


Oregon Department of Transportation  POLICY	NUMBER PMT 06-01	SUPERSEDES 11/25/2015
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	VALIDATION DATE	
	REFERENCE OAR 734-050-0090; 734-020-0150; ODOT Policy DES 05-02; Mobility Procedure Manual	
SUBJECT SIZE AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON STATE HIGHWAYS	APPROVED SIGNATURE Signature on file with Business & Performance Services Branch Paul Mather, Deputy Director	

PURPOSE

To ensure that the Oregon Department of Transportation (Department) maintains viable routes to move freight throughout the state from border to border and meets the federal requirement that bridge load postings on state highways are made as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after a load rating determines a need for such posting.

To ensure that the Highway Division and the Motor Carrier Transportation Division (MCTD) Administrator work in coordination with the Assistant Director and the Communications Section in determining impacted industries and local jurisdictions when alternate routes are examined. This collaboration supports an analysis that takes advantage of alternate routes around restrictions that can remain for the duration of the restriction or evaluates alternative methods to mitigate the impact of the weight restriction. These mitigation measures might include speed reductions or directing specific loads to use the structure in a specific way.

To ensure the safety of the traveling public and protection of State resources by timely implementation of bridge weight restrictions or adjustments/improvements that can be implemented quickly and reasonably.

To ensure that, in the event an immediate restriction or closure is necessary, appropriate communication and analysis occurs as quickly as possible. To ensure the process outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 734-050-0090 for designating highway weight restrictions is followed when the weight restriction on bridges is below what is routinely allowed on a highway or section of highway.

The routes shall incorporate other restrictions that exist that are a direct result of either highway work or a natural disaster or events that impact traffic flow. To ensure that impacted jurisdictions are notified and offered the ability to participate in the discussions on possible detours and the action plan. The timing of any adopted restrictions should minimize the impacts to industries and local jurisdictions as much as possible, while still protecting highway infrastructure.

POLICY

The Department shall work collaboratively with, and minimize the impact where possible, to the motor carrier industry and local government when it becomes necessary to restrict the allowable size and weight of loads on the state highway system in order to maintain safe travel.

GUIDELINES

Attachment A outlines a procedure to raise concerns about the integrity of bridges on the state highway system to the Bridge Load Rating Engineer (BLRE) by bridge inspectors or District maintenance personnel. It also explains the role of the Mobility Team that may involve the Mobility liaison designee, as well as individual roles and responsibilities to establish a weight restriction. Attachment B outlines the individual roles and responsibilities for restrictions as a result of planned construction or maintenance work.

After review, if a load restriction is determined not to be necessary, the BLRE records those findings and notifies the person raising the concern. If a load restriction is necessary, the BLRE notifies the State Bridge Engineer. If the State Bridge Engineer concurs, the BLRE notifies the Region Manager, District Manager, Area Manager, Mobility Team, Communications Section, and the Assistant Director of the need to restrict loads on the bridge.

If a restriction to a bridge height, length, or width is determined during planned construction, maintenance work, local government entity or permitted work, the individual responsible for overseeing that work (e.g. Transportation Project Manager, Resident Engineer - Consultant Projects, County, City or permittee or District Manager) is responsible for notifying MCTD prior to the commencement of work. The Mobility Team or Region Mobility liaison will be called upon to work with individuals responsible for overseeing the work and to engage affected members of the freight community according to the guidelines in the Mobility Procedures Manual and will keep the District Manager informed.

If conditions observed by visual inspection of a bridge raise significant and imminent safety concerns, a District Manager may act under the authority of OAR 734-020-0150 to close or otherwise restrict traffic on the bridge immediately and expedite the steps outlined in this policy. In an emergency situation the steps outlined in Attachments A and B do not need to be followed.

The District Manager in consultation with the BLRE may immediately close or restrict the weight size or type of vehicles traveling on a structure due to a natural disaster or other unforeseen circumstance. In such an emergency, the District Manager may immediately restrict the size of or type of a vehicle traveling on the roadway or close the structure or roadway affected due to a natural disaster or other unforeseen circumstance.

The District Manager will notify the Region Manager, Communications Section, MCTD Administrator, Mobility Team, and Over-Dimension Permit Units. If immediate action is not needed the notifications will be performed prior to taking action. The public are to be notified as quickly as possible.

Attachment A

BRIDGE LOAD RESTRICTION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PRIOR TO 30 DAY POSTING: *Note: Notification and evaluation of bridge posting will work concurrently with the Post to 30 Day Posting process.*

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Originator Bridge Inspectors or District Maintenance Personnel or Bridge Load Rating Engineer (BLRE)	1	Identify need to review load rating on bridges and raise the concern to the BLRE. Identify concern with bridge load capacity as part of evaluating bridge inspection reports or performing load rating calculations.
Bridge Load Rating Engineer	2	Review concern identified by the originator and analyze load carrying capacity of the bridge to determine whether load restriction is necessary.
	3	If load restriction is not necessary, note in load rating database and notify originator, as appropriate, and copy the District Manager.
State Bridge Engineer	4	If load restriction is necessary, provide information on severity of bridge condition and timeframe for restriction to the District Manager, MCTD Administrator and the Mobility Team, Communications Section, Assistant Director, and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) taking into account the time to prepare and implement detours without compromising the integrity of the bridge. <i>Note: Starting with Step 4, there is a 30 day requirement for the recommended restriction to be resolved either by strengthening or by load posting signs to be installed for those bridges that require load posting. If strengthening is the preferred option, the notification team will be informed of the estimated date when the strengthening will be complete.</i>
District Manager	5	If the load rating shows that the bridge requires load posting begin coordination with the Region Traffic Engineer regarding a detour sign plan and any additional traffic data that will need to be collected such as truck classification counts.

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
		<p>If the load rating shows that the bridge requires load posting, order the signs if strengthening cannot be completed within 30 days.</p> <p>Begin notification with local agencies regarding the timing and extent of the load restriction, and the identification of detour routes.</p> <p>Begin notification with local elected officials regarding the upcoming load restriction.</p> <p>Assemble a notification list of stakeholders consisting of the BLRE, Area Manager(s), and representatives from MCTD, Region traffic, the motor carrier industry, as identified by MCTD, local government public works or engineering staff, and others stakeholders as appropriate. This is the notification team prior to the 30 day posting and the evaluation team after the 30 day posting.</p> <p>Prepare a report to send to the notification team and Region Manager. Reports should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Highway or section of highway affected;Bridge name and number;Bridge inspection and evaluation results;List of competing restrictions, either present or planned (such as highway projects), on the roadways in the area that could be detour routes;Load restriction level;Date the load restriction will be implemented;Sign plan;Any special requirements (pilot car, time of day restriction, etc.);Any proposed responsibility to recondition or repave detour route after bridge is reopened and;Any provisions necessary to ensure viability of detour route for duration of the detour.
Mobility Team	6	<p>Notify MCTD Administrator a load restriction may be necessary.</p> <p>Begin to collect data to provide to the District Manager of the impact of restricting a bridge in terms of volume and type of trucks that will be detoured.</p> <p>If necessary, notify annual permit holders impacted by the load restricted bridge.</p>

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Bridge Load Rating Engineer	7	Provide information to the District Manager on other load-restricted bridges in the area.
Area Manager	8	Provide information to the District Manager on scheduled highway construction projects that may impact possible detour routes.
Communications Section	9	Prepare draft notification to the public; the motor carrier industry; and MCTD, including a fact sheet describing the problem and planned solution. Forward to District Manager.
District Manager	10	Provide notification to Region Manager for review.
Region Manager	11	Review draft notification with the District Manager, MCTD Administrator, and Assistant Director. Provide feedback to the Communications Division of any necessary changes. If acceptable, approve draft notification.
Communications Section	12	Distribute notification of load-restricted bridge to the public and work with the Mobility Team to communicate with the motor carrier industry.
District Manager	13	Direct crews to erect signs informing motorists of the bridge load restriction where posting is required and notify BLRE that signs have been installed. Inform staff and elected officials from local jurisdictions impacted by the action. Distribute report to the notification team and Transportation Data Section and Statewide Mobility Manager.
Bridge Load Rating Engineer	14	Add bridge to the restricted bridge list.
MCTD Over-Dimension Permit Unit		Receive notification from the Bridge Load Rating Engineer that a bridge has been posted. Add restricted bridge to the MCTD Road & Bridge Restriction List. Update Attachment 100A and Route Map 8.

POST 30 DAY POSTING:

Evaluation Team	1	Meet to review data collected and consider potential alternate routes, taking into account impacts to the industry and local jurisdictions, and concerns submitted to the District Manager.
Bridge Load Rating Engineer	2	Analyze affected structures on alternative detour routes being considered and make detour recommendations to the Evaluation Team.
District Manager	3	Prepare report of the Evaluation Team meeting(s) for the Region Manager. Reports should include: Estimated types and volume of trucks to be detoured; Lists of impacts to the corridor; Detour routes considered and tentatively selected for the duration of the restriction; Duration of the load restriction; Any special requirements (pilot car, time of day restriction, etc.); Methods to mitigate impacts to communities (no engine brakes, slow speeds, etc.); Any proposed responsibility to recondition or repave detour route after bridge is reopened; and Any provisions necessary to ensure viability of detour route for duration of the detour.
Region Manager	4	Discuss report with MCTD Administrator, State Bridge Engineer, and the Assistant Director. Communicate with the District Manager any changes that were identified.
District Manager	5	Implement the final report. Create Video Log of selected detour route.

**Attachment B
NON-BRIDGE RESTRICTION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

If a width, height, or length restriction is necessary during the course of a highway project, the Transportation Project Manager, Resident Engineer, or the Design Coordinator will notify the Area Manager, District Manager, Mobility Team, and Communications Section of the need to possibly restrict the movement of freight. The timelines and format for notification of reduced vertical clearance as a result of construction have been outlined in a memo from the State Construction and Materials Engineer. These guidelines should be followed in addition to the process outlined below.

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Originator Transportation Project Manager or Resident Engineer	1	Identify need to restrict some freight movement during the project as a result of staging plans. Contact the Mobility Team to obtain information on impacts and provide information on project staging. Inform Area and District Manager of possible restrictions.
Mobility Team	2	Provide estimate to the Transportation Project Manager, Resident Engineer of impact of restriction in terms of volume and type of trucks that will be detoured. Contact members of the motor carrier industry for input and collaboration. If detour is necessary may arrange for a test run as needed.
Transportation Project Manager or Resident Engineer	3	Provide information to the Area Manager, District Manager and Region Mobility Liaison regarding potential restrictions. Contact local governments to discuss the potential of using roads for a detour and provide the information supplied by MCTD as to the size and volume of vehicles that would be detoured. Provide a sign plan for the detour to MCTD Administrator.
Area Manager/ Mobility Liaison	4	Provide information to the Transportation Project Manager on scheduled highway construction projects that may overlap this project or could impact possible detour routes.
Transportation Project Manager or Resident Engineer	5	Accept input from the motor carrier industry, state and local government, and others for review. Discuss information with Area Manager, the Mobility Team, and Region Mobility Liaison. If it is deemed necessary, a meeting is scheduled with the motor carrier industry. Assure Area and District Manager are kept informed of progress.

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Mobility Team	6	Assemble members of the motor carrier industry to meet with the Transportation Project Manager, Resident Engineer, Mobility Liaison, and/or Area Manager and local government if needed.
Transportation Project Manager or Resident Engineer	7	Prepare a report of the meeting for the Region Mobility Liaison. Report should include: The highway or section of highway affected; Estimated types and volume of trucks to be detoured; List of competing restrictions, either present or planned (such as highway projects), on roadways in the area that could be detour routes; Detour routes considered and tentatively selected for the duration of the restriction; Date the restriction will be implemented; Duration of the restriction; Sign plan; Any special requirements (pilot car, time of day restriction, etc.); Methods to mitigate impacts to communities (no engine brakes, slow speeds, etc.); Any proposed responsibility to recondition or repave detour route after bridge is reopened; and Any provisions necessary to ensure viability of detour route for duration of the detour.
Transportation Project Manager or Resident Engineer	8	Discuss report with MCTD Administrator. If concurrence is not reached, forward information to the Statewide Mobility Manager. When concurrence is reached, approve report. Inform local elected officials of impending action. Ensure that the standard specification around notification to MCTD for restrictions is included in the contract.
Communications Section	9	Prepare draft notification to the public, motor carrier industry, and MCTD including a fact sheet describing the problem and planned solution. Forward to the Transportation Project Manager, Resident Engineer, and MCTD for review.

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Transportation Project Manager or Resident Engineer	10	Review draft notification with Area Manager, District Manager and Region Mobility Liaison and MCTD. Provide feedback to Communications Division of any necessary changes. If acceptable, approve draft notification.
Mobility Team	11	Upon receipt of the Highway Restriction Notice (Form 735- 2357), notify Communications to send news release to motor carrier industry. If necessary, notify annual permit holders impacted by the restriction by letter.
Communications Section	12	Distribute notification of restriction to the public and the motor carrier industry. Notification to the motor carrier industry is handled by the MCTD Public Information Representative.