

5501.49 Lift bridge inspection.

(A) The director of transportation is responsible for the construction, reconstruction, major maintenance and repair, and operation of all bridges located on the state highway system within a municipal corporation. The public entity responsible for maintaining the pavements and sidewalks on either end of the bridge is responsible for the routine maintenance of all bridges located on the state highway system within the municipal corporation.

(B) The director may enter into an agreement with the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or a county, upon mutually agreeable terms, for the municipal corporation or county to operate and perform major maintenance and repair on any bridge located on the state highway system within the municipal corporation or county.

(C) The director is not required to obtain the consent of a municipal corporation prior to the performance of any major bridge maintenance and repair. Except in an emergency, the director shall give a municipal corporation reasonable notice prior to the performance of any work that will affect the flow of traffic. No utilities, signs, or other appurtenances shall be attached to a bridge without the prior written consent of the director.

(D) As used in this section:

(1) Major and routine maintenance and repair relates to all elements of a bridge, including abutments, wingwalls, and headwalls but excluding approach fill and approach slab, and appurtenances thereto.

(2) "Major maintenance" includes the painting of a bridge, and the repair of deteriorated or damaged elements of bridge decks, including emergency patching of bridge decks, to restore the structural integrity of a bridge.

(3) "Routine maintenance" includes without limitation, clearing debris from the deck, sweeping, snow and ice removal, minor wearing surface patching, cleaning bridge drainage systems, marking decks for traffic control, minor and emergency repairs to railing and appurtenances, emergency patching of deck, and maintenance of traffic signal and lighting systems, including the supply of electrical power.

(4) "Operation" relates solely to lift bridges and to those expenses that are necessary for the routine, daily operation of a lift bridge, such as payroll, workers' compensation and retirement payments, and the cost of utilities.

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