# LRFD Bridge Design Manual Update ~ July 1, 2026

| BDM Articles Updated | Description of BDM Update | Implementation Date |
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| 1.8.2.1, 5.2.4.1.2, 12.1.9.4.2 | Updated language for Construction Survey bid item. | July 1, 2026 |
| 1.14.1 | Incorporated new E-file distinction between Digital Contract Files and Electronic Support Files. | July 1, 2026 |
| 1.14.1, 12.1.9.1.9 | Included Asbestos Test Reports as an Electronic Support File. | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.1.4 | Added abbreviations for Road Design Details and Standard Road Plans | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.2.2.1 | Clarified policy for use of 87 equations for small basins. | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.2.2.2 | Update to reflect that the analysis method used for the Iowa Bridge Backwater program has been archived, but the program can be used for concept level analysis. | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.2.2.8 | RIDB Stream Web App – Update to the Link | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.4 | Updated Canadian Pacific (CP) railroad to reflect merger with Kansas City Southern (KCS), Now known as CPKC | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.6.1.2 | Removal of AASHTO Beams from the series of beams included in Table 3.6.1.2 for use with new or replacement bridge projects. Removed note advising of relative to recently released 8.5-inch deck standards. | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.6.2.2 | Sidewalk/path facility inclusion and cost share information update | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.6.9 | Staging policy updated for CCS. Preferred minimum gap changes from 4’ to 3’ due to use of stainless-steel rebar for bridge deck stage construction joints. | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.7.4 | Update to pile bent pier guidance | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.7.6 | Update to indicate an estimate of foundation remnants should be shown on the plans to identify potential conflicts | July 1, 2026 |
| C3.9 | Updated Bridge TS&L examples | July 1, 2026 |
| 3.10.1&C3.10.1 | Added policy guidance relative to Sovereign Lands permitting and USACE 408 Approvals. Removed an outdated web link used to identify Drainage Districts. Added figure showing Sovereign Rivers. | July 1, 2026 |
| 4.1.4 | Added abbreviations for Road Design Details and Standard Road Plans | July 1, 2026 |

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| 4.2.2 | Added rationale and referenced support documentation for Iowa DOT's use of the entrance loss coefficient (Kent) of 0.4 for hydraulic analysis of box culverts with Iowa DOT standard parallel headwalls. | July 1, 2026 |
| 4.3.6 | Policy to utilize pipe and RCB lengths based on horizontal verses sloped length for most situations. | July 1, 2026 |
| 4.4.10 | When justified, the preliminary designer for drainage will be designing pipe revetment going forward instead of the Design Bureau. | July 1, 2026 |
| 4.4.13, C4.4.13 | New article on pipe flap gates and support for secure attachment | July 1, 2026 |
| 4.5.2 | Updates/clarifications for precast RCB policy relative to skewed headwalls and pedestrian/path tunnel structures | July 1, 2026 |
| 4.5.11 | Added a title to the cost table. | July 1, 2026 |
| 4.5.16 | Added policy guidance and clarifications for pedestrian/path tunnel structures | July 1, 2026 |
| 5.2.4.1.1.2, 13.3.1, 13.3.2 | Address 4.5 ksi deck concrete strength and update CADD Note E50E. | July 1, 2026 |
| 5.3.2.1 | Added direction for the options on how to address haunch thickness when it exceeds the standard design limits. Updated BDM Figure 5.3.2.1 for 8.5" thick deck and BT beams. | July 1, 2026 |
| 5.4.1.4.1.8 | PPCB top flanges are roughened in the transverse direction to a full amplitude of 0.25". The DOT had required a 2-inch smooth strip on the top flange to facilitate taking elevation survey shots. The survey shots can be taken without the 2-inch strip so the strip will be discontinued. However, a 2-inch strip on each edge of the top flange will still be conservatively discounted when calculating horizontal shear capacity as it was before. | July 1, 2026 |
| 5.6, 5.6.1.1.1, 5.6.1.4.2, Fig. 5.6.1.4.2, 5.8.6.1.1, 5.8.6.1.2, 6.5.1.1.1, 6.5.4.1.2 | The three span J44-25 continuous concrete slab (CCS) bridge standards accommodate MASH railings. | July 1, 2026 |
| 5.8.1.1 | Stated policy regarding orientation of single slope barrier on super-elevated bridge decks. | July 1, 2026 |
| New 5.8.5.4 | Article covering mechanical splice assemblies. | July 1, 2026 |
| 6.2.6.1 | Clarified that friction and end bearing should be considered for SRL-2 H-piles that tip out in soil. | July 1, 2026 |
| 12.1.8.2 | Modified preferred minimum traffic lane width from 14.50 feet to 15.50 feet. | July 1, 2026 |

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| 13.9.2, 13.10.2 | Modified commentary to CADD Note E926, 1040A, 1040B and 1040C to put in bold the text that indicates a continuous pour should not be excluded simply because the concrete volume exceeds 500 CY. Additionally, a designer must seek approval from the Chief Structural Engineer when a continuous deck pour is expressly prohibited. | July 1, 2026 |