



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois/62764

January 15, 1992

## Departmental Approval of Local Agency Bridge/Box Culvert Plans

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

92-2

Present policy for departmental approval of local agency bridge plans provides for certification of simple span bridge designs when sealed by a structural engineer. These designs are considered structurally adequate and no review by the Bureau of Bridges is required. This certification has been expanded to include all bridge designs sealed by a registered structural engineer except as noted below. This allows for certification of continuous span bridge designs.

The following policies supersede those contained in Letter #89-36:

### Certified Bridge/Box Culvert Plans:

Local agency simple span bridges, continuous span bridges, and multiple box culverts are considered structurally adequate by the department when the plans are appropriately certified by a registered structural engineer. Review by the Bureau of Bridges and Structures for structural adequacy and economical design will still be required for structures of unusual or complicated design.

The following certification shall be placed on the first sheet of the bridge plans:

"I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, this bridge/box culvert design is structurally adequate for the design loading shown on the plans. The design is an economical one for the style of structure and complies with requirements of the current 'AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges'."

The above certification shall be accompanied by the designer's Illinois Structural Engineer's Seal and signature. This certification does not limit the responsibilities of the designer under Chapter 111, Illinois Revised Statutes.

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPT. OF HWYS.  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS  
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Standard Bridge Plans:

The department's standard bridge plans have been accepted as being structurally adequate. Normally, they require no individual foundation analysis, and no structural seal or certification is required. However, where special foundation designs are used with standard superstructure plans, the individual plan sheets for the special designs shall bear a structural seal and certification if designed by a consultant.

Plans Prepared by County Engineer (Non-standard):

The Engineer of Bridges and Structures will continue to seal structure plans for counties provided they have been prepared by a County Engineer who is a Registered Professional Engineer. The County Engineer shall place the following statement on the general plan and elevation sheet of the structure plans:

"These plans were prepared by me or by a full-time member of my staff working under my personal supervision."

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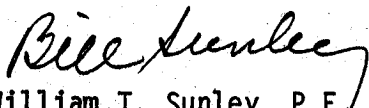
County Engineer  
(Professional Engineer's Seal)

Hydraulic Responsibility:

The responsibility for hydraulic and hydrological analyses and the geometrics of a bridge/box culvert lies with a professional engineer. Therefore, all structure plans (including certified and standard bridge plans) require a professional engineer's seal. The local agency and the designer should be sure that the PS&E conform to the construction permit and the approved Preliminary Bridge Design and Hydraulic Report (PBDHR).

Except for the certification on the plans, other procedures are not affected. You will continue to submit the PBDHR, borings, and PS&E to the district office.

Very truly yours,

  
William T. Sunley, P.E.  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

cc-  
District Engineers