



## Steel Bridge Forum

National Steel Bridge Alliance

Bridge Department, South Dakota DOT, Pierre, September 2019



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# Overview of Forum

7:45 – 8:45	Welcome and introduction, Steel bridge costs and advantages	Anthony Peterson
8:45 – 9:45	Economical steel bridge design, Skewed bridge considerations	Mike Grubb
9:45 – 10:00	Break	
10:00 – 11:00	Bolted connections, Field splices, Pack rust	Karl Frank
11:00 – 12:00	Steel bridge erection and constructability 1	Genesis Structures
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch (on your own)	
1:15 – 2:15	Steel bridge erection and constructability 2	Genesis Structures
2:15 – 3:15	AASHTO 8 <sup>th</sup> Edition updates (mostly regarding Section 6) and look-ahead to the 9 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Mike Grubb
3:15 – 3:30	Break	
3:30 – 5:00	Virtual fabrication shop tour	Karl Frank & Pat Loftus

# Purpose of Forum

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- Provide design, fabrication and construction assistance to engineers regarding steel bridges.
- Make it known that NSBA is here to provide assistance and guidance regarding steel bridges.
- AASHTO steel design updates.
- Steel bridge fabrication and constructability insight.

Thanks to South Dakota DOT Bridge Department for providing facility, PDH certificates and coordination.



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# **\$2.2 & \$6.5 Million Grants to Help SD/ND Bridges**

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U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced that \$225 million will be given to 20 projects in 18 states, according to a news release. The funds were restricted by law to the 25 states with a population density of less than 100 people per square mile.

*“The projects funded under the program will serve as models for similar bridge improvement projects throughout the nation.”*

## **South Dakota Department of Transportation**

### **West River Counties Bridge Replacement Project**

**FHWA Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant Award: \$2,247,000**

The project replaces four bridges in Butte, Meade and Lawrence Counties. The bridges are on county highways, serving as important connectors for local communities and supporting local and regional economies in South Dakota.

## **North Dakota Department of Transportation**

### **Bridge Rural Replacement Program**

**FHWA Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant Award: \$6,511,000**

The project replaces 18 bridges in poor condition throughout the state. The improvements support economic vitality by removing load-restricted bridges, allowing for the unimpeded movement of freight and other heavy vehicles.

# Antitrust Statement

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## ANTITRUST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST REMINDER

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Please remember that this meeting may include representatives of companies that compete with one another in the marketplace. Discussions, plans, consensus arrangement, agreements, strategies, etc., may be unlawful, if they relate to any of the following topics:

- Current or future prices or bidding information
- Limits on production or product lines
- Allocating customers or territories
- Individual company marketing strategies, projections, or assessments
- Establishing a practice of dealing with customers or suppliers

Before engaging in any substantive discussions at this meeting, consult the meeting Chair and the organization's Conflict of Interest policy if you or an organization with which you are affiliated:

- Is doing business or contemplating doing business with AISC or any of its affiliated firms; or
- Is involved either as a party or consultant in litigation, arbitration or some other form of dispute resolution, the outcome of which could be affected by the meeting group's action on an issue before it; or
- Are otherwise subject to circumstances that could impair or appear to impair your independent judgment on an issue before the meeting group.

# NSBA Organization, Mission & Purpose

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The National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA), a division of the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of domestically produced steel bridge design and construction.

The **mission** of the NSBA is to establish steel as the preferred material for bridges.

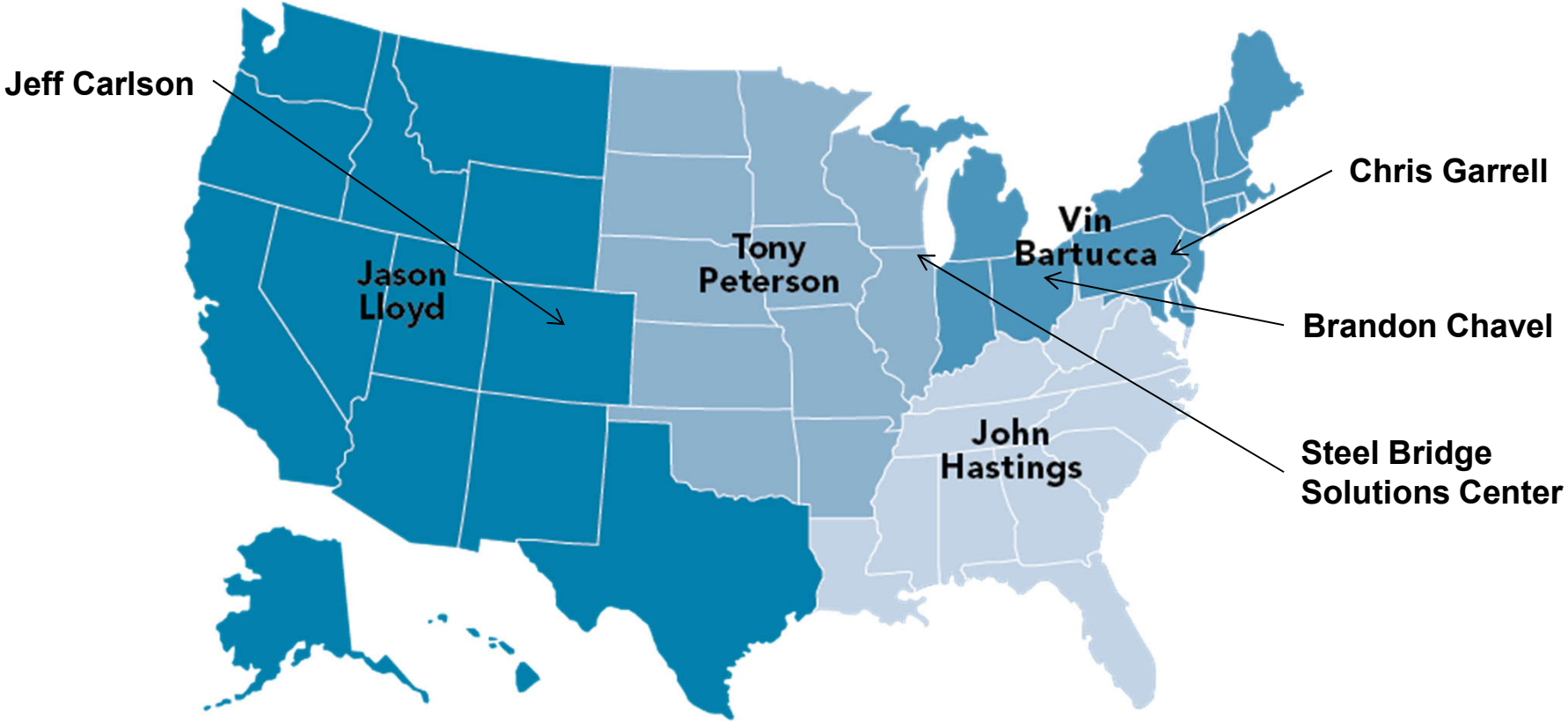
The NSBA functions as the voice of the bridge fabricators and mills while also partnering with the bridge design and construction community.



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# Market Coverage

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# What We Do & Provide

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Show Owners and Engineers the Advantages of Steel Bridges.


Assist Owners and Engineers with the Design/Fabrication/Construction of Steel Bridges.

- Bridge Design Software.
- Steel Bridge Design, Fabrication and Construction Support.
- FHWA Steel Bridge Design Handbook.
- AASHTO/NSBA Collaboration.
- Material Availability and Sizing.
- Preliminary Bridge Design.
- Steel Pricing and Trends.



- Bridge Forums.
- AASHTO/NSBA Collaboration Meetings.
- Industry Meetings and Trade Shows.
- Office/Site visits.
- Track Bridge Projects.

# Steel Bridge Design Support



## Skewed and Curved Steel I-Girder Bridge Fit

NSBA Technical Committee, Fit Task Force  
Brandon Chewel, Domenic Coates, Karl Frank, Mike Grubb, Bill McEweney, Ronnie Medlock and Don White  
*This is a stand-alone summary that is complementary to a larger guide document on fit published by the NSBA.*

**What is Fit and Why is it Important?**  
The "fit" or "fit condition" of an I-girder bridge refers to the deflected girder geometry associated with a specific load condition in which the cross-frames or diaphragms are detailed to connect to the girders. Consideration of the fit condition is important because the appropriate fit decision can provide a significant benefit to the constructability and the overall performance of the bridge system.

In all bridge systems (trusses, arches, etc.) the steel components change shape between the fabricated condition, the erected condition, and the final condition. Therefore the associated relationship, or fitting, of the members also changes. When the changes are small, the fit choice can be inconsequential, but when the changes are large, the proper fit choice is essential for achieving a successful project.

Article 6.7.2 of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification (8th Edition, 2017) specifies that the contract documents should state the fit condition for which the cross-frames or diaphragms are to be detailed for the following I-girder bridges:

- Straight bridges where one or more support lines are skewed more than 20 degrees from normal;
- Horizontally curved bridges where one or more support lines are skewed more than 20 degrees from normal and with an  $L/R$  in all spans less than or equal to 0.03; and
- Horizontally curved bridges with or without skewed supports and with a minimum  $L/R$  greater than 0.03,

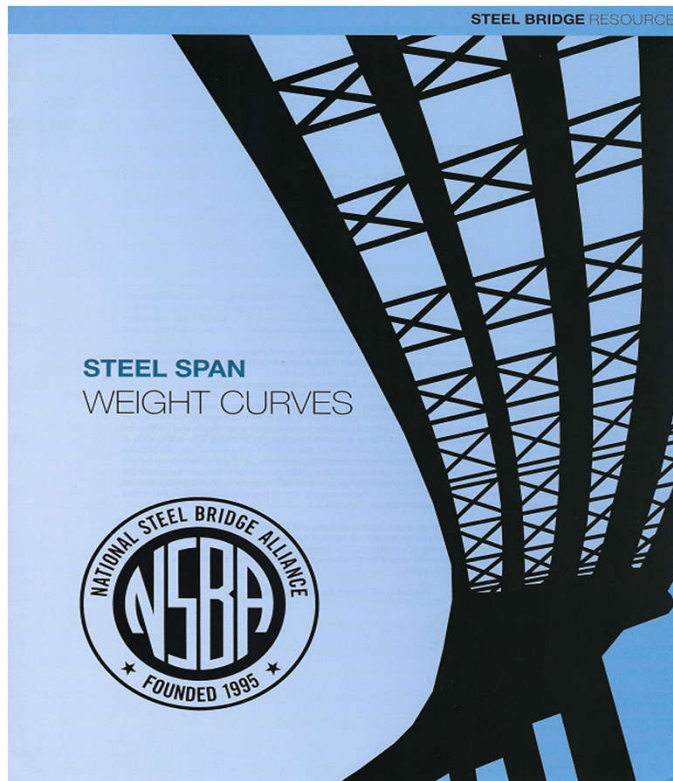
where  $L$  is the span length bearing to bearing along the centerline of the bridge and  $R$  is the radius of the centerline of the bridge cross-section.



Guidelines for Design for Constructibility

AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration

# Steel Bridge Design Support



## National Steel Bridge Alliance Continuous Span Standard Solutions



From first cut... ...to final concept.

Understanding which steel bridge elements are fracture critical members will provide the required protection while saving on in-service inspection.

**ONE OF THE MOST NOTEWORTHY** bridge failures in the United States occurred in 1967, when the Point Pleasant Bridge over the Ohio River (also known as the Silver Bridge) collapsed, resulting in 46 deaths.

The collapse was due to brittle fracture of one of the eyebars that formed the suspension system of the bridge. The subsequent failure investigation revealed that the fracture was due to brittle propagation of a tiny crack in the eyebar. Because the fracture toughness of the eyebar was extremely low, a relatively small crack led to a brittle fracture of the eyebar, which in turn led to the collapse of the bridge.

This collapse was the catalyst for many changes in material specifications, design, fabrication and shop inspection of steel bridges. These requirements are codified in the AASHTO Bridge Design Specifications and the AASHTO/AWS D1.5 Bridge Welding Code (AWS) and are applied to tension members whose fracture could lead to bridge collapse. (Another bridge inci-

### bridge crossings ARE YOU SURE THAT'S FRACTURE CRITICAL?

BY ROBERT J. CONNOR, PH.D., KARL FRANK, PE., PH.D., BILL MCCLENNY AND JOHN VALKOSKY, PE.

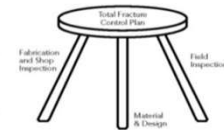


Figure 1 - The three "legs" of a total fracture control plan for bridges.

# Steel Availability and Pricing

## Historic Raw Steel Plate Pricing (\$/lb), 2" and Less Delivered to the Fabricator

	A-709-50W		
Year	January	July	December
2003	\$0.30		\$0.32
2004	\$0.34		\$0.45
2005	\$0.45		\$0.46
2006	\$0.46		\$0.50
2007	\$0.50		\$0.54
2008	\$0.56	\$0.90	\$0.53
2009	\$0.42	\$0.31	\$0.35
2010	\$0.42	\$0.42	\$0.47
2011	\$0.59	\$0.56	\$0.53
2012	\$0.56	\$0.50	\$0.40
2013	\$0.44	\$0.45	\$0.46
2014	\$0.50	\$0.55	\$0.51
2015	\$0.46	\$0.00	\$0.00

**SteelWise** SolutionsCenter  
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### Steel Plate Availability for Highway Bridges

BY CHRISTOPHER GARRELL, PE., LEED AP

An overview of plate sizes commonly produced by domestic mills.

**Availability and Relative Cost**  
Steel plate producers in the United States are Arrol-Minot, Nucor, Nucor and SSAB. Geographically, most steel plate mills are located within the eastern third of the United States as shown in Figure 2. Despite their location, many plate producers will choose to equate on freight or meet a competitive price depending on their target markets.

**THE LENGTH AVAILABILITY** for the various plate widths and thicknesses is a very common question engineers have when designing highway structures. Understanding availability of plate material while performing design iterations will ensure that the material used can be sourced from all steel mills and result in better economy for the overall bridge superstructure.

The information below is not intended to be an all-encompassing summary of available plates that a mill may be able to produce. It is instead intended to provide a look at plate availability across the steel mills within the United States by width, thickness and length, as shown in Figure 1. Other width, thickness and length may be available from one or more of these producers. In cases where a dimension is not shown, one should consult the steel mill or a local steel bridge fabricator. For specific contract information, please contact your local NSBA Regional Director (see sidebar). Alternatively, the ANSC Steel Solutions Center can assist you by phone at 800.ANSC.4352 and online at [www.ansc.org/solutions](http://www.ansc.org/solutions).

The tables that follow outline availability of A709-50 and A572-50W steel for various structural applications only. All units are in inches unless otherwise specified.

**Usable Area**  
The source plate from which each component of a steel plate girder is cut and fabricated is referred to as the "mother" plate. Given the variability of plate squareness and the thickness of each one, the net usable area of a mother plate is reduced. For example, consider the haunched girder section shown in Figure 3.




Fig. 1. The intersection of plate availability.




Fig. 2. Plate mill locations in the United States.

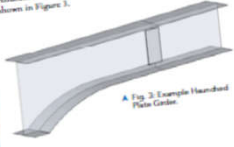



Fig. 3. Example Haunched Plate Girder.



Christopher M. Garrell, PE., LEED AP, NSBA Regional Director with NSBA.

MODERN STEEL CONSTRUCTION SEPTEMBER 2011

# Bridge Cost Study

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## Scope of Study

Conduct a cost analysis of structural steel and concrete bridges that have been built across the nation.

## Objectives

Understand the in-place cost of structural steel versus precast and cast-in-place concrete in the bridge market on a national, regional and state basis.

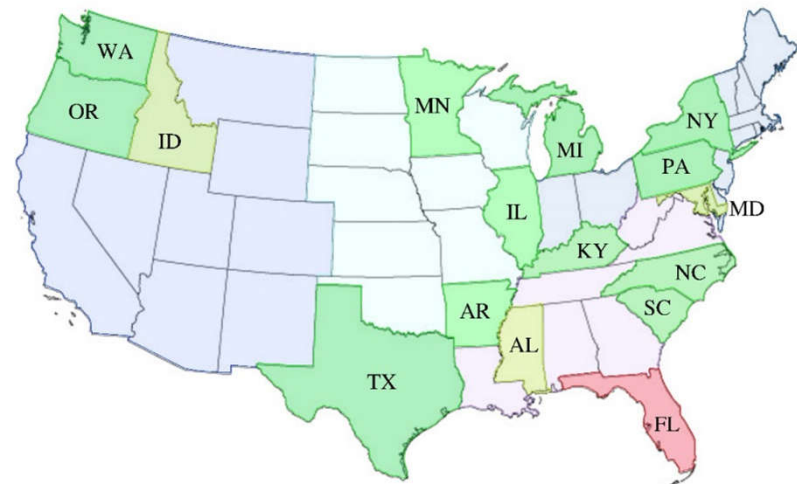
Investigate the assumption that structural steel bridge “first costs” are more expensive than concrete bridges.



# Bridge Cost Study

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- Selected 12 total states,
  - Varying levels of concrete and steel utilization.
  - Spread out geographically.
  - Availability of data.
- New and replacement bridges only.
- Projects constructed after 2013.
- Does not include Design-Build, CMGC, etc.
- Span lengths up to 250 feet.
- Bridges let through DOT process only.



# Bridge Cost Study - Preliminary Findings

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Rolled steel beam and plate girder bridges are cost competitive with concrete superstructure bridges. Many times the steel bridge is likely the low cost option, so it should not be dismissed early on based solely on past bid prices.

Steel bridges are comparatively more expensive than concrete bridges in the southeast region.

Currently overall more concrete bridges being constructed. More states favor concrete than steel for typical bridges.

Steel bridges are typically more complex and longer span.

Need to investigate design-build and CMGC contracts.

Need to investigate railroad bridges.



# Steel Bridge Advantages

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- Inspectability
- Deck Replacement
- Widening & Lengthening
- Reusable & Repurpose
- Strengthening
- Relatively light (improved seismic, less foundation, ABC friendly)
- Reparability
- Damage Repair
- Sustainable & Recyclability
- Proven Material



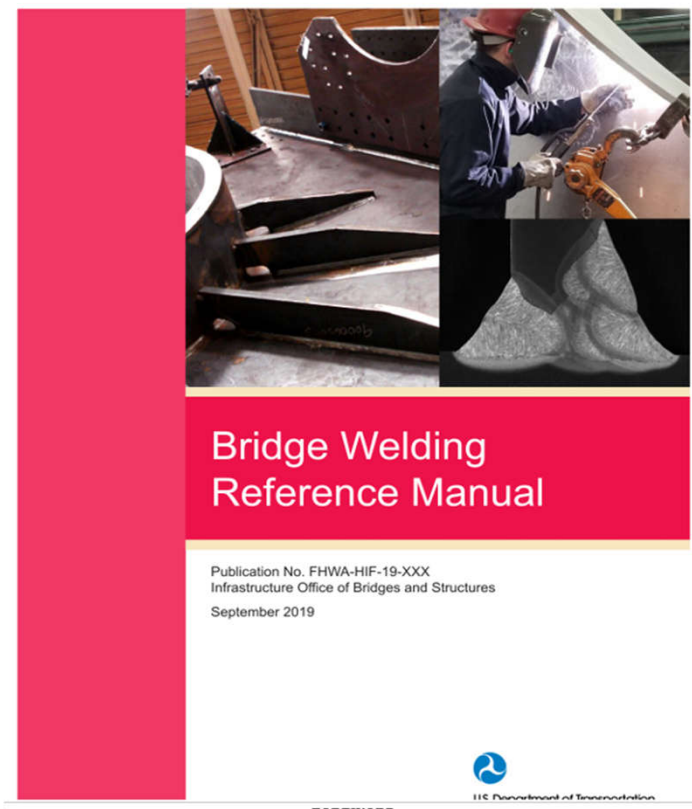
# Steel Bridge Standard Plans

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- Needed for “typical” bridges to keep steel rolled beam and plate girder bridges on a level playing field with concrete superstructure bridges.
- Consider developing simple span standards and utilize “link slab” design so they can be used for multiple span bridges (similar to concrete beam standards).
- Ohio is in the process of developing simple span steel bridge standards.
- Pennsylvania DOT is developing short span steel bridge standards, certified.
- Iowa DOT has rolled beam 3-span standards, certified.

# FHWA Bridge Welding Reference Manual

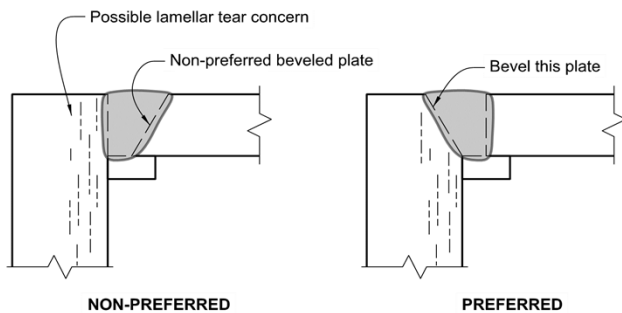
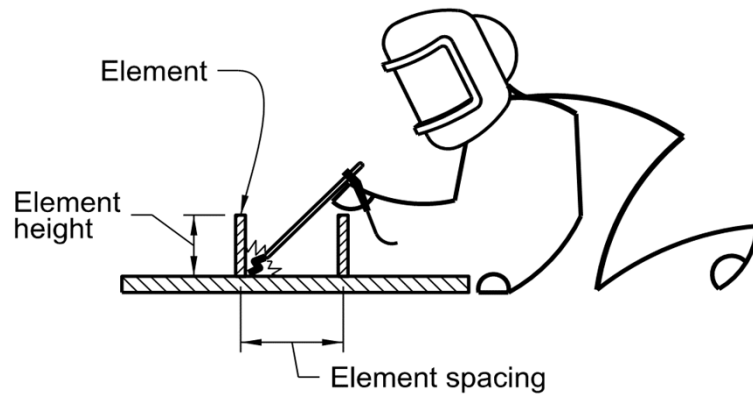
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- Designers, Owners, Fabricators.
- Weld types, workmanship, inspection, fracture critical, defects & repairs.
- D1.5 vs. D1.1.
- Steel, aluminum, stainless steel.
- Shop and field welding.
- Reinforcing steel welding.
- Welding coated members.

# FHWA Bridge Welding Reference Manual

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- Welding access.
- Welding symbols and details.
- Intersecting welds.
- Fracture critical details.
- Maximum angles of fillet welds.

# FHWA Bridge Welding Reference Manual

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<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/steel.cfm>



- No charge to download documents.

## Manuals

[Bridge Welding Reference Manual \(.pdf\)](#) (August, 2019)

[Manual for Refined Analysis in Bridge Design and Evaluation \(.pdf\)](#) (May, 2019)

[Design and Evaluation of Steel Bridges for Fatigue and Fracture Reference Manual \(.pdf\)](#) (December, 2016)

[Load and Resistance Factor Design \(LRFD\) for Highway Bridge Superstructures \(.pdf\)](#) (July, 2016)

[Design Examples \(.pdf, 8 mb\)](#)

[Steel Bridge Design Handbook](#) (December, 2015)

[Engineering for Structural Stability in Bridge Construction \(.pdf\)](#) (April, 2015)

[Contracting and Construction of ABC projects with Prefabricated Bridge Elements and Systems \(.pdf\)](#) (June, 2013)

# Metallizing

## Specification for Application of Thermal Spray Coating Systems to Steel Bridges

S8.2-2017 / SSPC-PA 18



- Being used more frequently in several states.
- Provides corrosion protection similar to hot-dip galvanizing.
- No length limitations.
- Shop or field applied.
- Can be painted over if desired.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS  
**AASHTO**



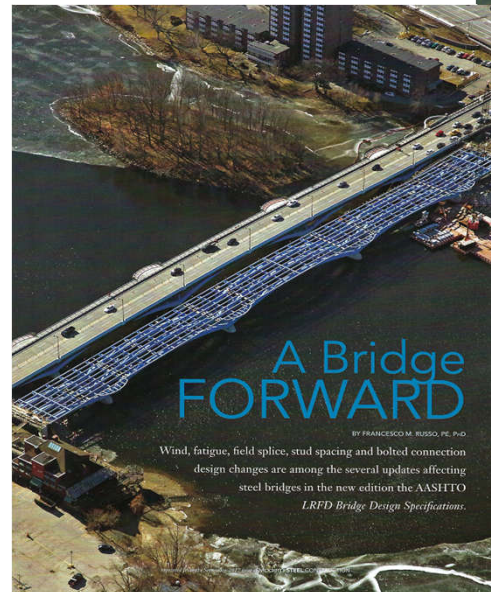
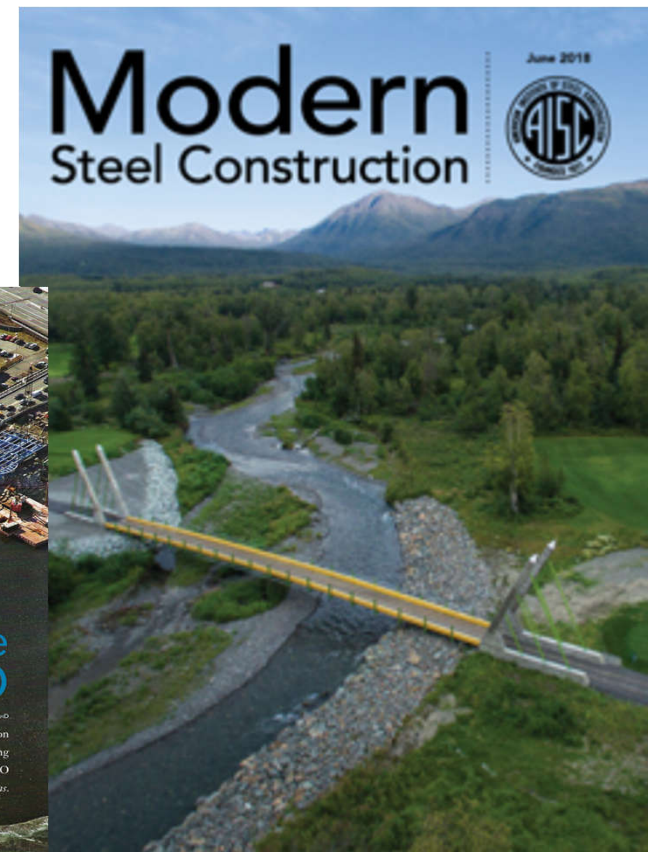
AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration

# Modern Steel Construction

- Have an idea for a great bridge article?
- Submit it to: [www.aisc.org/bridgeideas](http://www.aisc.org/bridgeideas)

Circulation = 60,000

68%	Engineers
15%	Architects
8%	Fabricators



# AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration

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**October 22-24, 2019**

Savannah, GA

## Task Groups

- TG 1 - Detailing
- TG 2 - Fabrication Specification
- TG 4 - QA/QC
- TG 8 - Coatings
- TG 10 - Erection
- TG 11 - Steel Bridge Design Handbook
- TG 12 - Design for Economy and Constructability
- TG 13 - Analysis of Steel Bridges
- TG 15 - Data Modeling for Interoperability
- TG 16 - Orthotropic Deck Panels



# AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration

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Guidelines for Design Details (G1.4-2006)

Guidelines for Design for Constructability (G12.1-2003)

Guidelines for Steel Girder Bridge Analysis (G13.1-2014)

Steel Bridge Erection Guide Specification (S10.1-2014)

Steel Bridge Bearing Design and Detailing Guidelines (G9.1-2004)

Steel Bridge Fabrication Guide Specification (S2.1-2008)

Shop Drawing Approval Review/Approval Guidelines (G1.1-2000)



[www.steelbridges.org/CollaborationStandards](http://www.steelbridges.org/CollaborationStandards)





NASCC:  
THE STEEL CONFERENCE

**ATLANTA**

Georgia World Congress Center  
April 22–24, 2020

.....  
incorporating the  
World Steel Bridge Symposium  
and the  
SSRC Annual Stability Conference  
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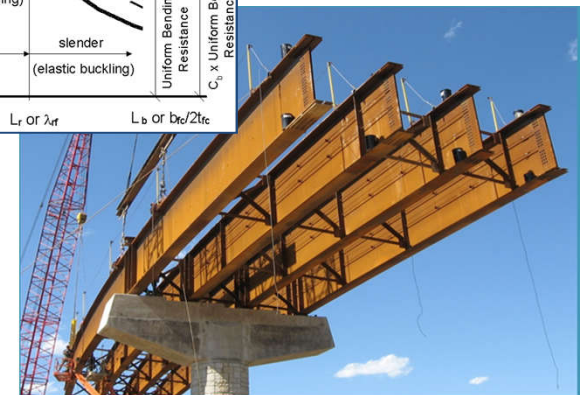
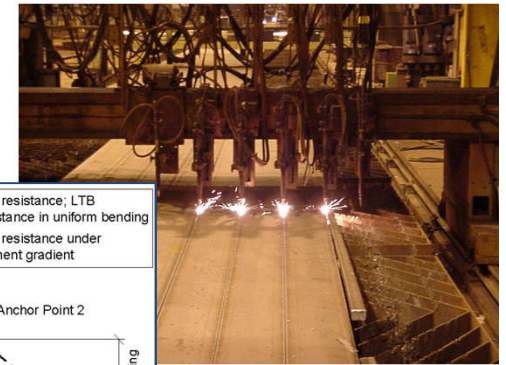
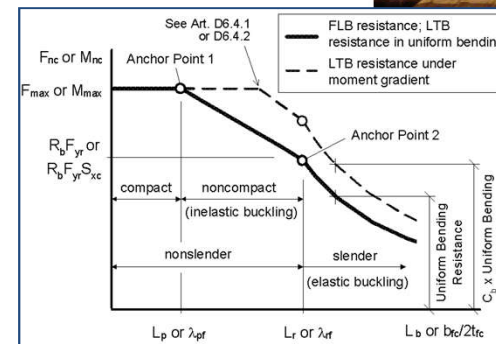
**[www.aisc.org/nascc](http://www.aisc.org/nascc)**



# World Steel Bridge Symposium

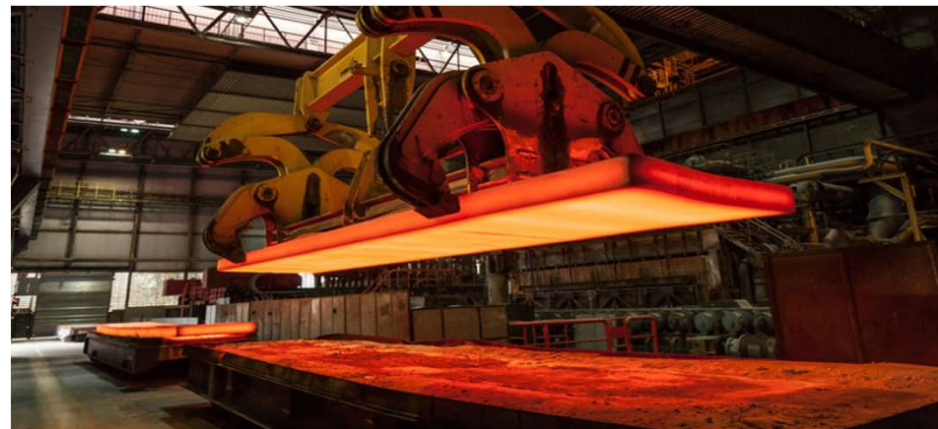
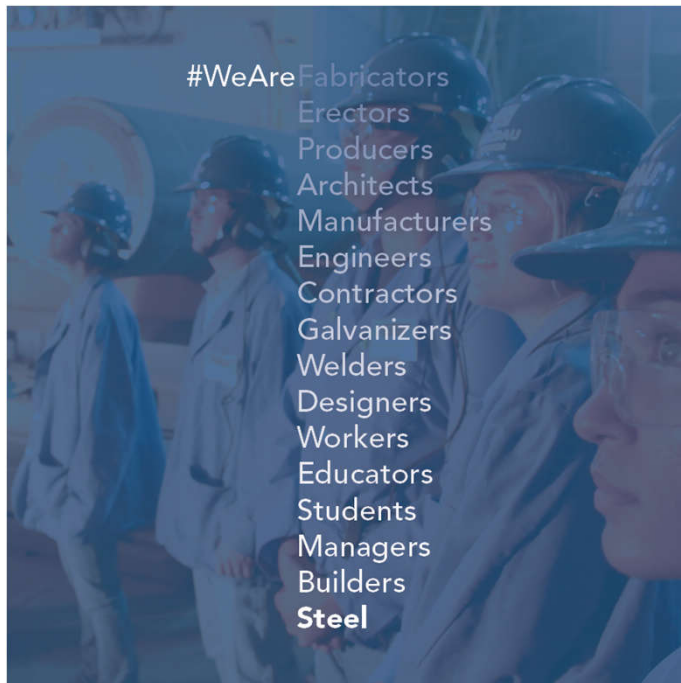
## Steel Bridge Design Workshop at WSBS

- April 21, 2019 – afternoon.
- Agenda
  - Conceptual Layout and Framing.
  - Loads.
  - The Basics of Steel Design.
  - Bolting and Splices.
  - Detailing and Fabrication.
  - Bridge Welding.
  - Modern Corrosion Protection Systems .
- More information coming soon!



# Steel Day – September 27, 2019

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SSAB Steel Mill Tour  
October 2, 2019  
Muscatine, IA



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# Upcoming Continuing Education Events

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## Webinars:

September 10, 2019 – A709 Grade 50CR Steel, Applications for Bridges in Corrosive Environment.

## Upcoming Webinar schedule;

- December 3, 2019 - FWHA Bridge Welding Reference Manual.
- Early 2020 - Erecting Steel Girders, The 3 C's- Constructability, Cost & Competition.
- Register at [www.aisc.org/webinars](http://www.aisc.org/webinars).



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# Bridges to Prosperity – La Marca, Bolivia

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# Bridges to Prosperity – La Marca, Bolivia

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360' Long Completed Bridge.



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# Thank You

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