

GAP-03 ENGINEERING STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPAL BRIDGE STRUCTURES

GENERAL:

The Municipal Government Act and the Public Highways Development Act are the legislation under which a municipality and Alberta Transportation operate regarding bridge structures on public municipal roads. Like the roads on which they are located, bridge structures on municipal roads are under the control and management of the municipality (there are exceptions such as some irrigation and drainage structures). This means that the construction and maintenance of municipal bridge structures are the responsibility of the municipality.

The legislation permits the Minister of the Department of Transportation to provide assistance to municipalities for their bridge structures. Therefore, the Department may provide funding assistance to municipalities to the extent that budgets approved by the Provincial Legislature allow.

Given that the Department provides funding for municipal bridge structures, it is in the interest of the Provincial Government to ensure that the municipalities:

- meet their legislated requirement to maintain these bridge structures in a reasonable state of repair
- construct bridge structures to an appropriate standard, and
- maintain bridge structures so as to maximize the economic life of the structures.

The requirements of this guideline will allow the Department to help ensure the safety of these Crown-owned bridge structures, and protect the Provincial Government's substantial investment in these bridge structures.

DEFINITIONS:

Municipality	For the purposes of this guideline, a municipality is taken to be a municipal district, county, regional municipality, village, town, summer village, special area or metis settlement.
--------------	---

Bridge Structure	Includes bridge culverts, standard bridges, major bridges, major bridge culverts, low level crossings and sign bridges. The type of structure is as defined by the Department's Bridge Inventory System (BIS).
------------------	--

ENGINEERING STANDARDS GUIDELINE:

Municipalities are required to:

- Inspect bridge structures in accordance with the current requirements of the Department's Bridge Inspection and Maintenance System (BIM).
- Construct and maintain bridge structures to the current standards of the Department and undertake the work in accordance with engineering terms of reference, detailed plans and specifications as approved by the Department.
- Utilize competent engineering consultants registered and licensed to practice in the Province of Alberta.
- Provide the Department with:
 - quantity and quality control information and test results as requested,
 - copies of all reports, drawings, design notes, final details and as-constructed information,
 - BIM inspection reports, and
 - inventory information updates.

APPLICATION:

These requirements apply to all bridge structures on public roads within municipalities or which may become public roads such as through development agreements. These requirements apply regardless of whether or not funding is provided for a particular bridge structure.

EXCLUSIONS:

The following structures are excluded from this guideline:

- Structures within the urban services area (i.e. "city") of regional municipalities.
- Structures to accommodate pedestrians or livestock and which do not support vehicular traffic.
- Ferries.

REFERENCES:

The following is a list of Department standards and guidelines in effect:

- Engineering Consultant Guidelines for Primary Highways.
- Specifications for Bridge Construction.
- Standard Specifications for Highway Construction.
- Specification Amendments and Supplemental Specifications for Highway Construction.
- Bridge Maintenance Standards for Local Road Authorities.
- Bridge Inspection and Maintenance System (BIM) Manual.

It must be noted that these standards and guidelines are subject to change and the municipality shall ensure that the most recent are used.