



Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Clarification of LRFD
Policy Memorandum

Date: January 22, 2007

/s/ **Original Signed by**

From: M. Myint Lwin, P.E., S.E.
Director, Office of Bridge Technology

Reply to
Attn. of: HIBT-10

To: Directors of Field Services
Resource Center Director
Division Administrators
Federal Lands Highway Division Engineers

On June 28, 2000, FHWA issued a Policy Memorandum announcing its decision regarding a transition time frame for the use of Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) for the design of new bridges on Federal-aid funded projects. According to the memo, *all new bridges on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2007, shall be designed by the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification*. States unable to meet this date shall provide justification and a schedule, acceptable to the FHWA, to complete the transition.

The purpose of the memorandum herein is to provide FHWA Division Offices, States, and local governments with clarifications regarding FHWA's LRFD Policy Memorandum.

- The term "preliminary engineering" as stated in the LRFD Policy Memorandum 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.
- For modifications to existing structures, States have the option of using the LRFD Specifications or the specifications which were used for the original design.



- 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” as stated in the LRFD Policy Memorandum shall be interpreted to include both new and total replacement bridges.
- Finally, 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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Firas Sheikh Ibrahim at 202-366-4598, or Firas.Ibrahim@dot.gov.

Attachment: LRFD Policy Memorandum



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

June 28, 2000

Refer to: HIBT

David H. Pope, P.E.
Chairman, Highway Subcommittee
on Bridges and Structures
Wyoming Department of Transportation
5300 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340

Dear Mr. Pope:

Thank you for the letter of June 20, 2000. We appreciate receiving the advice and recommendation of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures and its member State bridge engineers on the time frame goals for the use of Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) for the design of bridges. We concur in recommended time frames and would be pleased to work in partnership with the States to attain the listed four goals which, to repeat, are:

1. All new bridges on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2007, shall be designed by the LRFD Specifications.
2. All new culverts, retaining walls, and other standard structures on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2010, shall be designed by LRFD Specifications, with the assumption that the specifications and software for these structures are "mature" at this time.
3. States unable to meet these dates will provide justification and a schedule for completing the transition to LRFD.
4. For modifications to existing structures, States would have the option of using LRFD Specifications or the specifications which were used for the original design.

A copy of this letter and yours are being provided to the State bridge engineers and our FHWA field offices so that they are aware of FHWA's decision on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ original signed by
David H. Densmore
Director of Bridge Technology

Enclosure