



*Florida Department of Transportation*

RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.  
SECRETARY

**DSME MEMORANDUM NUMBER 25-02**

DATE: June 11, 2025

TO: District Structures Maintenance Engineers

FROM: Felix Padilla, P.E., State Structures Maintenance Engineer

DocuSigned by:  
*Felix Padilla*  
9B40BF042C1849E...

COPIES: Lance H. Grace, Scott Arnold, Bruno Vasconcelos, Andrew DeVault, District Maintenance Engineers, District Rail Offices

SUBJECT: **Modifications to the Bridge and Other Structures Inspection and Reporting Procedure, Topic No. 850-010-030**

This memorandum amends Topic No. 850-010-030 to add requirements for the inspection of Department Owned or Maintained Railroad Bridges.

*The requirements of this Memorandum are listed on the next page.*

## **Description**

Adds a new section to Chapter 3 titled Inspection of Department Owned or Maintained Railroad Bridges.

## **Background**

Highway-style inspections of Department railroad bridges have identified previously unknown deficiencies, requiring prompt repair, rehabilitation, or replacement. The Department has therefore resolved to continue inspecting its railroad bridges as it does highway bridges, to foster safety and economic growth in accordance with its mission.

Railways already operate under their own Bridge Management Plans. This supersedes previous drafts on this topic and adds these bridges into the Department's highway bridge inspection program.

## **Requirements**

1. Add a new section to Chapter 3 as follows:

### **3.12 Inspection Of Railroad Bridges Owned Or Maintained By The Department**

A railroad bridge is defined in 49 CFR 237.5 as any structure with a deck, regardless of length, which supports one or more railroad tracks, or any other undergrade structure with an individual span length of 10 feet or more located at such a depth that it is affected by live loads. The Department owns bridges on its railway corridors. Additionally, the Department has agreed to maintain several private railroad bridges.

All railroad bridges owned or maintained by the Department must be inspected in accordance with Chapter 3.2 of this procedure at regular intervals not to exceed 24 months. Railroad bridge inspections shall be conducted in accordance with the state and national publications listed in Chapter 3.3 of this procedure. Additional inspection requirements defined by the Federal Rail Administration will be required and included in the corridor specific Bridge Management Plan, in accordance with 49 CFR 237.31.

The railroad bridges inspector must meet the qualifications in 49 CFR Part 214 and maintain a current certification for Safety Rules and Roadway Worker Protection for the specific railroad corridor.

Inspection reports will be generated using the Department's Bridge Management System. The inspection reports will be reviewed by the District Structures Maintenance Offices in the same manner as bridge inspection reports. A copy of the inspection report with repair recommendations will be transmitted to the District Rail Office. Work orders will be generated using the Department's Bridge Management System and managed through the Department's Maintenance Management System.

## **Implementation**

These changes to the procedure are effective immediately.

## **Contact**

Bruno Vasconcelos, P.E.  
State Bridge Inspection Engineer  
Phone (850) 410-5808  
[Bruno.Vasconcelos@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Bruno.Vasconcelos@dot.state.fl.us)