



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

Randall D. Peters, P.E., Director – State Engineer

1500 Highway 2 • PO Box 94759 • Lincoln NE 68509-4759

Phone (402) 471-4567 • FAX (402) 479-4325 • www.transportation.nebraska.gov

01/29/2013

Dear Nebraska Bridge Owner:

RE: Bridge Inspection Program
Memo No. 130129 – General

This memorandum to all Nebraska Bridge Owners provides an update on the NE Bridge Inspection Program (BIP). This and other BIP Memos are on the Bridge Division website for easy reference.

NDOR and FHWA thank you for your cooperation and efforts to meet the requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). The quality of the BIP continues to improve due to participants following guidance and instructions from Bridge Division staff, the BIP Manual, the QA Evaluation Program and educational opportunities at the NACO meetings and RC training workshops. NDOR will also be hosting the 2013 Bridge Conference on April 16-17, in Kearney – more information will follow.

This BIP Memo summarizes results for and status of:

1. FHWA NBIS Metrics
2. QA Evaluation of the Bridge Inspection Program
3. The BIP Manual Revision 2.

1. FHWA NBIS Metrics: FHWA established these Metrics in 2011 for review of all state agency bridge inspection programs for compliance with the Federal law. The 23 Metrics tie specific measurements with compliance status (full, substantial and non-compliance). FHWA-NE late in 2012 completed their review of the 2011 NBIS Performance Year (PY). Some of you were contacted by FHWA-NE for this review. Two Metrics were found in non-compliance that involve Local Bridge Owners and these are discussed below. All Bridge Owners are urged to read the BIP Manual procedures related to the Metrics below.

- **Metrics on Inspection Frequency** – All bridges are to be inspected at intervals not exceeding 24 months (12 months for some special cases). FHWA in Washington DC calculates the time interval between Routine Inspection dates from submitted inventory data (input as “NBI Inspection” in Pontis). Some Owners had not completed Routine Inspections on time. NDOR is reminding Local Owners to:
 - Read the monthly and quarterly email notifications from NDOR regarding inspections that are due within the next months.
 - Make sure inspections are done within 24 months of the prior inspection. For example, an inspection done in October 2012 must have the next inspection done in October 2014. If an inspection is delayed for any reason, immediately notify the NDOR BIP Program Manager.
 - Input new Routine Inspections (in Pontis an “NBI Inspection”) correctly. We remind you that editing a prior inspection overwrites the prior inspection data but holds the prior inspection date. Thus, calculation of the time between the two most recent Routine Inspections gives a frequency that is double the structures not-to-exceed interval.

- Input inspections for new or reconstructed bridges, repaired structures after a Critical Finding, or bridges that have changed ownership as a Pontis “Special Inspection”. Routine Inspections (Pontis “NBI Inspection”) are regularly scheduled, typically every 24 months. This accomplishes two objectives: 1) the FHWA calculation of inspection interval will be based on the dates of the scheduled inspections; and 2) it allows Owners to set and complete the first Routine Inspection in a month that best fits their bridge inventory inspection schedule.
 - **Metric on Monitoring Scour Critical Bridges** – Owners with Scour Critical bridges must have a current Plan of Action (POA) and follow-up on these.
NDOR is reminding Local Owners to:
 - Make sure you have in your Bridge File or Individual Bridge Records the current hydraulic assessments for your bridges.
 - Read the BIP Manual on execution of POAs.
 - Make sure you can show evidence that there has been follow-up for all of your Scour Critical Bridges that have a POA.
 - Make sure all of your structures over waterways are properly sized and hydraulic reports and bridge plans have been forwarded to NDOR in accordance with state statute, NDOR policy and your Federal Funds Purchase Program Agreement.
2. **QA Evaluation of the BIP:** The QA Evaluation is completed on NBIS requirements for qualifications, inspection, load rating, load posting, scour assessment, records and follow-up. The QA Evaluation findings summary is attached for the 2012 NBIS dataset and the associated reports (program work done in 2011). Participant Individual Reports have been sent via email by the QA Consultant, Parsons Brinckerhoff. Please review your reports and contact Parsons Brinckerhoff if you have questions. These reports are for you and your employees use in improving your processes and Quality Control. Participants’ Individual Reports are confidential and should **not** be filed in the Owner’s Bridge File or Records.
3. **BIP Manual Revision 2:** This revision will soon be posted to the NDOR web site. It includes some additional guidance due to findings of the QA Evaluation as well as other minor content changes. This Revision is reformatted so for future revisions, users can only replace individual pages that have changes. A summary of the most important changes is given in the Manual Introduction for quick reference.

Sincerely,
Signed by:

Mark Traynowicz, PE
State Bridge Engineer

Enclosures: BIP QA Evaluation - Summary for Participants 2011 Cycle

Copy: Local Bridge Owner Clerk
FHWA/NE Division Office
Jim Wilkinson, Local Project Engineer