

DATE: JANUARY 21, 1998

TO: BRIDGE DETAILING MANUAL USERS

FROM: S. W. HORTON

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM #24  
BRIDGE DESIGN POLICY USING AASHTO LOAD AND  
RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN (LRFD) METHOD

The current Department policy for the design of structures is to use the AASHTO Load Factor Design (LFD) method. After the year 2000 AASHTO proposes to discontinue maintaining the current standard specifications for the LFD method and will only maintain the new Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) method.

In order for the Department to facilitate a timely and smooth transition to the LRFD specifications, CDOT and Consultants are encouraged to start using the LRFD method. NHI training for the LRFD method has been given to CDOT's bridge design engineers as well as the consulting design engineers. We are designing several projects utilizing the LRFD specifications. Currently several states as well as private vendors are developing the necessary software for analysis and design using the LRFD method. CDOT's Bridge Design Manual will be revised as needed to facilitate the change to the LRFD method.

Beginning January 1, 2000, it will be the Department's policy to incorporate the AASHTO LRFD design method on all CDOT projects (including consultant design projects). Between now and January 1, 2000, selected projects will be designated as LRFD designed projects, including some by consultants. Staff Bridge will be coordinating with the Program Engineers to select the appropriate projects. It should be understood that the LRFD designs will probably take a little extra time until we all become familiar with this brand new design specification. This should be considered during budget and schedule development and negotiations.