

# Maine Bridges - Background Information

MaineDOT Office of Communications - August 2007

## Bridge Type

What type of bridge is was the Minneapolis I-35W Bridge?

- It is a “deck truss” bridge

Does MaineDOT have any of these bridges?

- Yes, we have six, they are:

<u>Town Name</u>	<u>Bridge Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Medford	Piscataquis River	Old RR bridge converted to one lane
Caribou	Aroostook River	Rehabilitation completed in 2006
Augusta	Augusta Memorial Bridge	Rehabilitation completed in 2006
Kittery	Sarah Mildred Long	Owned/managed jointly by Maine, NH
Arrowsic/Georgetown	Back River	Active project (replace in 2008)
Falmouth	RR Crossing	Field reviewed on August 1, 2007 for consideration in next <i>Work Plan</i>

## Maine Bridges - General

How many public bridges does Maine DOT Maine inspect?

- Approximately 3,700

How many bridges is MaineDOT responsible for?

- 2,758; approximately 2,000 over 20 feet in length
- MaineDOT shares, with municipalities, maintenance responsibility for 209 low-use or redundant bridges

How does MaineDOT ensure the safety of public bridges?

- The standard inspection cycle is every two years.
- Individual bridges may be inspected more frequently as warranted by specific conditions (example: the Waldo-Hancock Bridge)
- MaineDOT has a Bridge Posting Committee with the authority to post (impose stricter weight limits) or close individual bridges.

How many bridges are currently posted or closed in Maine?

- 70
- Bridges are continuously reevaluated for possible posting or closure

What is the condition of bridges in Maine?

- All bridges are safe for their posted weight limit
- Still, MaineDOT estimates there are 288 bridges that will need to be posted or closed if not replaced or rehabilitated in the next 10 years.

What does MaineDOT propose to do to maintain its network?

- At present funding levels MaineDOT replaces 14 bridges per year
- Maine's long-range plan calls for stepping up this rate to 32 bridges per year. This would require nearly doubling the state's investment rate in Maine's bridges. Maine has a \$2 billion need over 20 years.

What does it mean to be structurally deficient (not sufficient)?

- Structurally deficient bridges are not necessarily unsafe; they are safe at their posted weight limits
- Structurally deficient bridges are in a condition that makes them eligible for federal bridge program funds
- Structurally deficient bridges commonly need replacement or rehabilitation within 10 years

How many structurally deficient bridges are there in Maine?

- 239 or 12% of federal-eligible bridges
- MaineDOT estimates that 288 bridges will need to be rehabilitated or replaced in the next 10 years to avoid posting or closure

### **MaineDOT's FY 2008-2009 Capital Work Program**

How much of the FY 2008-2009 Highway and Bridge Program is dedicated to bridges?

- Of the \$623.61 million dedicated to highway and bridges, \$133.25 million, or 21% is dedicated to bridges. This has been increasing from 17% in FY 2004-2005, (the level programmed in the department's Work Plan for that biennium.)

What bridge work is planned for FY 2008-2009?

- 68 bridges will receive replacement, rehabilitation, or preservation work
- Engineering work will begin for work on another nine bridges