

BRIDGE ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Synopsis:

Bridges form an important asset of the national highway network. Development of extensive highway network has increased the need to maintain the bridges in proper conditions. The paper outlines the need to implement a detailed bridge inspection program to enable implementation of a standard Bridge Asset Management Plan (BAMP), and the procedure to be followed for the various types of inspection programs and the frequency to be followed, including bridge inspection schedule. The paper stresses the need for qualified bridge inspectors with proper training and up gradation in their skills. Formats for bridge database creation, inspection and testing have also been presented. The paper also defines the testing regime that can be adopted for various needs.

Emphasis has been made on the need to evolve a National Bridge Inspection system and integrate the same as Bridge Asset Management Plan to be implemented even by every local body. Such a plan shall also address the needs of distress management plan of the local area. The public safety consideration and proper utilization of public funds are addressed properly by adopting such a total bridge asset management plan.