



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTRAL OFFICE, 1980 W. BROAD ST., COLUMBUS, OHIO 43216-0899

July 20, 2007

To: Users of the Bridge Design Manual

From: Tim Keller, Administrator, Office of Structural Engineering

By: Sean Meddles, Bridge Standards Engineer

Re: Release of the ODOT Bridge Design Manual, July 2007

The ODOT Bridge Design Manual, July 2007 is now available and may be downloaded at no cost using the following link: <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/se/BDM/BDM2007/bdm2007.htm>. To ensure proper printing, make sure your printer is set to print in the 2-sided mode.

The 2007 version of the Bridge Design Manual is compliant with the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, 4th Edition and shall be used for the design of new bridges and retaining walls as follows:

The AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications will be adopted by the Department for the design of new bridges and retaining walls. FHWA has tied federal bridge funding to the adoption of these specifications. FHWA has agreed to the AASHTO commitment to have all structures starting preliminary design by October 1, 2007 use the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. In order to meet this commitment, ODOT is establishing the following criteria:

1. Major Projects – Projects starting Step 6 after July 20, 2007 shall have the structures designed using the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.
2. Minor Projects – Projects starting Step 3 after July 20, 2007 shall have the structures designed using the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.
3. Minimal Projects – Projects starting Step 1 after July 20, 2007 shall have the structures designed using the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

If adopting the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications creates undue hardship to a project, the District may submit a request to the Office of Structural Engineering to waive this requirement. However, after October 1, 2007 no federal funding will be available for projects that have been granted a waiver. Requests shall document the hardship to the project and include as a minimum:

1. Quantitative cost impacts.
2. Schedule impacts.
3. Corridor impacts.
4. Other impacts as noted.

Local projects using Federal Aid must also use the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. For all local projects using the ODOT PDP, the following criteria must be followed to ensure federal funding:

1. Major Projects – Projects starting Step 6 after October 1, 2007 shall have the structures designed using the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.
2. Minor Projects – Projects starting Step 3 after October 1, 2007 shall have the structures designed using the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.
3. Minimal Projects – Projects starting Step 1 after October 1, 2007 shall have the structures designed using the LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

For all local projects using federal funding but not using ODOT PDP process, use the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications if preliminary design is started after October 1, 2007. Preliminary design is generally defined for this purpose as when vertical profile is established.

This commitment to LRFD does not apply to the rehabilitation of existing structures. Until further notice, the design for repair and rehabilitation of existing structures should be in accordance with the AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges, 17th Edition, and the ODOT Bridge Design Manual, January 2004.

The Office of Structural Engineering will continue to maintain the ODOT Bridge Design Manual, January 2004 for projects in contract prior to the aforementioned deadlines and for the design for repair and rehabilitation of existing structures.

The Bridge Standard Drawings and Design Data Sheets are also being updated. The schedule for updating the Bridge Standard Drawings and the Design Data Sheets is currently being developed.

Please direct all questions related to the implementation of LRFD including technical assistance with the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications and the ODOT Bridge Design Manual to the following email address: OSE@dot.state.oh.us. Please include the following heading in the subject field: "LRFD FAQ". **DO NOT** contact individual OSE staff members regarding LRFD issues.