

2025 Report on South Dakota Bridges



Data from NBI Submittal in March 2025

State agencies (DOT & GF&P) in South Dakota own 1844 bridge length (> 20 ft.) structures. Local government agencies (counties, cities, other governmental agencies, townships) own 3919 structures. Of the 1844 state owned structures, there are 1260 bridges and 584 culverts. Of the 3919 LGA structures, there are 2838 bridges and 1081 culverts.

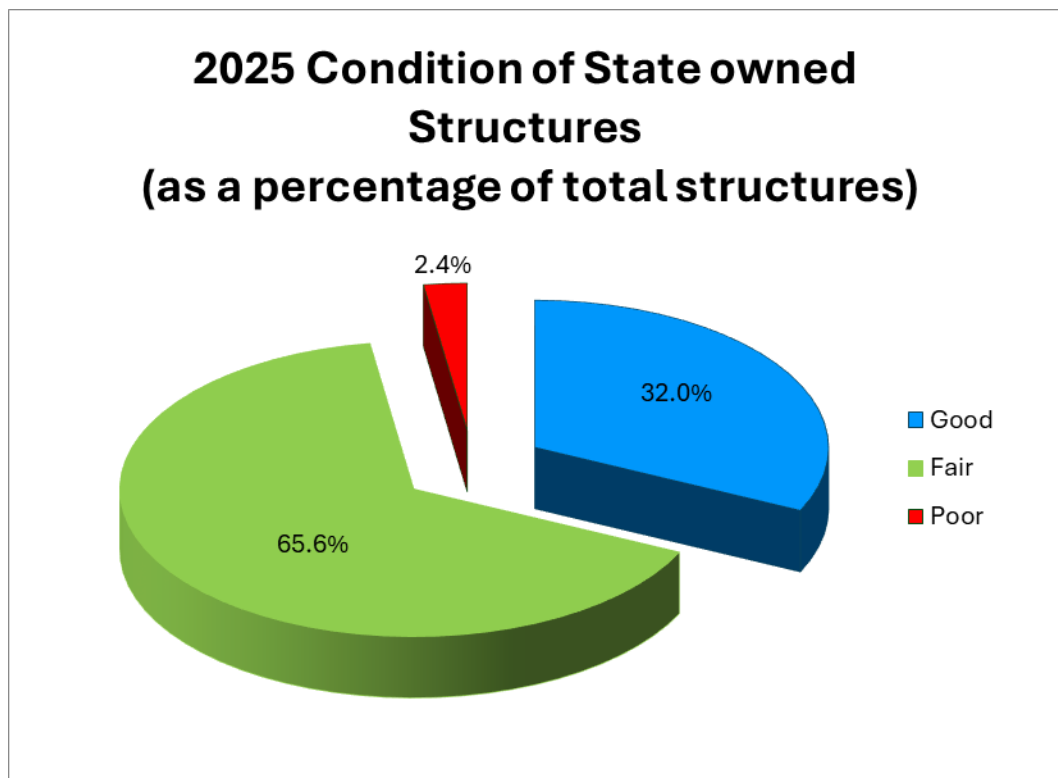
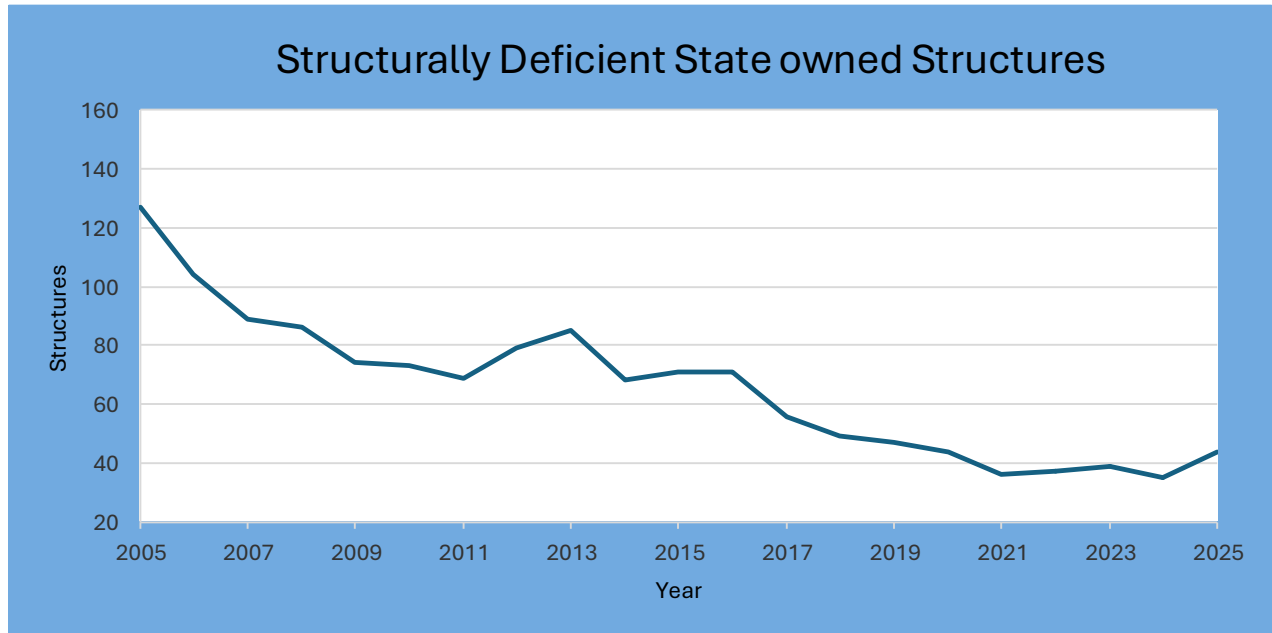
The 1260 state owned bridges account for 11,044,015 sq. ft of deck area and the 2838 locally owned bridges account for 7,071,451 sq. ft of deck area. The average state-owned bridge was built in 1975 and is approximately 41 ft wide by 211 ft long.

There are 9 major Missouri River highway bridge crossings in South Dakota. Two are maintained by Nebraska DOT, and seven are maintained by South Dakota. The 9 structures account for 10.2% of the state-owned bridge deck area. Six of these bridges are in the Mitchell Region with the Nebraska DOT managing the bridges on the SD 37 crossing at Running Water and the US 81 crossing at Yankton. The remaining three bridges are in the Pierre Region.

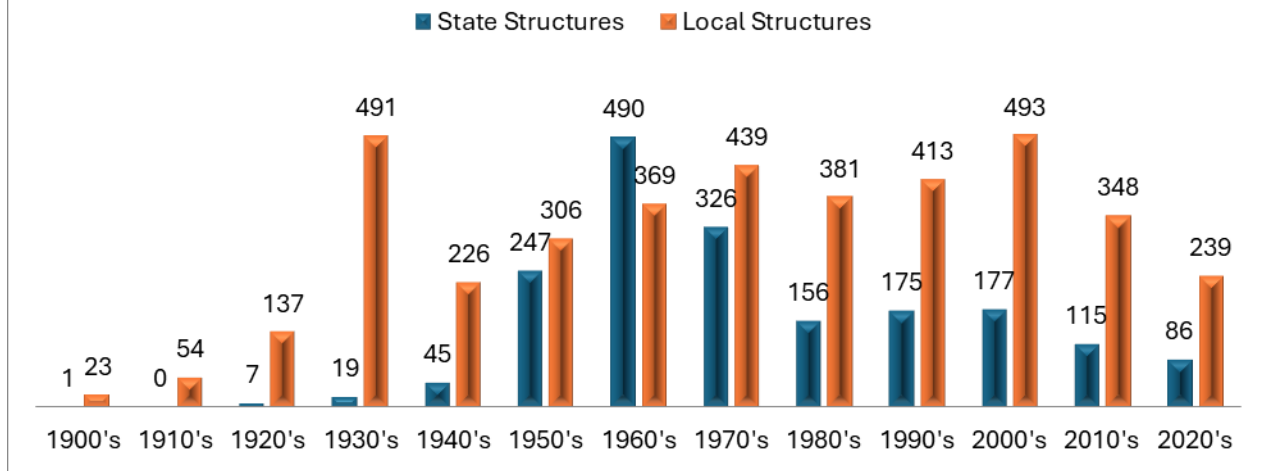
The average Missouri River Bridge is approximately 3000 feet long. The longest bridge in the state is the Platte-Winner Bridge on SD 44 over Lake Francis Case Reservoir and is 5,656 feet long.

Recent SDDOT Bridge Condition Trends

Currently 2.4% or 44 state-owned structures are in poor condition. In 2018 the requirements that cause a bridge to be structurally deficient changed. Now the definitions for poor condition and structurally deficient are identical. Starting in 2025 GF&P bridges are included with the other state-owned bridges.



Current Structures Built in South Dakota by Decade of Original Construction - 2025 Data



Most bridges in the state are inspected every two years. South Dakota inspects some of our lower risk bridges every 4 years based on 23 CFR 650.311. Currently there are 655 structures eligible for 4-year inspections. All major Missouri River bridge crossings the SDDOT manages are inspected every year, except the SD 19 and US 14/83/34 bridges over the Missouri River which were built in 2001 and 2024. Most bridges requiring underwater inspections are inspected every 5 years by an underwater inspection consultant who inspects the underwater portions of the bridge. Underwater inspections were conducted on the Missouri River bridges in 2022 with an additional inspection on the new Waldron bridge between Pierre and Fort Pierre in 2024. The remainder of bridges requiring underwater inspections had inspections completed in 2023 and 2024.

Inspection Frequency of State Structures

Frequency	Bridges	NBI Culverts	Total
12 months	67	0	67
24 months	921	201	1122
48 months	272	383	655
Total	1260	584	1844

Border Bridge Information

The State of South Dakota shares ownership of 9 border bridges with Iowa and Nebraska. Four of these bridges are managed by South Dakota, two are managed by Nebraska, and three are managed by Iowa. Details of our border bridges are summarized in the table on the next page.

Border Bridge Table

Highway	Feature Intersected	Border Agency	SD Str Number	Border State Structure Number	State that Maintains Inventory
I 29 N	Big Sioux River	Iowa	64-165-405	000000000053930	South Dakota
I 29 S	Big Sioux River	Iowa	64-164-405	000000000053941	South Dakota
SD 50	Big Sioux River	Iowa	64-086-223	000000000039650	Iowa
SD 48	Big Sioux River	City of Akron	64-122-170	0000000000603911	South Dakota
SD 46	Big Sioux River	Iowa	64-160-023	000000000048451	Iowa
US 18	Big Sioux River	Iowa	42-201-136	000000000034481	Iowa
SD 19	Missouri River	Nebraska	14-104-249	00000S015 20985	South Dakota
SD 37	Missouri River	Nebraska	05-090-279	00000S014 20330	Nebraska
US 81	Missouri River	Nebraska	68-120-210	00000S081 21489	Nebraska