

2026 Report on South Dakota Bridges



Data from NBI Submittal in March 2026

State agencies (DOT & GF&P) in South Dakota own 1839 bridge length (> 20 ft.) structures. Local government agencies (counties, cities, other governmental agencies, townships) own 3894 structures. Of the 1839 state owned structures, there are 1251 bridges and 588 culverts. Of the 3894 LGA structures, there are 2771 bridges and 1123 culverts. Two privately-owned structure length culverts also carry traffic on South Dakota highways.

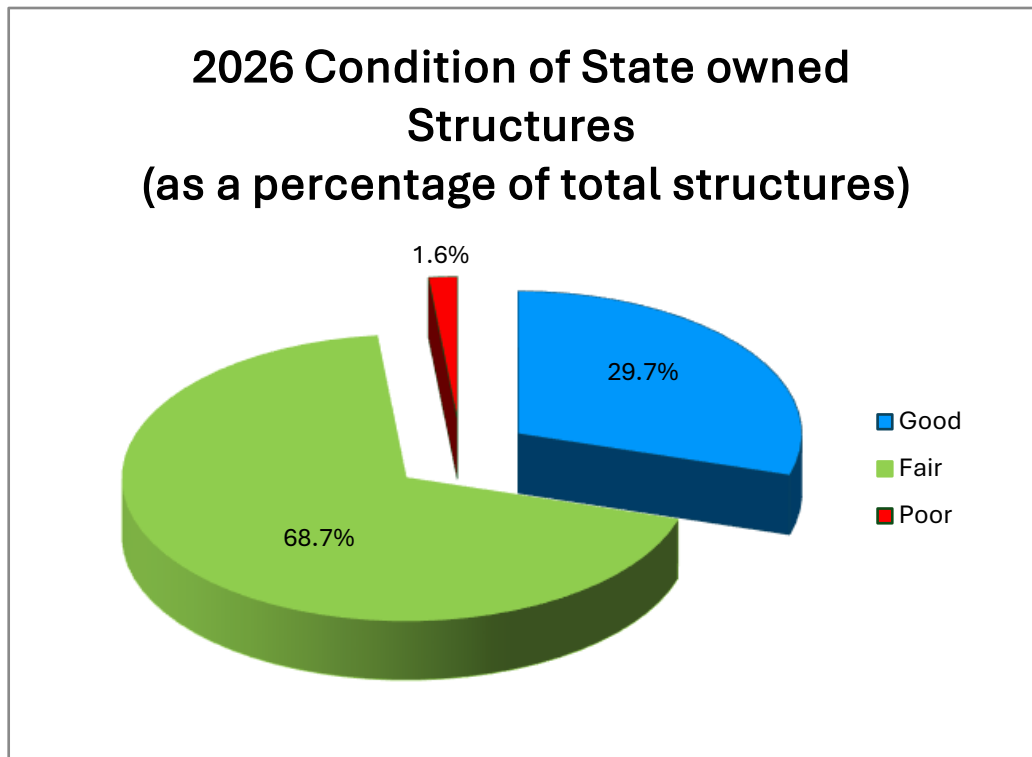
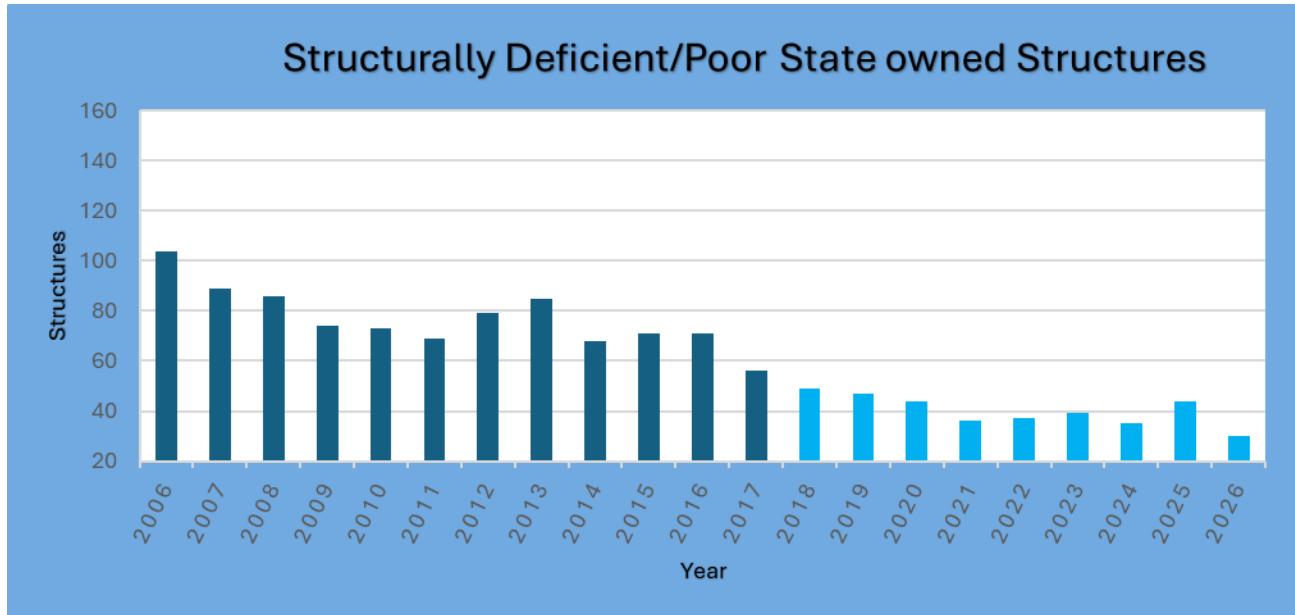
The 1251 state owned bridges account for 11,083,795 sq. ft of deck area and the 2771 locally owned bridges account for 6,960,843 sq. ft of deck area. The average state-owned bridge was built in 1975 and is approximately 41 ft wide by 213 ft long.

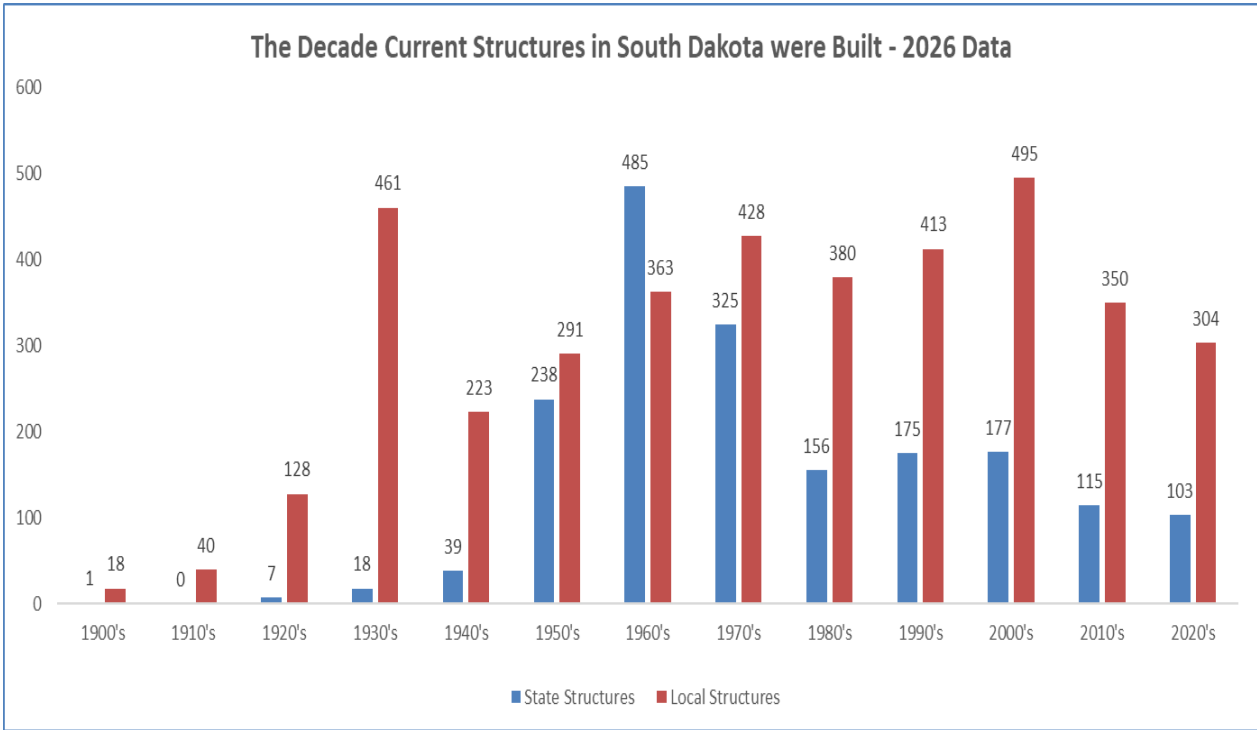
There are 10 highway bridges over a ¼ mile long that cross the Missouri River in South Dakota. Two are maintained by Nebraska DOT and eight are maintained by South Dakota DOT. These 10 structures account for 11.5% of the state-owned bridge deck area. Six of these bridges are in the Mitchell Region with the Nebraska DOT managing the bridges on the SD 37 crossing at Running Water and the US 81 crossing at Yankton. The remaining four bridges are in the Pierre Region.

The average Missouri River Bridge is approximately 3200 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 1.6% or 30 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. Beginning in 2025 GF&P bridges are included with other state-owned bridges.





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 733 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 are scheduled for most Missouri River bridges in 2027. The new Waldron bridge between Pierre and Fort Pierre had an underwater inspection in 2024. Most of the remainder of bridges requiring underwater inspections have underwater inspections scheduled in 2028.

Inspection Frequency of State Structures

Frequency	Bridges	NBI Culverts	Total
12 months	53	0	53
24 months	859	194	1053
48 months	339	394	733
Total	1251	588	1839

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 following table:

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	00000000053930	South Dakota
I 29 S	Big Sioux River	Iowa	64-164-405	00000000053941	South Dakota
SD 50	Big Sioux River	Iowa	64-086-223	00000000039650	Iowa
SD 48	Big Sioux River	City of Akron	64-122-170	000000000603911	South Dakota
SD 46	Big Sioux River	Iowa	64-160-023	00000000048451	Iowa
US 18	Big Sioux River	Iowa	42-201-136	00000000034481	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