Oregon Department of Transportation

SECTION 1.0
Preface

Revisions for the current edition are highlighted yellow. Deleted text is not marked.

Past editions of the Bridge Design Manual are available through our website.

Note: Revisions for Oct. 2026 are marked with yellow highlight. Deleted text is not marked; past editions of the *Bridge Design Manual (BDM)* are available for comparison on the Bridge website.

Preface

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the *Bridge Design Manual (BDM)* is to ensure the design of bridges that are safe, practical, economical, and appropriate for the site through the establishment of standards and best practices.

FORMAT:

Section 1 of the *BDM* is being updated to a two-column format with specifications in the left-hand column, and guidance and commentary on the right. For more information about the BDM format, see the *BDM Format Guide*.

For any portions that have not been updated to the two-column format, consult with the relevant section owners to clarify whether statements are requirements or guidance.

BACKGROUND:

The *BDM* documents design standards and construction practices that have proven to be successful in Oregon over the years. The *BDM* has been consistently updated to draw alongside the advancement of materials and construction techniques and is not intended to prevent the designer from exercising sound engineering judgment. The *BDM* was developed to address the design of conventional bridges. Develop project specific design criteria for non-conventional bridges.

For state-owned bridges the specifications column of the *BDM* is intended to modify and supplement national Bridge Design Specifications (*BDM 1.2.1*). Where in conflict, the *BDM* controls.

DESIGN DEVIATIONS, DESIGN EXCEPTIONS, AND UPDATING:

Adhere to requirements in the specification column unless the section owner technical resource approves the modification. When varying from the *BDM*, communicate with the relevant section owner technical resource regarding the need for a deviation or exception (*BDM 1.2.2*).

If any *BDM* section is found to be inadequate or out of date, consider requesting a *BDM* update from the section owner technical resource. The form to request an update is on the bridge website.

LOCAL AGENCIES:

For Local Agency bridges, see *BDM 1.2.3.6* for design standards.