



MaineDOT

ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION

Title: Bridge Attachment	Number: S3
Discipline: General Engineering	
Originator: Benjamin W. Foster, P.E.	
Approved By: Joyce Taylor, P.E., Chief Engineer	Issue Date: August 8, 2019

Background:

MaineDOT receives several requests annually to attach to bridge components. In some cases, attachments are made without requesting permission. All attachments hinder access to efficiently inspect, maintain, and preserve the bridges.

Bridge components are either designed or tested to meet standards for their individual use. Addition or alterations to these components could reduce their capacity to perform their function or cause premature wear and deterioration. Not only could component being attached to be compromised but an environment that expedites the deterioration of other bridge components could be created. These factors that increase potential for deterioration should be removed to maximize the bridges' service life.

Failure of the connection or attachment itself could cause danger to the travelling public on and under the bridge. Attachments cause a distraction to drivers.

Applicability:

This policy applies to all attachments to any bridge component that are not accounted for in the original design, required for Departmental infrastructure or information, or in the Utility Accommodation Policy. Unauthorized attachments include but are not limited to the following:

- Banners
- Fishing nets
- Landscape containers
- Lights
- Boats
- Non-designed attachments
- Advertisements
- Decorations
- Signs
- Plaques
- Traps

Policy:

Attachments to state-maintained bridges shall be approved by the Bureau of Maintenance and Operations. Attachments must be accounted for in the original design, outlined in the Utility Accommodation Policy, or deemed necessary by MaineDOT. All other attachments shall not be allowed. Authorized attachments must be designed and placed in TEDOCs.

No new landscaping shall be allowed on bridges. Existing landscaping may remain in designated areas that are not hanging from bridge components or interfere with the maintenance, preservation, or operation of the bridge with Bureau of Maintenance and Operations approval. These areas must be designed to handle the increased moisture and other environmental effects. An agreement with the municipality or other outside agency responsible for the maintenance and care of the landscaping shall be in place prior to allowing the landscaping. The final agreement shall be placed in TEDOCs with the bridge number in the profile.

Plaques or other signs naming the bridge or providing information regarding the bridge shall not be attached to the bridge. This information will be placed on an informational sign or other means off the bridge.

Removal:

Upon identification of an unauthorized attachment, the Department will send a certified letter to the municipality or, if known, other outside agency responsible for the attachment requiring removal within 7 days of receipt of the letter. If the attachment is not removed by the date specified in the letter, the Department shall remove the attachment and dispose of the contents.

Responsibility:

Bridge Maintenance Engineer, Region Managers