



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway
Administration

Mississippi Division Office

666 North Street, Suite 105
Jackson, Mississippi 39202-3199

In Reply Refer To:

HDO-MS

April 2, 1997

Dr. Robert L. Robinson, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Subject: Request for Four Year
Inspection Interval for
Certain Bridges

Reference is made to the February 4, 1997, submission from Mr. W. F. Massey proposing to extend the inspection interval for certain bridges from two years to four years. Mr. Massey provided criteria established by the Department for selecting certain types or groups of bridges as candidates for the increased inspection interval.

The enclosed March 20, 1997, memorandum from our Washington office approves the Department's request. Washington did notice several structures that do not comply with the criteria. This office also noticed that Structure No. 310001508018540 and Structure No. 310043004200360 do not comply.

Please review the list to assure that it includes only bridges that meet the approved criteria. It is requested that we receive a final corrected list.

Sincerely yours,

Richard B. Ward

Phyllis E. Young
Division Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Bridge Division, 82-01, w/enclosure
File 407.0

~~RBWARD:mpd 4-2-97~~
Reading File

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Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Subject: Proposed Four Year Interval for
Routine Bridge Inspections

Date: February 7, 1997

From: Division Administrator
Jackson, Mississippi

Reply to
Attn. of: HBR-MS

To: Mr. Leon N. Larson
Regional Administrator (HST-04)
Atlanta, Georgia

The attached letter from Mr. W. F. Massey requests FHWA concurrence of a four-year routine bridge inspection interval for certain types of MDOT maintained bridges. Attached to the letter is the proposed criteria to be used by MDOT to select bridges for the extended inspection frequency, and also a listing by District of bridges that currently meet the criteria.

The MDOT request follows the implementation guidelines contained in Technical Advisory T 5140.21 dated September 16, 1988. This office participated in the development of the criteria and recommends approval.

Phyllis E. Young
Phyllis E. Young

Attachments

File 407.0

RBWARD:jh February 7, 1997
Weekly Reader File

Mississippi Department of Transportation

NBIS MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

All state maintained bridges are inspected in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, 23 Highways-Part 650, Subpart C. Coding of inventory and inspection items is according to the Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges. Routine inspections are performed at intervals not to exceed two years except for structures meeting the requirements of FHWA Technical Advisory TS140.21 dated September 16, 1988. These exempted structures were identified as candidates for an increased inspection interval up to four years as provided by final rule which was published in the Federal Register dated October 12, 1993. Criteria for identifying structures as a candidate for the maximum inspection interval are described as follows:

1. Structure Condition and Appraisal Ratings

NBI condition ratings for a candidate structure must be coded "7" or greater (or "N").

- Item 58-Deck
- Item 59-Superstructure
- Item 60-Substructure
- Item 62-Culvert

A rating of "7" indicates the structure to be in "Good Condition". Experience has shown that it is unlikely for a structure to decrease in its load carrying capacity within a four year period.

2. Scour Susceptibility

A structure must have a NBI rating of "7" or greater for Item 113.

3. Structure Type

Only prestressed concrete, pre-cast concrete and concrete box bridges having load path redundancy will be considered as candidate structure.

4. Length of Longest Span

The longest span will be 31 meters (100 feet) or less to be considered eligible.

5. Structural Load Capacity

To qualify, a structure will have a minimum inventory rating equivalent to a HS20 design truck (36 ton).

6. Vertical Clearance

Thru-truss and overpass/underpass structures are not eligible.

7. Structure Age And Maintenance History

Any structure greater than 25 years old will not be eligible nor any structure with a history of maintenance rehabilitation or reconstruction.

8. Base-Line Inspection

All structures (new or existing) will receive an in-depth inspection within the current two year interval to insure that the candidate structure meets the criteria that has been established.

Mississippi Department of Transportation

NBIS Maintenance Inspection (cont'd)

9. Volume of Traffic

AADT will be limited to 25,000 and the ADTT will be limited to 2,500.

10. Critical Facilities/National Defense Highway/FAP Arterial

All structures having met other requirements will be excluded as a candidate if located on a designated critical facility, defense or FAP arterial routes.

11. Overloads

Permit overloads are directly related to the ADTT and generally travel a FAP route.

12. Inspection Interval Re-evaluation

The inspection interval for the candidate structures will be re-evaluated annually. If conditions have changed to a point where all of the criteria provided above are not satisfied, the inspection interval will be revised accordingly.