Historic Bridge Management Program

Bridging History Across Texas

There are over 500 historic bridges still in use across Texas today. TxDOT’s Historic Bridge Management Program ensures these bridges meet the needs of the traveling public by inspecting each bridge that carries vehicles.

Program Facts

Inventory: TxDOT wrote a brief history of bridge construction and building in Texas that covers bridges built long ago, such as metal truss and suspension bridges, to more recent concrete and steel bridges. To see all the bridges that TxDOT considers historic, visit our interactive map. Clicking each dot will provide you with a short history of the bridge. This map is constantly updated to try and stay current based on changes made.

Management: All bridges on the federal and state road systems are owned and maintained by TxDOT. These are called “on-system” bridges. Local governments, like cities and counties, own and maintain bridges on city or county roads. These are known as “off-system” bridges. TxDOT’s historic bridge management program focuses on TxDOT-owned bridges, but we also provide resources and education to owners of off-system bridges.

TxDOT currently has management plans for two types of Texas road bridges:
- On-system metal truss bridges
- Significant bridges built between 1945 and 1965

Our management plans include:
- Assessing the condition of the bridges and the potential to continue use of the bridges,
- Prioritizing our funding to preserve bridges that can continue to serve traffic needs, and
- Developing meaningful responses to the loss of those historic bridges that cannot be preserved.

Bringing Bridges to You

TxDOT is proud of the historic bridges in Texas, and we want to share the stories that make them unique. Recent efforts include:

- Partnering with history museums across the state to learn how to bring STEM subjects into their programs (like bridge building!),
- Developing activities for elementary and middle school teachers, and
- Telling the stories of bridges built between 1945 and 1965.

Did you know counties used to order bridges from catalogs? Learn more about this and more stories through our StoryMap.