

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Idaho Transportation Department LRFD Bridge Design Manual is intended to supplement and provide interpretation of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, As well as provide guidance for designers, checkers, and consultants.

The LRFD Bridge Design Manual provides guidelines and standard details that are workable, serviceable, and reasonably economical. In addition, these guidelines and details have been approved by FHWA for general use. Any departure or deviation from these guidelines and standard details in this manual will require prior approval, and may result in delay caused by obtaining approval.

It will continue to be the responsibility of the designers to exercise their best engineering judgment when designing and ensure the guidelines and details provided in the LRFD Bridge Design Manual are applied properly.

All new bridges that carry traffic on Interstate Highways and Ramps or US and State Highways shall be designed using the AASHTO LRFD Specifications and the guidelines in this manual unless otherwise approved by the Bridge Engineer.

All rehabilitation, widening and modification to existing structures may use the AASHTO Standard Specification of Highway Bridges-17th Edition or the AASHTO LRFD specification if it is economically feasible.

Commentary

FHWA Policy Memorandum issued June 28, 2000, requires all new bridges on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2007, shall be designed by the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification. All new culverts, retaining walls and other standard structures on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2010, shall be designed by LRFD.

The term “preliminary engineering” shall be interpreted as the initiation of the studies or design activities related to identification of the type, size, and/or location of bridges. The term “initiate” means the date when Federal-Aid funds are obligated for preliminary engineering. In cases where Federal-Aid funds are not used in preliminary engineering, but are used in construction or other phases of the project, the term “initiate” means the date when the State obligates or expends their own funds for preliminary engineering.

Superstructure, substructure, and foundation bridge elements shall be designed by LRFD.

Shelved bridge projects designed and packaged for construction prior to October 1, 2007, are not subject to the LRFD Policy Memorandum, unless a redesign is required by the State after October 1, 2007.

The term “new Bridges” shall be interpreted to include both new and total replacement bridges.

The Policy applies to all States-initiated federal-Aid funded projects, not just those funded with Highway Bridge Program funds, including on system and off-system projects.

Revisions:

April 2008

Added Commentary.