



February 8, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO GROUP LEADERS & CONSULTANTS

SUBJECT: *AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS*

---

The Bridge Design Section currently uses the *AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges* as the guide for the design of all bridges. Starting this year, the Department intends to take the steps necessary to adopt the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* as the standard for all new bridge designs. To insure that Department schedules are maintained, the transition to the use of these specifications will be made over a period of approximately one and one half years.

Initially, a small number of bridge replacement projects will be designated to be designed using the LRFD Specifications. These projects will be selected by July of this year and assignments of these projects will be distributed between "in-house" design groups and Consultants. This part of the transition is intended to give designers the opportunity to become familiar with the new specifications. A training course will be provided to SCDOT staff during this time.

Between January of 2001 and December of 2001, the Department will select projects that shall be designed using the LRFD Specifications. Consideration will be given to project types and schedules when making these selections. If a project is not specifically designated, the designer will have the option of using either the *AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges* or the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*. However, projects that are grouped together and included in one contract shall all be designed using the same specifications.

All Bridge replacement projects that are initiated after December of 2001 shall be designed using the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* unless approved otherwise by the Department.

Your cooperation in making this transition to the use of the LRFD Specifications is greatly appreciated.

Randy R. Cannon, P.E.  
Bridge Design Engineer

cc: Assistant Bridge Design Engineers  
Bridge Construction Engineer  
File: PC/BWB

