



BRIDGES (FY11)

Bridge Division
(512) 416-2278

- * Texas has 51,808 bridges, about 67 percent more than any other state in the nation. TxDOT conducts routine inspections of most bridges at least once every two years. This ensures all bridges open to vehicular traffic in Texas are safe.
- * More than 80 percent of all bridges are in good or better condition.
- * Texas has 1,469 structurally deficient bridges and 7,480 functionally obsolete bridges.
 - The Federal Highway Administration uses these terms to designate bridges eligible for federal funding. Bridges classified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges are not considered unsafe.
 - Structurally deficient bridges have routine maintenance concerns not posing safety risks or are flooded frequently. To remain open to traffic, these bridges are often posted with reduced weight limits restricting the gross weight of vehicles using them.
 - Classification as functionally obsolete means the bridge met design standards when built, but over time has become obsolete due to an increase in traffic volume. Functionally obsolete bridges do not have adequate lane widths, shoulder widths or vertical clearance to serve current traffic demands or are sometimes flooded.
- * Texas has 1,146 substandard-for-load-only bridges. This term is used by TxDOT to designate bridges in relatively good condition, that do not have specific maintenance concerns. They have a load-carrying capacity less than the legal state limit for public roadways. These bridges are posted with reduced weight limits. Under FHWA definitions, these bridges are not classified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.
- * Contracts were awarded to replace or rehabilitate 364 bridges. The value of these contracts is \$294.1 million (FY11).
- * Contracts worth \$363.8 million (FY11) were awarded to build 238 new bridges.
- * Texas has 29 international bridges open to traffic between Mexico and Texas.
- * The average age of Texas bridges is 43 years for bridges on the state highway system and 32 years for bridges off the state highway system.