



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

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CIRCULAR LETTER 2019-22

IDOT BRIDGE PRESERVATION GUIDE

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The Bureau of Bridges and Structures is pleased to announce the release of the first Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) *Bridge Preservation Guide*. This guide provides goals, measures, and strategies for the preservation of bridges within the State of Illinois, and contains criteria used to identify condition based and non-condition based cyclical preservation, maintenance, and improvement work actions for bridges. These actions maximize system-wide life expectancy and performance of bridges.

Bridges are key components of our highway infrastructure. However, the aging infrastructure is expected to deteriorate faster in the coming decades with increased maintenance demands unless concerted efforts are taken to preserve and extend its life. In addition, the state's bridge infrastructure will likely see increased funding competition among various highway assets. As a result, IDOT must emphasize a concerted effort to preserve and extend the life of its bridge infrastructure while minimizing long-term maintenance costs.

A well-defined bridge preservation program enables agencies to use federal funding for Preventative Maintenance (PM) activities by using a systematic process of identifying bridge preservation needs and its qualifying parameters as identified in the FHWA *Bridge Preservation Guide* (Spring 2018). The IDOT *Bridge Preservation Guide* has been approved by the FHWA as an important part of the state's bridge preservation program. With this approval, all preservation activities in the guide are eligible for federal funding for all structures within the state of Illinois.

This guide will provide Local Public Agency personnel a framework for developing preservation programs and projects using a systematic process reflecting the environment and conditions of bridges. As an important piece of an agency's Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP), this guide reflects important preservation priorities and strategies and ultimately promotes timely preservation actions to extend and optimize the service life of bridges in the state.

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The IDOT *Bridge Preservation Guide* can be found [here](#).

Please direct questions or comments regarding the IDOT *Bridge Preservation Guide* to William Beisner, Bridge Management and Inspection Unit Chief, at DOT.BBS.BridgeMgmt@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,



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Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets



D. Carl Puzey, P.E., S.E.
Engineer of Bridges and Structures

RJP/

cc: Dan Brydl, FHWA - Illinois Division
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