

STATE OF NEBRASKA, DEPARTMENT OF ROADS (NDOR)  
POLICY FOR DESIGN, LOAD-RATING AND INSPECTION OF PUBLIC ROAD BRIDGES  
May 24, 2010

**Definitions: Bridge** – Bridge shall have the definition set out in 23 CFR § 650.305. **Maintenance** - Maintenance means the act, operation, continuous process of repair, reconstruction or preservation of the whole or any part of any highway, including surface, shoulders, roadsides, traffic control devices, structures, waterways, and drainage facilities, for the purpose of keeping it at or near or improving upon its original standard of usefulness and safety (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-101(6)). **Public Road** – Public road means any road or street under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public travel (23 USC § 101(27)).

Any Bridge on a Public Road under the jurisdiction of the state, a municipality, a county, or a village shall be designed, constructed, inspected and maintained in accordance with state and Federal law. The public entity with jurisdiction for any Bridge located on a Public Road in Nebraska shall provide to NDOR copies of all bridge plans, hydraulic design reports, load-rating reports and inspection reports applicable to each Public Road Bridge.

**Hydraulic Design:** The hydraulic design will satisfy the requirements of Federal-Aid Policy Guide, 23 CFR 650A (Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Floodplains) and FHWA-IP-90-017 (HEC-18 Scour), which is covered in the NDOR Hydraulic Analysis Guidelines. The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission provides minimum standards governing the hydraulic design of improvements in floodplains (See 455 NAC Section 004 and 005, and Chapter 31 of the Nebraska statutes). A Nebraska licensed professional engineer with training and experience in the hydraulic design of Public Road Bridges shall complete, seal and sign the hydraulic design report. The hydraulic design reports for Bridge projects on Federal-aid projects shall be submitted to the NDOR Local Projects Division in accordance with the LPA Manual. The hydraulic design reports for all other Bridge projects shall be submitted to the NDOR Bridge Division prior to construction.

**Geometric and Structural Design:** All Public Road Bridges shall be designed and constructed to meet the minimum standards of the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standard for the geometric and structural design of Bridges (See Minimum Standards created pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-2113). These standards apply to the original construction and any reconstruction, rehabilitation or retrofit of the Bridge. A Nebraska licensed professional engineer with training and experience in geometric and structural design of Public Road Bridges shall complete, seal and sign the Bridge design plans. The plans for Bridge projects on Federal-aid projects shall be submitted to the NDOR Local Projects Division in accordance with the LPA Manual. The plans for all other Bridge projects shall be submitted to the NDOR Bridge Division prior to construction.

**Load-Rating and Inspection:** All Public Road Bridges are subject to the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). The NBIS requires that all Public Road Bridges be load-rated and inspected. The NDOR Bridge Inspection Program (BIP) Manual sets out the policy covering load-rating and inspection of Public Road Bridges. All Bridges shall be load-rated in accordance with the (BIP) Manual and the load-rating documents shall be sealed and signed by a Nebraska licensed professional engineer with training and experience in Bridge load-rating. The load-rating documents of any Bridge constructed as a part of a Federal-aid project shall be submitted to the NDOR Local Projects Division in accordance with the LPA Manual. The load-ratings documents for all other bridges shall be submitted to the NDOR Bridge Division in accordance with the (BIP) Manual. Bridges must be inspected regularly as designated in the (BIP) Manual, or funding sanctions may be imposed.

**Exemption:** This policy does not apply to Bridges located on private property or private roads.

Signed by:

Mark Traynowicz  
State Bridge Engineer

Signed by:

Monty Fredrickson  
Director