

**Date:** August 27, 2020

**To:** All Project Managers and Program Delivery Staff  
County Engineers  
City Engineers

**From:** Mark Gieseke, Assistant Commissioner,  
Engineering Services Division

## **RE: Guidance for Determining Ownership of Bridges over Trunk Highways**

This memo is to introduce new guidance on how to determine ownership of bridges that cross over Trunk Highways.

MnDOT owns the vast majority of bridges that carry other infrastructure over the Trunk Highways. Of the over 1300 such bridges, MnDOT owns over 1200 of them. The remaining bridges are a mix of bridges carrying railroads, local roads, light rail, and other infrastructure.

As our transportation network grows, the number of separated grade crossings and interchanges that carry other facilities over our Trunk Highways has also increased. With that growth, it has become apparent that MnDOT needs a uniform way of deciding who will bear the ownership responsibilities of these new bridges.

The attached guidance identifies MnDOT as the owner of record for most new Trunk Highway overpasses, but also describes how the responsibilities of ownership will be divided between MnDOT and the owner(s) of the facilities being carried on the new bridge, even if MnDOT is the owner. It also describes an exception process for situations that do not fit the guidance.

This guidance only applies to new bridges or replacements of existing bridges, and must be included in an agreement between MnDOT and the local agencies before it is binding. This guidance is effective immediately and shall be applied to any new projects and to projects in development that have not already reached an agreement on ownership responsibilities.

This guidance has been developed in consultation with MnDOT leadership and technical groups, and has received the approval of the City and County Engineer Associations.

This guidance will be incorporated into one or more manuals, including the new Transportation Project Development Process (TPDP) online manual.

Questions may be directed to Mark Gieseke in Engineering Services Division or Marc Briese from State Aid Division.