

May 7, 1998

HBR-WA/407.2

Mr. Sid Morrison
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
Olympia, Washington

Attention: Myint Lwin, P.E. (MS: 47340)

Bridge Inspection Frequency Revision

Dear Mr. Morrison:

We have reviewed your February 17, 1998 request to extend the interval between inspections for bridges meeting certain specified criteria. Your proposal identified two groups of bridges, with the only difference being maximum span length. Our Headquarters office, whose April 22, 1998 memorandum is enclosed, has determined that increased inspection intervals up to four years will only be acceptable for those bridges with span lengths of 30.48 meters or less. Those bridges with spans greater than 30.48 meters must continue to be inspected at least every two years. Therefore, your proposal to extend the maximum inspection interval to four years is approved for the those State-owned bridges meeting the criteria identified in List 1 of your February 17, 1998 letter.

We also noticed that, according to our data in the National Bridge Inventory (NBI), some of the structures in the list do not meet the criteria specified. Please search your current database for those structures that meet the criteria and submit a revised list. We would also ask you to send us an updated list of the structures meeting the criteria in April of each year, corresponding to the annual update of the NBI.

Sincerely,

GENE K. FONG
Division Administrator

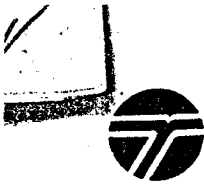
Barry B. Brecto

By: Barry B. Brecto
Division Bridge Engineer

Enclosure

cc: Bob George, WSDOT, w/encl.
John Dorffeld, WSDOT, w/ encl.

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**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Sid Morrison
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

July 28, 1998

Mr. Gene Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
711 South Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501

Attn: Mr. Barry Brecto

RE: Bridge Inspection Frequency
Revision

Dear Mr. Fong:

This is in response to your letter of May 7, 1998. Attached is a revised list of bridges that meet our approved 48-month inspection criteria. We have reviewed the current database and have excluded those bridges with spans of more than ~~30.48~~ meters.
100 feet

We have changed the inspection frequency to 48 months on the 233 bridges on this list. The extended inspection frequency will be re-evaluated during every future inspection. We will continue to monitor the 48-month inspection criteria and submit an updated list every April along with our annual master list update.

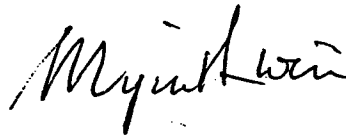
Again, this is the criteria used to create and maintain the 48-month bridge inspection list.

1. Common Designs - Concrete Bridges or steel culverts
 - a. Prestressed girders (PCB)
 - b. Box girders (CBOX)
 - c. Slabs (CS)
 - d. T-beams (CTB)
 - e. Post-tensioned box girders (PBOX)
 - f. Concrete culvert (CCULV)
 - g. Steel culvert (SCULV)

2. Structure Age - No maximum age limit. The condition ratings will be used to determine whether the structure should be on a four-year cycle.
3. Condition Ratings
 - a. Superstructure greater than 6
 - b. Substructure greater than 6
 - c. Deck greater than 6
 - d. Culvert greater than 6
4. Inventory Load Ratings
 - a. All bridge inventory ratings are greater than or equal to state legal loads.
5. Vertical Underclearances greater than 14' 00"
6. Bridges over water
 - a. Not scour critical - Scour Code 5, 8, 9, T or N. 680
 - b. Channel and channel code 6 or greater. 677
7. The maximum span length is equal to or less than 100 feet (In Accordance with FHWA Technical Advisory T 5140.21 dated September 16, 1988).
8. The maximum ADT is 100,000 vehicles and the ADTT 10,000.
9. No major maintenance has been performed on the bridge in the last two years.
10. The bridge has received at least one in-depth inspection in addition to its inventory inspection.

We appreciate the effort and assistance that the FHWA Division Bridge Engineer has provided in this matter. We have implemented this change and will continue to monitor the status of the criteria you set forth. If you have any questions, please call the Bridge Preservation Engineer at (360)753-4739.

Sincerely,



M. MYINT LWIN, P.E.
Bridge and Structures Engineer

MML:lr
ORG/RPH
Attachment

cc: D. K. Nelson, EESC, MS 47323