2
evaluation	9.5.16	Petrographic examination	15.2.13
inspection methods and locations	9.5.10	Ph extremes	14.1.35

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Photographs	4.6.5	Post-tensioning	6.2.12
	4.6.10	Pot bearings	11.1.15
Pier wall	12.2.13	Pourable joint seal	7.5.2
Piers and bents	3.1.51	Poutre Dalle System	9.7.2
	12..2.1	Powder-post beetles	6.1.15
	13.3.21	Precast arch	9.5.3
design characteristics	12.2.1	Precast conventionally reinforced decks	7.2.2
foundation types	12.2.14	Precast prestressed deck panels	7.2.2
pier and bent members	12.2.13	with CIP topping	7.2.2
pier and bent types	12.2.1	Precast prestressed slab	9.7.1
pier protection	12.2.14	common deficiencies	9.7.4
primary materials	12.2.7	design characteristics	9.7.1
primary and secondary reinforcement	12.2.10	evaluation	9.7.10
evaluation	12.2.39	inspection methods and locations	9.7.5
inspection methods and locations	12.2.18	primary and secondary members	9.7.3
Pile anchor	16.3.9	steel reinforcement	9.7.3
Pile bent	12.2.5	Preparation for inspection	2.1.2
	13.3.21	Preservatives	6.1.25
Pile foundations	12.1.18		7.1.6
Piles	12.1.18	Pressing	10.9.7
	12.2.13	Prestressed box beams	9.10.1
Pin and hanger assemblies	10.7.1	common deficiencies	9.10.9
common deficiencies	10.7.11	design characteristics	9.10.1
design characteristics	10.7.3	adjacent box beams	9.10.4
forces in	10.7.8	fiber reinforced polymer strands	9.10.9
fracture critical	10.7.10	spread box beams	9.10.6
primary and secondary members	10.7.3	evaluation	9.10.19
evaluation	10.7.22	inspection methods and locations	9.10.10
inspection methods and locations	10.7.12	lessons learned	9.10.21
general	10.7.14	primary and secondary members	9.10.7
hanger	10.7.16	steel reinforcement	9.10.8
pins	10.7.19	Prestressed concrete	6.2.11
retrofits	10.7.20	Prestressed double tees	9.8.1
Pin and link bearings	11.1.18	common deficiencies	9.8.4
Pin hole	10.9.8	design characteristics	9.8.1
Pinned rockers	11.1.12	evaluation	9.8.9
Pipe arch culverts	14.1.12	inspection methods and locations	9.8.4
Plain neoprene pads	11.1.13	primary and secondary members	9.8.3
Plank decks	7.1.2	steel reinforcement	9.8.3
Plank seal	7.5.6	Prestressed I-beams and bulb-tees	9.9.1
Plan of action, due to critical findings	4.5.9	common deficiencies	9.9.10
Plastic culverts	14.1.18	design characteristics	9.9.1
	14.3.6	evaluation	9.9.18
Plastic deformation	5.1.17	inspection methods and locations	9.9.10
Platform truck	2.5.15	primary and secondary members	9.9.7
Plug welds	6.4.12	steel reinforcement	9.9.8
Pontoon	16.3.3	Pretensioning	6.2.12
Pony trusses	10.4.3	Probing, timber	15.1.8
Pop-outs	6.2.29	Problematic details	6.4.49
Portal bracing	10.4.22	Procedures, inspection	2.1.9
Portland cement	6.2.1	comprehensive routine inspection	4.6.8

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
in-depth inspection	4.6.3	specifications	4.4.2
Progressive placement construction	9.11.15	structure inventory and appraisal sheets	4.4.7
Protection of suspension cables	6.3.21	traffic data	4.4.5
Protective systems, concrete	6.2.36	Redundancy	5.1.34
steel	6.3.15		6.4.3
timber	6.1.25	Reinforced concrete	6.2.7
PTFE on stainless steel plates	11.1.7	Reinforcement coatings, types and	
Public investment	1.2.2	characteristics of	6.2.34
Public safety	2.3.19	anodic protection	6.2.40
Public safety and confidence	1.2.1	cathodic protection	6.2.39
Pulse velocity	15.2.7	epoxy coating	6.2.38
Pultrusion	6.6.13	galvanizing	6.2.39
Qualifications of bridge inspectors	1.2.5	stainless steel cladding	6.2.39
Qualifications of diver inspectors	13.3.13	Reinforcing steel strength	15.2.13
Quality	4.6.13	Remote camera	2.4.10
quality assurance	1.2.7	Repainting	6.1.32
	1.3.1	Report preparation	2.1.14
quality control	1.2.7	Responsibilities of the bridge inspector	1.2.1
	1.3.1	Restraining bearings	11.1.19
Radiography	15.2.12	Rigging, general	2.5.2
Radiographic testing	15.3.6	safety	2.2.14
Rappelling	2.5.6	Rigid culverts	14.2.1
Rating vehicles	5.1.24	common deficiencies	14.2.11
Reactions	5.1.15	design characteristics	14.2.1
Reactive powder concrete	9.9.5	concrete	14.2.1
Rebound hammer	15.2.11	loads on culverts	14.2.7
Rebound methods	15.2.11	masonry	14.2.6
Recommendations for fracture		timber	14.2.7
critical members	6.4.48	evaluation	14.2.24
Recommendations, report	2.1.14	inspection methods and locations	14.2.13
Recordkeeping and documentation	4.4.1	primary and secondary members	14.2.9
Recordkeeping, methods of	4.4.10	steel reinforcement	14.2.9
traditional	4.4.10	Rigid frames	3.1.43
electronic data collection	4.4.10	Rigid frames, concrete	9.6.1
Records, bridge	4.4.1	common deficiencies	9.6.6
Record setup, typical	4.4.2	design characteristics	9.6.1
accident records	4.4.3	evaluation	9.6.11
coating history	4.4.3	inspection methods and locations	9.6.6
correspondence	4.4.2	primary and secondary members	9.6.2
electronic data management	4.4.10	steel reinforcement	9.6.3
flood and scour data	4.4.5	Rigid frames, steel	10.6.1
inspection forms	4.4.7	common deficiencies	10.6.10
inspection history	4.4.5	design characteristics	10.6.1
inspection requirements	4.4.6	delta frames	10.6.3
maintenance and repair history	4.4.3	floor system arrangements	10.6.6
material tests	4.4.3	fracture critical members	10.6.9
permit loads	4.4.4	K-frames	10.6.2
photographs and photo log	4.4.2	primary and secondary members	10.6.7
plans	4.4.2	stiffeners	10.6.4
posting	4.4.4	stress zones	10.6.8
rating records	4.4.9	evaluation	10.6.15

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
inspection methods and locations	10.6.10	Scuba diving	13.3.14
Riprap	13.1.9	Sealants	7.2.8
Riveted grid decks	7.4.4	Seals, damage to deck joint	7.5.22
Riveted connections	3.1.18	Segmental concrete box girder	9.11.7
Robots	2.4.11	construction methods	9.11.12
Robotic inspection	15.3.8	inspection methods and locations	9.11.31
Rocker bearings	11.1.9	segment configurations	9.11.9
Rocker nests	11.1.11	segmental classification	9.11.10
Rolled multi-beams	10.1.1	Segmental rockers	11.1.10
common deficiencies	10.1.11	Self-lubricating bronze bearings	11.1.6
design characteristics	10.1.1	Self weight	5.1.2
evaluation	10.1.20	Sequence, inspection	2.1.5
inspection methods and locations	10.1.11	Serrated steel	7.4.7
Roller bearings	11.1.8	Service data	4.6.2
Roller nests	11.1.8	Set-up time	2.1.8
Rolling lift (Scherzer) bridge	16.2.7	Shapes, basic member	3.1.3
Roofing felt / tar paper	11.1.7	Shapes, concrete	3.1.5
Rotary percussion	2.4.6	prestressed	3.1.7
Rotational movement, bridge	5.1.22	reinforced	3.1.6
inspection of abutment	12.1.32	Shapes, iron	3.1.10
inspection of piers or bents	12.2.34	cast	3.1.10
Routine inspections	2.1.15	wrought	3.1.10
Runoff	7.5.13	Shapes, steel	3.1.14
Safety features	7.6.1	built-up	3.1.11
Safety fundamentals	2.2.1	rolled	3.1.3
inspector	2.3.3	Shapes, timber	3.1.4
Safety precautions	2.1.8	beams	3.1.5
	2.2.9	piles/columns	3.1.4
Safety responsibilities	2.2.2	planks	6.2.11
Scaffolds, safety	2.2.13	Shear cracks	5.1.13
	2.5.4	Shear forces	7.5.7
Scaling	6.2.23	Sheet seal	7.6.15
Scissor lift	2.5.12	Shielding end treatments	5.1.21
Scour, abutment	12.1.28	Shrinkage	6.2.19
pier or bent	10.2.32	Shrinkage cracks	3.1.34
waterway deficiencies	13.2.3	Sidewalks and curbs	3.1.34
aggradation and degradation	13.2.4	Signing	7.5.1
contraction scour	13.2.6	Signs	7.5.18
general scour	13.2.5	common problems	7.5.1
lateral stream migration	13.2.15	components of	7.5.27
local scour	13.2.11	evaluation	7.5.1
total scour	13.2.3	function of	7.5.19
Scour inspections	13.3.58	inspection locations and methods	5.1.28
Scour measurement	2.4.7	Simple span	16.2.8
Scour monitoring	2.4.7	Simple trunnion (Chicago) bridge	11.1.8
multi-beam sonar	2.4.7	Single rollers	3.1.37
portable depth sounders w/transducers	2.4.7	Single web beam/girder bridges	11.1.4
scanning sonar	2.4.7	Sliding plate bearing	7.5.11
scour monitoring collar	2.4.7	Sliding plate joint	3.1.37
side scan sonar	2.4.7	Slab bridges	14.2.22
web-based scour monitoring	2.4.7	Slabbing	

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Smart coatings	15.3.3	latex paint	6.3.19
Smart concrete	15.2.12	oil-alkyd paints	6.3.18
Sole plate	11.1.2	urethanes	6.3.19
Solid gravity slab anchor	16.3.11	vinyl paints	6.3.18
Solid sawn multi-beam bridges	8.1.1	weathering steel patina	6.3.20
common deficiencies	8.1.8	zinc-rich primers	6.3.19
design characteristics	8.1.2	Steel, corrosion of	6.3.16
evaluation	8.1.13	galvanic action	6.3.19
inspection methods and locations	8.1.8	metalizing	6.3.19
Solid core sandwich	7.3.2	galvanizing	6.3.20
Solid shaft pier	12.2.2	Steel decks	7.4.1
Sonic testing	15.1.2	common defects	7.4.9
Sounding devices	13.3.58	design characteristics	7.4.1
fathometer	13.3.58	evaluation	7.4.11
ground-penetrating radar	13.3.59	inspection methods and locations	7.4.9
tuned transducers	13.5.59	protective systems	7.4.8
Spalling	6.2.25	wearing surfaces	7.4.7
Span-by-span construction	9.11.13	Steel deficiencies, anticipated modes of	6.3.9
Special equipment	32.4.5	coating failures	6.3.13
Special inspections	2.1.17	collision Damage	6.3.12
Spectral analysis	15.1.3	corrosion	6.3.9
Speed limit signs	7.5.18	fatigue cracking	6.3.10
Spherical pot bearings	11.1.22	heat damage	6.3.12
Spread footings	5.1.35	overloads	6.3.12
	12.1.17	Steel, inspection methods of	6.3.21
Stainless Steel Cladding	6.2.39	advanced inspection methods	6.3.33
Stainless Steel Reinforcement bars	7.2.8	physical examination	6.3.30
Stair cable system	16.1.16	visual examination	6.3.21
Steel/metal	6.3.1	Steel member fabrication, rolled beams	6.3.1
common methods of steel		plate girders	6.3.1
member fabrication	6.3.1	Steel, properties of	6.3.6
common steel shapes used in		high performance steel	6.3.8
bridge construction	6.3.1	mechanical properties	6.3.7
Steel advanced inspection methods	15.3.1	physical properties	6.3.4
Steel, iron and other metals inspection,		Steel reinforcement	7.2.5
general principles of	6.3.33	Steep mountain streams	13.1.7
Steel bridge coatings, inspection of	6.3.30	Stem	12.1.16
areas to inspect	6.3.23	Stone masonry	6.5.1
mill scale	6.3.31	Stone masonry, inspection of	6.5.4
paint adhesion	6.3.31	Stone masonry, construction methods	6.5.2
paint dry film thickness	6.3.31	Ashlar	6.5.2
repainting	6.3.32	rubble masonry	6.5.2
weathering steel patina	6.3.32	square-stoned masonry	6.5.2
Steel bridges, protective systems for	6.3.15	Stone masonry, properties of	6.5.1
Steel coatings, types and functions of	6.3.15	mechanical properties	6.5.2
paint	6.3.17	mortar	6.5.2
paint layers	6.3.17	physical properties	6.5.1
protection of suspension cables	6.3.21	Stone masonry, protective systems	6.5.4
types of paint	6.3.18	Stone masonry and mortar, anticipated	
epoxies	6.3.18	modes of deficiency	6.5.3
epoxy mastics	6.3.19	Straight rivers	13.1.6

## INDEX

	Page		Page
Strain	5.1.16	materials	3.1.47
Strain sensor	15.4.3	primary members	3.1.47
Stress	5.1.16	purpose	3.1.36
Stress range	6.4.26	secondary members	3.1.48
Stress-strain relationship	5.1.18	types	3.1.36
Stress-laminated timber bridges	8.3.1	Superstructures, general inspection	
common deficiencies	8.3.6	procedures for	2.1.10
design characteristics	8.3.1	Surface communication,	
stress-laminated box beam bridges	8.3.4	underwater inspection	13.3.46
stress-laminated slab bridges	8.3.1	Surface-supplied diving	13.3.41
stress-laminated K-frame bridges	8.3.5	Survey equipment	2.4.5
stress-laminated tee beam bridges	8.3.3	Suspension bridges	16.1.2
evaluation	8.3.9	anchorages and connections	16.1.10
inspection methods and locations	8.3.6	cable saddles	16.1.10
Stress-laminated timber decks	7.1.3	inspection methods and locations	16.1.22
Stressing rods	8.3.7	cable bands	16.1.25
Stringers, timber	8.1.4	main cable anchorage elements	16.1.23
	8.1.7	main suspension cables	16.1.24
Strip seal	7.5.2	recordkeeping and documentation	16.1.26
Structural composite lumber decks	7.1.4	saddles	16.1.25
Structural plate pipe culverts	14.3.5	sockets	16.1.25
Structural redundancy	5.1.34	suspender cables and connections	16.1.25
	6.4.5	vibrations	16.1.12
Structurally deficient	4.2.11	Suspension cables, protection of	6.3.21
Structure file, bridge	2.1.3	Sway bracing	10.4.22
Structure inventory	4.1.1	Swing bridges	3.1.45
Structure length N.B.I.S.	3.1.1		16.2.4
Structure site orientation	4.4.12	design characteristics	16.2.4
Stub abutment	12.1.6	center-bearing	16.2.4
Substructure	3.1.51	rim-bearing	16.2.5
elements	3.1.59	special elements	16.2.25
function	3.1.51	balance wheels	16.2.26
materials	3.1.59	end latches	16.2.28
purpose	3.1.51	pivot bearings	16.2.25
types	3.1.52	rim-bearing rollers	16.2.26
Substructure drainage	7.5.16	wedges	16.2.27
Substructure units and elements,		Swiss hammer	15.2.11
underwater inspection of	13.3.21	System identification	15.4.5
abutments	13.3.24	Tack welds	6.4.12
bents	13.3.21	Tee beams	9.2.1
caissons	13.3.25	common deficiencies	9.2.5
cofferdams and foundation seals	13.3.25	design characteristics	9.2.1
culverts	13.3.26	evaluation	9.2.15
piers	13.3.22	inspection methods and locations	9.2.6
protection devices	13.3.25	Temperature	5.1.9
Substructures, general inspection		Temperature cracks	6.2.19
procedures for	2.1.11	Temporary traffic control	2.1.6
Sufficiency rating	4.2.12		2.3.1
Summary of findings	4.4.22	Traffic control devices, principles of	2.3.5
Superstructure	3.1.36	Temporary traffic control devices, types	2.3.5
function	3.1.36	channelizing devices	2.3.8

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
flaggers	2.3.13	Timber culverts	14.1.17
lighting devices	2.3.12		14.2.7
one-lane, two-way traffic control	2.3.18	Timber decks	7.1.1
police assistance	2.3.19	common deficiencies	7.1.7
shadow vehicles	2.3.18	design characteristics	7.1.1
signs	2.3.6	evaluation	7.1.11
specialized traffic crews	2.3.19	inspection methods and locations	7.1.7
Tensile strength	5.1.21	protective systems	7.1.6
Tensile strength test	15.3.15	wearing surfaces	7.1.5
Tension	5.1.10	Timber deficiency, anticipated modes of	6.1.10
Termites	6.1.14	chemical attack	6.1.19
Thermal effects	5.1.18	fungi	6.1.11
	9.8.8	inherent defects	6.1.10
	9.10.18	insects	6.1.14
Thermal movements	5.1.22	marine borers	6.1.17
Through arches	10.5.7	other types and sources	
common deficiencies	10.5.11	of deterioration	6.1.20
design characteristics	10.5.7	protective coating failure	6.1.25
fracture critical members	10.5.9	Timber, inspection methods of	6.1.29
general characteristics	10.5.7	advanced inspection methods	6.1.33
load transfer	10.5.9	physical examination	6.1.29
primary and secondary members	10.5.8	visual examination	6.1.29
evaluation	10.5.21	Timber, grades of	6.1.8
inspection methods and locations	10.5.12	Timber inspection, general principles of	2.1.12
Through arch, concrete	9.5.2	Timber, mechanical properties	6.1.7
Through girder, concrete	9.3.1	creep characteristics	6.1.8
Through girders, steel (see Two-girder systems)	10.2.1	fatigue characteristics	6.1.7
Through trusses	10.4.2	impact resistance	6.1.8
Tied arches	10.5.9	orthotropic behavior	6.1.7
common deficiencies	10.5.11	Timber, physical properties	6.1.4
design characteristics	10.5.9	anatomy of timber	6.1.4
fracture critical members	10.5.11	classification	6.1.4
general characteristics	10.5.9	growth features	6.1.6
load transfer	10.5.10	moisture content	6.1.7
primary and secondary members	10.5.10	Timber planks, safety	2.2.13
evaluation	10.5.21	Timber wearing surfaces	7.1.5
inspection methods and locations	10.5.12	Time requirements	2.1.7
Tie backs	12.1.17	Tools, standard safety	2.1.9
Tiltmeters	15.4.4	standard inspection	2.4.1
Timber	6.1.1	Tools, underwater inspection	13.3.48
Timber advanced inspection methods	15.1.1	cleaning tools	13.3.49
Timber, basic shapes used in		hand tools	13.3.48
bridge construction	6.1.2	power tools	13.3.49
Timber boring tool	15.1.6	Torsional forces	5.1.14
Timber bridge coating,		Toughness	5.1.21
inspection of	6.1.31	Traffic control lighting	7.5.17
paint adhesion	6.1.31	Traffic regulatory signs	7.5.18
paint dry film thickness	6.1.32	Transient loads	5.1.3
repainting	6.1.32		5.1.9
Timber bridges, protective		Transition between brittle and	
systems for	6.1.25	ductile fracture	6.4.9



## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Transitions	7.6.2	vinyl paints	6.3.18
identification and appraisal	7.6.12	zinc-rich primers	6.3.19
inspection	7.6.18	Types of reinforcement fibers	6.6.7
Transportation and erection flaws	6.4.24	E-glass	6.6.7
Traveler, general	2.5.8	high strength/strain carbon	6.6.7
safety	2.2.13	Ultrasonic testing, concrete	15.2.12
Truck loadings, AASHTO	5.1.3	steel	15.3.9
Trusses, steel	10.4.1	timber	15.1.4
common deficiencies	10.4.25	Under bridge inspection vehicle	2.5.14
design characteristics	10.4.1	Undermining	13.2.20
chord members	10.4.11	Underwater inspection	2.1.17
design geometry	10.4.5	bridge selection criteria	13.3.1
diagonals	10.4.12	inspection equipment	2.4.5
floor system arrangement	10.4.19	intensity levels	13.3.42
fracture critical members	10.4.24	material deficiencies	13.3.4
lateral bracing	10.4.20	methods of	13.3.27
panel points and panels	10.4.16	planning	13.3.50
primary and secondary members	10.4.24	report	13.3.15
sway and portal bracing	10.4.22	safety	4.6.7
verticals	10.4.14	scour inspections	4.6.11
web members	10.4.12	special considerations for	2.2.17
evaluation	10.4.41	substructure units and elements	13.3.58
inspection methods and locations	10.4.25	types of	13.3.35
Trusses	3.1.41	qualifications of diver-inspectors	13.3.21
timber	8.1.4	Underwater imaging	13.3.6
	8.2.3	V-notch test	13.3.39
Truss type	10.4.2	Vacuum assisted resin-transfer molding	13.3.13
Turnbuckles	10.9.21	Vegetation, safety	13.3.53
Two-girder systems, steel	10.2.1	Vertical clearance signs	15.3.13
common deficiencies	10.2.8	Vertical lift bridges	6.6.12
design characteristics	10.2.3	design characteristics	2.2.16
fracture critical areas	10.2.6	power and drive system on lift span	7.5.17
floor system arrangement	10.2.3	power and drive system on towers	16.2.12
primary and secondary members	10.2.5	Special elements	16.2.12
evaluation	10.2.16	balance chains	16.2.12
inspection methods and locations	10.2.8	drums, pulleys and sheaves	16.2.13
Type of detail, fatigue	6.4.26	span and counterweight guides	16.2.36
Types of fractures	6.4.9	span leveling devices	16.2.37
brittle fracture	6.4.9	wire ropes and sockets	16.2.37
ductile fracture	6.4.9	Vertical movement,	16.2.36
Types of Matrix Resin	6.6.7	abutments	12.1.32
epoxies	6.6.7	piers or bents	12.2.31
isophthalic polyester	6.6.7	Verticals	10.4.14
orthophthalic polyester	6.6.7	Vibration	15.1.4
vinyl esters	6.6.7	Video equipment	13.3.55
Types of paint	6.3.18	Vinyl esters	6.6.7
epoxies	6.3.18	Visual aid, tools for	2.4.4
epoxy mastics	6.3.19		
latex paint	6.3.19		
oil-alkyd paints	6.3.18		
urethanes	6.3.19		

## INDEX

	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Wading inspection	13.3.39	Wind load on structure	5.1.9
safety	2.2.17	Wingwalls	12.1.18
Warning signs	7.5.17	design characteristics	12.1.18
Water repellent sealers	6.2.38	construction classifications	12.1.20
Water repellents, timber	6.1.25	general	12.1.18
timber deck	7.1.6	geometrical classifications	12.1.19
Waterproofing membrane	7.2.10	materials	12.1.21
Waterway elements	13.1.1	reinforcement	12.1.22
channel characteristics	13.1.4	evaluation	12.1.42
floodplain characteristics	13.1.7	inspection methods and locations	12.1.23
hydraulic countermeasures	13.1.8	Working around traffic	2.2.18
hydraulic opening	13.1.8	Wood (see Timber)	
properties affecting	13.1.3	Woven roving	6.6.9
purpose of inspection	13.1.4	Wrought iron	6.3.34
Waterway, culvert	13.2.51	properties of	6.3.34
Waterway inspection	13.2.1	deficiencies	6.3.35
deficiencies	13.2.3	Yield strength	5.1.21
effects of deficiencies	13.2.20		
evaluation	13.2.41		
methods and locations	13.2.27		
performance factors	13.2.1		
preparation for	13.2.23		
Waterways, basic inspection procedures for	2.1.11		
Waterways, inspection purpose	13.1.4		
Wear, concrete	6.2.30		
timber	6.1.22		
Wearing surfaces	3.1.30		
Wearing surfaces for concrete decks	7.2.6		
Wearing surfaces for steel decks	7.4.7		
Wearing surfaces for timber decks	7.1.5		
Weather, inspection consideration	2.1.8		
Weathering of timber	6.1.24		
Weathering steel	6.3.20		
inspection of	6.3.26		
color	6.3.26		
protective coating	6.3.30		
texture	6.3.29		
patina	6.3.20		
uses of	6.3.20		
Web members	10.4.12		
Weep hole	3.1.33		
Weight limit signs	7.5.18		
Welded grid decks	7.4.3		
Welds	6.4.12		
fillet welds	6.4.12		
groove welds	6.4.12		
plug welds	6.4.12		
tack welds	6.4.12		
Welded connections	3.1.18		
Weldments	10.9.20		
Wind load on live load	5.1.9		

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