Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor

**Department of Transportation**
Technical Leadership Center
ODOT Bridge Section MS #4
4040 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302

October 31st, 2026

To: Users of Oregon DOT Bridge Design Manual

**Subject: Revisions to the ODOT Bridge Design Manual**

The BDM has been updated with multiple technical revisions. See the attachment for an update summary. In addition, an Other Structures Design Manual was published.

The revised BDM and OSDM are being released in web-based Acrobat files, which can be accessed at the following web site:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Bridge/Pages/Bridge-Design-Manual.aspx

The revised BDM and OSDM can be viewed from the site or downloaded and printed. The documents are also available on Projectwise.

These revisions apply to new design projects as of the effective date of January 1st, 2027. New projects for in-house designs are those that do not have an approved DAP by the effective date. New projects for outsourced projects are those that do not have an executed work order contract for PE. However, existing projects may make use of these revisions, if agreed to by the Agency Project Manager or Project Team Leader.

We would like to thank the many people who provided comments and suggestions for this BDM update. Going forward, the BDM and OSDM will be published on an annual basis. Please send comments or suggestions for the **October 2027** BDM to Emily Clyburn at: emily.clyburn@odot.oregon.gov

Raymond BOTTENBERG
Raymond BOTTENBERG (Oct 26, 2026 10:28:05 PDT)

Raymond Bottenberg
State Bridge Engineer

Attachment: BDM Update Summary October 2026

October 2026 Update

ODOT Bridge Design Manual

# Update Summary

The following revisions are in reference to current BDM section numbers:

## Section 1 – Design Standards and Practices

1.2.2 Future Design Exceptions and Design Deviation submittals will need to be prepared to generally be consistent with *Guidelines for Drafting Liability Neutral Documents*.

1.3.2.1 FWS and PWS dead load requirements updated.

1.3.3.1 Updated charts with correct impact factors.

1.4.2 Clarified timing of design deviations for 3D modeling.
Provided direction on ownership responsibilities of 3D elements.

1.5.6.1 Provided requirements for DBT girders with weldments.
Reformatted to 2 columns.

1.6.2.12 Changed clearance requirements for shear connectors.

1.9.2.4.1 Changed design requirements related to providing approach slabs on new bridges for Local Agency design category projects.

1.10.5 Reformatted to 2 columns.

1.10.5.4 Removed typical pile types, sizes and structural resistances used on ODOT projects. Provided reference to GDM where typica pile sizes are provided.

1.11.3.6 Changed note on Transverse Reinforcement Splice Method figure to clarify requirements of termination details

1.12 Moved entire section “Other Structures” to *Other Structures Design Manual.*
Revised section title to “Reserved”

1.13.1 Moved discussion of rail over buried structures to Other Structures Design Manual.

1.13.3 Revised design requirements related to separating walkway facilities for Local Agency design category to follow AASHTO.

1.13.7 Clarified requirements for blunt ends on Bridge Preservation Projects.

1.13.9 Clarified requirements for addressing bridge rail transitions based on bridge design category.

1.13.10.1 Moved section (Rails over Culverts) to Other Structures Design Manual.

1.13.11 Reflect updates to Standard Drawings BR295 & BR296 related to Temporary Barrier. Clarified process when deviating from standard in a temporary condition.

1.13.12.2 Clarify protective fencing opening requirements when over a railroad.

1.17.2.9 Moved section (Buried Structures seismic design) to Other Structures Design Manual.

## Section 2 – Processes

2.10.8 Provided clarity and definitions to the load rating process to align with ODOT LRFR Manual.

## Formatting

Revised all appropriate references to the *Hydraulic Design Manual (HDM)* to *Hydraulics Manual (HM).*

# 2026_Letter_for_Final_Revisions_to_BDM

Final Audit Report 2026-10-26

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