ELIGIBLE & EXEMPT ITEMS FOR COST ESTIMATE

GENERAL
The bridge construction unit costs are submitted yearly to FHWA. This cost data is used in the apportionment process as described in Title 23, U.S.C. Section 144(e). The unit cost report is for new and replaced highway bridges constructed with Federal funds on Federal-aid highways (highway bridges on the NHS and other Federal-aid highways) and on non Federal-aid highways (highway bridges on local roads and rural minor collectors; off-system highway bridges). Unit costs shall be based on bridge costs only.

To make this data as accurate as possible and uniform nationwide, the following guidelines for eligible costs should be followed when coding the Bridge Cost Estimate database.

EXEMPT ITEMS (Items not to be included in the Unit Cost Calculations)
Mobilization
Demolition of existing bridge
Stream channel work
Riprap
Slope paving
Earthwork (exclusive of structural excavation and structural backfill)
Clearing and grubbing
Retaining walls not attached to the abutment
Guardrail transitions to bridges
Maintenance and protection of traffic
Detour costs
Signing and marking
Lighting
Electrical conduit
Inlet frames and grates
Field office
Construction engineering items
Training
Right-of-way
Utility Relocation
Contingencies
Painting steel or concrete members for aesthetic purposes
Textured concrete surface

ELIGIBLE ITEMS (Items to be included in the Unit Cost Calculations)
As a general rule, if the item is necessary to construct the bridge, it is eligible. The following items have been ruled eligible by FHWA HQ.

Temporary shoring for bridge construction (formwork, falsework, and retention of roadway fill)
Work bridges or platforms
Deck treatments or wearing surface overlays
Deicing systems used for deicing decks for traffic safety
Approach slabs (when paid for as a bridge item, e.g. on integral abutment bridges)
Painting steel members to prevent corrosion

Commentary
The above information is based on FHWA Memorandum for Bridge Construction Unit Costs Attachment C and on information from Greg Kolle, FWWA Nebraska Division Bridge Engineer.

Revisions:
April 2008 Added new article.