



KANSAS BRIDGE FACT SHEET

BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

STATE BRIDGES

KDOT uses a proactive, methodical schedule to inspect bridges that are owned by the state. Inspections are performed using one or more techniques depending on the type of bridge and the reason for the inspection. Some of the techniques include visual, underwater (checking for erosion of bridge piers underwater), hands-on using a snooper truck, and/or using special testing instruments such as ultrasound. Most of KDOT's inspections are done using in-house engineering and inspection staff, with a relatively small amount performed by consulting firms.

General guidelines that KDOT uses for scheduling bridge inspections are as follows:

- According to Federal Law (Title 23, Section 650 of the Code of Federal Regulations) all bridges shall be inspected at least every 24 months.
- If a bridge gets a rating of 4 or less on the 0 to 9 Federal Highway Administration scale of condition guidelines, KDOT will do an annual inspection, which is above and beyond the federal standard.
- For bridges that require it, an underwater inspection is performed at minimum every 60 months. If a flood event occurs at a bridge site, a special underwater inspection may be performed.
- For bridges that require it, a "Fracture Critical" inspection is performed at least every 24 months. Federal Law requires an "arms-length" inspection of all non-redundant steel members prone to cracking for Fracture Critical inspections.

KDOT also inspects structures that are less than bridge sized. Any structure with a length (measured along the centerline of the roadway) of more than 10 feet but less than 20 feet is inspected at least every 4 years. There is no federal requirement for inspection of these structures.

KANSAS TURNPIKE AUTHORITY (KTA) BRIDGES

Up until 2013, all bridges on the Kansas Turnpike were inspected on an annual basis by an engineering consultant. From 2014 and beyond, bridges will be inspected on a 24 month cycle by KDOT inspectors.

Currently, all KTA owned bridges that require a "Fracture Critical" inspection are inspected by an engineering consultant every 2 years. In the year in between those inspections, those bridges will also receive a "Routine" inspection by KDOT inspectors.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BRIDGES

Local governments are responsible for the inspection of the bridges they own. Some of them do the inspections with their own staff, but most are done by an engineering consultant. Generally, local governments follow the KDOT guidelines for inspections.