



Research Need for Bridges and Foundations Technical Advisory Group

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1. Issue Identified:

Local Public Agency Bridge Inventory Data Requirements

2. Summary of Problem:

It is difficult to consistently communicate, verify and document in bridge files changes to local public agency bridge inventory data within the time constraints required by the National Bridge Inspection Standards, 23 CFR 650.315. There is a need to better define and understand current Illinois Department of Transportation policies and procedures for timely updates to LPA bridge data when changes occur to a bridge, such as new construction, replacement or rehabilitation. There is also a need to identify key IDOT district and central office personnel as well as external stakeholders, including LPA bridge owners, involved in the process and to clearly define their roles and responsibilities. The process for sharing information among stakeholders should ensure adequate communication and documentation throughout the construction process, timely completion of the initial inspection and appropriate documentation before the bridge opens to traffic.

3. Desired Results/Outcome:

The research should identify opportunities to update and improve existing policies and procedures by clearly mapping out all IDOT (district and central office) and LPA interfaces, roles, and responsibilities to ensure accountability in tracking and reporting bridge construction status. The research should identify the IDOT systems and tools involved in this process and determine a strategy for linking them to improve information sharing and eliminate duplicate data entry. The resulting approach should allow key personnel from IDOT, LPAs and the Federal Highway Administration to reference bridge project status and related information as needed, potentially through a cloud-based system or database. The research should also recommend alternatives to using the IDOT Bureau of Information Processing to implement this effort.