



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY
COMMISSIONER

June 8, 2011

To: City and Town Managers

RE: National Bridge Inspection Standards

As I'm sure you can appreciate, an effective bridge/structure inspection program is critical to the continued safety of those traveling the Commonwealth's infrastructure. The purpose of this correspondence is to remind you of the federal requirements associated with inspection and inventory of bridges and culverts on publicly owned highway facilities.

Federal law requires that all highway bridges/culverts spanning a distance greater than 20 feet under the jurisdiction of, and maintained by, a public authority and open to public travel be inspected, inventoried, and load rated to comply with National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). The inspection of these structures is required to be reported in the National Bridge Inventory (NBI). The Federal Highway Administration can withhold federal-aid funding for states, regions, or localities that do not comply with NBIS requirements. Additional information on the federal requirements is available at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/nbis.htm>.

In order to ensure we are collectively in compliance with these programs, please review the attached list of structures within your locality that are currently reported in the NBI and verify that the list includes all structures subject to the NBIS within your locality. If you have structures that are not currently in the NBI, but do fall within the NBIS inspection and reporting requirements, please provide an updated listing back to this office. You will also need to provide the required inventory, inspection, and load rating information. You may use your maintenance payments to cover the cost associated with NBIS compliance for bridges that do not qualify for payments. If your inventory is complete, simply provide certification that the inventory is complete.

I am requesting a response by July 22nd. If you have questions regarding the NBIS requirements, please contact your local VDOT contact or your District Structure and Bridge Engineer. You may also contact me at (804) 786-2745 or by email at michael.estes@vdot.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Estes, P.E.

Attachments

CC: Kendal Walus, P.E. w/o attachments
District Administrators w/o attachments