

Technical Memorandum

To: Electronic Distribution Recipients

From: Michael G. Beer, P.E. Digital signature on file
Acting Assistant Commissioner, Engineering Services

Subject: Bridge Preservation and Improvement Guidelines – Chapter 1 and 9

Expiration

This Memorandum supersedes Technical Memorandum No. 15-16-B-01 and will remain in effect until June 30th, 2026, unless it is superseded before that date or suspended.

Implementation

The guidance herein shall be effective immediately.

Introduction

Revised Chapters 1 and 9 of the Bridge Preservation and Improvement Guidelines (BPIG) will replace current Chapters 1 and 9 of the current Bridge Preservation, Improvement and Replacement Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2016 through 2020. The proposed BPIG document provides a consistent methodology for identifying, prioritizing, and scoping bridge projects. The guidelines are based on past performance and experience as well as current guidance on minimum safety requirements for barriers.

Purpose

The Bridge Office continues to follow the 2016 – 2020 BPIG guidelines for rehabilitation and preservation projects, but there is an immediate need to provide guidance on MASH implementation for crashworthy barriers as it relates to existing bridges. This is because for contracts on the National Highway System (NHS) with a letting date after December 31, 2019, only safety hardware evaluated using the 2016 edition of the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH) criteria are allowed for full bridge barrier replacements. An agreement between the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the implementation was reached at the end of 2015. Each agency is attempting to meet this agreement, and there is a need to provide barrier guidance for both new and existing bridges.

Barrier upgrade guidance is contained within BPIG Chapters 1 and 9 and the reason for this immediate update. A full replacement to the BPIG is expected later this year.

Guidelines

Updated guidelines are located here:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bridge/construction.html>

Questions

Any questions regarding the technical provisions of this Technical Memorandum can be addressed to either of the following:

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Any questions regarding publication of this Technical Memorandum should be referred to the Design Standards Unit, DesignStandards.DOT@state.mn.us. A link to all active and historical Technical Memoranda can be found at <http://techmemos.dot.state.mn.us/techmemo.aspx>.

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