



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

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**CIRCULAR LETTER 2023-25**

*Cathy Johnson*  
COUNTY CLERK  
VERMILION CO. IL.

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL BRIDGE INVENTORY**

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS /  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS / TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY  
COMMISSIONERS / CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**PURPOSE & BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to inform and notify all Local Public Agencies and industry partners that work with these agencies about an important and significant update to the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) regulation (23 CFR 650, Subpart C).

The revision to the NBIS is the incorporation of the Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory (SNBI), which commenced in March 2022. This addition provides the specifications for reporting data for the highway bridges, open to the public, to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for inclusion in the National Bridge Inventory. The SNBI replaces the FHWA's 1995 Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges.

The multi-year implementation plan for the SNBI is outlined in the May 25, 2022 FHWA Memorandum, "Implementation of the Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory", Memorandum - ACTION: Implementation of the Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory (dot.gov). This memorandum details the timeline in which the FHWA requires the SNBI to be implemented, concluding on March 15, 2028, with several intermediate milestones.

**REFERENCES:**

The following references and information are available:

- National Bridge Inspection Standards website: National Bridge Inspection Standards - Bridge Inspection - Safety Inspection - Bridges & Structures - Federal Highway Administration (dot.gov)
- Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory website: National Bridge Inventory - Management and Preservation - Bridges & Structures - Federal Highway Administration (dot.gov)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT or Department) is currently working on updating the Illinois Structure Information System (ISIS), bridge inventory and inspection forms, and manuals to meet the requirements of the SNBI. Further, FHWA and IDOT are also developing training that will be available to aid in the collection and recording of the data required by the SNBI.

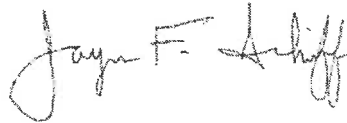
Please ensure that you are notified about upcoming training, forms, and manual revisions issued by monitoring the information sent via the IDOT Bureau of Bridges and Structures (BBS) National Bridge Inventory (NBI) service announcements. If you are not already subscribed to receive BBS NBI subscription service announcements, please visit the following website to register: [Stay Connected – Bridge Support \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/stay-connected-bridge-support) or directly via email at: [subscribe-dot-nbi@lists.illinois.gov](mailto:subscribe-dot-nbi@lists.illinois.gov)

Questions regarding this circular letter may be directed to the Bridge Management and Inspection Unit by email at [DOT.BBS.BridgeMgmt@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.BBS.BridgeMgmt@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,



George A. Tapas, P.E., S.E.  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets



Jayme F. Schiff, P.E., S.E.  
Engineer of Bridges and Structures

GAT/JFS/rjp

cc: David Snyder, FHWA Administrator - Illinois Division  
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Shane Schneider, Illinois Association of County Engineers  
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League  
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Arnie Vegter, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois