



Table of Contents

2.1 Organizational Charts 2

2.2 Incident Management 5

 2.2.1 Bridge Incidents 5

 2.2.2 Major Bridge Failures 5

 2.2.3 Bureau of Structures Actions in Incident Response..... 6

 2.2.4 Public Communication Record..... 7

2.3 Responsibilities of Bureau of Structures 8

 2.3.1 Structures Design Section 8

 2.3.2 Structures Development Section..... 9

 2.3.3 Structures Maintenance Section 10

2.4 Bridge Standards and Insert Sheets 12

2.5 Structure Numbers 13

2.6 Bridge Files..... 16

2.7 Contracts 18

2.8 Special Provisions..... 19

2.9 Terminology 20

2.10 WisDOT Bridge History..... 30

 2.10.1 Unique Structures 31



2.1 Organizational Charts

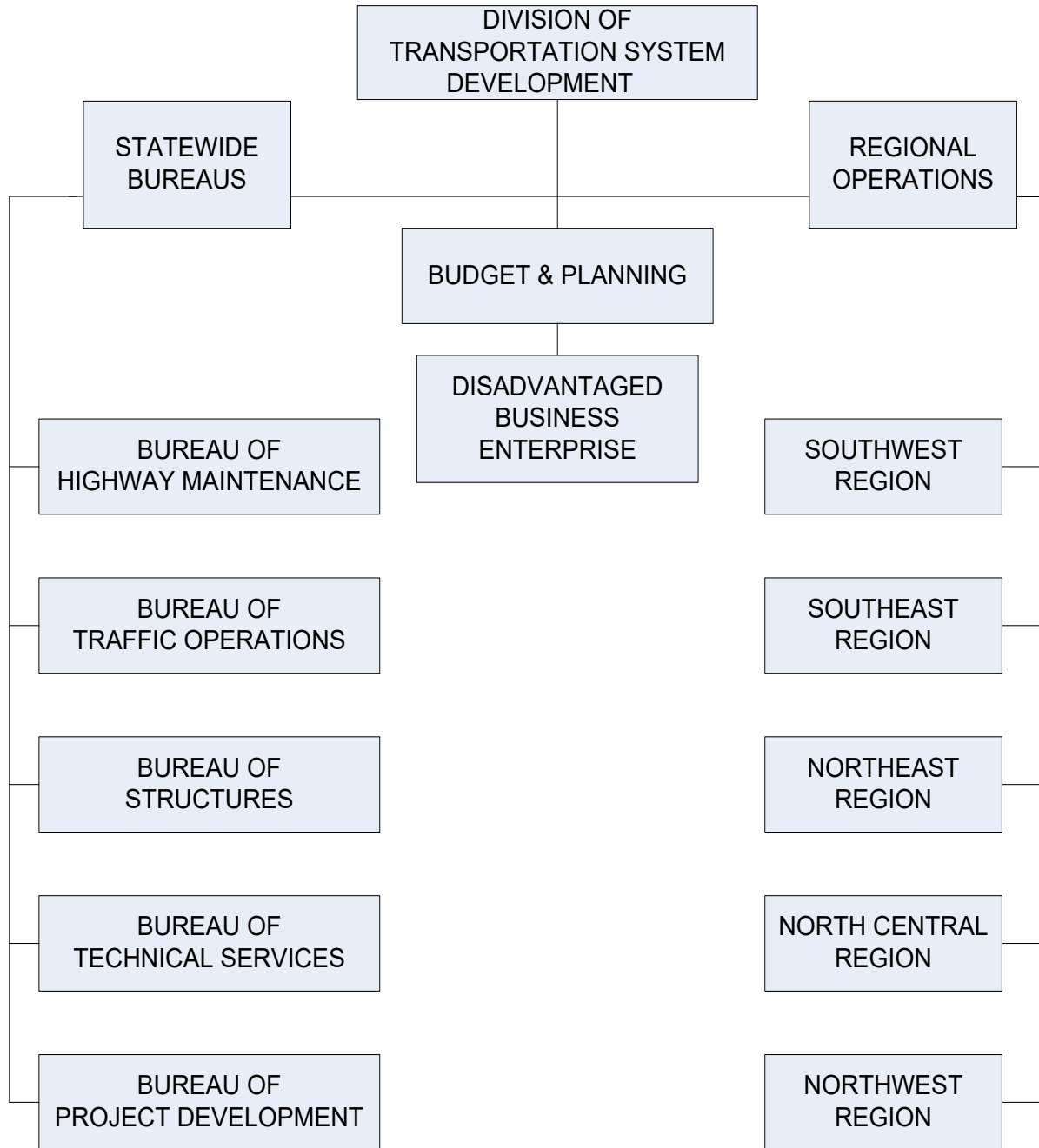


Figure 2.1-1
Division of Transportation System Development

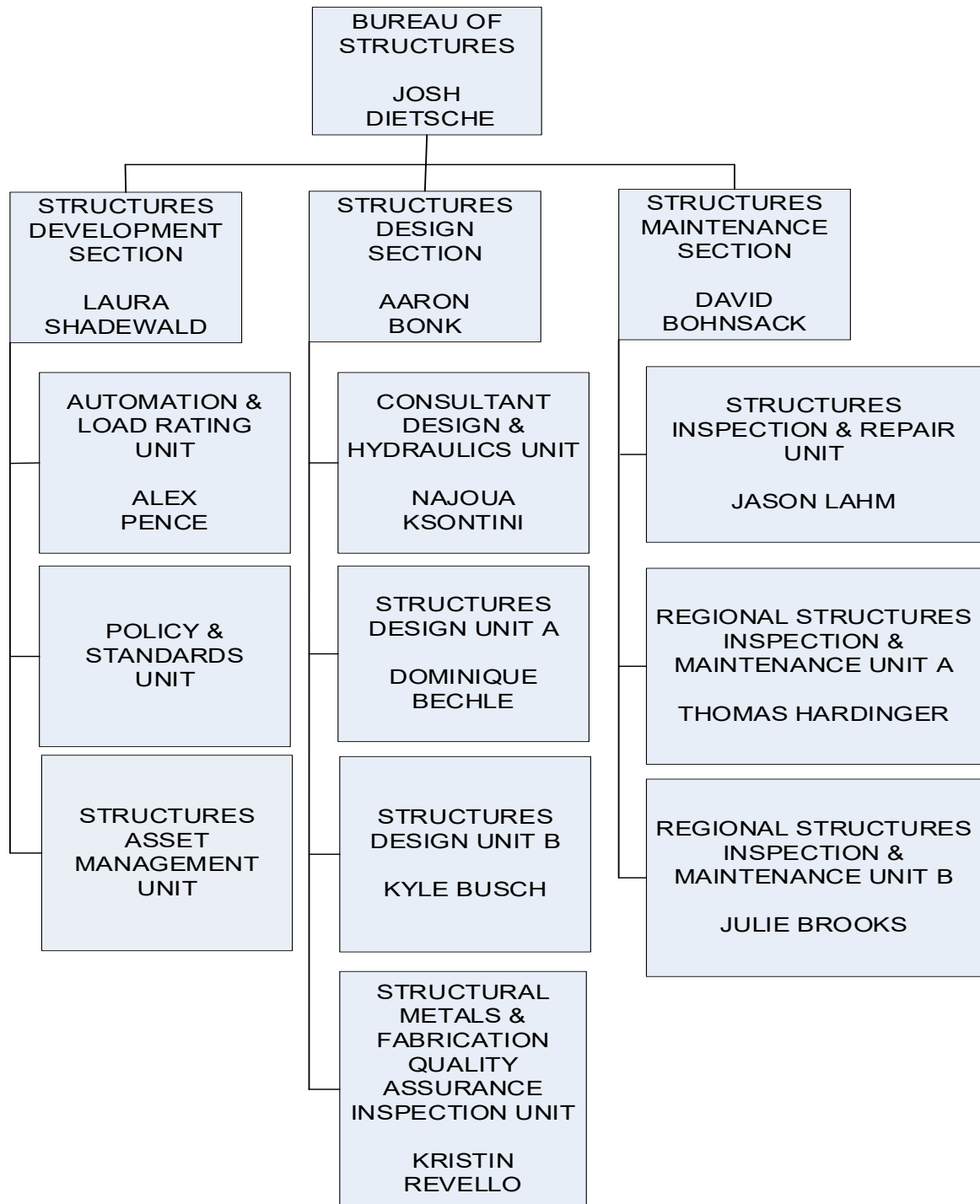


Figure 2.1-2
Bureau of Structures



NO.	COUNTY	REGION	NO.	COUNTY	REGION
1	ADAMS	NORTH CENTRAL	37	MARATHON	NORTH CENTRAL
2	ASHLAND	NORTHWEST	38	MARINETTE	NORTHEAST
3	BARRON	NORTHWEST	39	MARQUETTE	NORTH CENTRAL
4	BAYFIELD	NORTHWEST	40	MILWAUKEE	SOUTHEAST
5	BROWN	NORTHEAST	41	MONROE	SOUTHWEST
6	BUFFALO	NORTHWEST	42	OCONTO	NORTHEAST
7	BURNETT	NORTHWEST	43	ONEIDA	NORTH CENTRAL
8	CALUMET	NORTHEAST	44	OUTAGAMIE	NORTHEAST
9	CHIPPewa	NORTHWEST	45	OZAUKEE	SOUTHWEST
10	CLARK	NORTHWEST	46	PEPIN	NORTHWEST
11	COLUMBIA	SOUTHWEST	47	PIERCE	NORTHWEST
12	CRAWFORD	SOUTHWEST	48	POLK	NORTHWEST
13	DANE	SOUTHWEST	49	PORTAGE	NORTH CENTRAL
14	DODGE	SOUTHWEST	50	PRICE	NORTH CENTRAL
15	DOOR	NORTHEAST	51	RACINE	SOUTHWEST
16	DOUGLAS	NORTHWEST	52	RICHLAND	SOUTHWEST
17	DUNN	NORTHWEST	53	ROCK	SOUTHWEST
18	EAU CLAIRE	NORTHWEST	54	RUSK	NORTHWEST
19	FLORENCE	NORTH CENTRAL	55	ST CROIX	NORTHWEST
20	FOND DU LAC	NORTHEAST	56	SAUK	SOUTHWEST
21	FOREST	NORTH CENTRAL	57	SAWYER	NORTHWEST
22	GRANT	SOUTHWEST	58	SHAWANO	NORTH CENTRAL
23	GREEN	SOUTHWEST	59	SHEBOYGAN	NORTHEAST
24	GREEN LAKE	NORTH CENTRAL	60	TAYLOR	NORTHWEST
25	IOWA	SOUTHWEST	61	TREMPEALEAU	NORTHWEST
26	IRON	NORTH CENTRAL	62	VERNON	SOUTHWEST
27	JACKSON	NORTHWEST	63	VILAS	NORTH CENTRAL
28	JEFFERSON	SOUTHWEST	64	WALWORTH	SOUTHWEST
29	JUNEAU	SOUTHWEST	65	WASHBURN	NORTHWEST
30	KENOSHA	SOUTHWEST	66	WASHINGTON	SOUTHWEST
31	KEWAUNEE	NORTHEAST	67	WAUKESHA	SOUTHWEST
32	LA CROSSE	SOUTHWEST	68	WAUPACA	NORTH CENTRAL
33	LAFAYETTE	SOUTHWEST	69	WAUSHARA	NORTH CENTRAL
34	LANGLADE	NORTH CENTRAL	70	WINNEBAGO	NORTHEAST
35	LINCOLN	NORTH CENTRAL	71	WOOD	NORTH CENTRAL
36	MANITOWOC	NORTHEAST	73	MENOMINEE	NORTH CENTRAL

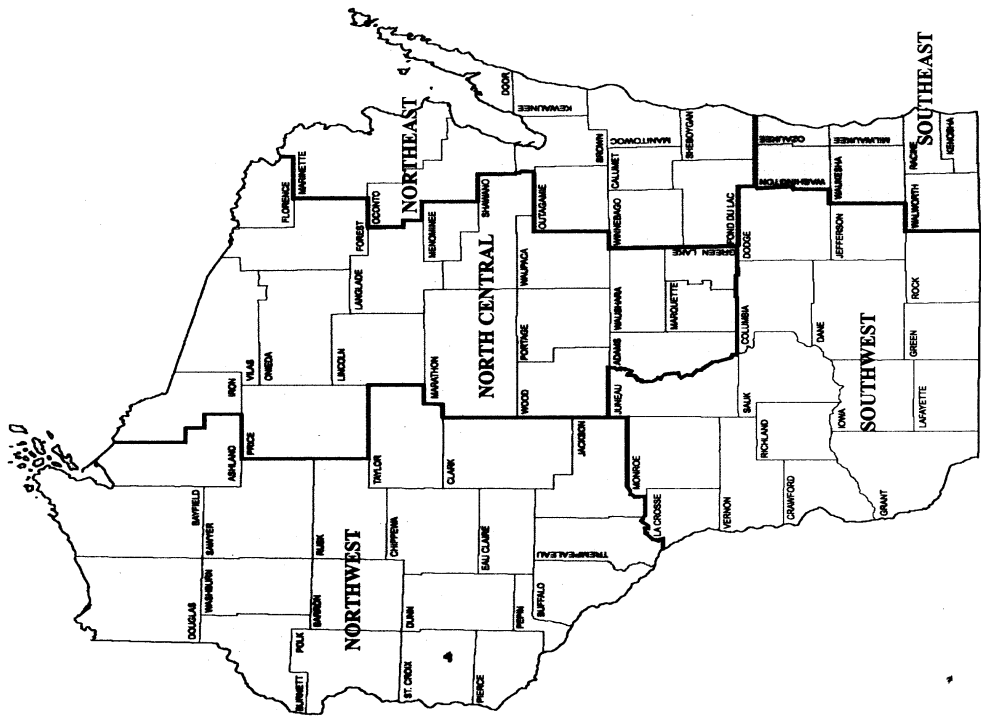


Figure 2.1-3
Region Map



2.5 Structure Numbers

An official number, referred to as a structure number, is assigned to bridge structures and ancillary structures in the WisDOT right-of-way. As shown in [Figure 2.5-1](#), structure numbers begin with a letter based on the structure type. The structure type designation is then followed by a two-digit county number, a unique four-digit structure number, and in some cases a unit number. Note: leading zeroes may be omitted from the structure number (i.e. B-5-70).

Structure numbers should be assigned to structures prior to submitting information to the Bureau of Structures for the structural design process or the plan review process. For assigning structure numbers and structure unit numbers, contact the Regional Structures Program Manager for B-Structures and the Regional Ancillary Program Manager for ancillary structures. For inspection purposes, structure unit numbers are beneficial and should be coordinated with the Region once determined needed. Refer to the WisDOT [Structures Maintenance and Inspection](#) website for additional information.

When a structure is rehabilitated, the name plate should be preserved, if possible, and reinstalled on the rehabilitated structure. If a new name plate is required, it should show the year of original construction. The original structure number applies to all rehabilitation including widening, lengthening, superstructure replacement, etc.

The following criteria should be used when assigning structure numbers to bridge (B) and ancillary structures (C, P, S, L, R, N, or M):

- B is assigned to bridge structures (B-Structures) over 20 ft. in structure length, measured along the roadway centerline between the inside faces of abutments or exterior walls. A set of nested pipes may be assigned as a bridge structure if the distance between the inside diameters of the end pipes exceeds 20 ft. and the clear distance between pipe openings is less than half the diameter of the smallest pipe. Refer to the Structure Inspection Manual for measurements used to define a bridge structure. Bridges on state boundary lines also have a number designated by the adjacent state. Unit numbers may be assigned to long bridges or complex interchanges where it is desirable to have only one bridge number for the site.

Pedestrian only bridge structures are assigned a B-Structure if they are over 20 ft in structure length and are state maintained, DNR bridges reviewed by WisDOT, or cross a roadway. Pedestrian boardwalks may be assigned a B-Structure when a clear span exceeds 20 ft. Other cases may be considered on a project-to-project basis.

- In general, C is assigned to small bridge structures (C-Structures) 20 ft. or less in structure length that have a unique structural design and/or a heightened inspection interest. This includes bridge-like structures (deck girders, flat slabs, etc.), concrete box culverts with a cross-sectional opening greater than, or equal to 20 square feet, rigid frames (three-sided concrete structures), and structural plate structures (pipes, pipe arches, box culverts, etc.). Structures not meeting the bridge structure or small bridge structure criteria are then typically considered a roadway culvert as described in Facilities Development Manual (FDM) 13-1. Buried structures listed in FDM 13-1 are typically not assigned a structure number, except for closely nested pipes and



structural plate structures. Refer to the Structure Inspection Manual for additional information on small bridge structures.

- P designates structures for which there are no structural plans on file.

WisDOT Policy Item:

No new P numbers will be assigned as we should always request plans.

- S is assigned to overhead sign structures and signal monotubes. Unit numbers should be assigned to signal monotubes at an intersection with multiple structures. In this case, the base structure number should be the same for all signal monotubes and the unit numbers use to designate individual structures (i.e. S-13-1421-0001, S-13-1421-0002, etc.).
- L is assigned to high mast lighting structures.
- R is assigned to permanent retaining walls. For a continuous wall consisting of various wall types, such as a secant pile wall followed by a soldier pile wall, unit numbers should be assigned to each wall type segment. Wall facing discontinuities (e.g. stairwells, staged construction, tiers, or changes to external loads) do not require unique wall numbers if the leveling pad or footing is continuous between the completed wall segments. For soldier pile walls with anchored and non-anchored segments, unique wall numbers are not required for each segment.

Cast-in-place walls being utilized strictly as bridge abutment or box culvert wings do not require R numbers as they are considered part of the structure.

Retaining walls whose height exceeds the below criteria require R numbers:

- Proprietary retaining walls (e.g., modular block MSE walls)
 - MSE walls having a maximum height of less than 5.5 ft. measured from the bottom of wall or top of leveling pad to top of wall are deemed to be “minor retaining walls” and do not require an R number. Refer to FDM 11-55-5.2 for more information.
 - Modular block gravity walls having a maximum height of less than 4.0 ft. measured from the bottom of wall or top of leveling pad to top of wall are deemed to be “minor retaining walls” and do not require an R number. Refer to FDM 11-55-5.2 for more information.
- Non-proprietary walls (e.g., sheet pile walls, cast-in-place walls):



Table of Contents

5.1 Factors Governing Bridge Costs 2

5.2 Economic Span Lengths 4

5.3 Contract Unit Bid Prices 5

5.4 Bid Letting Cost Data 6

 5.4.1 2018 Year End Structure Costs 6

 5.4.2 2019 Year End Structure Costs 9

 5.4.3 2020 Year End Structure Costs 11

 5.4.4 2021 Year End Structure Costs 12

 5.4.5 2022 Year End Structure Costs 13



5.1 Factors Governing Bridge Costs

Bridge costs are tabulated based on the bids received for all bridges let to contract. While these costs indicate some trends, they do not reflect all the factors that affect the final bridge cost. Each bridge has its own conditions which affect the cost at the time a contract is let. Some factors governing bridge costs are:

1. Location - rural or urban, or remote regions
2. Type of crossing
3. Type of superstructure
4. Skew of bridge
5. Bridge on horizontal curve
6. Type of foundation
7. Type and height of piers
8. Depth and velocity of water
9. Type of abutment
10. Ease of falsework erection
11. Need for special equipment
12. Need for maintaining traffic during construction
13. Limit on construction time
14. Complex forming costs and design details
15. Span arrangements, beam spacing, etc.

Figure 5.2-1 shows the economic span lengths of various type structures based on average conditions. Refer to Chapter 17 for discussion on selecting the type of superstructure.

Annual unit bridge costs are included in this chapter. The area of bridge is from back to back of abutments and out to out of the concrete superstructure. Costs are based only on the bridges let to contract during the period. In using these cost reports exercise care when a small number of bridges are reported as these costs may not be representative.

In these reports prestressed girder costs are grouped together because there is a small cost difference between girder sizes. Refer to unit costs. Concrete slab costs are also grouped together for this reason.



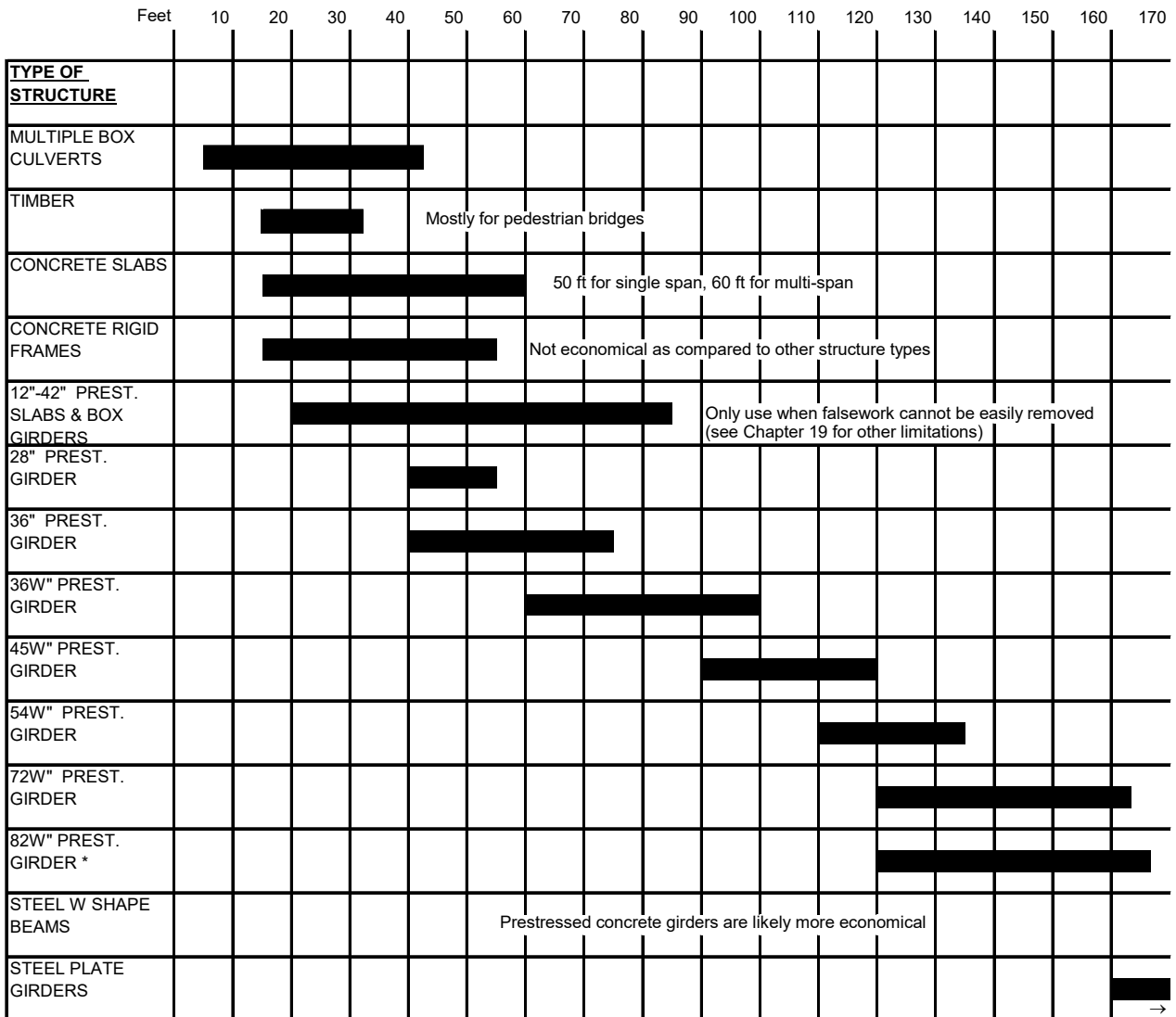
No costs are shown for rolled steel sections as these structures are not built very often. They have been replaced with prestressed girders which are usually more economical. The cost of plate girders is used to estimate rolled section costs.

For structures over a railroad, use the costs of grade separation structures. Costs vary considerably for railroad structures over a highway due to different railroad specifications.

Other available estimating tools such as *AASHTOWare Project Estimator* and *Bid Express*, as described in Facilities Development Manual (FDM) 19-5-5, should be the primary tools for structure project cost estimations. Information in this chapter can be used as a supplemental tool.



5.2 Economic Span Lengths



*Currently there is a moratorium on the use of 82W" prestressed girders in Wisconsin

Figure 5.2-1
Economic Span Lengths



5.3 Contract Unit Bid Prices

Refer to FDM 19-5-5 when preparing construction estimates and use the following estimating tools:

- Bid Express
- AASHTOWare Project Estimator
- [Estimating Tools](#) website



5.4 Bid Letting Cost Data

This section includes past information on bid letting costs per structure type. Values are presented by structure type and include: number of structures, total area, total cost, superstructure cost per square foot and total cost per square foot.

The square foot costs include all items shown on the structure plan except removing old structure. Costs also include a proportionate share of the project’s mobilization, as well as structural approach slab costs, if applicable. However, square footage does not include the structural approach slabs, and is based on the length of the bridge from abutment to abutment. (It is realized that this yields a slightly higher square footage bridge cost for those bridges with structural approach slabs.)

5.4.1 2018 Year End Structure Costs

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	45	276,821	40,483,970	66.45	146.25
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	49	72,180	11,489,979	68.04	159.19
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	10	51,532	9,546,594	63.57	185.26
Prestressed Box Girder	1	1,864	400,675	113.39	214.95

Table 5.4-1
Stream Crossing Structures

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	52	727,872	108,975,613	59.90	149.72
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	6	56,580	9,478,579	57.14	167.53
Steel Plate Girders	0	--	--	--	--
Trapezoidal Steel Box Girders	0	--	--	--	--

Table 5.4-2
Grade Separation Structures



Box Culvert Type	No. of Culverts	Cost per Lin. Ft.
Single Cell	13	1,911
Twin Cell	6	2,901
Three Cell	1	6,262

Table 5.4-3
Box Culverts

Bridge Type	Cost
Twin Pipe Culvert	2,078 Lin. Ft.

Table 5.4-4
Miscellaneous Bridges

Retaining Wall Type	No. of Walls	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Cost per Square Foot
CIP Cantilever	0	--	--	--
CIP Facing (MSE)	0	--	--	--
MSE Block Walls	3	4,693	567,547	120.93
MSE Panel Walls	49	378,371	44,841,726	118.51
Modular Walls	3	2,402	204,002	84.93
Precast Panel and Wire Faced	1	5,945	948,347	159.53
Soldier Pile Walls	4	8,531	1,570,107	184.05
Steel Sheet Pile Walls	2	16,620	1,639,380	98.64

Table 5.4-5
Retaining Walls



Sign Structure Type		No. of Structures	Total Lineal Ft. of Arm	Total Costs	Cost per Lin. Ft.
Butterfly (1-Sign)	Conc. Col.	6	118	273,756	2,319.97
	1-Steel Col.	0	--	--	--
Butterfly (2-Signs)	Conc. Col.	5	88	277,787	3,156.67
	1-Steel Col.	4	73	326,652	4,474.68
Cantilever	Conc. Col	8	234	588,676	2,515.71
	1-Steel Col	32	850.83	1,380,710	1,622.78
Cantilever Full Span	Conc. Col.	16	1267	2,909,973	2,296.74
	1-Steel Col.	2	184.2	279,115	1,515.28
	2-Steel Col.	17	1469	2,236,464	1,522.44
Full Span	1-Steel Col.	10	675.5	513,623	760.36
	2-Steel Col.	0	--	--	--

Table 5.4-6
Sign Structures



5.4.2 2019 Year End Structure Costs

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	23	120,327	17,518,289	67.10	145.59
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	44	69,664	11,879,548	70.13	170.53
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	10	43,057	6,148,879	100.04	142.81
Prestressed Box Girder	1	1,253	268,037	101.17	213.92

Table 5.4-7
Stream Crossing Structures

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	19	170,986	27,970,532	75.00	163.58
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	3	18,772	3,060,054	63.04	163.01
Steel Beams	1	7,964	1,522,389	95.77	191.16
Steel Plate Girders	3	130,986	30,430,624	144.97	232.32

Table 5.4-8
Grade Separation Structures

Box Culvert Type	No. of Culverts	Cost per Lin. Ft.
Single Cell	8	2,496
Twin Cell	5	3,392
Three Cell	1	3,283

Table 5.4-9
Box Culverts

Bridge Type	Cost
(none)	--

Table 5.4-10
Miscellaneous Bridges



Retaining Wall Type	No. of Walls	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Cost per Square Foot
CIP Cantilever	0	--	--	--
CIP Facing (MSE)	0	--	--	--
MSE Block Walls	7	17,195	2,490,957	144.87
MSE Panel Walls	27	85,496	10,517,536	123.02
Modular Walls	0	--	--	-
Precast Panel and Wire Faced	0	--	--	--
Soldier Pile Walls	3	6,290	1,378,911	219.22
Steel Sheet Pile Walls	1	1,940	92,512	47.69

Table 5.4-11
Retaining Walls

Sign Structure Type	No. of Structures	Total Lineal Ft. of Arm	Total Costs	Cost per Lin. Ft.	
Butterfly (1-Sign)	Conc. Col.	0	--	--	
	1-Steel Col.	0	--	--	
Butterfly (2-Signs)	Conc. Col.	0	--	--	
	1-Steel Col.	0	--	--	
Cantilever	Conc. Col	0	--	--	
	1-Steel Col	2	56	42,520	1,518
Cantilever Full Span	Conc. Col.	0	--	--	
	1-Steel Col.	0	--	--	
	2-Steel Col.	10	735.5	126,495	1,719.86
Full Span	1-Steel Col.	3	187	45,069	723.04
	2-Steel Col.	0	--	--	--

Table 5.4-12
Sign Structures



5.4.3 2020 Year End Structure Costs

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	28	236,564	35,597,272	70.46	150.48
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	35	57,402	10,783,692	72.40	187.86
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	7	53,236	6,866,154	65.48	128.98
Prestressed Box Girder	2	9,050	2,694,672	157.15	297.75
Steel Plate Girders	1	19,076	5,258,732	120.51	275.67

Table 5.4-13
Stream Crossing Structures

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	22	211,991	34,051,252	71.64	160.63
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	1	2,179	379,028	62.35	173.95
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	1	5,563	870,732	43.94	156.52

Table 5.4-14
Grade Separation Structures

Box Culvert Type	No. of Culverts	Cost per Lin. Ft.
Single Cell	17	1,708
Twin Cell	1	2,073
Three Cell	0	--

Table 5.4-15
Box Culverts



5.4.4 2021 Year End Structure Costs

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	29	220,753	35,044,116	71.47	158.75
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	51	76,036	15,497,984	76.94	203.82
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	10	46,682	7,340,768	70.37	157.25
Prestressed Box Girder	0	--	--	--	--
Buried Slabs	2	5,419	1,256,806	72.16	231.93
Steel Plate Girders	0	--		--	--

Table 5.4-16
Stream Crossing Structures

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	29	244,240	37,780,465	73.38	154.69
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	0	--	--	--	--
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	0	--	--	--	--

Table 5.4-17
Grade Separation Structures



5.4.5

5.4.5 2022 Year End Structure Costs

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	29	134,583	25,559,025	88.73	189.91
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	53	79,248	17,397,862	85.21	219.54
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	6	49,138	9,413,541	88.63	191.57
Prestressed Box Girder	0	--	--	--	--
Buried Slabs	0	--	--	--	--
Steel Plate Girders	0	--	--	--	--

Table 5.4-18
Stream Crossing Structures

Structure Type	No. of Bridges	Total Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Costs	Super. Only Cost Per Square Foot	Cost per Square Foot
Prestressed Concrete Girders	8	81,829	13,443,218	78.36	164.28
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Flat)	0	--	--	--	--
Reinf. Conc. Slabs (Haunched)	0	--	--	--	--

Table 5.4-19
Grade Separation Structures



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Table of Contents

6.1 Approvals, Distribution and Work Flow 5

6.2 Preliminary Plans 7

 6.2.1 Structure Survey Report 7

 6.2.1.1 BOS-Designed Structures 7

 6.2.1.2 Consultant-Designed Structures 8

 6.2.2 Preliminary Layout 8

 6.2.2.1 General 8

 6.2.2.2 Basic Considerations 8

 6.2.2.3 Requirements of Drawing 10

 6.2.2.3.1 Plan View 10

 6.2.2.3.2 Elevation View 12

 6.2.2.3.3 Cross-Section View 13

 6.2.2.3.4 Other Requirements 13

 6.2.2.4 Utilities 15

 6.2.3 Distribution of Exhibits 16

6.3 Final Plans 18

 6.3.1 General Requirements 18

 6.3.1.1 Drawing Size 18

 6.3.1.2 Scale 18

 6.3.1.3 Line Thickness 18

 6.3.1.4 Lettering and Dimensions 18

 6.3.1.5 Notes 18

 6.3.1.6 Standard Insert Drawings 18

 6.3.1.7 Abbreviations 19

 6.3.1.8 Nomenclature and Definitions 20

 6.3.2 Plan Sheets 20

 6.3.2.1 General Plan (Sheet 1) 20

 6.3.2.1.1 Plan Notes for New Bridge Construction 23

 6.3.2.1.2 Plan Notes for Bridge Rehabilitation 24

 6.3.2.2 Subsurface Exploration 25

 6.3.2.3 Abutments 25

 6.3.2.4 Piers 27



- 6.3.2.5 Superstructure..... 28
 - 6.3.2.5.1 All Structures..... 28
 - 6.3.2.5.2 Steel Structures..... 29
 - 6.3.2.5.3 Railing and Parapet Details..... 30
- 6.3.3 Miscellaneous Information..... 30
 - 6.3.3.1 Bill of Bars..... 30
 - 6.3.3.2 Box Culverts..... 30
 - 6.3.3.3 Miscellaneous Structures..... 31
 - 6.3.3.4 Standard Drawings..... 31
 - 6.3.3.5 Insert Sheets..... 32
 - 6.3.3.6 Change Orders and Maintenance Work..... 32
 - 6.3.3.7 Name Plate and Benchmarks..... 32
 - 6.3.3.8 Removing Structure and Debris Containment..... 32
 - 6.3.3.8.1 Structure Repairs..... 34
 - 6.3.3.8.2 Complete or Substantial Removals..... 35
- 6.3.4 Checking Plans..... 35
 - 6.3.4.1 Items requiring a PDF copy for the Project Records (Group A) – Paper Copies to be Destroyed when Construction is Completed..... 36
 - 6.3.4.2 Additional Items to be Destroyed When Construction is Completed (Group B).. 36
 - 6.3.4.3 Items to be Destroyed when Plans are Completed (Group C)..... 37
- 6.4 Computations of Quantities..... 38
 - 6.4.1 Excavation for Structures Bridges (Structure)..... 38
 - 6.4.2 Granular Materials..... 38
 - 6.4.3 Concrete Masonry Bridges..... 39
 - 6.4.4 Prestressed Girder Type I (28-Inch; 36-Inch; 36W-Inch; 45W-Inch; 54W-Inch; 72W-Inch, 82W-Inch)..... 39
 - 6.4.5 Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Bridges or Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Coated Bridges39
 - 6.4.6 Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Stainless Bridges..... 39
 - 6.4.7 Structural Steel Carbon or Structural Steel HS..... 39
 - 6.4.8 Bearing Pads Elastomeric Non-Laminated or Bearing Pads Elastomeric Laminated or Bearing Assemblies Fixed (Structure) or Bearing Assemblies Expansion (Structure)..... 40
 - 6.4.9 Piling Test Treated Timber (Structure)..... 40
 - 6.4.10 Piling CIP Concrete (Size)(Shell Thickness), Piling Steel HP (Size)..... 40
 - 6.4.11 Preboring CIP Concrete Piling or Steel Piling..... 40



6.4.12 Railing Steel Type (Structure) or Railing Tubular Type (Structure)..... 40

6.4.13 Slope Paving Concrete or Slope Paving Crushed Aggregate or Slope Paving Select Crushed Material..... 41

6.4.14 Riprap Medium, Riprap Heavy or Grouted Riprap, Riprap Light..... 41

6.4.15 Pile Points 41

6.4.16 Floordrains Type GC, Floordrains Type H, or Floordrains Type WF..... 41

6.4.17 Cofferdams (Structure)..... 41

6.4.18 Rubberized Membrane Waterproofing..... 41

6.4.19 Expansion Devices..... 41

6.4.20 Electrical Work..... 41

6.4.21 Conduit Rigid Metallic ___-Inch or Conduit Rigid Nonmetallic Schedule 40 -Inch 41

6.4.22 Preparation Decks Type 1 or Preparation Decks Type 2 41

6.4.23 Cleaning Decks..... 42

6.4.24 Joint Repair 42

6.4.25 Concrete Surface Repair 42

6.4.26 Full-Depth Deck Repair 42

6.4.27 Concrete Masonry Overlay Decks..... 42

6.4.28 Removing Structure and Debris Containment..... 42

6.4.29 Anchor Assemblies for Steel Plate Beam Guard 42

6.4.30 Steel Diaphragms (Structure)..... 43

6.4.31 Welded Stud Shear Connectors X -Inch 43

6.4.32 Concrete Masonry Seal..... 43

6.4.33 Geotextile Fabric Type 43

6.4.34 Concrete Adhesive Anchors 43

6.4.35 Piling Steel Sheet Permanent Delivered or Piling Steel Sheet Permanent Driven... 43

6.4.36 Piling Steel Sheet Temporary 43

6.4.37 Temporary Shoring 43

6.4.38 Concrete Masonry Deck Repair 43

6.4.39 Sawing Pavement Deck Preparation Areas 44

6.4.40 Removing Bearings..... 44

6.4.41 Ice Hot Weather Concreting..... 44

6.4.42 Asphaltic Overlays 44

6.5 Production of Structure Plans by Consultants, Regional Offices and Other Agencies 45

6.5.1 Approvals, Distribution, and Work Flow..... 46



6.5.2 Preliminary Plan Requirements..... 47

6.5.3 Final Plan Requirements 48

6.5.4 Addenda..... 49

6.5.5 Post-Let Revisions 49

6.5.6 Local-Let Projects 49

6.5.7 Locally-Funded Projects 49

6.6 Structures Data Management and Resources..... 50

6.6.1 Structures Data Management 50

6.6.2 Resources 51



6.3.2.2 Subsurface Exploration

This sheet is initiated by the Geotechnical Engineer. The following information is required on the sheet. Bridge details are not drawn by the Geotechnical Engineer.

1. Plan View

Show a plan layout of structure with survey lines, reference lines, pier and abutment locations and location of borings and probings plotted to scale.

On box culvert structure plans, show three profile lines of the existing ground elevations (along the centerline and outer walls of the box). Scale the information for these lines from the site contour map that is a part of the structure survey report.

2. Elevation

Show a centerline profile of existing ground elevation.

Show only substructure units at proper elevation w/no elevations shown. Also show the pile lengths.

Show the kind of material, its located depth, and the blow count of the split spoon sampler for each boring. Give the blow count at about 5 foot intervals or where there is a significant change in material.

6.3.2.3 Abutments

Use as many sheets as necessary to show details clearly. Each substructure unit should have its own plan sheet(s). Show all bar steel required using standard notations; solid lines lengthwise and solid dots in cross section. Give dimensions for a skewed abutment to a reference line which passes through the intersection for the longitudinal structural reference line and centerline of bearing of the abutment. Give the dimension, from centerline of bearing to backface of abutment along the longitudinal reference line and the offset distance if on a skew. Give beam seat corner dimensions along the front face of abutment. Show the skew angle. See [Figure 6.3-1](#) for example of skewed abutment dimensions.

If there is piling, show a complete footing layout giving piling dimensions tied to the reference line. Number all the piles. Give the type of piling, length and required driving resistance. Show a welded field splice for cast in place concrete or steel H piles.

Bridge seats for steel bearings and laminated elastomeric bearings are level within the limits of the bearing plate. Slope the bearing area utilizing non-laminated elastomeric bearings if the slope of the bottom of girder exceeds 1%. Slope the bridge seat between bearings 1" from front face of backwall to front face of abutment. Give all beam seat elevations.



1. Plan View

- a. Place a keyed construction joint near the center of the abutment if the length of the body wall exceeds 50 feet. Make the keyway as large as feasible and extend the horizontal bar steel through the joint.
- b. Dimension wings in a direction parallel and perpendicular to the wing centerline. Wings should be numbered starting from the lower left corner and increasing in a clockwise order.
- c. Dimension angle between wing and body if that angle is different from the skew angle of the abutment.

2. Elevation

- a. Give beam seat, wing (front face and wing tip), and footing elevations to the nearest .01 of a foot.
- b. Give vertical dimension of wing.

3. Wing Elevation

4. Body Section

Place an optional keyed construction joint in the parapet at the bridge seat elevation if there is a parapet.

5. Wing Sections

6. Bar Steel Listing and Detail

Use the following views where necessary:

- 7. Pile Plan & Splice Detail
- 8. View Showing Limits of Excavation and Backfill
- 9. Special Details for Utilities
- 10. Drainage Details

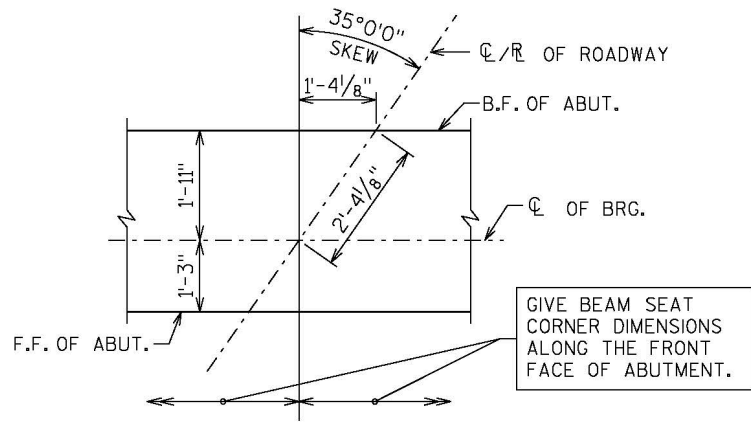


Figure 6.3-1
Example of Skewed Abutment Dimensions

6.3.2.4 Piers

Use as many sheets as necessary to show all details clearly. Each substructure unit should have its own plan sheet(s).

Give dimensions for a skewed pier to a reference line which passes through the intersection of the longitudinal structural reference line and the pier centerline. Show the skew angle. Dimension the centerline spacing of superstructure girders.

1. Plan View

Show dimensions, footings, cap steps, beam spacings and skew angle.

2. Elevation

Show dimensions and elevations. Show lengths of all columns for clarity. Give the elevation of the bottom of footings and beam seats. Refer to abutments for detailing bridge seats. Dimension all bar steel and stirrups.

3. Footing Plan

Show dimensions for pile spacing, pile numbers and reinforcing steel in footing.

4. Bar Steel Listing and Details

5. Pile Splice Detail (If different from abutment only).

6. Cross Section thru Column and Pier Cap



Detail anchor bolts between reinforcing bars to provide clearance. Long steel bridges may require more clearance. This allows an erection tolerance for the structural steel so that the bar steel is not pierced by the anchor bolts if the bearing is shifted.

6.3.2.5 Superstructure

Use as many sheets as are necessary to show all details clearly. Standard insert sheets are available to show many standard details. The title, project number, and a few basic dimensions are added to these standard sheets.

6.3.2.5.1 All Structures

1. Show the cross-section of roadway, plan view and related details, elevation of typical girder or girders, details of girders, and other details not shown on standard insert sheets. All drawings are to be fully dimensioned and show such sections and views as needed to detail the superstructure completely.
2. For girder bridges:
Show the total dead load deflections, including composite dead load (without future wearing surface) acting on the composite section, at tenth points of each span. Distribute the composite dead load evenly to all girders and provide one deflection value for a typical interior girder. Chapter 17 – Superstructure-General illustrates three load cases for exterior girder design with raised sidewalks, cases that provide a conservative envelope to ensure adequate girder capacity. However, the above composite dead load distribution should be used for deflection purposes. For prestressed concrete girders, the dead load deflection reported does not include the weight of the girder. See Chapter 24 – Steel Girder Structures for camber and blocking, top of steel elevation and deflection reporting criteria.

A separate deflection value for interior and exterior girders *may* be provided if the difference, accounting for load transfer between girders, warrants multiple values. A weighted distribution of composite dead load could be used for deflection purposes *only*. For example, an extremely large composite load over the exterior girder could be distributed as 40-30-30 percent to the exterior and first two interior girders respectively. Use good engineering judgment to determine whether to provide separate deflection values for individual girder lines. In general, this is not necessary.

Indicate girder numbers about the centerline of bearing in each span. Girders should be numbered in increasing order from left to right in the cross-section view. For rehabilitation projects, indicate the existing girder numbers and assign new girder numbers in increasing order from left to right.

For slab bridges: Provide
camber values at the tenth points of all spans. The camber is based on 3 times the deflection of the slab, only. For multi-span bridges, the deflection calculations are based on a continuous span structure since the falsework supports the bridge until the concrete slab has cured.



Deflection and camber values are to be reported to the nearest 0.1 inch, for all girder and slab superstructures.

3. For girder structures, provide finished grade top of deck elevations for each girder line at the tenth points of all spans. Show the top of deck elevations at the outside edge of deck at tenth points. If staged construction, include tenth point elevations along the construction joint. For slab structures, provide the finished grade elevations at the reference line and/or crown and edge of slab at tenth points.
4. Decks of uniform thickness are used on all girders. Variations in thickness are achieved by haunching the deck over each girder. Haunches are formed off the top of the top flange. See the standards for details. In general the minimum haunch depth along the edge of girder is to be 1 1/4" although 2" is recommended to allow for construction tolerances. Haunch depth is the distance from the bottom of the concrete deck to the top of the top flange.
5. Provide a paving notch at each end of all structures for rigid approach pavements. See standard for details.
6. If the structure contains conduit for a deck lighting system, place the conduit in the concrete parapet. Place expansion devices on conduit which passes through structure expansion joints.
7. Show the bar steel reinforcement in the slab, curb, and sidewalk with the transverse spacing and all bars labeled. Show the direction and amount of roadway crown.
8. On bridges with a median curb and left turn lane, water may be trapped at the curb due to the grade slope and crown slope. If this is the case, make the cross slope flat to minimize the problem. Existing pavers cannot adjust to a variable crown line.
9. On structures with modular joints consider cover plates for the back of parapets when aesthetics are a consideration.
10. Provide a table of tangent offsets for the reference line and edges of deck at 10 foot intervals for curved bridges.

6.3.2.5.2 Steel Structures

1. Show the diaphragm connections on steel girders. Show the spacing of rail posts on the plan view.
2. Show a steel framing plan for all steel girders. Show the spacing of diaphragms.
3. On the elevation view of steel girders show dimension, material required, field and shop splice locations, stiffener spacing, shear connector spacing, and any other information necessary to construct the girder. In additional views show the field splice details and any other detail that is necessary.



4. Show the size and location of all weld types with the proper symbols except for butt welds. Requirements for butt welds are covered by A.W.S. Specifications.
5. See Chapter 24 – Steel Girder Structures for camber and blocking, top of steel elevation and deflection reporting criteria.
6. Existing flange and web sizes should be shown to facilitate the sizing of bolts on Rehabilitation Plans.

6.3.2.5.3 Railing and Parapet Details

Standard drawings are maintained by the Structures Development Section showing railing and parapet details. Add the details and dimensions to these drawings that are unique to the structure being detailed. Compute the length along the slope of grade line rather than the horizontal dimension.

6.3.3 Miscellaneous Information

6.3.3.1 Bill of Bars

Show a complete bill of bar steel reinforcement for each unit of the structure. Place this bill on the sheet to which the bars pertain. If the abutments or piers are similar, only one bar list is needed for each type of unit.

Give each bar or group of bars a different mark if they vary in size, length, or location in a unit. Each bar list is to show the mark, number of bars, length, location and detail for each bar. Give bar lengths to the nearest 1" and segment lengths of bent bars to the nearest 1/2". Show all bar bends and hooks in detail.

Identify all bars with a letter indicating the unit in which the bar is placed - A for abutment, P for pier, S for superstructure. Where units are multiple, each unit should have a different letter. Next use a one or two digit number to sequentially number the bars in a unit. P1008 indicates bar number 08 is a size number 10 bar located in a Pier.

Use a Bar Series Table where a number of bars the same size and spacing vary in length is a uniform progression. Use only one mark for all these bars and put the average length in the table.

Refer to the Standard drawings in Chapter 9 – Materials for more information on reinforcing bars such as minimum bend diameter, splice lengths, bar supports, etc.

When a bridge is constructed in stages, show the bar quantities for each stage. This helps the contractor with storage and retrieval during construction.

6.3.3.2 Box Culverts

Detail plans for box culverts are to be fully dimensioned and have sectional drawings needed to detail the structure completely. The following items are to be shown when necessary:



1. Plan View
2. Longitudinal section
3. Section thru box
4. Wing elevations
5. Section thru wings
6. Section thru cutoff wall
7. Vertical construction joint
8. Bar steel clearance details
9. Header details
10. North point, Name plate location, Benchmark location, and Quantities
11. Bill of bars, Bar details
12. General notes, List of drawings, Rip rap layout
13. Inlet nose detail on multiple cell boxes
14. Corner details

Bid items commonly used are excavation, concrete masonry, bar steel, rubberized membrane waterproofing, backfill and rip rap. Filler is a non-bid item. In lieu of showing a contour map, show profile grade lines as described for Subsurface Exploration sheet.

See the standard details for box culverts for the requirements on vertical construction joints, apron and cutoff walls, longitudinal construction joints, and optional construction joints.

Show name plate location on plan view and on wing detail.

6.3.3.3 Miscellaneous Structures

Detail plans for other structures such as retaining walls, pedestrian bridges, and erosion control structures are to be detailed with the same requirements as previously mentioned. Multiple sign structure of the same type and project may be combined into a single set of plans per standard insert sheet provisions, and shall be subject to the same requirements for bridge plans.

6.3.3.4 Standard Drawings

Standard drawings are maintained and furnished by the Structures Development Section. These drawings show the common types of details required on the contract plans.



6.3.3.5 Insert Sheets

These sheets are maintained by the Structures Development Section and are used in the contract plans to show standard details.

6.3.3.6 Change Orders and Maintenance Work

These plans are drawn on full size sheets. A Structure Survey Report should be submitted for all maintenance projects, including painting projects and polymer overlay projects. In addition to the SSR, final structure plans on standard sheet borders with the #8 tab should be submitted to BOS in the same fashion as other rehabilitation plans. Painting plans should include at minimum a plan view with overall width and length dimensions, the number of spans, an indication of the number and type of elements to be painted (girders, trusses, etc.), and an elevation view showing what the structure is crossing. The SSR should give a square foot quantity for patchwork painting. For entire bridges or well defined zones (e.g. Paint all girders 5 feet on each side of expansion joints), the design engineer will be responsible for determining the quantity.

6.3.3.7 Name Plate and Benchmarks

For multi-directional bridges, locate the name plate on the roadway side of the first right wing or parapet traveling in the highway cardinal directions of North or East. For one-directional bridges, locate the name plate on the first right wing or parapet in the direction of travel. For type “NY”, “W”, “M” or timber railings, name plate to be located on wing. For parapets, name plate to be located on inside face of parapet.

A benchmark location shall be shown on bridge and larger culvert plans. Locate the benchmark on a horizontal surface flush with the concrete and in close proximity to the name plate. When possible, locate on top of the parapet on the bridge deck, above the abutment. Do not locate benchmarks at locations where elevations are subject to movement (e.g. midspan) and avoid placing below a rail or fence system. Benchmarks are typically metal survey disks, which are to be supplied by the department and set by the contractor. See FDM 9-25-5 for additional benchmark information.

6.3.3.8 Removing Structure and Debris Containment

This section provides guidance for selecting the appropriate Removing Structure bid item and determining when to use the “Debris Containment” bid item.

The “Removing Structure (structure)” bid item is most typically used for complete or substantial removals, as described in [6.3.3.8.2](#), of grade separation structures and box culverts. In addition to this Standard Specification bid item, there are three additional Standard Specification bid items for complete or substantial removal work over waterways: “Removing Structure Over Waterway Remove Debris (structure)”; “Removing Structure Over Waterway Minimal Debris (structure)”; and “Removing Structure Over Waterway Debris Capture (structure)”. If these four Standard Specification bid items do not encapsulate site specific constraints for specialized cases, which should be a rare occurrence, the designer can utilize special provisions to augment the standard spec removal items.



The designer should review all of these Standard Specifications and coordinate with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine which bid items to use when removing a particular structure. **If the designer disagrees with the recommendation from the DNR’s Initial Review Letter (IRL), the designer should work with WisDOT Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC), WisDOT Regional Stormwater & Erosion Control Engineer (SWECE) and DNR Transportation Liaison (TL) to come to a consensus on the appropriate bid item, considering constructability and cost impacts of the items.** For unique or difficult removals, designers should consult with the contracting community to assess costs and the feasibility of a particular removal technique. One of the following Removing Structure bid items should be selected for removals over waterways:

- Removing Structure Over Waterway Remove Debris (structure) is used where it is not possible to remove the structure without dropping it, or a portion of it, into a waterway or wetland; and that waterway or wetland is not highly environmentally sensitive. This bid item is typically appropriate for removing the following structure types: slab spans; voided slabs; cast-in-place concrete girder bridges; earth-filled bridges.
- Removing Structure Over Waterway Minimal Debris (structure) is used where it is possible to remove the structure with only minimal debris dropping into a waterway or wetland, and that waterway or wetland is not highly environmentally sensitive. This bid item is typically appropriate for removing all structure types except for the following bridges which are typically covered under Removing Structure Over Waterway Remove Debris (structure): slab spans; voided slabs; cast-in-place concrete girder bridges; earth-filled bridges; large trestle bridges. This bid item will likely be used for most stream crossing removals. The designer may need to expand the standard spec with special provision language to address additional DNR concerns and/or issues. CMM 645.6 contains example removal and clean-up methods corresponding to this bid item.
- Removing Structure Over Waterway Debris Capture (structure) is typically used when resources are present such that additional protection is required due to the waterway or wetland being highly environmentally sensitive. Before including this bid item in the contract, consult with the DNR and the department’s regional environmental coordinator, as well as BOS, to determine if this bid item is appropriate. The designer may need to expand the standard spec with special provision language to address pier or abutment removal, and other project specific details.

Debris Containment bid items are used where structure removal, reconstruction, or other construction operations may generate falling debris that might pose a safety hazard or environmental/contamination concern to facilities located under the structure. Two standard spec bid items for debris containment are available for use depending on the project location. For grade separation structures, “Debris Containment (structure)” is utilized. This item is most typically used where the removal area is located over a railroad, but may also be used over roadways, bike paths, pedestrian ways, or other facilities that will not be closed during removal operations.

The “Debris Containment Over Waterway (structure)” item is not used when one of the three Removing Structure Over Waterway standard spec bid items is used. This item may be used for structure repair projects occur over waterways where full removals are not involved. One example of this is a standalone joint replacement project at a stream crossing structure.



6.3.3.8.1 Structure Repairs

Structure repair work could include, but is not limited to, the following bid items:

- Removing Concrete Masonry Deck Overlay
- Removing Asphaltic Concrete Deck Overlay
- Removing Polymer Overlay
- Cleaning Parapets
- Cleaning Concrete Surfaces
- Cleaning Decks to Reapply Concrete Masonry Overlay
- Preparation Decks (type)
- Cleaning Decks
- Joint Repair
- Curb Repair
- Concrete Surface Repair
- Full-Depth Deck Repair

Removal work limited to the above items is already included in the respective bid item specification, therefore a Removing Structure bid item not required. Use of Debris Containment should be reviewed for the following conditions:

- For work **over waterways**, a method of protecting the waterway is needed in some cases. Use Debris Containment over Waterway (structure), **only as needed** based on the extent and location of removal, and environmental sensitivity of the waterway. Debris is expected to be minimal.
- For work **over roadways**, Standard Specification, Sections 104 and 107, addresses safety of the traveling public and damage to all property, so generally no additional specifications are needed. **It is expected that pertinent lanes of the underpass roadway are closed when falling debris is expected from above.** No additional specifications are needed unless specifically requested with sufficient reason, in which case use Debris Containment (structure) **only as needed**, based on the extent and location of removal. Debris is expected to be minimal.
- For work **over railroads**, Standard Specification, Sections 104 and 107, addresses safety of the traveling public and damage to all property, so generally no additional specifications are needed. Exception: containment of debris is required where Full-Depth Deck Repair is expected. Use Debris Containment (structure) if Full-Depth Deck



Repair is expected, or **only as needed**, based on the extent and location of removal. Debris is expected to be minimal.

6.3.3.8.2 Complete or Substantial Removals

Complete or substantial removals, not covered by one of the bid items listed in [6.3.3.8.1](#), should use a Removing Structure bid item. Substantial removals could include, but are not limited to; decks, parapets, and wingwalls. The appropriate Removing Structure bid item should be selected and the need for a Debris Containment bid item should be reviewed for the following conditions:

- For work **over waterways or wetlands**, a method of protecting the waterway is needed if the removal area is located over the waterway. If the removal area is located over the waterway, use one of the three Removing Structure Over Waterway (structure) bid items noted in [6.3.3.8](#). If the removal area is not located over the waterway, use Removing Structure (structure). The Debris Containment Over Waterway (structure) item is not used for this work.
- For work **over roadways**, Standard Specification, Sections 104 and 107, addresses safety of the traveling public and damage to all property, and Standard Specification, Section 203 Removing Old Culverts and Bridges addresses removal. **It is expected that pertinent lanes of the underpass roadway are closed when falling debris is expected from above.** Use Removing Structure (structure). No additional specifications are needed unless specifically requested with sufficient reasoning. Use Debris Containment (structure) **only as needed**, based on the significance of the roadway and/or location of removal.
- For work **over railroads**, Standard Specification, Sections 104 and 107, addresses safety of the traveling public and damage to all property, and Standard Specification, Section 203 Removing Old Culverts and Bridges addresses removal. A method of protecting the railroad is needed if the removal area is located over the railroad. Use Removing Structure (structure). Use Debris Containment (structure) if the **removal area is located over the railroad, or only as needed**, based on the extent and location of removal.

6.3.4 Checking Plans

Upon completion of the design and drafting of plans for a structure, the final plans are usually checked by one person. Dividing plans checking between two or more Checkers for any one structure leads to errors many times. The plans are checked for compliance with the approved preliminary drawing, design, sufficiency and accuracy of details, dimensions, elevations, and quantities. Generally the information shown on the preliminary plan is to be used on the final plans. Revisions may be made to footing sizes and elevations, pile lengths, dimensions, girder spacing, column shapes, and other details not determined at the preliminary stage. Any major changes from the preliminary plan are to be approved by the Structural Design Engineer and Supervisor.

The Checkers check the final plans against the Engineer's design and sketches to ensure all information is shown correctly. The Engineer prepares all sketches and notations not covered



by standard drawings. A good Checker checks what is shown and noted on the plan and also checks to see if any essential details, dimensions, or notation have been omitted. The final plan Bid Items should be checked for conformity with those listed in the WisDOT Standard Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction.

The Checker makes an independent check of the Bill of Bars list to ensure the Plan Preparer has not omitted any bars when determining the quantity of bar steel.

Avoid making minor revisions in details or dimensions that have very little effect on cost, appearance, or adequacy of the completed structure. Check grade and bridge seat elevations and all dimensions to the required tolerances. The Checkers make all corrections, revisions, and notations on a print of the plan and return it to the Plan Preparer. The Plan Preparer back checks all marks made by the Checker before changing. Any disagreements are resolved with the Supervisor.

Common complaints received from field staff are dimension errors, small details crowded on a drawing, lettering is too small, and reinforcing bar length or quantity errors.

After the plans are completed, the items in the project folder are separated into the following groups by the Structures Design Engineer:

6.3.4.1 Items requiring a PDF copy for the Project Records (Group A) – Paper Copies to be Destroyed when Construction is Completed.

1. QC/QA sign-off sheet
2. Design computations and computer runs
3. Quantity computations
4. Bridge Special Provisions and STSP's (only those STSP's requiring specific blanks to be filled in or contain project specific information)
5. Final Structure Survey Report form (not including photos, cross-sections, project location maps, etc.)
6. Final Geotechnical Report
7. Final Hydrology and Hydraulic computations and structure sizing report
8. Contour map

6.3.4.2 Additional Items to be Destroyed When Construction is Completed (Group B)

1. Miscellaneous correspondence and transmittal letters
2. Preliminary drawings and computations
3. Prints of soil borings and plan profile sheets



4. Shop steel quantity computations*
5. Design checker computations
6. Layout sheets
7. Elevation runs and bridge geometrics
8. Falsework plans*
9. Miscellaneous Test Report
10. Photographs of bridge rehabs

* These items are added to the packet during construction.

6.3.4.3 Items to be Destroyed when Plans are Completed (Group C)

1. All "void" material
2. All copies except one of preliminary drawings
3. Extra copies of plan and profile sheets
4. Preliminary computer design runs

Note that lists for Group A, B & C are not intended to be all inclusive, but serve as starting points for categorizing design material. Items in Group A & B should be labeled separately.
Computation of Quantities



6.4 Computations of Quantities

When the final drafting and plan checking is completed, the person responsible for drafting the plans and plans checker are to prepare individual quantity calculations for the bid items listed on the plans. The following instructions apply to the computation on quantities.

Divide the work into units that are repetitive such as footings, columns, and girders. Label all items with a clear description. Use sketches for clarity. These computations may be examined by others in future years so make them understandable.

One of the most common errors made in quantity computation is computing only half of an item which is symmetrical about a centerline and forgetting to double the result.

Following is a list of commonly used bridge quantities. Be sure to use the appropriate item and avoid using incidental items as this is too confusing for the contractor and project manager. The bid item for Abatement of Asbestos Containing Material should be included on the structure plans. Items such as Incentive Strength Concrete Structures, Construction Staking Structure Layout, etc. should not be included on the structure plans.

A column with the title “Bid Item Number” should be the first column for the “Total Estimated Quantities” table shown in the plans. The numbers in this column will be the numbers associated with the bid items as found in the Standard Specification, STSP, and/or Special Provisions.

6.4.1 Excavation for Structures Bridges (Structure)

This is a lump sum bid item. The limits of excavation are shown in the chapter in the manual which pertains to the structural item, abutments, piers, retaining walls, box culverts, etc. If the excavation is required for the roadway, the work may be covered under Excavation Common.

The limits of excavation made into solid rock are the neat line of the footing.

6.4.2 Granular Materials

Granular materials can be bid in units of tons or cubic yards. Structure plans should use the TON bid item for Structure Backfill, Granular Backfill, and Base Aggregate Dense 1 1/4-inch, unless directed otherwise by the Region. The Region may consider use of the CY bid item when contractor-provided tickets may be problematic or when the TON bid item is not used elsewhere on the contract. Other cases may also warrant the use of the CY bid item.

For Structure Backfill, Granular Backfill, and Base Aggregate Dense 1 1/4-inch materials use a 2.0 conversion factor (tons/cubic yard) for compacted TON bid items or use a 1.20 expansion factor (i.e. add an additional 20%) for CY bid items, unless directed otherwise. Refer to the FDM when preparing computations using other granular materials (breaker run, riprap, etc.).

Granular quantities and units should be coordinated with the roadway designer. For some structures, backfill quantities may be negligible to the roadway, while others may encompass a large portion of the roadway cross section and be present in multiple cross sections. A long



MSE retaining wall would be an example of the latter case and will require coordination with the roadway designer.

Generally, granular material pay limits should be shown on all structure plans. This information should be used to generate the estimated quantities and used to coordinate with roadway cross sections and construction details. See Standard Detail 9.01 – Structure Backfill Limits and Notes - for typical pay limits and plan notes.

Refer to 9.10 for additional information about granular materials.

6.4.3 Concrete Masonry Bridges

Show unit quantities (e.g. Pier 1) to the nearest 0.1 cubic yard. Show the total quantity to the nearest cubic yard. The unit quantities do not need to be adjusted so the sum of the unit quantities equals the total quantity. In computing quantities no deduction is made for metal reinforcement, floor drains, conduits and chamfers less than 2". Flanges of steel and prestressed girders projecting into the slab are deducted.

Deduct the volume of pile heads into footings and through seals for all piling except steel H sections. Deduct the actual volume displaced for precast concrete and cast-in-place concrete piling.

Consider the concrete parapet railing on abutment wing walls as part of the concrete volume of the abutment.

6.4.4 Prestressed Girder Type I (28-Inch; 36-Inch; 36W-Inch; 45W-Inch; 54W-Inch; 72W-Inch, 82W-Inch)

Record the total length of prestressed girders to the nearest 1 foot.

6.4.5 Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Bridges or Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Coated Bridges

Record this quantity to the nearest 10 lbs. Designate if bar steel is coated. Include the bar steel in C.I.P. concrete piling in bar steel quantities.

6.4.6 Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Stainless Bridges

Record this quantity to the nearest 10 lbs. Bar weight shall be assumed to be equivalent to Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Bridges or Bar Steel Reinforcement HS Coated Bridges bid items.

6.4.7 Structural Steel Carbon or Structural Steel HS

See 24.2.4.



6.4.8 Bearing Pads Elastomeric Non-Laminated or Bearing Pads Elastomeric Laminated or Bearing Assemblies Fixed (Structure) or Bearing Assemblies Expansion (Structure)

Record as separate item with quantity required. Bid as Each.

6.4.9 Piling Test Treated Timber (Structure)

Record this quantity as a lump sum item. Estimate the pile lengths by examining the subsurface exploration sheet and the Site Investigation Report. Give the length and location of test piles in a footnote. Do not use this quantity for steel piling or concrete cast-in-place piling.

6.4.10 Piling CIP Concrete (Size)(Shell Thickness), Piling Steel HP (Size)

Record this quantity in feet for Steel and C.I.P. types of piling. Pile lengths are computed to the nearest 5.0 foot for each pile within a given substructure unit, unless a more exact length is known due to well defined shallow rock (approx. 20 ft.), etc.. Typically, all piles within a given substructure unit are shown as the same length.

The length of foundation piling driven includes the length through any seal and embedment into the footing. The quantity delivered is the same as quantity driven. For trestle piling the amount of piling driven is the penetration below ground surface.

Oil field pipe is allowed as an alternate on all plans unless a note is added in the General Notes stating it is not allowed on that specific project.

6.4.11 Preboring CIP Concrete Piling or Steel Piling

Record the type, quantity in feet. Calculate to the nearest lineal foot per pile location.

6.4.12 Railing Steel Type (Structure) or Railing Tubular Type (Structure)

Record the type and quantity, bid in lineal feet. For bridges, the railing length should be horizontal length shown on the plans. For retaining walls, use the length along the top of the wall. Calculate railing lengths as follows:

- Steel Railing Type 'W' – CL end post to CL end post
- Tubular Railing Type 'H' – CL end plate to CL end plate
- Combination Railing Type '3T' – CL end post to CL end post + (2'-5") per railing
- Tubular Railing Type 'M' – CL end post to CL end post + (4'-6") per railing
- Combination Railing Type 'Type C1-C6' – CL end rail base plate to CL end rail base plate
- Tubular Steel Railing Type NY3&4 – CL end post to CL end post + (4'-10") per railing



6.4.13 Slope Paving Concrete or Slope Paving Crushed Aggregate or Slope Paving Select Crushed Material

Record this quantity to the nearest square yard. Deduct the area occupied by columns or other elements of substructure units.

6.4.14 Riprap Medium, Riprap Heavy or Grouted Riprap, Riprap Light

Record this quantity to the nearest 1 cubic yard.

6.4.15 Pile Points

When recommended in soils report. Bid as each.

6.4.16 Floordrains Type GC, Floordrains Type H, or Floordrains Type WF

Record the type and number of drains. Bid as Each.

6.4.17 Cofferdams (Structure)

Lump Sum

6.4.18 Rubberized Membrane Waterproofing

Record the quantity to the nearest square yard.

6.4.19 Expansion Devices

For “Expansion Device” and “Expansion Device Modular”, bid the items in lineal feet. The distance measured is from the outermost extent of the expansion device along the skew (do not include turn-ups into parapets or medians).

6.4.20 Electrical Work

Refer to Standard Construction Specifications for bid items.

6.4.21 Conduit Rigid Metallic __-Inch or Conduit Rigid Nonmetallic Schedule 40 -Inch

Record this quantity in feet.

6.4.22 Preparation Decks Type 1 or Preparation Decks Type 2

Record these quantities to the nearest square yard. Preparation Decks Type 1 should be provided by the Region. Estimate Preparation Decks Type 2 as 40% of Preparation Decks Type 1. Deck preparation areas shall be filled using Concrete Masonry Overlay Decks, Concrete Masonry Deck Repair, or with an appropriate deck patch. See Chapter 40 Standards.



6.4.23 Cleaning Decks

Record this quantity to the nearest square yard.

6.4.24 Joint Repair

Record this quantity to the nearest square yard.

6.4.25 Concrete Surface Repair

Record this quantity to the nearest square foot.

6.4.26 Full-Depth Deck Repair

Record this quantity to the nearest square yard.

6.4.27 Concrete Masonry Overlay Decks

Record this quantity to the nearest cubic yard. Estimate the quantity by using a thickness measured from the existing ground concrete surface to the plan gradeline. Calculate the minimum overlay thickness and add 1/2" for variations in the deck surface. Provide this average thickness on the plan, as well. Usually 1" of deck surface is removed by grinding. Include deck repair quantities for Preparation Decks Type 1 & 2 and Full-Depth Deck Repair. Use 2-inch thickness for each Preparation area and 1/2 the deck thickness for Full-Depth Deck Repairs in areas of deck preparation (full-depth minus grinding if no deck preparation).

6.4.28 Removing Structure and Debris Containment

For work over roadways and railroads, "Removing Structure (structure)" is most typically used for complete or substantial removals. For work over waterways, one of the following Standard Specification bid items should be used for complete or substantial removals: Removing Structure Over Waterway Remove Debris (structure); Removing Structure Over Waterway Minimal Debris (structure); or Removing Structure Over Waterway Debris Capture (structure).

For work other than complete or substantial removals, a Removing Structure (structure) bid item may not be required.

Use Debris Containment (structure) bid items, **only as needed** based on the significance, extent, or location of the removal.

See [6.3.3.8](#) for additional information on Removing Structure and Debris Containment bid items.

Bid as each.

6.4.29 Anchor Assemblies for Steel Plate Beam Guard

Attachment assembly for Beam Guard at the termination of concrete parapets. Bid as each.



6.4.30 Steel Diaphragms (Structure)

In span diaphragms used on bridges with prestressed girders. Bid as each.

6.4.31 Welded Stud Shear Connectors X -Inch

Total number of shear connectors with the given diameter. Bid as each.

6.4.32 Concrete Masonry Seal

Seal concrete bid to the nearest cubic yard. Whenever a concrete seal is shown on the plans, then "Cofferdams (Structure)" is also to be a bid item.

6.4.33 Geotextile Fabric Type

List type of fabric. Type HR is used in conjunction with Heavy Riprap. Bid in square yards.

6.4.34 Concrete Adhesive Anchors

Used when anchoring reinforcing bars into concrete. Bid as each.

6.4.35 Piling Steel Sheet Permanent Delivered or Piling Steel Sheet Permanent Driven

Record this quantity to the nearest square foot for the area of wall below cutoff.

6.4.36 Piling Steel Sheet Temporary

This quantity is used when the designer determines that retention of earth is necessary during excavation and soil forces require the design of steel sheet piling. This item is seldom used now that railroad excavations have a unique SPV.

Record this quantity to the nearest square foot for the area from the sheet pile tip elevation to one foot above the retained grade.

6.4.37 Temporary Shoring

This quantity is used when earth retention may be required and the method chosen is the contractor's option.

Measured as square foot from the ground line in front of the shoring to a maximum of one foot above the retained grade. For the estimated quantity use the retained area (from the ground line in front of the shoring to the ground line behind the shoring, neglecting the additional height allowed for measurement).

6.4.38 Concrete Masonry Deck Repair

Record this quantity to the nearest cubic yard. Use 2-inch thickness for each Preparation area and ½ the deck thickness for Full-Depth Deck Repairs.



6.4.39 Sawing Pavement Deck Preparation Areas

Use 10 lineal feet per SY of Preparation Decks Type 1.

6.4.40 Removing Bearings

Used to remove existing bearings for replacement with new expansion or fixed bearing assemblies. Bid as each.

6.4.41 Ice Hot Weather Concreting

Used to provide a mechanism for payment of ice during hot weather concreting operations. See FDM 19-5-3.2 for bid item usage guidance and quantity calculation guidance. Bid as LB and round to the nearest 5 lbs.

6.4.42 Asphaltic Overlays

Estimate the overlay quantity by using the theoretical average overlay thickness and add 1/2" for variations in the deck surface. Provide this average thickness on the plan, as well. Use 110 lbs/(square yard - inch) to calculate hot mix asphalt (HMA) and polymer modified asphalt (PMA) overlay quantities.

For HMA overlays use 0.07 gallons/square yard to calculate tack coat quantity, unless directed otherwise.

Coordinate asphaltic quantity assumptions with the Region and roadway designers.



6.5 Production of Structure Plans by Consultants, Regional Offices and Other Agencies

On Federal (FHWA) or State Aid Projects (including maintenance projects), a completed Structure Survey Reports, preliminary and final plans are submitted to the Bureau of Structures with a copy forwarded to the Regional Office for review and approval prior to construction. Structure and project numbers are provided by the Regional Offices. In preparation of the structural plans, the appropriate specifications and details recommended by the Bureau of Structures are to be used. If the consultant elects to modify or use details other than recommended, approval is required prior to their incorporation into the final plans.

On all Federal or State Aid Projects involving Maintenance work, the Concept Definition or Work Study Report, the preliminary and final bridge reconstruction plans shall be submitted to the Bureau of Structures for review.

Consultants desiring eligibility to perform engineering and related services on WisDOT administered structure projects must have on file with the Bureau of Structures, an electronic copy of their current Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) plan and procedures. The QA/QC plan and procedures shall include as a minimum:

- Procedures to detect and correct bridge design errors before the design plans are made final.
- A means for verifying that the appropriate design calculations have been performed, that the calculations are accurate, and that the capacity of the load-carrying members is adequate with regard to the expected loads on the structure.
- A means for verifying the completeness, constructability and accuracy of the structure plans.
- Verification that independent checks, reviews and ratings were performed.

The QA/QC plan shall also include the following items:

- Identification of a lead QA/QC Structures Program contact
- Identification of the QA/QC plan and procedures implementation date
- A statement indicating that the independent design check will be performed by an individual other than the designer, and the independent plan check will be performed by an individual other than the drafter.

Provisions for periodic reviews and update of the QA/QC plan with a frequency no less than 5 years; or as needed due to changes in the firm’s personnel or firm’s processes or procedures; or as requested by BOS. A QA/QC verification summary sheet is required as part of every final structure plan submittal, demonstrating that the QA/QC plan and procedures were followed for that structure. The QA/QC verification summary sheet shall include the signoff or initialing by each individual that performed the tasks (design, checking, plan review, technical review, etc.) documented in the QA/QC plan and procedures. The summary sheet must be submitted with the final structure plans as part of the e-submit process.

Consultants’ QA/QC plans and verification summary sheets may be subject to periodic reviews by BOS. These reviews are intended to assess compliance with BOS requirements listed above.



The list of consultant firms eligible to provide structural design services to WisDOT may be accessed using the link below:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrcs/strct/plan-submittal.aspx>

6.5.1 Approvals, Distribution, and Work Flow

Consultant	Meet with Regional Office and/or local units of government to determine need.
	Prepare Structure Survey Report including recommendation of structure type.
Geotechnical Consultant	Make site investigation and prepare Site Investigation Report.
Consultant	Submit hydrology report via Esubmit or as an email attachment to the supervisor of the Consultant Review and Hydraulics Unit. Submit 60 days prior to preliminary plan submittal.
	Prepare preliminary plans according to 6.2.
	Coordinate with Region and other agencies per 6.2.3.
	Submit preliminary plans, SSR and supporting documents via e-submit for review and approval of type, size and location.
Structures Design Section	Record project information in HSIS.
	Review hydraulics for Stream Crossings.
	Review Preliminary Plan. A minimum of 30 days to review preliminary plans should be expected.
	Coordinate with other agencies per 6.2.3.
	Return preliminary plans and comments from Structures Design Section and other appropriate agencies to Consultant with a copy to the Regional Office.
	Forward Preliminary Plan and Hydraulic Data to DNR.
Consultant	Modify preliminary plan as required, and provide explanation for preliminary comments not incorporated in final plan.
	Prepare and complete final design and plans for the specified structure.
	Write special provisions.
	At least two months in advance of the PS&E date, submit the required final design documents via e-submit per 6.5.3.



Structures Design Section	Determine which final plans will be reviewed and perform quality assurance review as applicable.
	For final plans that are reviewed, return comments to Consultant and send copy to Regional Office, including FHWA as appropriate.
Consultant	Modify final plans and specifications as required.
	Submit modified final plans via e-submit as required.
Structures Design Section	Review modified final plans as applicable.
	Sign final plans and send performance evaluation form to Region and Consultant.
Geotechnical Consultant	At time of PSE, transmit gINT boring logs, soils laboratory testing summary and data sheets, and Soil Reports to the emails provided in the Soils and Subsurface Investigations section of Two/Three Party Design Contract Special Provisions.
Bureau of Project Development	Prepare final accepted structure plans for pre-development contract administration.
Consultant	If a plan change is needed after being advertised but before being let, an addendum is required per FDM 19-22-1 and 19-22 Attachment 1.2.
Structures Design Section	Review structure addendum as applicable.
	Sign structure addendum.
Bureau of Project Development	Distributes structure addendum to bidders.
Consultant	If a plan change is required after being let, a post-let revision is required per 6.5.5.
Structures Design Section	Review post-let revision as applicable.
	Stamp post-let revision plan as accepted.
	Delivers revised plan to DOT construction team for distribution.

Table 6.5-1

Approvals, Distribution and Work Flow

6.5.2 Preliminary Plan Requirements

The Consultant prepares the Structure Survey Report for the improvement. Three types of Structure Survey Reports are available at the Regional Offices and listed in 6.2.1 of this Chapter. Preliminary layout requirements are given in 6.2.2. The Preliminary Plan exhibits are as follows:

1. Hydrology Report



2. Structure Survey Report
3. Preliminary plan, including log borings shown on the subsurface exploration sheet
4. Evaluation of Site Investigation Report
5. Contour map
6. Plan and profile, and typical section for roadway approaches
7. Hydraulic/Sizing Report (see Chapter 8 - Hydraulics) and hydraulic files are required for stream crossing structures
8. County map showing location of new and/or existing structures and FEMA map
9. Any other information or drawings which may influence location, layout or design of structure, including DNR initial review letter and photographs

6.5.3 Final Plan Requirements

The guidelines and requirements for Final Plan preparation are given in [6.3](#). The Load Rating Summary form and On-Time Submittal form can be found on the Bureau of Structures' Design and Construction webpage. The following files are included as part of the final-plan submittal:

1. Final Drawings
2. Design and Quantity Computations

For all structures for which a finite element model was developed, include the model computer input file(s).
3. Final Site Investigation Report
4. Special Provisions covering unique items not in the Standard Specifications or Standardized Special Provisions (STSP).
5. QA/QC Verification Sheet
6. Inventory Data Sheet
7. Bridge Load Rating Summary Form
8. LRFD Input File (Excel ratings spreadsheet)
9. On-Time Improvement Form

The On-Time Improvement form is required to be submitted if either of the following situations occur:



- If the first version of a final structure plan is submitted after the deadline of two months prior to the PSE date.
- If any version of a final structure plan is re-submitted after the deadline of two months prior to the PSE date. However this form is not required when the re-submit is prompted by comments from the Consultant Review Unit. The form is also not necessary when submitting addenda or post-let revisions.

6.5.4 Addenda

Addenda are plan and special provision changes that occur after the bid package has been advertised to potential bidders. See FDM 19-22-1 for instruction on the addenda process.

6.5.5 Post-Let Revisions

Post-let revisions are changes to plan details after the contract is awarded to a bidder. ESubmit only the changed plan sheets, not the entire plan set. The changes to the plan sheet shall be in red font, and outlined by red clouding. The revision box shall also be filled in with red font. Each sheet shall be 11x17, PE stamped, signed, and dated on the date of submittal.

6.5.6 Local-Let Projects

Local-let projects that are receiving State or Federal funding shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Consultant Review Unit in the same way as a State-let project. Final structure plans accepted and signed by the Consultant Review Unit will be returned to the Designer of Record and to the Region for incorporation into the local contract package.

6.5.7 Locally-Funded Projects

Local highway bridges designed under authority of the local municipality or county highway department without utilizing state or federal oversight must provide to BOS at minimum the following documents: (1) Bridge Inventory Data Sheet, (2) Scour assessment/evaluation documentation, (3) Bridge load rating summary sheet, and (4) Construction documentation such as an as-built plan and shop drawings. The scour assessment/evaluation documentation should be prepared in accordance with 8.3.2.7. All bridges shall be evaluated to determine the vulnerability to scour. See Chapter 8 – Hydraulics for additional guidance on hydrologic and hydraulic analysis.



6.6 Structures Data Management and Resources

6.6.1 Structures Data Management

The following items are part of the Data Management System for Structures. The location is shown for all items that need to be completed in order to properly manage the Structure data either by Structures Design personnel for in-house projects or consultants for their designs.

1. Structure Survey Report - Report is submitted by Region or Consultant and placed in the individual structure folder in HSI by BOS support staff.
2. Site Investigation Report - Report is submitted by WisDOT Geotechnical Engineering Unit and placed in the individual structure folder in HSI by BOS support staff.
3. Hydraulic and Scour Computations, Contour Maps and Site Report - Data is assembled by the BOS Consultant Review & Hydraulics Unit and placed in the individual structure folder in HSI by BOS support staff.
4. Designer Computations and Inventory Superstructure Design Run (Substructure computer runs as determined by the Engineer). The designers record design, inventory, operating ratings and maximum vehicle weights on the plans.
5. Load Rating Input File and Load Rating Summary sheet - The designer submits an electronic copy of the input data for load rating the structure to the Structures Development Section. (For internal use, it is located at //H32751/rating.)
6. Structure Inventory Form (Available under “Inventory & Rating Forms” on the HSI page of the BOS website). New structure or rehabilitation structure data for this form is completed by the Structural Design Engineer. It is E-submitted to the Structures Development Section for entry into the File.
7. Pile Driving Reports - An electronic copy of Forms DT1924 (Pile Driving Data) and DT1315 (Piling Record) are to be submitted to the Bureau of Structures by email to “DOTDTSDDStructuresPiling@dot.wi.gov”. These two documents will be placed in HSI for each structure and can be found in the “Shop” folder.
8. Final Shop Drawings for steel bridges (highway and pedestrian), sign bridges, floor drains, railings, all steel joints, all bearings, high-mast poles, prestressed girders, prestressed boxes, noise walls and retaining walls. Metals Fabrication & Inspection Unit or others submit via email to the Structures Development Section at “DOTDLTSDSTRUCTURESRECORDS@DOT.WI.GOV”. This process does not, however, supersede submission processes in place for specific projects.
9. Mill Tests, Heat Numbers and Shop Inspection Reports for all Steel Main Members. Metals Fabrication & Inspection Unit electronically files data into HSI
10. As-Let Plans: After bid letting, a digital image of the As-Let plans are placed in a computer folder in the Bureau of Project Development (BPD). BOS office support staff



extract a digital copy of the As-Let structure plans and place it in the structure folder for viewing on HSI.

- 11. As-Built Plans: As-Built structure plans shall be prepared for all let structure projects, new or rehabilitation. The structures with prefix 'B', 'P', 'C', 'M', 'N', 'R' and 'S' shall have As-Built plans produced after construction. The As-Built shall be prepared in accordance with Section 1.65.14 of the Construction and Materials Manual (CMM). These plans are located on a network drive and be viewed in DOTView GIS. BOS staff will ensure that the proper BOS folder (\\dotstrc\04bridge) has a copy of these plans for viewing in HSI.
- 12. Inspection Reports - A certified bridge inspector enters the initial and subsequent inspection data into HSI.

Initial	Underwater (UW-Probe/Visual)
Routine Visual	Movable
Fracture Critical	Damage
In-Depth	Interim
Underwater (UW)-Dive	Posted
Underwater (UW)-Survey	Structure Inventory and Appraisal

Table 6.6-1

Various Inspection Reports

** HSI – Highway Structures Information System – The electronic file where bridge data is stored for future use.

6.6.2 Resources

The following items are available for assistance in the preparation of structure plans on the department internet sites:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrces/strct/default.aspx>

- Bridge Manual
- Highway Structures Information System (HSI)
- Insert sheets
- Standard details
- Posted bridge map
- Standard bridge CADD files
- Structure survey reports and check lists
- Structure costs
- Structure Special Provisions



<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-business/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrcs/strct/manuals.aspx>

Facilities Development Manual

Standard Specifications for Highway and Structures Construction

Construction and Materials Manual

Additional information is available on the AASHTO and AREMA websites listed below:

<http://bridges.transportation.org>

<https://www.arena.org/>



Table of Contents

14.1 Introduction..... 7

 14.1.1 Wall Development Process..... 7

 14.1.1.1 Wall Numbering System..... 8

14.2 Wall Types 9

 14.2.1 Gravity Walls..... 10

 14.2.1.1 Mass Gravity Walls 10

 14.2.1.2 Semi-Gravity Walls 10

 14.2.1.3 Modular Gravity Walls..... 11

 14.2.1.3.1 Modular Block Gravity Walls..... 11

 14.2.1.3.2 Prefabricated Bin, Crib and Gabion Walls 11

 14.2.1.4 Rock Walls 12

 14.2.1.5 Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) Walls 12

 14.2.1.6 Soil Nail Walls..... 12

 14.2.2 Non-Gravity Walls 14

 14.2.2.1 Cantilever Walls..... 14

 14.2.2.2 Anchored Walls 14

 14.2.3 Tiered and Hybrid Wall Systems 15

 14.2.4 Temporary Shoring 16

 14.2.5 Wall Classification Chart..... 16

14.3 Wall Selection Criteria 19

 14.3.1 General 19

 14.3.1.1 Project Category 19

 14.3.1.2 Cut vs. Fill Application..... 19

 14.3.1.3 Site Characteristics 20

 14.3.1.4 Miscellaneous Design Considerations..... 20

 14.3.1.5 Right of Way Considerations 20

 14.3.1.6 Utilities and Other Conflicts 21

 14.3.1.7 Aesthetics..... 21

 14.3.1.8 Constructability Considerations 21

 14.3.1.9 Environmental Considerations 21

 14.3.1.10 Cost 21

 14.3.1.11 Mandates by Other Agencies..... 22



- 14.3.1.12 Requests made by the Public 22
- 14.3.1.13 Railing 22
- 14.3.1.14 Traffic barrier 22
- 14.3.1.15 Minor Walls..... 22
- 14.3.2 Wall Selection Guide Charts 22
- 14.4 General Design Concepts 25
 - 14.4.1 General Design Steps 25
 - 14.4.2 Design Standards..... 26
 - 14.4.3 Design Life..... 26
 - 14.4.4 Subsurface Exploration 26
 - 14.4.5 Load and Resistance Factor Design Requirements 27
 - 14.4.5.1 General 27
 - 14.4.5.2 Limit States 27
 - 14.4.5.3 Design Loads 28
 - 14.4.5.4 Earth Pressure..... 28
 - 14.4.5.4.1 Earth Load Surcharge..... 30
 - 14.4.5.4.2 Live Load Surcharge..... 30
 - 14.4.5.4.3 Compaction Loads..... 30
 - 14.4.5.4.4 Wall Slopes 31
 - 14.4.5.4.5 Loading and Earth Pressure Diagrams 31
 - 14.4.5.5 Load factors and Load Combinations..... 39
 - 14.4.5.6 Resistance Requirements and Resistance Factors..... 41
 - 14.4.6 Material Properties 41
 - 14.4.7 Wall Stability Checks..... 43
 - 14.4.7.1 External Stability 43
 - 14.4.7.2 Wall Settlement 47
 - 14.4.7.2.1 Settlement Guidelines..... 47
 - 14.4.7.3 Overall Stability..... 48
 - 14.4.7.4 Internal Stability 48
 - 14.4.7.5 Wall Embedment 48
 - 14.4.7.6 Wall Subsurface Drainage..... 48
 - 14.4.7.7 Scour 49
 - 14.4.7.8 Corrosion..... 49



- 14.4.7.9 Utilities 49
- 14.4.7.10 Guardrail and Barrier..... 49
- 14.5 Cast-In-Place Concrete Cantilever Walls 50
 - 14.5.1 General 50
 - 14.5.2 Design Procedure for Cast-in-Place Concrete Cantilever Walls 50
 - 14.5.2.1 Design Steps 51
 - 14.5.3 Preliminary Sizing 52
 - 14.5.3.1 Wall Back and Front Slopes 53
 - 14.5.4 Unfactored and Factored Loads 53
 - 14.5.5 External Stability Checks 54
 - 14.5.5.1 Eccentricity Check 54
 - 14.5.5.2 Bearing Resistance..... 54
 - 14.5.5.3 Sliding 58
 - 14.5.5.4 Settlement 59
 - 14.5.6 Overall Stability 59
 - 14.5.7 Structural Resistance 59
 - 14.5.7.1 Stem Design..... 59
 - 14.5.7.2 Footing Design 59
 - 14.5.7.3 Shear Key Design..... 60
 - 14.5.7.4 Miscellaneous Design Information 60
 - 14.5.8 Design Tables for Cast-in-Place Concrete Cantilever Walls 62
 - 14.5.9 Design Examples 62
 - 14.5.10 Summary of Design Requirements..... 67
- 14.6 Mechanically Stabilized Earth Retaining Walls 69
 - 14.6.1 General Considerations 69
 - 14.6.1.1 Usage Restrictions for MSE Walls 69
 - 14.6.2 Structural Components 70
 - 14.6.2.1 Reinforced Earthfill Zone 71
 - 14.6.2.2 Reinforcement: 72
 - 14.6.2.3 Facing Elements 73
 - 14.6.3 Design Procedure 78
 - 14.6.3.1 General Design Requirements..... 78
 - 14.6.3.2 Design Responsibilities 78



- 14.6.3.3 Design Steps 79
- 14.6.3.4 Initial Geometry 80
 - 14.6.3.4.1 Wall Embedment 80
 - 14.6.3.4.2 Wall Backslopes and Foreslopes 80
- 14.6.3.5 External Stability 81
 - 14.6.3.5.1 Unfactored and Factored Loads 81
 - 14.6.3.5.2 Sliding Stability 81
 - 14.6.3.5.3 Eccentricity Check 82
 - 14.6.3.5.4 Bearing Resistance 83
- 14.6.3.6 Vertical and Lateral Movement 84
- 14.6.3.7 Overall Stability 84
- 14.6.3.8 Internal Stability 85
 - 14.6.3.8.1 Loading 85
 - 14.6.3.8.2 Reinforcement Selection Criteria 86
 - 14.6.3.8.3 Factored Horizontal Stress 87
 - 14.6.3.8.4 Maximum Factored Tension Force 90
 - 14.6.3.8.5 Reinforcement Pullout Resistance 90
 - 14.6.3.8.6 Reinforced Design Strength 92
 - 14.6.3.8.7 Calculate T_{ai} for Inextensible Reinforcements 93
 - 14.6.3.8.8 Calculate T_{ai} for Extensible Reinforcements 93
 - 14.6.3.8.9 Design Life of Reinforcements 94
 - 14.6.3.8.10 Reinforcement /Facing Connection Design Strength 94
 - 14.6.3.8.11 Design of Facing Elements 95
 - 14.6.3.8.12 Corrosion 95
- 14.6.3.9 Wall Internal Drainage 95
- 14.6.3.10 Traffic Barrier 95
- 14.6.3.11 Design Example 95
- 14.6.3.12 Summary of Design Requirements 96
- 14.7 Modular Block Gravity Walls 99
 - 14.7.1 Design Procedure for Modular Block Gravity Walls 99
 - 14.7.1.1 Initial Sizing and Wall Embedment 100
 - 14.7.1.2 External Stability 100
 - 14.7.1.2.1 Unfactored and Factored Loads 100



- 14.7.1.2.2 Sliding Stability 100
- 14.7.1.2.3 Bearing Resistance..... 101
- 14.7.1.2.4 Eccentricity Check 101
- 14.7.1.3 Settlement 101
- 14.7.1.4 Overall Stability..... 102
- 14.7.1.5 Summary of Design Requirements 102
- 14.8 Prefabricated Modular Walls 104
 - 14.8.1 Metal and Precast Bin Walls 104
 - 14.8.2 Crib Walls 104
 - 14.8.3 Gabion Walls 105
 - 14.8.4 Design Procedure 105
 - 14.8.4.1 Initial Sizing and Wall Embedment..... 106
 - 14.8.5 Stability checks 106
 - 14.8.5.1 Unfactored and Factored Loads 106
 - 14.8.5.2 External Stability 107
 - 14.8.5.3 Settlement 107
 - 14.8.5.4 Overall Stability..... 107
 - 14.8.5.5 Structural Resistance 108
 - 14.8.6 Summary of Design Safety Factors and Requirements 108
- 14.9 Soil Nail Walls 110
 - 14.9.1 Design Requirements 110
- 14.10 Steel Sheet Pile Walls..... 112
 - 14.10.1 General..... 112
 - 14.10.2 Sheet Piling Materials..... 112
 - 14.10.3 Driving of Sheet Piling 113
 - 14.10.4 Pulling of Sheet Piling..... 113
 - 14.10.5 Design Procedure for Sheet Piling Walls 113
 - 14.10.6 Summary of Design Requirements..... 116
- 14.11 Soldier Pile Walls 118
 - 14.11.1 Design Procedure for Soldier Pile Walls 118
 - 14.11.2 Summary of Design Requirements..... 119
- 14.12 Temporary Shoring 121
 - 14.12.1 When Slopes Won't Work..... 121



14.12.2 Plan Requirements..... 121

14.12.3 Shoring Design/Construction 121

14.13 Noise Barrier Walls..... 122

14.13.1 Wall Contract Process 122

14.13.2 Pre-Approval Process..... 124

14.14 Contract Plan Requirements 125

14.15 Construction Documents..... 126

14.15.1 Bid Items and Method of Measurement 126

14.15.2 Special Provisions..... 126

14.16 Submittal Requirements for Pre-Approval Process..... 128

14.16.1 General..... 128

14.16.2 General Requirements 128

14.16.3 Qualifying Data Required For Approval 128

14.16.4 Maintenance of Approval Status as a Manufacturer 129

14.16.5 Loss of Approved Status..... 130

14.17 References..... 131

14.18 Design Examples 132



14.3.1.6 Utilities and Other Conflicts

Feasibility of some wall systems may be influenced by the presence of utilities and buried structures. MSE, soil nailing and anchored walls commonly have conflict with the presence of utilities or buried underground structures. MSE walls should not be used where utilities must stay in the reinforcement zone.

14.3.1.7 Aesthetics

In addition to being functional and economical, the walls should be aesthetically pleasing. Wall aesthetics may influence selection of a particular wall system. However, the aesthetic treatment should complement the retaining wall and not disrupt the functionality or selection of wall type. All permanent walls should be designed with due considerations to the wall aesthetics. Each wall site must be investigated individually for aesthetic needs. Temporary walls should generally be designed with little consideration to aesthetics. Chapter 4 - Aesthetics presents structures aesthetic requirements.

14.3.1.8 Constructability Considerations

Availability of construction materials, site accessibility, equipment availability, form work and temporary shoring, dewatering requirements, labor considerations, complicated alignment changes, scheduling consideration, speed of construction, construction staging/phasing and maintaining traffic during construction are some of the important key factors when evaluating the constructability of each wall system for a specific project site.

In addition, it should also be ensured that the temporary excavation slopes used for wall construction are stable as per site conditions and meet all safety requirements laid by Occupation and Safety Health Administration (OSHA).

14.3.1.9 Environmental Considerations

Selection of a retaining wall system is influenced by its potential environmental impact during and after construction. Some of the environmental concerns during construction may include excavation and disposal of contaminated material at the project site, large quantity of water, corrosive nature of soil/water, vibration impacts, noise abatement and pile driving constraints.

14.3.1.10 Cost

Cost of a retaining wall system is influenced by many factors that must be considered while estimating preliminary costs. The components that influence cost include excavation, structure, procurement of additional easement or ROW, drainage, disposal of unsuitable material, traffic maintenance etc. Maintenance cost also affects overall cost of a retaining wall system. The retaining walls that have least structural cost may not be the most economical walls. Wall selection should be based on overall cost. When feasible, MSE Walls and modular block gravity walls generally cost less than other wall types.



14.3.1.11 Mandates by Other Agencies

In certain project locations, other agency mandates may limit the types of wall systems considered.

14.3.1.12 Requests made by the Public

A Public Interest Finding could dictate the wall system to be used on a specific project.

14.3.1.13 Railing

For safety reasons most walls will require a protective railing. The railing may be located behind the wall or attached on top of the wall. When attaching the railing to the top of the wall, a reinforced cast-in-place concrete coping is typically required to resist railing loads. The roadway designer will generally determine whether a pedestrian or non-pedestrian railing is required and what aesthetic considerations are needed.

14.3.1.14 Traffic barrier

A traffic barrier should be installed if vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians are likely to be present on top of the wall. The roadway designer generally determines the need for a traffic barrier.

14.3.1.15 Minor Walls

Minor walls are low height walls not assigned a structure number. Generally, these walls are coordinated in the roadway plans and should provide the same level of information as other proprietary wall systems, as required in 14.14. Typically, limited geotechnical information is provided and stability evaluations are not provided on the contract documents. These walls are typically less than 5.5 ft tall, but may require right-of-way exceeding 70 percent of wall height measured from the front face of wall. Refer to FDM 11-55-5.2 for additional roadway information and 2.5 for assigning structure numbers.

14.3.2 Wall Selection Guide Charts

Table 14.3-1 and Table 14.3-2 summarize the characteristics for the various wall types that are normally considered during the wall selection process. The tables also present some of the advantages, disadvantages, cost effective height range and other key selection factors. A wall designer can use these tables and the general wall selection criteria discussed in 14.3.1 as a guide. Designers are encouraged to contact the Structures Design Section if they have any questions relating to wall selection for their project.



14.4.7.2 Wall Settlement

Retaining walls shall be designed for the effects of total and differential foundation settlement at the Service I limit state, in accordance with **LRFD [11.5.2]** and 11.2. Maximum tolerable retaining wall total and differential foundation settlements are controlled largely by the potential for cosmetic and/or structural damage to facing elements, copings, barrier, guardrail, signs, pavements, utilities, structure foundations, and other highway appurtenances supported on or near the retaining wall.

14.4.7.2.1 Settlement Guidelines

The following table provides guidance for maximum tolerable vertical and total differential Settlement for various retaining wall types where Δh is the total settlement in inches and

Wall Type	Total Settlement Δh in inches	Total Differential Settlement $\Delta h1:L$ (in/in)
CIP semi-gravity cantilever walls	1-2	1:500
MSE walls with large precast panel facing (panel front face area > 30ft ² and \leq 75ft ²) and $\frac{3}{4}$ " joint width.	1-2	1:200
MSE walls with small precast panel facing (panel front face area \leq 30ft ²) and $\frac{3}{4}$ " joint width.	1-2	1:100
MSE walls with full-height cast-in-panel facing	1-2	1:500
MSE walls with modular block facing	2-4	1:200
MSE walls with geotextile /welded-wire facing	4-8	1:50-1:60
Modular block gravity walls	1-2	1:300
Concrete Crib walls	1-2	1:500
Bin walls	2-4	1:200
Gabion walls	4-6	1:50
Non-gravity cantilever and anchored walls	1-2.5	----

Table 14.4-3
Maximum Tolerable Settlement Guidelines for Retaining Walls



$\Delta h1:L$ is the ratio of the difference in total vertical settlement between two points along the wall base to the horizontal distance between the two points(L). It should be noted that the tolerance provided in

[Table 14.4-3](#) are for guidance purposes only. More stringent tolerances may be required to meet project-specific requirements.

14.4.7.3 Overall Stability

Overall stability of the walls shall be checked at the Service I limit state using appropriate load combinations and resistance factors in accordance with **LRFD [11.6.2.3]**. The stability is evaluated using limit state equilibrium methods. The Modified Bishop, Janbu or Spencer method may be used for the analysis. The analyses shall investigate all potential internal, compound and overall shear failure surfaces that penetrate the wall, wall face, bench, back-cut, backfill, and/or foundation zone. The overall stability check is performed by the Geotechnical Engineering Unit for WISDOT designed walls.

14.4.7.4 Internal Stability

Internal stability checks including anchor pullout or soil reinforcement failure and/or structural failure checks are also required as applicable for different wall systems. As an example, see [Figure 14.4-11](#) for internal stability failure of MSE walls. Internal stability checks must be performed at Strength Limits in accordance with **LRFD [11.5.3]**.

14.4.7.5 Wall Embedment

The minimum wall footing embedment shall be 1.5 ft below the lowest adjacent grade in front of the wall.

The embedment depth of most wall footings should be established below the depths the foundation soil/rock could be weakened due to the effect of freeze thaw, shrink-swell, scour, erosion, construction excavation. The potential scour elevation shall be established in accordance with 11.2.2.1.1 of the Bridge Manual.

The final footing embedment depth shall be based on the required geotechnical bearing resistance, wall settlement limitations, and all internal, external, and overall (global) wall stability requirements in *AASHTO LRFD* and the *Bridge Manual*.

14.4.7.6 Wall Subsurface Drainage

Retaining wall drainage is necessary to prevent hydrostatic pressure and frost pressure. Inadequate wall sub-drainage can cause premature deterioration, reduced stability and collapse or failure of a retaining wall.

A properly designed wall sub-drainage system is required to control potentially damaging hydrostatic pressures and seepage forces behind and around a wall. A redundancy in the sub-drainage system is required where subsurface drainage is critical for maintaining retaining wall stability. This is accomplished using a pervious granular fill behind the wall.



14.6 Mechanically Stabilized Earth Retaining Walls

14.6.1 General Considerations

Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) is the term used to describe the practice of reinforcing a mass of soil with either metallic or geosynthetic soil reinforcement which allows the mass of soil to function as a gravity retaining wall structure. The soil reinforcement is placed horizontally across potential planes of shear failure and develops tension stresses to keep the soil mass intact. The soil reinforcement is attached to a wall facing located at the front face of the wall.

The design of MSE walls shall meet the *AASHTO LRFD* requirements in accordance with [14.4.2](#). The service life requirement for both permanent and temporary MSE wall systems is presented in [14.4.3](#).

The MSE walls shall be designed for external stability of the wall system and internal stability of the reinforced soil mass. The global stability shall also be considered as part of design evaluation. MSE walls are proprietary wall systems and the design responsibilities with respect to global, external, and internal stability as well as settlement are shared between the designer (WisDOT or Consultant) and contractor. The designer is responsible for the overall stability, preliminary external stability and settlement whereas the contractor is responsible for the internal stability, compound stability and structural design of the wall. For settlement, the designer shall select the appropriate wall facing type (e.g. small 5'x5' precast panels) and locate slip joints locations, as required. The contractor should accommodate wall settlement shown on contract documents and based on the wall supplier recommendations. The responsibilities of the designer and contractor are outlined in [14.6.3.2](#). The design and drawings of MSE walls provided by the contractor must also be in compliance with the WisDOT special provisions as stated in [14.15.2](#) and [14.16](#).

The design engineer should detail the MSE wall and any supporting structures (e.g. a bridge abutment) to ensure settlements are properly accommodated. This may include limiting the MSE wall to small precast concrete panels (<30 sf ft), detailing coping extensions on adjacent structures, or locating slip joints accordingly.

The guidelines provided herein for MSE walls do not apply to geometrically complex MSE wall systems such as tiered walls (walls stacked on top of one another), back-to-back walls, or walls which have trapezoidal sections. Design guidelines for these cases are provided in publications FHWA-NHI-10-024 and FHWA-NHI-10-025.

Horizontal alignment and grades at the bottom and top of the wall are determined by the design engineer. The design must be in compliance with the WisDOT special provisions for the project and the policy and procedures as stated in the *Bridge Manual* and FDM.

14.6.1.1 Usage Restrictions for MSE Walls

Construction of MSE walls with either block or panel facings should not be used when any of the following conditions exist:

1. If the available construction limit behind the wall does not meet the soil reinforcement length requirements.



2. Sites where extensive excavation is required or sites that lack granular soils and the cost of importing suitable fill material may render the system uneconomical.
3. At locations where erosion or scour may undermine or erode the reinforced fill zone or any supporting leveling pad.
4. Soil is contaminated by corrosive material such as acid mine, drainage, other industrial pollutants, or any other condition which increases corrosion rate, such as the presence of stray electrical currents.
5. There is potential for placing buried utilities within (or below) the reinforced zone unless access is provided to utilities without disrupting reinforcement and breakage or rupture of utility lines will not have a detrimental effect on the stability of the wall. Contact WisDOT's Structures Design Section.

14.6.2 Structural Components

The main structural elements or components of an MSE wall are discussed below. General elements of a typical MSE wall are shown in [Figure 14.6-1](#). These include:

- Selected Earthfill in the Reinforced Earth Zone
- Reinforcement
- Wall Facing Element
- Leveling Pad
- Wall Drainage

A combination of different wall facings and reinforcement provide a choice of selecting an MSE wall which can be used for several different functions.



The non-metallic or extensible reinforcement includes the following:

Geogrids: The geogrids are mostly used with modular block walls.

Geotextile Reinforcement: High strength geotextile can be used principally with wrap-around and temporary wall construction.

Corrosion of the wall anchors that connect the soil reinforcement to the wall face must also be accounted for in the design.

14.6.2.3 Facing Elements

The types of facings element used in the different MSE walls mainly control aesthetics, provide protection against backfill sloughing and erosion, and may provide a drainage path in certain cases. A combination of different wall facings and reinforcement provide a choice of selecting an MSE wall which can be used for several different functions.

Major facing types are:

- Segmental precast concrete panels
- Dry cast or wet cast modular blocks
- Full height pre-cast concrete panels (tilt-up)
- Cast-in-place concrete facing
- Geotextile-reinforced wrapped face
- Geosynthetic /Geogrid facings
- Welded wire grids

Segmental Precast Concrete Panels

Segmental precast concrete panels include small panels (<30 sq ft) to larger (≥ 30 sq ft and < 75 sq ft) with a minimum thickness of 5-½ inches and square or rectangular in geometry. Less common geometries such as cruciform, diamond, and hexagonal are currently not being used. The geometric pattern of the joints and the smooth uniform surface finish of the factory provided precast panels give an aesthetically pleasing appearance. Segmental precast concrete panels are proprietary wall components.

Wall panels are available in a plain concrete finish or numerous form liner finishes and textures. An exposed aggregate finish is also available along with earth tone colors. Although color can be obtained by adding additives to the concrete mix it is more desirable to obtain color by applying concrete stain and/or paint at the job site. Aesthetics do affect wall costs.

WisDOT requires that MSE walls utilize precast concrete panels when supporting traffic live loads which are in close proximity to the wall. Panels are also allowed as components of an

abutment structure. Either steel strips or welded wire fabric is allowed for soil reinforcement when precast concrete panels are used as facing of the MSE wall system.

Walls with curved alignments shall limit radii to 50 feet for 5 feet wide panels and 100 feet for 10 feet wide panels. Typical joint openings are not suitable for wall alignments following a tighter curve. Special joints or special panels that are less than 5 feet wide may be able to accommodate tighter curves. In general, MSE wall structures with panel type facings shall be limited to wall heights of 33 feet. Contact Structures Design Section for approval on case-by-case basis.

Concrete Modular Blocks Facings

Concrete modular block retaining walls are constructed from modular blocks typically weighing from 40 to 100 pounds each, although blocks over 200 pounds are rarely used. Nominal front to back width ranges between 8 to 24 inches. Modular blocks are available in a large variety of facial textures and colors providing a variety of aesthetic appearances. The shape of the blocks usually allows the walls to be built along a curve, either concave (inside radius) or convex (outside radius). The blocks or units are dry stacked meaning mortar or grout is not used to bond the units together except for the top two layers. [Figure 14.6-2](#) shows various types of blocks available commercially.

[Figure 14.6-3](#) shows a typical modular block MSE wall system along with other wall components. Most modular block MSE walls are reinforced with geogrids.

Modular blocks can be either dry cast or wet cast. Dry cast (small) blocks are mass produced by using a zero slump concrete that allows forms to be stripped faster than wet cast (large) blocks. MSE walls usually use dry cast blocks since they are usually a cheaper facing and wall stability is provided by the reinforced mass. Gravity walls rely on facing size and mass for wall stability. For minor walls dry cast blocks are typically used and for taller gravity walls wider wet cast blocks are normally required to satisfy stability requirements.

Concrete modular blocks are proprietary wall component systems. Each proprietary system has its own unique method of locking the units together to resist the horizontal shear forces that develop. Fiberglass pins, stainless steel pins, glass filled nylon clips and mechanical interlocking surfaces are some of the methods utilized. Any pins or hardware must be manufactured from corrosion resistant materials.

During construction of these systems, the voids are filled with granular material such as crushed stone or gravel. Most of the systems have a built in or automatic set-back (incline angle of face to the vertical) which is different for each proprietary system. Blocks used on WisDOT projects must be of one piece construction. A minimum weight per block or depth of block (distance measured perpendicular to wall face) is not specified on WisDOT projects. The minimum thickness allowed of the front face is 4 inches (measured perpendicular from the front face to inside voids greater than 4 square inches). Also the minimum allowed thickness of any other portions of the block (interior walls or exterior tabs, etc.) is 2 inches.

Alignments that are not straight (i.e. kinked or curved) shall use 90 degree corners or curves. The minimum radius should be limited to 8 feet. For a concave wall the radius is measured to the front face of the bottom course. For convex walls the radius is measured to the front face



Table of Contents

18.1 Introduction 4

 18.1.1 General 4

 18.1.2 Limitations 4

18.2 Specifications, Material Properties and Structure Type..... 5

 18.2.1 Specifications..... 5

 18.2.2 Material Properties 5

 18.2.3 Structure Type and Slab Depth..... 5

18.3 Limit States Design Method 9

 18.3.1 Design and Rating Requirements..... 9

 18.3.2 LRFD Requirements..... 9

 18.3.2.1 General 9

 18.3.2.2 Statewide Policy 9

 18.3.3 Strength Limit State..... 10

 18.3.3.1 Factored Loads..... 10

 18.3.3.2 Factored Resistance 11

 18.3.3.2.1 Moment Capacity..... 11

 18.3.3.2.2 Shear Capacity..... 13

 18.3.3.2.3 Uplift Check..... 13

 18.3.3.2.4 Tensile Capacity – Longitudinal Reinforcement..... 13

 18.3.4 Service Limit State 14

 18.3.4.1 Factored Loads..... 14

 18.3.4.2 Factored Resistance 14

 18.3.4.2.1 Crack Control Criteria 15

 18.3.4.2.2 Live Load Deflection Criteria 15

 18.3.4.2.3 Dead Load Deflection (Camber) Criteria 15

 18.3.5 Fatigue Limit State 16

 18.3.5.1 Factored Loads (Stress Range)..... 16

 18.3.5.2 Factored Resistance 17

 18.3.5.2.1 Fatigue Stress Range 17

18.4 Concrete Slab Design Procedure 18

 18.4.1 Trial Slab Depth 18

 18.4.2 Dead Loads (DC, DW)..... 18



- 18.4.3 Live Loads 19
 - 18.4.3.1 Vehicular Live Load (LL) and Dynamic Load Allowance (IM)..... 19
 - 18.4.3.2 Pedestrian Live Load (PL)..... 20
- 18.4.4 Minimum Slab Thickness Criteria..... 20
 - 18.4.4.1 Live Load Deflection Criteria..... 20
 - 18.4.4.2 Dead Load Deflection (Camber) Criteria 20
- 18.4.5 Live Load Distribution..... 21
 - 18.4.5.1 Interior Strip..... 21
 - 18.4.5.1.1 Strength and Service Limit State 22
 - 18.4.5.1.2 Fatigue Limit State..... 22
 - 18.4.5.2 Exterior Strip..... 23
 - 18.4.5.2.1 Strength and Service Limit State 23
- 18.4.6 Longitudinal Slab Reinforcement 24
 - 18.4.6.1 Design for Strength 24
 - 18.4.6.2 Check for Fatigue 25
 - 18.4.6.3 Check for Crack Control 26
 - 18.4.6.4 Minimum Reinforcement Check..... 27
 - 18.4.6.5 Bar Cutoffs 28
 - 18.4.6.5.1 Positive Moment Reinforcement..... 28
 - 18.4.6.5.2 Negative Moment Reinforcement 28
- 18.4.7 Transverse Slab Reinforcement..... 28
 - 18.4.7.1 Distribution Reinforcement 28
 - 18.4.7.2 Reinforcement in Slab over Piers..... 29
- 18.4.8 Shrinkage and Temperature Reinforcement 29
- 18.4.9 Shear Check of Slab 29
- 18.4.10 Longitudinal Reinforcement Tension Check..... 30
- 18.4.11 Uplift Check 30
- 18.4.12 Deflection Joints and Construction Joints 30
- 18.4.13 Reinforcement Tables 31
- 18.5 Standard Concrete Slab Design Procedure 33
 - 18.5.1 Local Bridge Improvement Assistance Program..... 33
 - 18.5.2 Selection of Applicable Projects 33
 - 18.5.3 Use Within Other Programs 33



For flat slabs the optimum span ratio is obtained when $L_2 = 1.25L_1$. The optimum span ratio for a three-span haunched slab results when $L_2 = L_1(1.43 - 0.002L_1)$ and for a four-span haunched slab when $L_2 = 1.39L_1$.

Recommended minimum slab depths for multiple-span flat and haunched slabs can be obtained from Table 18.2-1. These values are to be used for dead load computations and preliminary computations only and the final slab depth is to be determined by the designer. Historically, Table 18.2-1 has been used to determine the preliminary slab depth and ensure the final slab depth satisfied design checks. These minimum slab depth recommendations are not required if the appropriate design checks are provided.

(s) Span Length (feet)	Slab Depth (inches)	
	Haunched ¹	Flat ⁴
20	---	12
25	---	14
30	---	16
35	---	18
40	---	20
45	16 ²	22
50	17.5 ²	24
55	19 ²	26
60	20 ²	---
65	22 ³	---
70	25 ³	---

Table 18.2-1
Span Length vs. Slab Depth

¹ These estimated slab depths at mid-span, apply to interior spans of three or more span structures, with an end span length of approximately 0.7 times the interior span. Depths are based on dead load deflection (camber) and live load deflection limits. Haunch length (L_{haunch}) = 0.167 (L_2), and $d_{slab} / D_{haunch} = 0.6$ were used. L_2 = interior span length, (d_{slab}) = slab depth in span and (D_{haunch}) = slab depth at haunch. Values in table include 1/2 inch wearing surface.

² Depths controlled by live load deflection criteria

³ Depths controlled by dead load deflection (camber) criteria

⁴ These values represent **LRFD [2.5.2.6.3]** recommended minimum depths for continuous-spans using $(s+10)/30$. The slab span length (s) in the equation and resulting minimum depths are in feet and are presented in inches in Table 18.2-1. For simple-spans,



the Bureau of Structures adds 10% greater depth and checks the criteria in [18.4.4](#). Values in table include ½ inch wearing surface.

The minimum slab depth is 12 inches. Use increments of ½ inch to select depths > 12 inches.



Table of Contents

32.1 General..... 2

32.2 Plans 3

32.3 Department Policy 4

32.4 Pipeline Expansion Joints 5

32.5 Lighting..... 6

32.6 Conduit Systems 7



32.1 General

The Regional Office shall determine the utilities that will be affected by the construction of any bridge structure at the earliest possible stage. It shall be their responsibility to deal with these utilities and to provide location plans or any other required sketches for their information. When the utility has to be accommodated on the structure, the Regional Office shall secure approval from the representative of the utility and the Bureau of Structures for the location and method of support.

Due consideration shall be given to the weight of the pipes, ducts, etc. in the design of the beams and diaphragms. To insure that the function, aesthetics, painting and inspection of stringers of a structure are maintained, the following applies to the installation of utilities on structures:

1. Permanent installations, which are to be carried on and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the structure, shall be placed out of sight, between the fascia beams and above the bottom flanges, on the underside of the structure.
2. Conglomeration of utilities in the same bay shall be avoided in order to facilitate maintenance painting and future inspection of girders in a practical manner.
3. In those instances where the proposed type of superstructure is not adaptable to carrying utilities in an out-of-sight location in the underside of the structure, an early determination must be made as to whether or not utilities are to be accommodated and, if so, the type of superstructure must be selected accordingly.



32.6 Conduit Systems

Structures may require conduit systems when lighting, signals and other services are located on or adjacent to structures. These systems typically include conduit, conduit boxes (junction boxes and/or pull boxes), and conduit fittings. Preferably, these conduit system are embedded in concrete elements for protective and aesthetic reasons. In some cases, externally mounted systems may be warranted when concrete embedment is not practical or economical.

Rigid nonmetallic conduit, also referred to as PVC (polyvinyl chloride) conduit, is commonly used throughout structures due to its low costs and ease of installation. At joint locations with fittings, rigid metallic conduit (RMC) is recommended on both sides of the joint for a rigid and durable connection. RMC shall be galvanized per the specifications. Use of reinforced thermosetting resin conduit (RTRC), also referred to as fiberglass conduit, has been limited on projects due to its high costs and durability concerns when embedded in concrete. Use of liquid-tight flexible metal conduit (LFMC) may be considered at large expansion joints or when anticipated movements exceed standard fitting allowances. Use of PVC coated RMC is currently not being used on structures.

For long conduit runs, junction boxes are required to facilitate wire installations, to allow for future access, and for grounding purposes. The maximum run of 2-inch conduit, without a junction box, is 190 feet. Junction boxes can only be used with 2-inch diameter conduit. The maximum run of 3-inch conduit is 190 feet and junction boxes are not allowed to accommodate longer runs. Junction boxes should be used near expansion joints for grounding purposes. Additionally, all expansion fittings are to be wrapped and include a bonding jumper. Pull boxes, similar to junction boxes, are located off of structures and facilitate roadway conduit requirements and details. Typically, these items are addressed in the roadway plans.

See Standards for Light Standard and Junction Box for Parapets and Conduit Details and Notes for additional information. Refer to Chapter 39 for conduit systems servicing sign structures.

Conduit systems for structures should also consider the following items:

- Plans shall specify type, size and location for all conduit, junction boxes, and fittings necessary to accommodate services on structures. Typically, all other electrical requirements such as wiring diagrams, grounding conductors, etc. should be provided in the roadway plans. Additional details and notes may be required for some services, such as conduit systems for navigation lighting.
- Conduit type (coordinate with the Regional electrical engineer):
 - Concrete embedment: 2-inch PVC - schedule 40
 - Concrete embedment at expansion fittings: RMC (3'-0" minimum on each side of fitting)
 - Structure mounted - underdeck lighting: 1-inch RTRC. Refer to Roadway Standards for additional underdeck light details.



- Structure mounted - Other: 1-inch PVC - schedule 80 (preferred). RTRC, RMC or LFMC may also be considered.
- The maximum allowable conduits that can be placed in concrete parapets is two 2-inch diameter conduits with junction boxes and two 3-inch diameter conduits without junction boxes. Conduit runs exceeding two 2-inch diameter conduits, as shown in the Bridge Standards and Insert Sheets, shall be determined on a case-by-case basis with conduit fittings adequately spaced and detailed at joint openings.
- Future conduit runs should not be placed unless future services are highly probable. Conduit systems are expensive and are routinely addressed by maintenance.
- All conduit runs shall have a limited number of bends. The sum of the individual conduit bends on a single run between boxes (pull or junction) shall not exceed 360 degrees, preferably not to exceed 270 degrees. No individual bend shall be greater than 90 degrees. Use two 45 degree bends in lieu of a 90 degree bend when space allows.
- Bends shall not be less than the minimum radius as specified by the National Electrical Code. For layout purposes, all bends shall have a minimum bend radius no less than 6 times the nominal diameter.
- Provide 3'-0" minimum RMC conduit on each side of semi-expansion joint fittings. For expansion joints, provide 3'-0" minimum RMC conduit on one side and extend the other side to a junction box. All semi-expansion and expansion joints with RMC conduit and fittings should be wrapped and bonded, as shown or noted in the Standards.
- For large movements or when joints exceed standard fitting allowances consider using a LFMC system. The specified LFMC conduit length should be at least 2 times the anticipated movements.
- Extend conduit a minimum of 2 inches above concrete surfaces and extend a minimum of 6 inches for buried applications. Provide temporary end caps, unless conduit terminates in a pull box.
- Provide 2'-0" minimum conduit cover when installed below roadways, 1'-6" minimum otherwise. Conduit cover should not exceed 3'-0". Provide 2-inch PVC - schedule 40 for buried applications, unless directed otherwise. Provide 2" minimum concrete cover when embedding in concrete.
- Conduit systems and light spacing requirements should be coordinated with the roadway engineer and the Regional electrical engineer.



Table of Contents

45.1 Introduction 5

 45.1.1 Purpose of the Load Rating Chapter 5

 45.1.2 Scope of Use 5

 45.1.3 Governing Standards for Load Rating 5

 45.1.4 Purpose of Load Rating 6

45.2 History of Load Rating 7

 45.2.1 What is a Load Rating? 7

 45.2.2 Evolution of Design Vehicles 7

 45.2.3 Evolution of Inspection Requirements 8

 45.2.4 Coupling Design with In-Service Loading 9

 45.2.5 Federal Bridge Formula 9

45.3 Load Rating Process 10

 45.3.1 Load Rating a New Bridge (New Bridge Construction) 10

 45.3.1.1 When a Load Rating is Required (New Bridge Construction) 10

 45.3.2 Load Rating an Existing (In-Service) Bridge 10

 45.3.2.1 When a Load Rating is Required (Existing In-Service Bridge) 11

 45.3.3 What Should be Rated 11

 45.3.3.1 Superstructure 12

 45.3.3.2 Substructure 14

 45.3.3.3 Deck 15

 45.3.4 Data Collection 15

 45.3.4.1 Existing Plans 15

 45.3.4.2 Shop Drawings and Fabrication Plans 15

 45.3.4.3 Inspection Reports 16

 45.3.4.4 Other Records 16

 45.3.5 Highway Structure Information System (HSIS) 17

 45.3.6 Load Rating Methodologies – Overview 17

 45.3.7 Load and Resistance Factor Rating (LRFR) 17

 45.3.7.1 Limit States 19

 45.3.7.2 Load Factors 22

 45.3.7.3 Resistance Factors 23

 45.3.7.4 Condition Factor: ϕ_c 23



- 45.3.7.5 System Factor: ϕ_s 24
- 45.3.7.6 Design Load Rating 24
 - 45.3.7.6.1 Design Load Rating Live Load 24
- 45.3.7.7 Legal Load Rating..... 24
 - 45.3.7.7.1 Legal Load Rating Live Load..... 25
- 45.3.7.8 Permit Load Rating 25
 - 45.3.7.8.1 Permit Load Rating Live Load 25
- 45.3.7.9 Load Distribution for Load and Resistance Factor Rating..... 25
- 45.3.8 Load Factor Rating (LFR)..... 26
 - 45.3.8.1 Load Factors for Load Factor Rating..... 27
 - 45.3.8.2 Live Loads for Load Factor Rating 29
 - 45.3.8.3 Load Distribution for Load Factor Rating 29
- 45.3.9 Allowable Stress Rating (ASR) 29
 - 45.3.9.1 Stress Limits for Allowable Stress Rating 30
 - 45.3.9.2 Live Loads for Allowable Stress Rating 30
 - 45.3.9.3 Load Distribution for Allowable Stress Rating 30
- 45.3.10 Engineering Judgment, Condition-Based Ratings, and Load Testing 31
- 45.3.11 Refined Analysis 32
- 45.4 Load Rating Computer Software 34
 - 45.4.1 Rating Software Utilized by WisDOT 34
 - 45.4.2 Computer Software File Submittal Requirements..... 34
- 45.5 General Requirements..... 35
 - 45.5.1 Loads 35
 - 45.5.1.1 Material Unit Weights 35
 - 45.5.1.2 Live Loads..... 35
 - 45.5.1.3 Dead Loads..... 36
 - 45.5.2 Material Structural Properties..... 36
 - 45.5.2.1 Reinforcing Steel 36
 - 45.5.2.2 Concrete 37
 - 45.5.2.3 Prestressing Steel Strands 38
 - 45.5.2.4 Structural Steel 39
 - 45.5.2.5 Timber..... 39
 - 45.5.2.5.1 Timber Adjustment Factors 40



- 45.6 WisDOT Load Rating Policy and Procedure – Superstructure 42
 - 45.6.1 Prestressed Concrete..... 42
 - 45.6.1.1 I-Girder..... 42
 - 45.6.1.1.1 Variable Girder Spacing (Flare)..... 43
 - 45.6.1.2 Box and Channel Girders 43
 - 45.6.2 Cast-in-Place Concrete 43
 - 45.6.2.1 Slab (Flat or Haunched) 43
 - 45.6.3 Steel..... 43
 - 45.6.3.1 Fatigue..... 44
 - 45.6.3.2 Rolled I-Girder, Plate Girder, and Box Girder 44
 - 45.6.3.2.1 Curvature and/or Kinked Girders 45
 - 45.6.3.2.2 Skew..... 45
 - 45.6.3.2.3 Variable Girder Spacing (Flare)..... 46
 - 45.6.3.3 Truss..... 46
 - 45.6.3.3.1 Gusset Plates..... 46
 - 45.6.3.4 Bascule-Type Movable Bridges 46
 - 45.6.4 Timber 46
 - 45.6.4.1 Timber Slab..... 46
- 45.7 WisDOT Load Rating Policy and Procedure – Substructure 48
 - 45.7.1 Timber Pile Abutments and Bents 48
- 45.8 WisDOT Load Rating Policy and Procedure – Culverts 49
 - 45.8.1 Culvert Rating Methods 49
 - 45.8.2 Rating New Culverts..... 49
 - 45.8.3 Rating Existing (In-Service) Culverts 50
 - 45.8.3.1 Assigned Ratings for In-Service Culverts 50
 - 45.8.3.2 Calculated Ratings for In-Service Culverts 51
 - 45.8.3.3 Engineering Judgment Ratings for In-Service Culverts 51
- 45.9 Load Rating Documentation and Submittals 53
 - 45.9.1 Load Rating Calculations..... 53
 - 45.9.2 Load Rating Summary Forms 53
 - 45.9.3 Load Rating on Plans 54
 - 45.9.4 Computer Software File Submittals 55
 - 45.9.5 Submittals for Bridges Rated Using Refined Analysis 55



45.9.6 Other Documentation Topics 55

45.10 Load Postings 58

 45.10.1 Overview 58

 45.10.2 Load Posting Live Loads 58

 45.10.3 Load Posting Analysis 64

 45.10.3.1 Limit States for Load Posting Analysis 65

 45.10.3.2 Legal Load Rating Load Posting Equation (LRFR)..... 66

 45.10.3.3 Distribution Factors for Load Posting Analysis..... 66

 45.10.4 Load Posting Signage 67

45.11 Over-Weight Truck Permitting 69

 45.11.1 Overview 69

 45.11.2 Multi-Trip (Annual) Permits 69

 45.11.3 Single Trip Permits 69

45.12 Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV) 71

 45.12.1 Background..... 71

 45.12.2 Analysis..... 71

45.13 References..... 73

45.14 Rating Examples 75



Loading Type	Live Load Factor
AASHTO Legal Vehicles, State Specific Vehicles, and Lane Type Legal Load Models	1.45
Specialized Haul Vehicles (SU4, SU5, SU6, SU7)	1.45
FAST Act Emergency Vehicles (EV2, EV3)	1.30*

**Alternate load factors per NCHRP Project 20-07/Task 410 are allowed.*

Table 45.3-2
Live Load Factors (γ_{LL}) for Legal Loads in LRFR

Permit Type	Loading Condition	Distribution Factor	Live Load Factor
Annual	Mixed with Normal Traffic	Two or more lanes	1.30
Single Trip	Mixed with Normal Traffic	One Lane	1.20
Single Trip	Escorted with no other vehicles on the bridge	One Lane	1.10

Table 45.3-3
Live Load Factors (γ_{LL}) for Permit Loads in LRFR

45.3.7.3 Resistance Factors

The resistance factor, ϕ , is used to reduce the computed nominal resistance of a structural element. This factor accounts for variability of material properties, structural dimensions and workmanship, and uncertainty in prediction of resistance. Resistance factors for concrete and steel structures are presented in Section 17.2.6, and resistance factors for timber structures are presented in **MBE [6A.7.3]**.

45.3.7.4 Condition Factor: ϕ_c

The condition factor provides a reduction to account for the increased uncertainty in the resistance of deteriorated members and the likely increased future deterioration of these members during the period between inspection cycles.

WisDOT policy items:
Current WisDOT policy is to set the condition factor equal to 1.0.



45.3.7.5 System Factor: ϕ_s

System factors are multipliers applied to the nominal resistance to reflect the level of redundancy of the complete superstructure system. Bridges that are less redundant will have their factor member capacities reduced, and, accordingly, will have lower ratings. The aim of the system factor is to provide reserve capacity for safety of the traveling public. See [Table 45.3-4](#) for WisDOT system factors.

Superstructure Type	ϕ_s
Welded Members in Two-Girder/Truss/Arch Bridges	0.85
Riveted Members in Two-Girder/Truss/Arch Bridges	0.90
Multiple Eyebars Members in Truss Bridges	0.90
Three-Girder Bridges with Girder Spacing \leq 6.0 ft	0.85
Four-Girder Bridges with Girder Spacing \leq 4.0 ft	0.95
All Other Girder and Slab Bridges	1.00
Floorbeam Spacings $>$ 12.0 ft and Non-Continuous Stringers	0.85
Redundant Stringer Subsystems Between Floorbeams	1.00

Table 45.3-4
System Factors for WisDOT

45.3.7.6 Design Load Rating

The design load rating assesses the performance of bridges utilizing the LRFD design loading, producing an inventory and operating rating. Note that when designing a new structure, it is required that the RF $>$ 1.0 at the inventory level. In addition to providing a relative measure of bridge capacity, the design load rating also serves as a screening process to identify bridges that should be load rated for legal loads. If a structure has an inventory RF $<$ 0.9, it may not be able to safely carry emergency vehicles, and if it has an operating RF $<$ 1.0, it may not be able to safely carry other legal-weight traffic and therefore a legal load rating must be performed. If a structure has rating factors above these thresholds, proceeding to the legal load rating is not required. However, the load rating engineer is still required to rate the Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV) as shown in [45.12](#).

45.3.7.6.1 Design Load Rating Live Load

The LRFD design live load, HL-93, shall be utilized as the rating vehicle(s). The components of the HL-93 loading are described in [17.2.4.2](#).

45.3.7.7 Legal Load Rating

Bridges that do not satisfy the HL-93 design load rating check (RF $<$ 1.0 at operating level) shall be evaluated for legal loads to determine if legal-weight traffic should be restricted; whether a load posting is required. Additionally, bridges that do not satisfy the HL-93 design load rating check (RF $<$ 0.9 at inventory level) shall be evaluated for FAST Act emergency vehicle loads to determine if emergency vehicle-specific weight limits are required. If the load



rating engineer determines that a load posting is required, please notify the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit. For more information on the load posting of bridges, see [45.10](#).

45.3.7.7.1 Legal Load Rating Live Load

The live loads used for legal load rating calculations are a combination of AASHTO-prescribed vehicles, Wisconsin-specific vehicles, and FAST Act emergency vehicles. The vehicles to be used for the legal load rating are described in [45.10](#).

45.3.7.8 Permit Load Rating

Permit load rating is the level of load rating analysis required for all structures when performing the Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV) design check as illustrated in [45.12](#). The results of the Wis-SPV analysis are used in the regulation of multi-trip permits. The actual permitting process for State-owned bridges is internal to the WisDOT Bureau of Structures.

Permit load rating is also used for issuance of single trip permits. For each single trip permit, the actual truck configuration is analyzed for every structure it will cross. The single trip permitting process for State-owned bridges is internal to WisDOT Bureau of Structures.

For more information on over-weight truck permitting, see [45.11](#).

45.3.7.8.1 Permit Load Rating Live Load

For any bridge design (new or rehabilitation) or bridge re-rate, the Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV) shall be analyzed ([Figure 45.3-1](#)). Specifics on this analysis can be found in [45.12](#).

For specific single trip permit applications, the actual truck configuration described in the permit shall be the live load used to analyze all pertinent structures. Permit analysis for State-owned bridges is internal to the WisDOT Bureau of Structures.

WisDOT policy items:

WisDOT interpretation of **MBE [6A.4.5.4.1]** is for spans up to 200'-0", only the permit vehicle shall be considered present in a given lane. For spans 200'-0" in length or greater an additional lane load shall be applied to simulate closely following vehicles. The lane load shall be taken as 0.2 klf in each lane and shall only be applied to those portions of the span(s) where the loading effects add to the permit load effects.

Also note, as stated in the footnote of **MBE [Table 6A.4.5.4.2a-1]**, when using a single-lane LRFD distribution factor, the 1.2 multiple presence factor should be divided out from the distribution factor equations.

45.3.7.9 Load Distribution for Load and Resistance Factor Rating

In general, live load distribution factors should be calculated based on the guidance of the current AASHTO LRFR Standard Design specifications. For WisDOT-specific guidance on the



placement and distribution of live loads, see 17.2.7 or 18.4.5.1 for concrete slab superstructures and 17.2.8 for concrete deck on girder superstructures.

See also 45.5.1.2 for specific direction on the placement of live loads for rating and posting.

Dead loads shall be distributed as described in 17.2.7 for concrete slab superstructures and 17.2.8 for concrete deck on girder superstructures.

45.3.8 Load Factor Rating (LFR)

The basic rating equation for Load Factor Rating can be found in **MBE [Equation 6B.4.1-1]** and is:

$$RF = \frac{C - A_1D}{A_2L(1+I)}$$

Where:

- RF = Rating factor for the live load carrying capacity
- C = Capacity of the member
- D = Dead load effect on the member
- L = Live load effect on the member
- I = Impact factor to be used with the live load effect
- A₁ = Factor for dead load
- A₂ = Factor for live load

Unlike LRFR, load factor rating does not have three prescribed levels of rating analysis. However, in practice, the process is similar for both LRFR and LFR.

The first step is to perform a rating analysis to determine inventory and operating ratings. Based on the results of the rating analysis, a posting analysis should be performed when:

- The inventory rating factor is less than or equal to 1.0 (HS-20) – Emergency Vehicles (EVs) only, see [Figure 45.10-5](#); or
- The operating rating factor is less than or equal to 1.3 (HS-26) – Specialized Hauling Vehicles (SHVs) only, see [Figure 45.10-2](#); or
- The operating rating factor is less than or equal to 1.0 (HS-20) for all other posting vehicles.

An emergency vehicle analysis is performed to determine whether a bridge can safely carry emergency vehicles, which may exceed legal weight limits in place for other vehicles. A posting



analysis is performed to determine whether a bridge can safely carry other legal-weight traffic. Both analyses are performed at the operating level. See 45.10 for more information.

Permit analysis is used to determine whether or not over legal-weight vehicles may travel across a bridge. See 45.11 for more information on over-weight vehicle permitting.

A flow chart outlining this approach is shown in Figure 45.3-2. The procedures are structured to be performed in a sequential manner, as needed.

45.3.8.1 Load Factors for Load Factor Rating

See Table 45.3-5 for load factors to be used when rating with the LFR method. The nominal capacity, C, is the same regardless of the rating level desired.

For emergency vehicles, alternate live load factors determined in accordance with NCHRP Project 20-07 / Task 410 may be used. If alternate live load factors are used, this shall be noted in the Load Rating Summary Form, along with assumptions of one-way ADTT and emergency vehicle crossings per day.

LFR Load Factors		
Rating Level	A ₁	A ₂
Inventory	1.3	2.17
Operating	1.3	1.3

Table 45.3-5
LFR Load Factors

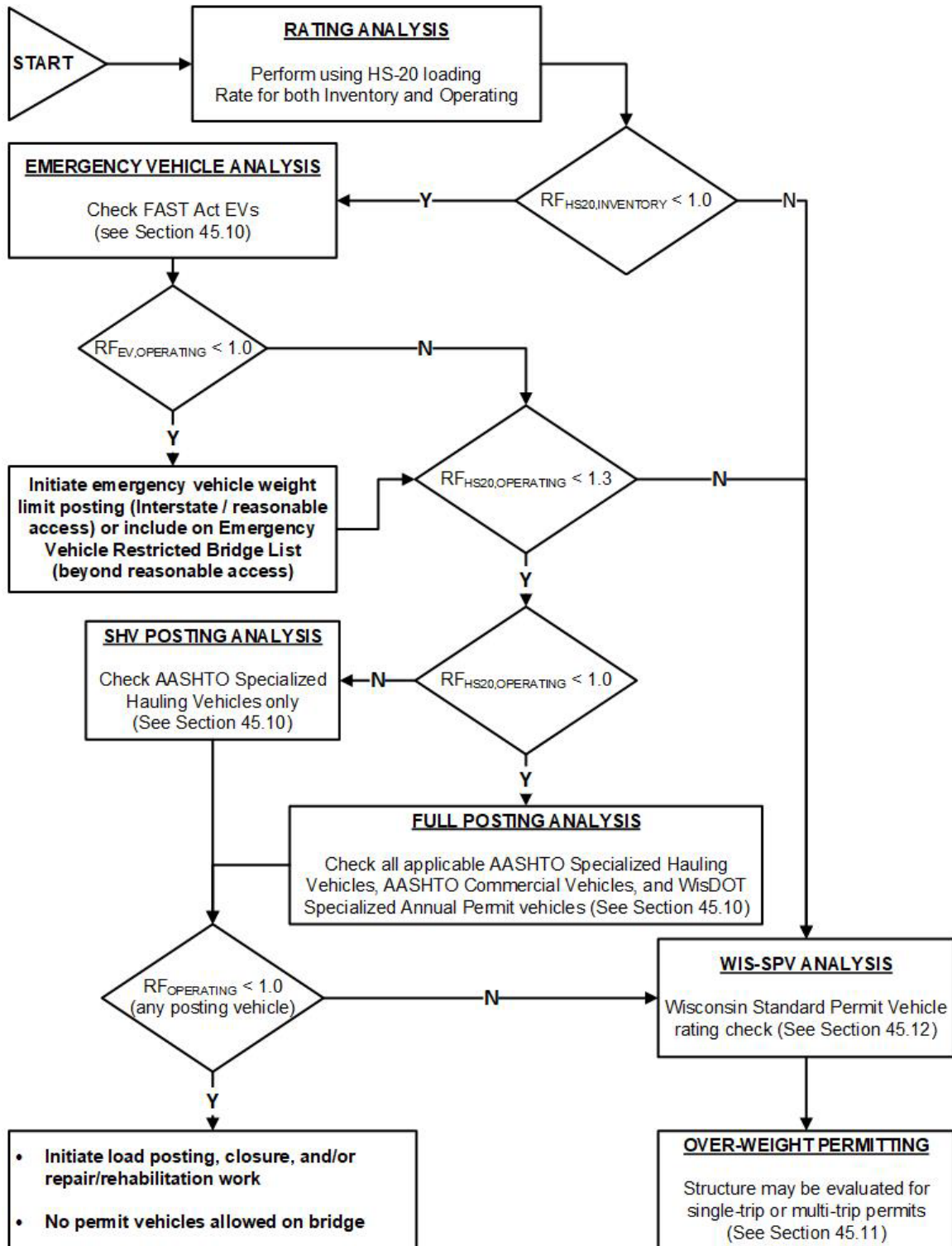


Figure 45.3-2
Load Factor Rating and Allowable Stress Rating Flow Chart



W_e/S , where:

W_e = Top slab width as measured from the outside face of the slab to the midpoint between the exterior and interior stringer or beam. The cantilever dimension of any slab extending beyond the exterior girder shall not exceed $S/2$, measured from the centerline of the exterior beam.

S = Average stringer spacing in feet.

Alternately, live load distribution for this case may be determined by refined methods of analysis or with consideration of lane stripe placement as described in [45.5.1.2](#).

It is common practice to use the average haunch height in order to locate the concrete deck in relation to the top of the girder. It is also acceptable to use the actual, precise haunch thicknesses, if they are known. Absent information on the depth of the haunch, 1 ¼" may be assumed. The area of the haunch may be used in calculating section properties, but it is common practice to conservatively ignore for purpose of section properties (haunch dead load must be taken into account). Appropriate consideration of the haunch is the responsibility of the load rating engineer.

45.6.3.2.1 Curvature and/or Kinked Girders

The effects of curvature shall be considered for all curved steel girder structures. For structures meeting the criteria specified in **LRFD [4.6.1.2.4]** or the **Curved Steel Girder Guide Specification [4.2]**, the structure may be analyzed as if it were straight. However, regardless of the degree of curvature, the effects of curvature on flange lateral bending must always be considered in the analysis, either directly through a refined analysis or through an approximate method as detailed in **LRFD [C4.6.1.2.4b]** or the **Curved Steel Girder Guide Specification [4.2.1]**. This is applicable to discretely braced flanges. If a flange is continuously braced (e.g. encased in concrete or anchored to deck by shear connectors) then it need not be considered. In determining the load rating, flange lateral bending stress shall be added to the major axis bending flange stress, utilizing the appropriate equations specified in LRFD. When using the Curved Steel Girder Guide Specification, flange lateral bending stress reduces the allowable flange stress.

45.6.3.2.2 Skew

Load rating of steel structures with discontinuous cross-frames, in conjunction with skews exceeding 20 degrees shall consider flange lateral bending stress, either directly through a refined analysis or using approximate values provided in **LRFD [C6.10.1]**. This requirement only applies to structures with multi-member cross frames (X or K-brace), and full depth diaphragms between girders. Flange lateral bending stress is most critical when the bottom flange is stiffened transversely (discretely braced). For structures with shorter single member diaphragms (e.g. C or MC-shapes) between girders, where the bottom flange is less restrained, the load rating need not consider flange lateral bending stress due to skew.



Flange lateral bending stress, whether due to skew or curvature, is handled the same in a load rating equation. Refer to the flange lateral bending discussion in [45.6.3.2.1](#) for more information.

45.6.3.2.3 Variable Girder Spacing (Flare)

Girder spacings may vary over the length of a given girder (flared girder configuration). Some analysis software may allow for a varying distribution factor along the length of the girder. This is the most accurate and thus preferred method for dealing with a flared girder layout.

Alternatively, conservative assumptions may be made regarding the live load distribution and the assigned dead load to the girder being analyzed. The rating engineer is responsible for determining the appropriate assumptions and for ensuring that they produce conservative results. The methods described in **LRFD [C4.6.2.2.1]** are acceptable. All assumptions made should be clearly noted in the calculations and in the load rating summary sheet (See [45.9.1](#)).

If the girders are flared such that the ratio of change in girder spacing to span length is greater than or equal to 0.015, then a refined analysis may be required. Consult the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit for structures that meet this criteria.

45.6.3.3 Truss

45.6.3.3.1 Gusset Plates

WisDOT requires gusset plates to be load rated anytime the loads applied to a structure are altered (see [45.3](#)). Gusset plates should also be evaluated with reports of any significant deterioration. Rating procedures shall follow those specified in the AASHTO MBE.

45.6.3.4 Bascule-Type Movable Bridges

Apply twice the normal dynamic impact factor to live loading of the end floorbeam per **AASHTO LRFD Movable Spec [2.4.1.2.4]**. The end floorbeam will likely control the load rating of bascule bridges built before 1980.

45.6.4 Timber

As a material, timber is unique in that material strengths are tied to the load rating methodology used for analysis (typically ASD or LRFR for timber). Because of this and because of the fact that design/rating specifications have changed through the years, the load rating engineer must carefully consider the appropriate material strengths to use for a given member. When referencing historic plans, WisDOT recommends using the plans to determine the type of material (species and grade), but then using contemporary sources (including tables in [45.5.2.5](#)) to determine material strengths and for rating methodology.

45.6.4.1 Timber Slab

For longitudinal spike or nail laminated slab bridges rated with ASR, the wheel load shall be distributed to a strip width equal to:



$$-0.1 \times (E_{LL} / E_{SS} \times H_L / H_S) + 5.2 \quad (\text{but not less than 3 feet})$$

where E_{LL} is the rigidity of laminate slab per 3 in. of width, E_{SS} is the rigidity of the stiffener beam (if multiple, use the stiffener beam closest to midspan), H_L is the depth of laminate slab and H_S is the depth of stiffener beam.

If no stiffener beam is present or the stiffener beam has loose connections, the effective strip width shall be taken as 3 feet.

Additionally, the effective strip width may be multiplied by the factor α_T if a transverse spreader deck is present. The value of α_T is equal to 1.16 for a 4-inch thick spreader deck or 1.22 for a 6-inch thick spreader deck.

For multiple lanes loaded, the effective strip width shall be multiplied by 0.9.

This live load distribution is based on research from the Wisconsin Highway Research Program (22). Prior methods of live load distribution for spike or nail laminated longitudinal timber slabs rated with ASR were based on AASHTO Standard Specifications, in which the effective strip width for wheel loading is equal to tire width plus the deck thickness, or tire width plus two times the deck thickness if stiffener beams are present and tightened. These effective slab widths are conservative, but may be considered valid if load ratings are not resulting in overly restrictive weight limits.

For timber longitudinal slab bridges meeting the design and detailing requirements of LRFD, load ratings may be determined using LRFR with live load distribution over equivalent slab widths calculated as described in 23.4.6.



45.7 WisDOT Load Rating Policy and Procedure – Substructure

45.7.1 Timber Pile Abutments and Bents

Any decay or damage will result in the reduction of the load-carrying capacity based on a loss of cross-sectional area (for shear and compression) or in a reduction of the section modulus (for moment). The capacity of damaged timber bents will be based on the remaining cross-sectional area of the pile and the column stability factor (C_p) using “d”, the least remaining dimension of the column. Such reductions will be determined by the rating engineer based on field measurements, when available.

Timber piles with significant deterioration and/or tipping shall be load rated with consideration of lateral earth pressure and redundancy. Piles shall be assumed to be fixed 6 feet below the stream bed or ground line and pinned at their tops.



45.8 WisDOT Load Rating Policy and Procedure – Culverts

45.8.1 Culvert Rating Methods

Bridge-length culverts (assigned a B- or P-number) shall be load rated according to one of the following methods:

- Calculated (LFR or LRFR)
- Assigned
- Field Evaluation and Documented Engineering Judgment

Calculated ratings are preferred. However they have not been required historically, and many culverts are designed based on minimum standards, while being relatively low-risk for failure. Therefore, assigned ratings or field evaluation and documented engineering judgment are acceptable methods for culverts meeting criteria described in the following sections.

The Bureau of Structures does not currently require rating calculations to be submitted for culverts that are not bridge-length (assigned a C-number). However, these may be required in the future. When they are designed with software that readily produces load ratings, those ratings should be included on plan and calculation submittals. As a minimum, the design vehicle and design overburden depth shall be shown on plans for new culverts. If deterioration or other significant changes warrant consideration of a load posting for an in-service culvert that is not of bridge-length, contact the Bureau of Structures on what is required for a load posting evaluation.

45.8.2 Rating New Culverts

Concrete box culverts shall have load ratings calculated per AASHTO specifications, using LRFR methodology with HL-93 loading and inclusive of the Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV).

Other culvert types are more commonly designed based on manufacturers’ tables for size, fill depth, and design load. Therefore, load ratings may be either calculated or assigned. If load ratings are calculated, they shall be reported on plans. Assigned load ratings must have stamped plans and/or design calculations indicating design load and fill depth. As a minimum, they shall be designed to carry HL-93 or HS20 loading and the Wis-SPV as described in 36.1.3. Assigned load ratings shall be reported as:

Design Vehicle	Inventory	Operating	Wis-SPV
HS20	HS20	HS33	190 k
HL93	RF1.00	RF1.30	190 k

Table 45.8-1 Assigned Load Ratings for New Culverts Other than Concrete Boxes



45.8.3 Rating Existing (In-Service) Culverts

The load rating method for existing (in-service) bridge-length culverts shall be determined based on culvert type, design load and method, fill depth, condition, and availability of known construction details. Refer to the following sections for more guidance and see 45.9 for documentation and submittal requirements.

45.8.3.1 Assigned Ratings for In-Service Culverts

The Bureau of Structures allows the use of assigned load ratings for culverts based on the FHWA Memo dated September 29th, 2011. Furthermore, the Bureau of Structures has conducted parametric studies to extend the application of assigned load ratings to additional older design loads and methods and to include additional vehicles. Assigned load ratings may be used if all of the following are true:

- Engineer-stamped or -signed plans or design calculations are on file, with the original design load and fill depth clearly indicated,
- Current fill depth is within 12 inches of original design fill depth range, and no other load changes have occurred that could reduce the inventory rating below the original design load level,
- Structural members have no appreciable signs of distress or deterioration that would affect structural capacity, and
- Culvert type, design load, and design method are among the combinations listed in [Table 45.8-2](#) that allow assigned load ratings. This table was developed by Bureau of Structures based on WisDOT culverts.

Culvert Type	Design Load	Design Method	Inventory	Operating	EV2 RF	EV3 RF	Wis-SPV
All	HL93	LRFD	RF1.00	RF1.30	N/A	N/A	190 k
All	HS20	LFD	HS20	HS33	N/A	N/A	190 k
Concrete Box	H20 ^(a) , HS20	ASD	HS16	HS27	1.20	1.00	170 k

(a) If designed for H20 per 1957 (or earlier) AASHTO design specification and designed for fill depth less than 2.0', load ratings shall be calculated (assigned ratings cannot be used).

Table 45.8-2
Assigned Load Ratings for In-Service Bridge-Length Culverts



45.8.3.2 Calculated Ratings for In-Service Culverts

Calculated load ratings are preferred when as-built plans or field measurements with necessary load rating parameters are available. They are required if sufficient construction details are known and the culvert does not qualify for assigned load ratings per [45.8.3.1](#).

An exception is allowed when the fill depth is 10'-0" or greater. At this depth, live load effects are negligible, and field evaluation and documented engineering judgment per [45.8.3.3](#) may be used.

Top slab flexure is expected to be the controlling limit state for calculated load ratings. However, some older culverts may have low calculated ratings due to conservative methods for shear, bottom slab flexure, or other limit states and locations. Upon consultation with Bureau of Structures, consideration may be given to ignoring these rating checks when the final load ratings are reported, if the culvert does not show signs of distress.

45.8.3.3 Engineering Judgment Ratings for In-Service Culverts

When assigned or calculated load ratings cannot be used (typically due to unknown construction details or severe deterioration effects that cannot be quantified), or when the depth of fill is 10'-0" or greater, the load rating may be determined via field evaluation and documented engineering judgment. [Table 45.8-3](#) may be used as a general guide. This table was developed by Bureau of Structures based on WisDOT culverts. Contact Bureau of Structures immediately for any culvert condition in which a weight limit posting may be warranted.



NBI Culvert Condition Rating	Fill Depth	Element in CS4 Under Traffic Lanes?	Inventory	Operating	Wis-SPV	Weight Limit Restriction
≥ 5	N/A	N/A	HS20 ^(a)	HS33	190 k	NONE
4	N/A	N/A	HS12	HS20	170 k	NONE
3	≥ 10'	N/A	HS12	HS20	170 k	NONE
	< 10'	No	HS12	HS20	170 k	NONE
Yes		HS06	HS10	40 k	20 TON	
2	≥ 10'	N/A	HS12	HS20	170 k	NONE
	< 10'	No	HS06	HS10	40 k	20 TON
		Yes	HS02	HS03	10 k	5 TON
0-1	N/A	N/A	HS00	HS00	0	CLOSE

(a) If design load less than HS20 is known or reasonably assumed, the inventory rating may be set equal to the design load. H15 design shall be considered equal to HS15 and H20 design may be considered equal to HS20. Operating Rating should be estimated as 1.67 x Inventory Rating.

Table 45.8-3

Engineering Judgment Load Ratings for In-Service Culverts

If rating factors need to be recorded for posting or emergency vehicles for National Bridge Inventory data, they shall be calculated as (Weight Limit Restriction) / (Vehicle Weight) if a weight limit restriction exists, otherwise 1.0. The Load Rating Summary Sheet shall include a note indicating assumed rating factor values were recorded.



45.9 Load Rating Documentation and Submittals

The Bridge Rating and Management Unit is responsible for maintaining information for every structure in the Wisconsin inventory, including load ratings. This information is used throughout the life of the structure to help inform decisions on potential load postings, repairs, rehabilitation, and eventual structure replacement. That being the case, it is critical that WisDOT collect and store complete and accurate documentation regarding load ratings.

45.9.1 Load Rating Calculations

The rating engineer is required to submit load rating calculations. Calculations should be comprehensive and presented in a logical, organized manner. The submitted calculations should include a summary of all assumptions used (if any) to derive the load rating.

45.9.2 Load Rating Summary Forms

After the structure has been load rated, the WisDOT Bridge Load Rating Summary Form shall be completed and utilized as a cover sheet for the load rating calculations (see [Figure 45.9-1](#)). This form may be obtained from the Bureau of Structures or is available on the following website:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrcs/strct/plan-submittal.aspx>

If required, the Refined Analysis Rating Form (see [45.9.5](#) and [Figure 45.9-2](#)) is available at the same location.

Instructions for completing the forms are as follows:

Load Rating Summary Form

1. Fill out applicable Bridge Data, Structure Type, and Construction History information using HSIS as reference.
2. Check what rating method and rating vehicle was used to rate the bridge in the spaces provided.
3. Enter the inventory/operating ratings, controlling element, controlling force effect, and live load distribution factor for the rating vehicle.
 - a. If the load distribution was determined through refined methods (i.e., finite element analysis), it is not necessary to record the live load distribution factor. Instead, enter “REFINED” in the space provided and use the “Remarks/Recommendations” section to describe the methods used to determine live load distribution.
4. The rating for the Wisconsin Special Permit vehicle (Wis-SPV) is always required and shall be given on the rating sheet for both a multi-lane distribution and a single-lane distribution. Make sure not to include the future wearing surface in these calculations.



All reported ratings are based on current conditions and do not reflect future wearing surfaces. Enter the Maximum Vehicle Weight (MVW) for the Wis-SPV analysis, controlling element, controlling force effect, and live load distribution factor.

5. When necessary, AASHTO legal and WisDOT Specialized annual Permit vehicles shall be analyzed and load postings determined per the requirements of 45.10.
 - a. Enter the lowest operating rating in kips for each appropriate vehicle type, along with corresponding controlling element and force effect, as well as live load distribution factor.
 - b. If a posting vehicle analysis was performed, check the box indicating if a load posting is required or not required. The weight limit in tons is automatically calculated when posting vehicle rating factors are below 1.0. If analysis shows that a load posting is required, specify the level of posting and contact the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit immediately.
6. When necessary, emergency vehicles shall be analyzed and weight limit restrictions determined per the requirements of 45.10.
 - a. Enter the lowest operating rating factor for each emergency vehicle, along with corresponding controlling element and force effect, as well as live load distribution factor.
 - b. Check the box indicating if an emergency vehicle weight limit is required or not required. The single axle, tandem axle, and gross vehicle weight limits are automatically calculated when emergency vehicle rating factors are below 1.0. If analysis shows that an emergency vehicle weight limit is required, specify the level of the limit and contact the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit immediately.
7. Enter all additional remarks as required to clarify the load capacity calculations.
8. It is necessary for the responsible engineer to sign and seal the form in the space provided. This is true even for rehabilitation projects with no change to the ratings.

45.9.3 Load Rating on Plans

The plans shall contain the following rating information:

- Inventory Load Rating – The plans shall have either the HS value of the inventory rating if using LFR or the rating factor for the HL-93 if using LRFR. For LFR ratings, the rating should be rounded down to the nearest whole number. This rating shall be based on the current conditions of the bridge at the point when the construction is complete and shall not use the future wearing surface. See 6.2.2.3.4 for more information on reporting ratings on plans.
- Operating Load Rating – The plans shall have either the HS value of the operating rating if using LFR or the rating factor for the HL-93 if using LRFR. For LFR ratings, the rating should be rounded down to the nearest whole number. This rating shall be based



on the current conditions of the bridge at the point when the construction is complete and shall not use the future wearing surface. See 6.2.2.3.4 for more information.

- Wisconsin Special Permit Vehicle – The plans shall also contain the results of the Wis-SPV analysis utilizing single-lane distribution and assuming that the vehicle is mixing with normal traffic and that the full dynamic load allowance is utilized. This rating shall be based on the current conditions of the bridge at the point when the construction is complete and shall not use the future wearing surface. The recorded rating for this is the total allowable vehicle weight rounded down to the nearest 10 kips. If the value exceeds 250 kips, limit the plan value to 250 kips. See 6.2.2.3.4 for more information.

45.9.4 Computer Software File Submittals

If analysis software is used to determine the load rating, the software input file shall be provided as a part of the submittal. The name of the analysis software and version should be noted on the Load Rating Summary form in the location provided.

45.9.5 Submittals for Bridges Rated Using Refined Analysis

Additional pages of documentation are required when performing a refined analysis. In addition to the Load Rating Summary Form, also submit the Refined Analysis Rating Form as shown in [Figure 45.9-2](#).

45.9.6 Other Documentation Topics

Structures with Two Different Rating Methods

There may be situations where a given superstructure contains elements that were constructed at different times. In these situations, two different rating methods are used during the design/rating process. For example, a girder replacement or widening. In this case, the new girder(s) would be designed/rated using LRFR, while the existing girders would be rated using LFR. A Load Rating Summary Form shall be submitted for both new & existing structure analysis methods; controlling LRFR rating of the new superstructure components, and controlling LFR rating of the existing superstructure. Both sets of controlling rating values (new & existing) shall be noted on the plan set, as noted in 6.2.2.3.4.



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Bridge Load Rating Summary

v. 07-2020

Bridge Data

Bridge Number:	
Owner:	
Municipality:	
Feature On:	
Feature Under:	
Design Loading:	

Traffic Count:		Truck Traffic %:	
Overburden Depth (in):			
Inspection Date:			
NBI Condition Ratings:			
Deck	Superstructure	Substructure	Culvert

Structure Type

Span #	Material	Configuration	Length (ft)
1			

Construction History

Year	Work Performed

Load Rating Summary

Rating	Ratings		Controlling Element	Controlling Force Effect	LL Distribution Factor
Method:	Inventory				
Rating Vehicle:	Operating				
Wisconsin SPV	MVW (k)	Controlling Element	Controlling Force Effect	LL Distribution Factor	
Single Lane (w/o FWS)					
Multi Lane (w/o FWS)					

Load Posting Analysis (when required per Wisconsin Bridge Manual, Chapter 45)

Posting Vehicle	Vehicle GVW (k)	Rating Factor	Weight Limit (T)	Controlling Element	Controlling Force Effect	LL Distribution Factor
AASHTO Legal Vehicles	Type 3	50	N/A			
	Type 3S2	72	N/A			
	Type 3-3	80	N/A			
	SU4	54	N/A			
	SU5	62	N/A			
	SU6	69.5	N/A			
	SU7	77.5	N/A			
WisDOT Spec.	PUP	98	N/A			
	Semi	98	N/A			
FAST Act EVs	EV2	57.5	N/A			
	EV3	86	N/A			

Posting for Legal/Specialized Permit Vehicles: Not Required Required T

Weight Limits for Emergency Vehicles: Not Required Required T Single Axle// T Tandem// T Gross

Computer Software and Version Used:		Load Rating Engineer
Additional Remarks:	Name:	
	Date:	

Figure 45.9-1
Bridge Load Rating Summary Form



In Addition to this form, submit electronic analysis files (eg. .MDX, .bdb)

ANALYSIS FILE SUMMARY (FILL OUT FOR EACH ANALYSIS FILE SUBMITTED)

Analysis Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Grid/Grillage <input type="checkbox"/> Plate & Ecc. Beam <input type="checkbox"/> 3D FEM <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(describe below)</i>
Analysis Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> MDX <input type="checkbox"/> AASHTOWare <input type="checkbox"/> CSI Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> LARSA <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Program Version:	<input type="checkbox"/>
File Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>
File Description:	Describe the purpose of the file. Example: This file is used for the Wis-SPV rating using single lane distribution.
Analysis Assumptions:	Highlight key assumptions in modeling. (This section may be omitted if submitting MDX or AASHTOWare analysis files. This section may also be omitted if submitting separate document containing analysis assumptions and results). Example of things to include: a description of the finite element model, simplifications made to model, exceptions to original design plans, loads applied, how loads are applied (e.g. equally distributed to all girders), support conditions, composite/non-composite sections.
Summary of Results:	Summarize results. (This section may be omitted if submitting MDX or AASHTOWare analysis files. This section may also be omitted if submitting separate document containing analysis assumptions and results). Provide table of results for service load reactions, moment, shear, and/or stress output for members at 10th points (minimum) for the appropriate load cases. Provide a table of capacities at each 10th point, such that load ratings can be directly computed with appropriate load and/or resistance and impact factors. Provide example or typical calculations.

Figure 45.9-2
Refined Analysis Rating Form



45.10 Load Postings

45.10.1 Overview

Legal-weight for vehicles travelling over bridges is determined by state-specific statutes, which are based in part on the Federal Bridge Formula. The Federal Bridge Formula is discussed in 45.2.5. When a bridge does not have the capacity to carry legal-weight traffic, more stringent load limits are placed on the bridge – a load posting. Currently in Wisconsin, load postings are based on gross vehicle weight; there is no additional consideration for number of axles or axle spacing. Load posting signage is discussed further in 0.

A separate analysis is conducted for emergency vehicles (EVs). As a result of the 2015 Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), FHWA requires bridges to be load rated for emergency vehicles where they are exempt from regular weight limits, and restricted if necessary. When a bridge does not have the capacity to carry the FAST Act EVs, emergency vehicle-specific load postings are required for bridges on the Interstate and within reasonable access to the Interstate. Because Wisconsin statutes also exempt emergency vehicles from state laws governing weight provisions, bridges located beyond reasonable access with insufficient capacity will be placed on the Emergency Vehicles Restricted Bridge List (under development). Weight limit restrictions for emergency vehicles are based on a combination of the single axle, tandem axle, and gross vehicle weight limits, discussed further in 45.10.3. Additional information on FAST Act EV load rating requirements may be found in FHWA’s memorandum, “Action: Load Rating for the FAST Act’s Emergency Vehicles” (November 2016) and the technical guidance, “Questions and Answers: Load Rating for the FAST Act’s Emergency Vehicles, Revision R01” (March 2018).

In order to remain open to traffic, a bridge should be capable of carrying a minimum gross live load weight of three tons at the Operating level. Bridges not capable of carrying a minimum gross live load weight of three tons at the Operating level **must** be closed. As stated in the **MBE [6A.8.1]** and **[6B.7.1]**, when deciding whether to close or post a bridge, the Owner should consider the character of traffic, the volume of traffic, the likelihood of overweight vehicles, and the enforceability of weight posting.

The owner of a bridge has the responsibility and authority to load post a bridge as required. The State Bridge Maintenance Engineer has the authority to post a bridge and must issue the approval to post any State bridge.

WisDOT policy items:

Consult the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit as soon as possible with any analysis that results in a load posting or emergency vehicle weight limit for any structure on the State or Local system.

45.10.2 Load Posting Live Loads

The live loads to be used in the rating formula for posting considerations are any of the three typical AASHTO Commercial Vehicles (Type 3, Type 3S2, Type 3-3) shown in [Figure 45.10-1](#), any of the four AASHTO Specialized Hauling Vehicles (SHVs - SU4, SU5, SU6, SU7) shown



in [Figure 45.10-2](#), the WisDOT Specialized Annual Permit Vehicles shown in [Figure 45.10-3](#), and the Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle shown in [Figure 45.12-1](#).

The AASHTO Commercial Vehicles and Specialized Hauling Vehicles are modeled on actual in-service vehicle configurations. These vehicles comply with the provisions of the Federal Bridge Formula and can thus operate freely without permit; they are legal weight/configuration.

The WisDOT Specialized Annual Permit Vehicles are Wisconsin-specific vehicles. They represent vehicle configurations made legal in Wisconsin through the legislative process and current Wisconsin state statutes.

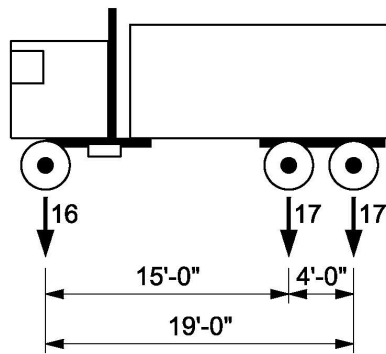
The Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV) is a configuration used internally by WisDOT to assist in the regulation of multi-trip (annual) permits. Multi-trip permits and the Wis-SPV are discussed in more detail in [45.11.2](#) and [45.12](#).

As stated in **MBE [6A.4.4.2.1a]**, for spans up to 200', only the vehicle shall be considered present in the lane for positive moments. It is unnecessary to place more than one vehicle in a lane for spans up to 200' because the load factors provided have been modeled for this possibility. For spans 200' in length or greater, the AASHTO Type 3-3 truck multiplied by 0.75 shall be analyzed combined with a lane load as shown in [Figure 45.10-4](#). The lane load shall be taken as 0.2 klf in each lane and shall only be applied to those portions of the span(s) where the loading effects add to the vehicle load effects.

Also, for negative moments and reactions at interior supports, a lane load of 0.2 klf combined with two AASHTO Type 3-3 trucks multiplied by 0.75 shall be used. The trucks should be heading in the same direction and should be separated by 30 feet as shown in [Figure 45.10-4](#). There are no span length limitations for this negative moment requirement.

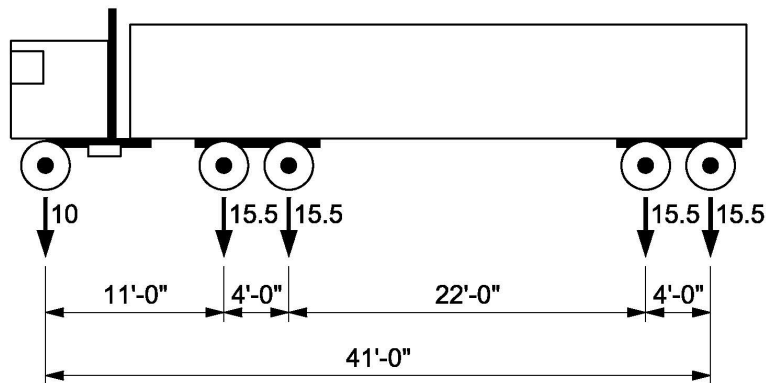
When the lane-type load model (see [Figure 45.10-4](#)) governs the load rating, the equivalent truck weight for use in calculating a safe load capacity for the bridge shall be taken as 80 kips as is specified in **MBE [6A.4.4.4]**.

For emergency vehicle weight limits, FHWA has determined that, for the purpose of load rating, two emergency vehicle configurations (EV2 and EV3) produce effects in typical bridges that envelop the effects resulting from the family of typical emergency vehicles covered by the FAST Act. The EV2 and EV3 are shown in [Figure 45.10-5](#).

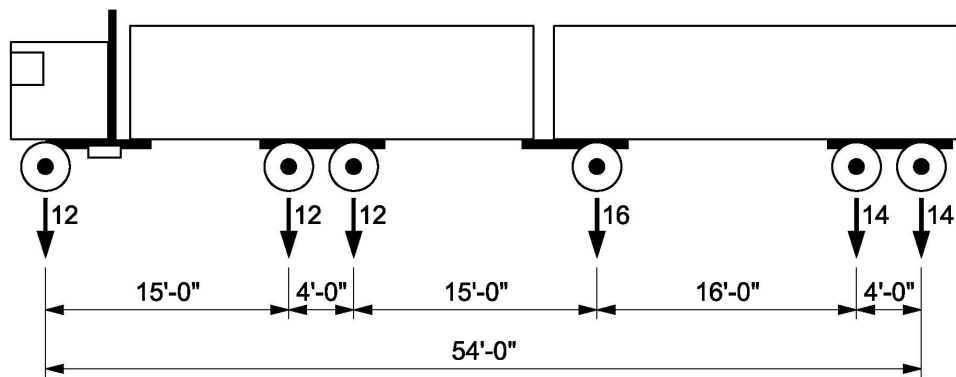


Indicated concentrations are axle loads in kips.

Type 3 Unit Weight = 50 Kips (25 tons)



Type 3S2 Unit Weight = 72 Kips (36 tons)



Type 3-3 Unit Weight = 80 Kips (40 tons)

Figure 45.10-1
AASHTO Commercial Vehicles

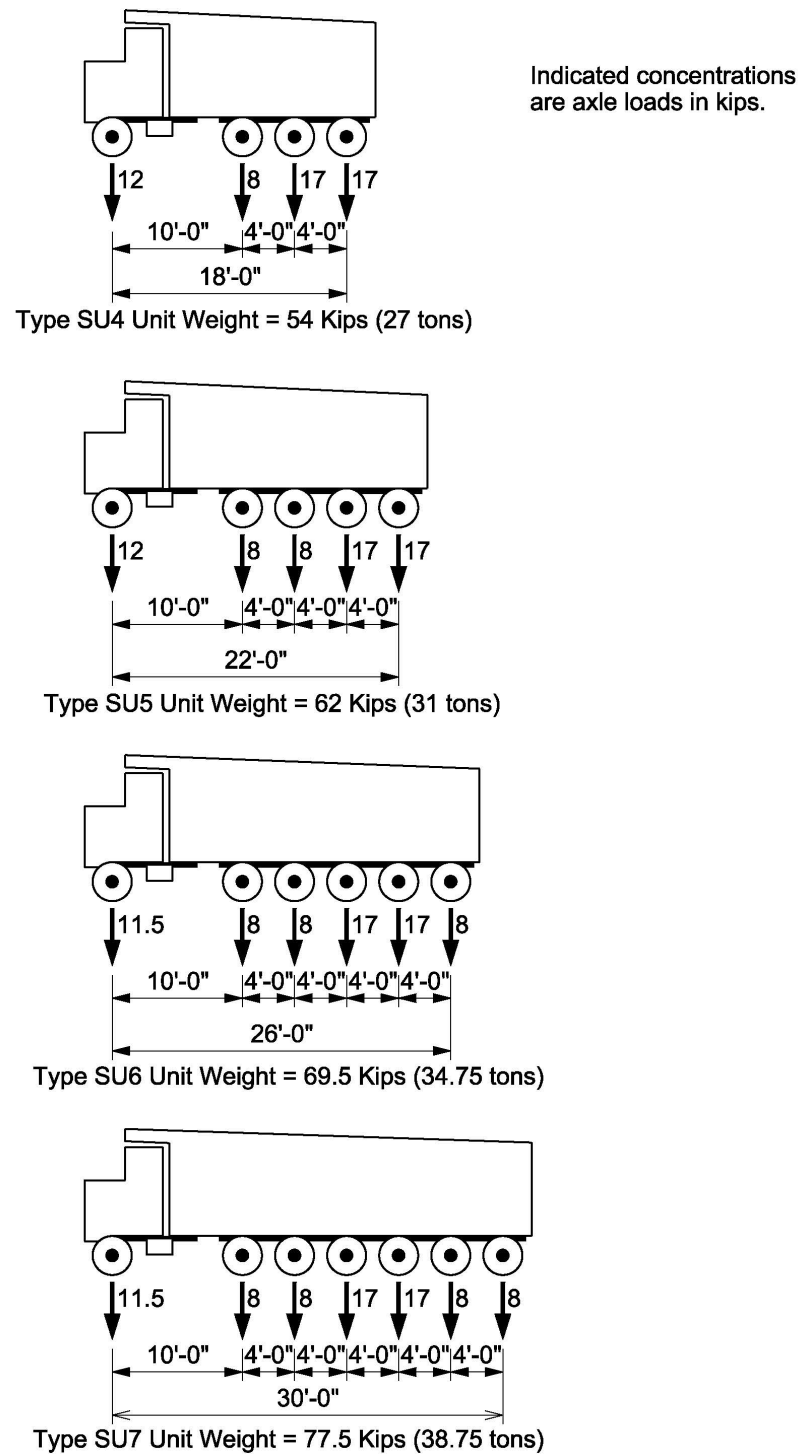


Figure 45.10-2
AASHTO Specialized Hauling Vehicles (SHVs)

Indicated concentrations are axle loads in klps.

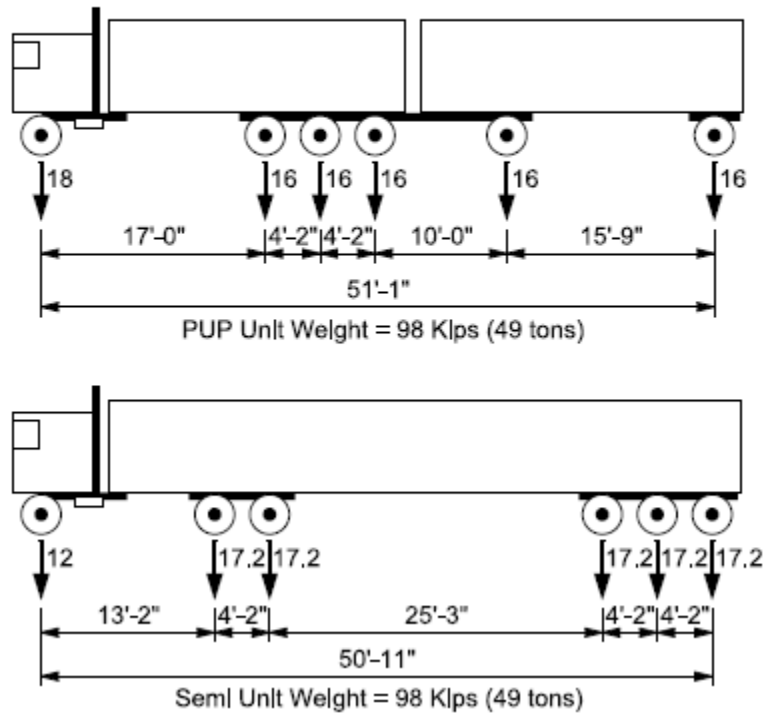


Figure 45.10-3
WisDOT Specialized Annual Permit Vehicles

Indicated concentrations are axle loads in kips (75% of type 3-3).

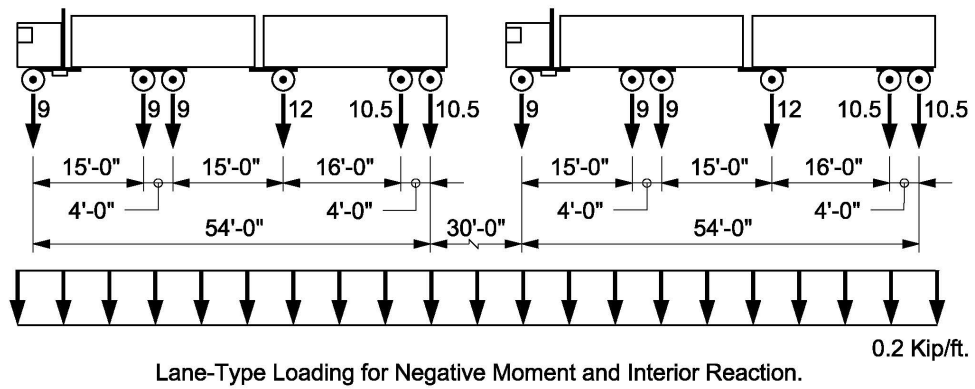
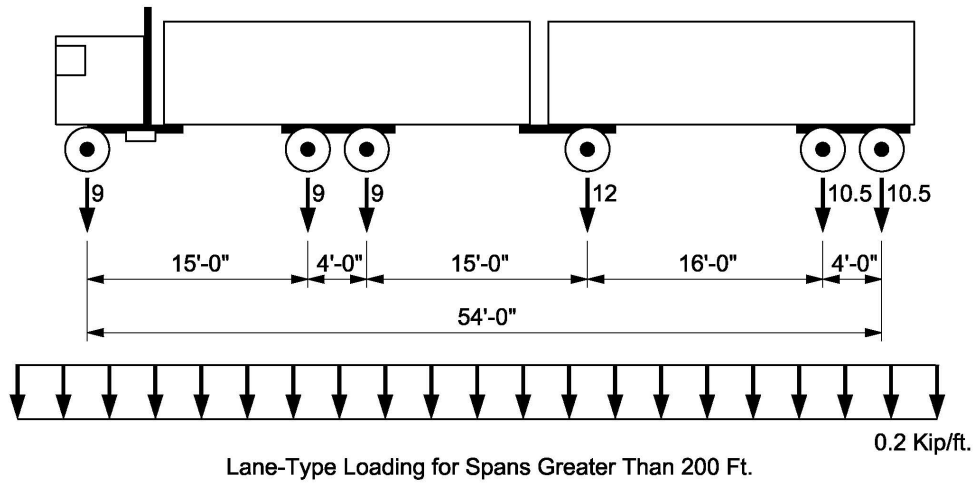
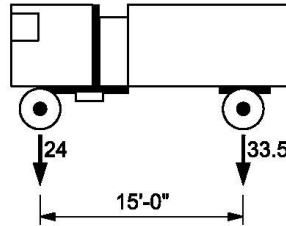
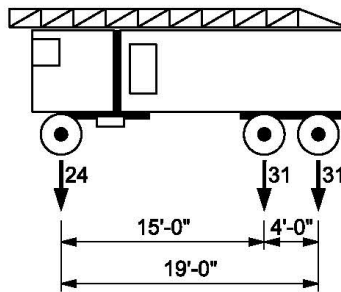


Figure 45.10-4
Lane Type Legal Load Models

Indicated concentrations are axle loads in kips.



EV2 Unit Weight = 57.5 Kips (28.75 tons)



EV3 Unit Weight = 86 Kips (43 tons)

Figure 45.10-5
Emergency Vehicle Load Models

45.10.3 Load Posting Analysis

All posting vehicles shall be analyzed at the operating level. A load posting analysis is required when the calculated rating factor at operating level for a bridge is:

- Less than 1.0 for HL-93 loading using LRFR methodology.
- Less than 1.0 for HS-20 loading using LFR/ASR methodology; or
- Less than or equal to 1.3 for LFR/ASR methodology (SHV analysis only)

A load posting analysis is very similar to a load rating analysis, except the posting live loads noted in [45.10.2](#) are used instead of typical LFR or LRFR live loading.



If the calculated rating factor at operating is less than 1.0 for a given load posting vehicle, then the bridge shall be posted, with the exception of the Wis-SPV. For State Trunk Highway Bridges, current WisDOT policy is to post structures with a Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV) rating of 120 kips or less. If the $RF \geq 1.0$ for a given vehicle at the operating level, then a posting is not required for that particular vehicle.

A bridge is posted for the lowest restricted weight limit of any of the standard posting vehicles. To calculate the capacity, in tons, on a bridge for a given posting vehicle utilizing LFR, multiply the rating factor by the gross vehicle weight in tons. To calculate the posting load for a bridge analyzed with LRFR, refer to [45.10.3.2](#).

Posting or weight limit analysis for emergency vehicles occurs separately; it is required when the calculated rating factor at inventory level for a bridge is:

- Less than 0.9 for HL-93 loading using LRFR methodology; or
- Less than 1.0 for HS-20 loading using LFR/ASR methodology.

If the calculated rating factor at operating rating is less than 1.0 for a given emergency vehicle, then the bridge shall have an emergency vehicle-specific weight limit restriction, as follows:

- If $RF_{EV2} < 1.0$ and $RF_{EV3} < 1.0$
 - Single Axle = Minimum ($RF_{EV2} \times 16.75$ tons, $RF_{EV3} \times 31$ tons)
 - Tandem = Minimum ($RF_{EV2} \times 28.75$ tons, $RF_{EV3} \times 31$ tons)
 - Gross = Minimum ($RF_{EV2} \times 28.75$ tons, $RF_{EV3} \times 43$ tons)
- If only $RF_{EV2} < 1.0$
 - Single Axle = $RF_{EV2} \times 16.75$ tons
 - Tandem = $RF_{EV2} \times 28.75$ tons
 - Gross = $RF_{EV2} \times 28.75$ tons
- If only $RF_{EV3} < 1.0$
 - Single Axle = Minimum (16 tons, $RF_{EV3} \times 31$ tons)
 - Tandem = $RF_{EV3} \times 31$ tons
 - Gross = $RF_{EV3} \times 43$ tons

Sign postings may or may not be required for emergency vehicles, depending on their location. Refer to [45.10.4](#).

45.10.3.1 Limit States for Load Posting Analysis

For LFR methodology, load posting analysis should consider strength-based limit states only.

For LRFR methodology, load posting analysis should consider strength-based limit states, but also some service-based limit states, per [Table 45.3-1](#).



45.10.3.2 Legal Load Rating Load Posting Equation (LRFR)

When using the LRFR method and the operating rating factor (RF) calculated for each legal truck described above is greater than 1.0, the bridge does not need to be posted. When for any legal truck the RF is between 0.3 and 1.0, then the following equation should be used to establish the safe posting load for that vehicle (see **MBE [Equation 6A8.3-1]**):

$$\text{Posting} = \frac{W}{0.7} [(RF) - 0.3]$$

Where:

- RF = Legal load rating factor
- W = Weight of the rating vehicle

When the rating factor for any vehicle type falls below 0.3, then that vehicle type should not be allowed on the bridge. If necessary, the structure may need to be closed until it can be repaired, strengthened, or replaced. This formula is only valid for LRFR load posting calculations.

45.10.3.3 Distribution Factors for Load Posting Analysis

WisDOT policy items:

The AASHTO Commercial Vehicles, Specialized Hauling Vehicles, and Emergency Vehicles shall be analyzed using a multi-lane distribution factor for bridge widths 18'-0" or larger. Single lane distribution factors are used for bridge widths less than 18'-0".

The WisDOT Specialized Annual Permit Vehicles shown in [Figure 45.10-3](#) shall be analyzed using a single-lane distribution factor, regardless of bridge width.

The Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV) shall be analyzed for load postings using a multi-lane distribution factor for bridge widths 18'-0" or larger. Single lane distribution factors are used for bridge widths less than 18'-0".

For Specialized Hauling Vehicles, single-lane distribution factor may be considered on two-lane roadways with travel in opposite directions to avoid a new or reduced load posting, if the bridge has demonstrated an ability to carry routine legal loads in its vicinity. Contact the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit for approval to use single-lane distribution factors on bridges with multiple lanes.

For Emergency Vehicles, refined analysis may be used to determine alternative distribution factors based on only one EV in one lane loaded simultaneously with other unrestricted legal vehicles in other lanes. This exception will reduce the computed load effects and yield higher load ratings. Refer to FHWA's "Questions and Answers: Load Rating for the FAST Act's Emergency Vehicles, Revision R01" (March 2018).

45.10.4 Load Posting Signage

Current WisDOT policy is to post State bridges for a single gross weight, in tons. Bridges that cannot carry the maximum weight for the vehicles described in 45.10.2 at the operating level are posted with the standard sign shown in Figure 45.10-6. This sign shows the bridge capacity for the governing load posting vehicle, in tons. The sign should conform to the requirements of the *Wisconsin Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (WMUTCD)*.

In the past, local bridges were occasionally posted with the signs shown in Figure 45.10-7 using the H20, Type 3 and Type 3S2 vehicles. The H20 represented the two-axle vehicle, the Type 3 represented the three-axle vehicle and the Type 3S2 represented the combination vehicle. This practice is not encouraged by WisDOT and is generally not allowed for State-owned structures, except with permission from the State Bridge Maintenance Engineer.

Emergency vehicle posting signs, however, are based on a combination of the single axle, tandem axle, and gross vehicle weight limits, as shown in Figure 45.10-8. Emergency vehicle posting signs are only required for bridges on the Interstate and within reasonable access (one road mile) to or from an Interstate interchange.



Figure 45.10-6
Standard Signs Used for Posting Bridges

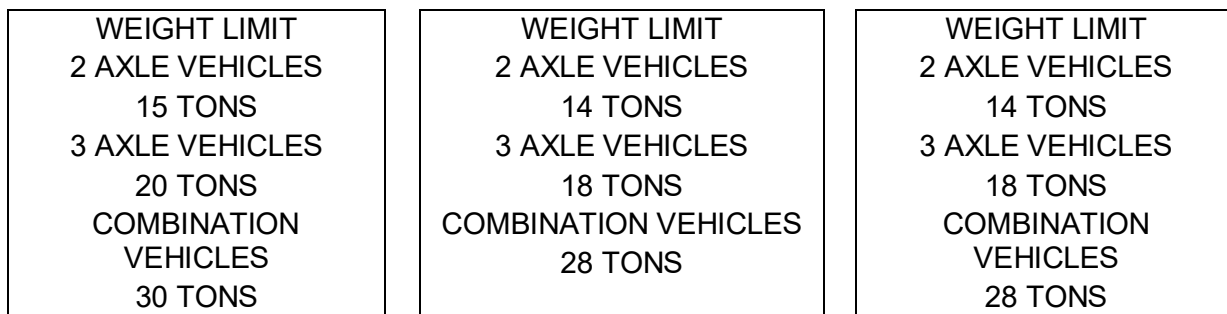


Figure 45.10-7
Historic Load Posting Signs



EMERGENCY	
VEHICLE	
WEIGHT LIMIT	
SINGLE AXLE	15 TONS
TANDEM	25 TONS
GROSS	35 TONS

Figure 45.10-8
Emergency Vehicle Load Posting Signs



45.11 Over-Weight Truck Permitting

45.11.1 Overview

Size and weight provisions for vehicles using the Wisconsin network of roads and bridges are specified in the Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 348: Vehicles – Size, Weight and Load. Weight limits for legal-weight traffic and over-weight permit requirements are defined in detail in this chapter. The webpage for Chapter 348 is shown below.

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/348>

Over-weight permit requests are processed by the WisDOT Oversize Overweight (OSOW) Permit Unit in the Bureau of Highway Maintenance. The permit unit collaborates with the WisDOT Bureau of Structures Rating Unit to ensure that permit vehicles are safely routed on the Wisconsin inventory of bridges.

While the Wisconsin Statutes contain several industry-specific size and weight annual permits, in general, there are two permit types in Wisconsin: multi-trip (annual) permits and single-trip permits.

45.11.2 Multi-Trip (Annual) Permits

Multi-trip permits are granted for non-divisible loads such as machines, self-propelled vehicles, mobile homes, etc. They typically allow unlimited trips and are available for a range of three months to one year. The permit vehicle may mix with typical traffic and move at normal speeds. Multi-trip permits are required to adhere to road and bridge load postings and are subject to additional restrictions based on restricted bridge lists supplied by the WisDOT Bureau of Structures Rating Unit and published by the WisDOT OSOW Permit Unit. The restricted bridge lists are developed based on the analysis of the Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV). For more information on the Wis-SPV and required analysis, see 45.12. The carrier is responsible for their own routing, and are required to avoid these restrictions and load postings.

Vehicles applying for a multi-trip permit are limited to 170,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, plus additional restrictions on maximum length, width, height, and axle weights. Please refer to the WisDOT Oversize Overweight (OSOW) Permits website or the Wisconsin Statutes (link above) for more information.

<https://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/carriers/osowgeneral.htm>

45.11.3 Single Trip Permits

Non-divisible loads which exceed the annual permit restrictions may be moved by the issuance of a single trip permit. When a single trip permit is issued, the applicant is required to indicate on the permit the origin and destination of the trip and the specific route that is to be used. A separate permit is required for access to local roads. Each single trip permit vehicle is individually analyzed by WisDOT for all state-owned structures that it encounters on the designated permit route.



Live load distribution for single trip permit vehicles is based on single lane distribution. This is used because these permit loads are infrequent and are likely the only heavy loads on the structure during the crossing. The analysis is performed at the operating level.

At the discretion of the engineer evaluating the single trip permit, the dynamic load allowance (or impact for LFR) may be neglected provided that the maximum vehicle speed can be reduced to 5 MPH prior to crossing the bridge and for the duration of the crossing.

In some cases, the truck may be escorted across the bridge with no other vehicles allowed on the bridge during the crossing. If this is the case, then the live load factor (LFR analysis) can be reduced from 1.20 to 1.10 as shown in [Table 45.3-3](#). It is recommended that the truck be centered on the bridge if it is being escorted with no other vehicles allowed on the bridge during the crossing.

Vehicles with non-standard axle gauges may also receive special consideration. This may be achieved by performing a more-rigorous analysis of a given bridge that takes into account the specific load configuration of the permit vehicle in question instead of using standard distribution factors that are based on standard-gauge axles. Alternatively, modifications may be made to the standard distribution factor in order to more accurately reflect how the load of the permit vehicle is transferred to the bridge superstructure. How non-standard gauge axles are evaluated is at the discretion of the engineer evaluating the permit.



45.12 Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV)

45.12.1 Background

The Wis-SPV configuration is shown in [Figure 45.12-1](#). It is an 8-axle, 190,000lbs vehicle. It was developed through a Wisconsin research project that investigated the history of multi-trip permit configurations operating in Wisconsin. The Wis-SPV was designed to completely envelope the force effects of all multi-trip permit vehicles operating in Wisconsin and is used internally to help regulate multi-trip permits.

45.12.2 Analysis

- New Bridge Construction

For any new bridge design, the Wis-SPV shall be analyzed. The Wis-SPV shall be evaluated at the operating level. When performing this design check for the Wis-SPV, the vehicle shall be evaluated for single-lane distribution assuming that the vehicle is mixing with normal traffic and that the full dynamic load allowance is utilized. For this design rating, a future wearing surface shall be considered. Load distribution for this check is based on the interior strip or interior girder and the distribution factors given in Section 17.2.7, 17.2.8, or 18.4.5.1 where applicable. See also the WisDOT policy item in [45.3.7.8.1](#).

For LRFR, the Wis-SPV design check shall be a permit load rating and shall be evaluated for the limit states noted in [Table 45.3-1](#) and [Table 45.3-3](#).

The design engineer shall check to ensure the design has a $RF > 1.0$ (gross vehicle load of 190 kips) for the Wis-SPV. If the design is unable to meet this minimum capacity, the engineer is required to adjust the design until the bridge can safely handle a minimum gross vehicle load of 190 kips.

Results of the Wis-SPV analysis shall be reported per [45.9](#).

- Bridge Rehabilitation Projects

For rehabilitation design, analysis of the Wis-SPV shall be performed as described above for new bridge construction. All efforts should be made to obtain a $RF > 1.0$ (gross vehicle load of 190 kips) within the confines of the scope of the project. However, it is recognized that it may not be possible to increase the Wis-SPV rating without a significant change in scope of the project. In these cases, consult the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit for further direction.

Results of the Wis-SPV analysis shall be reported per [45.9](#).

- Existing (In-Service) Bridges

When performing a rating for an existing (in-service) bridge, analysis of the Wis-SPV shall be performed as described above for new bridge construction. In this case – where the bridge in question is being load rated but not altered in any way – the results of the Wis-SPV analysis need simply be reported as calculated per [45.9](#). If the results of this analysis produce a rating



factor less than 1.0 (gross vehicle load less than 190 kips), notify the Bureau of Structures Rating Unit.

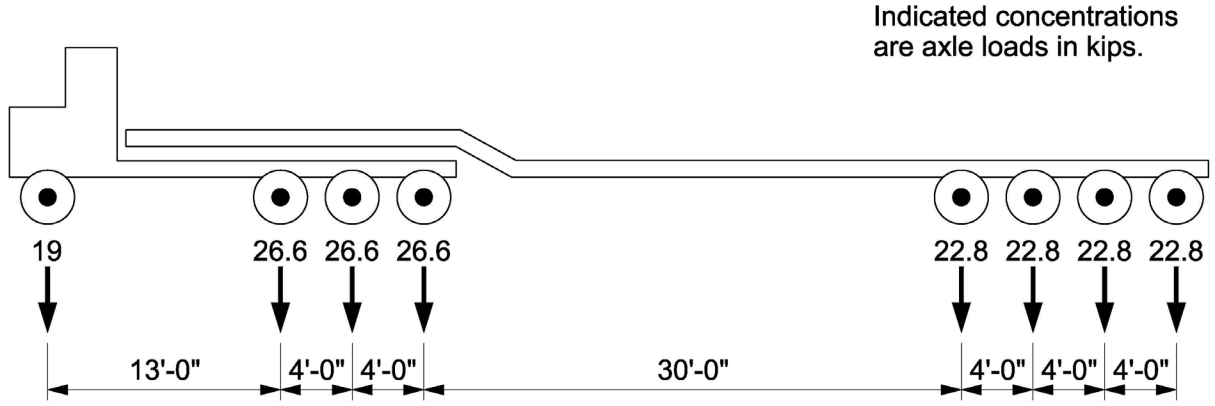


Figure 45.12-1
Wisconsin Standard Permit Vehicle (Wis-SPV)



45.13 References

1. *Final Report on Full-Scale Bridge Testing* by E. G. Burdette and D. W. Goodpasture, Department of Civil Engineer, University of Tennessee, 1971.
2. *The AASHTO Road Test, Report 4 Bridge Research* by the Highway Research Board, Washington, D.C. 1962.
3. *Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges* by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
4. *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
5. *The Manual for Bridge Evaluation, 2015 Interim Revisions* by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 2015.
6. *Structure Inspection Manual* by Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 2003.
7. *Reinforced Concrete Design* by C. K. Wang and C. G. Salmon.
8. *Plastic Design of Steel Frames* by Lynn S. Beedle.
9. National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 312.
10. National Cooperative Highway Research Program Project 12-63.
11. *Post-Tensioning Manual* by Post-Tensioning Institute.
12. Wisconsin Statutes, Vol. 4, Chapter 348.
13. *Summary of Motor Vehicle Size and Weight Regulations in Wisconsin* by Dept. of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles.
14. *Evolution of Vehicular Live Load Models During the Interstate Design Era and Beyond*, John M. Kulicki and Dennis R. Mertz, Transportation Research Circular; 50 Years of Interstate Structures.
15. *Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual*; Federal Highway Administration.
16. *The Collapse of the Silver Bridge*, Chris LeRose;
www.wvculture.org/history/wvhs1504.html
17. Engineering News, September 1914; L.R. Manville and R.W. Gastmeyer
18. *AASHTO Guide Specifications for Horizontally Curved Steel Girder Highway Bridges*, by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 2003.



19. *G13.1 Guidelines for Steel Girder Bridge Analysis* by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and by National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA), 2nd Ed., 2014.
20. *Questions and Answers: Load Rating for the FAST Act's Emergency Vehicles, Revisions R01* by Federal Highway Administration Office of Bridges and Structures, 2018.
21. *Load Rating for the FAST Act Emergency Vehicles EV-2 and EV-3*, National Cooperative Highway Research Program Project 20-07 / Task 410, 2019.
22. Dahlberg, J., Liu, Z., Phares, B., Wacker, J. December 2021. Analytical and Testing Methods for Rating Longitudinal Laminated Timber Slab Bridges. Wisconsin Highway Research Program, Madison, WI. Report No. 0092-20-01



45.14 Rating Examples

- E45-1 Reinforced Concrete Slab Rating Example LRFR
- E45-2 Single Span PSG Bridge, LRFD Design, Rating Example LRFR
- E45-3 Two Span 54W" Prestressed Girder Bridge Continuity
- E45-4 Steel Girder Rating Example LRFR
- E45-5 Reinforced Concrete Slab Rating Example LFR
- E45-6 Single Span PSG Bridge Rating Example LFR
- E45-7 Two Span 54W" Prestressed Girder Bridge Continuity Reinforcement, Rating Example LFR
- E45-8 Steel Girder Rating Example LFR



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