NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Jim Pillen, Governor

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Bulletin 26.04

SUBJECT Inspection Note Type and Quality

To: Nebraska Public Bridge Owners and Inspectors

This Bulletin is to clarify the use of the following note types.

- SNBI Inspection Notes (B.IE.11)
- Agency Inspection Notes, which are not SNBI items

This Bulletin supersedes Bulletin 24.03 Inspection Note Quality

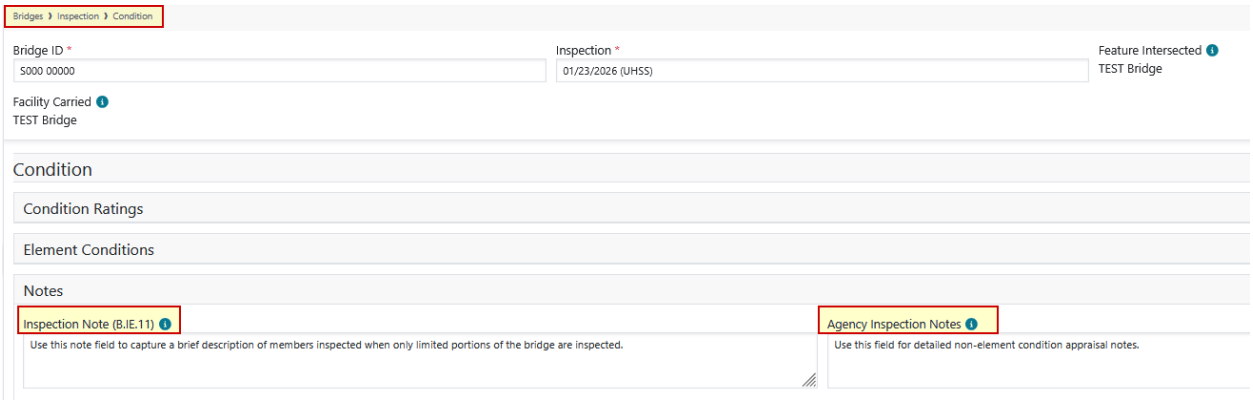

Figure 1 Showing the location of SNBI Inspection Note and Agency Inspection Note

Inspection Note (B.IE.11)

The Inspection Note (B.IE.11) field is required when only part of a bridge is inspected.

A brief description is required when limited portions of the bridge are inspected such as Underwater, NSTM, In-depth, Special, and Damage inspections, or for scour monitoring. NSTM components are described in the NSTM Inspection Report and do not have to be separately listed in B.IE.11. If the entire bridge is inspected, as is typical with a routine or initial inspection then B.IE.11 is not required. Agency notes are used for other types of notes such as descriptions of type size and location of defects.

In Nebraska, if an NSTM inspection is required, it is typically done in conjunction with a routine inspection. In cases like this, the B.IE.11 Inspection Note should indicate that “All NSTM and non-NSTM components of the bridge were inspected in this combined Routine and NSTM inspection.”

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Agency Inspection Note and Note Quality

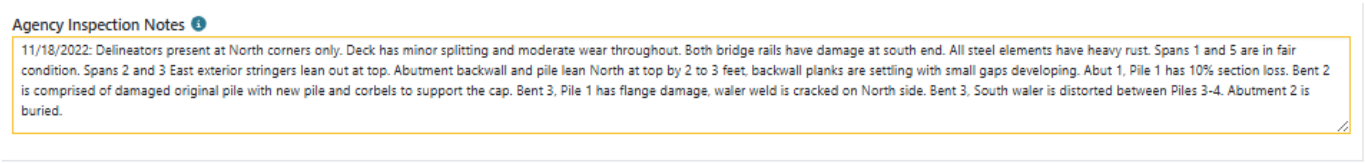
Bridge Component Condition Rating notes should be provided in BrM > Inspection > Condition in the Agency Inspection Notes field.

Any components that contribute to reducing bridge condition appraisal should be documented.

At a minimum, it is required to provide Agency Inspection Notes that describe and justify any rating of 5 or less for the Bridge Component Condition Ratings (B.C.01 Through B.C.15), as well as any bridge elements with defects in Condition State (CS) 3, or 4. Notes should indicate the type, size and location of any defects that are recorded. Sketches or annotated photographs should be provided when the notes or locations are complex and difficult to describe.

Even when no change in condition is observed, inspectors should document and clarify their findings through detailed notes. These notes must justify the assigned condition rating. Photos and sketches should be used to support or supplement these notes. The inspection photo descriptions should indicate the location of the photo(s) to correspond with locations cited in the inspection notes for any deffects. Photos should include closeups and also surrounding locations for context (taken from further back). See Section 4.5.9.2 of the Bridge Inspection Program Manual for a complete list of photo requirements.

The following is an example of an inspection note that could benefit from minor improvements:


Agency Inspection Notes

11/18/2022: Delineators present at North corners only. Deck has minor splitting and moderate wear throughout. Both bridge rails have damage at south end. All steel elements have heavy rust. Spans 1 and 5 are in fair condition. Spans 2 and 3 East exterior stringers lean out at top. Abutment backwall and pile lean North at top by 2 to 3 feet, backwall planks are settling with small gaps developing. Abut 1, Pile 1 has 10% section loss. Bent 2 is comprised of damaged original pile with new pile and corbels to support the cap. Bent 3, Pile 1 has flange damage, waler weld is cracked on North side. Bent 3, South waler is distorted between Piles 3-4. Abutment 2 is buried.

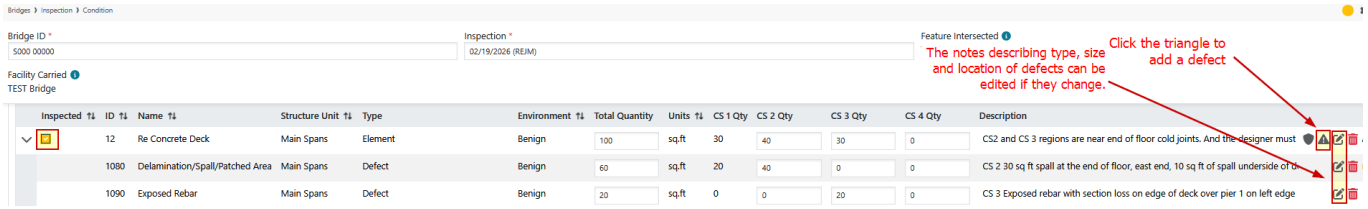
- "All steel elements have heavy rust" in the note lacks clarity. It should be clarified to indicate whether it refers to surface rust or section loss. If there is section loss, it must be quantified.
    - Instead use something like the following. "90% of the first 2 ft of every girder end at each abutment has some pack rust with the beginning of mild section loss. Elsewhere steel superstructure components have light speckled rust but no apparent section loss. See photos labeled for girder ends and photos of typical speckled pattern rust."
- "exterior stringers lean out at top". A dimension or sketch should be provided to show the amount of rotation from vertical. No photos were included to document the defect.
    - If photos of distortion provided include a tape measure and level if appropriate.

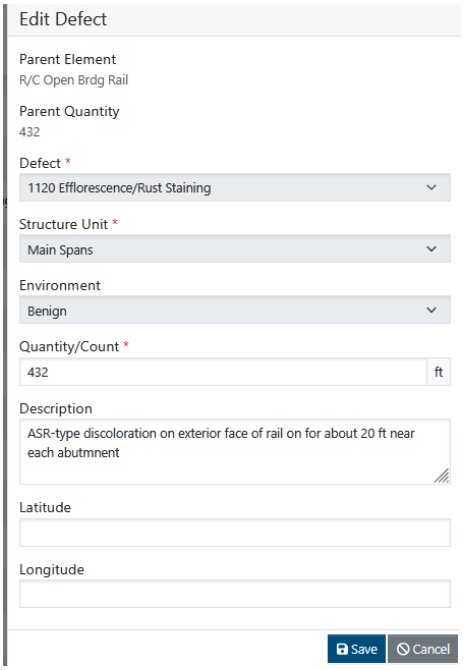
Bridge element defect notes should be provided in BrM > Inspection > Condition in the Description field.

For each element, total quantities and defect types are captured in the element coding. If a defect is found in multiple locations with quantities in CS3 or CS4, specify the quantity at each location for each condition state. Include a general comment in the Agency Inspection Notes summarizing the presence of CS3-4 defects (e.g., "Widespread minor map cracking observed in

deck”). Detailed information already captured in the individual element does not need to be repeated.

The following is an example of Reinforced Concrete Bridge Railing - Open (9331) with Efflorescenc/Rust Staining defect (1121):





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