



### 1.2.2.1 Bridge Inspection Program

The WisDOT Bridge Inspection Program is federally mandated and has been in effect since 1971. The policies of the bridge inspection program are based upon the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) which are published in the Code of Federal Regulations, 23 CFR 650, subpart C. Bridge Inventory data inspection reports and records are warehoused by WisDOT in an electronic database, the Highway Structures Information System (HSIS). Inventory and inspection data from HSIS for all publicly owned bridges in Wisconsin are compiled and forwarded to the FHWA in a prescribed format on an annual basis. This submittal to FHWA includes element level data for those bridges requested by FHWA. Refer to the other portions of Part 2 of this Manual for further specific discussions on bridge inspections.

The American Association of State Transportation and Highway Officials (AASHTO) defines a bridge as:

“[A] structure including supports erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water, highway, or railway, and having a track or passage way for carrying traffic or other moving loads, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than twenty feet (20 ft.) between undercopings of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of openings for multiple boxes; it may also include multiple pipes, where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening.”

Refer to figures 1.2.2.1 – 1 and 1.2.2.1 – 2 for examples on measurement used to define a bridge.

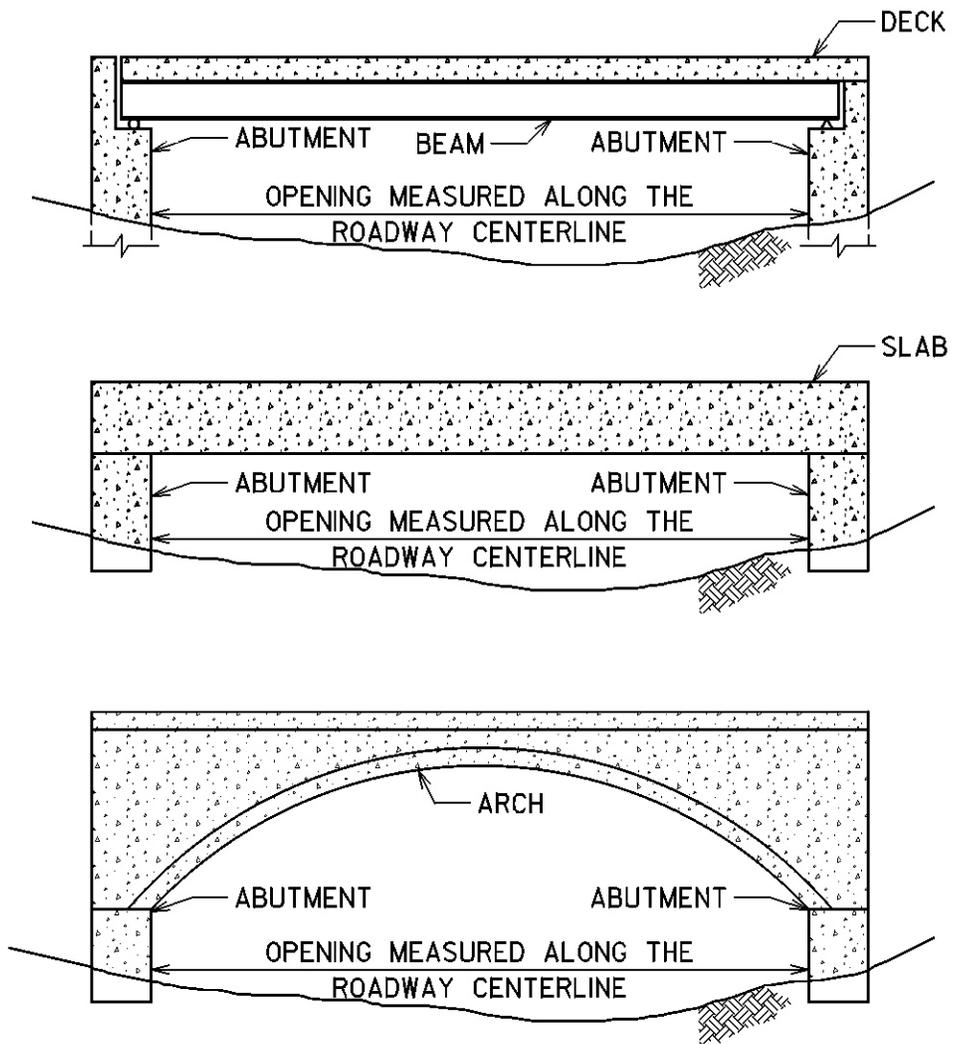
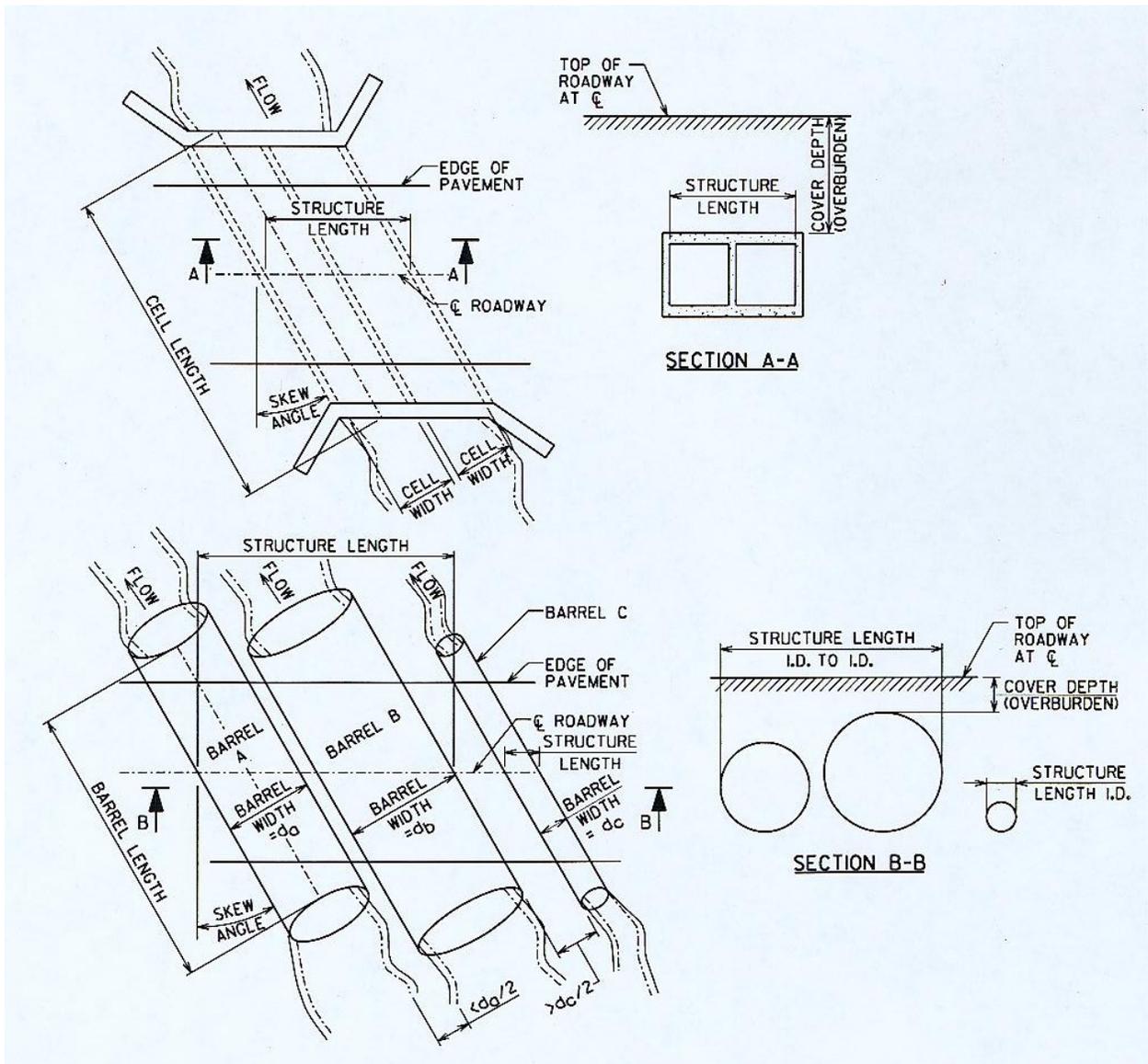


Figure 1.2.2.1-1: Measurement for Definition of a Bridge.



**Figure 1.2.2.1-2:** Measurement for Definition of a Culvert Structure.

**1.2.2.2 Ancillary Structures Inspection Program**

There currently is no national standard for the inspection of ancillary highway structures. WisDOT recognizes that neglecting the inspection of ancillary highway structures can result in increased maintenance costs and pose a safety risk to the traveling public. As a result, WisDOT has created a program for the routine inspection and maintenance of ancillary highway structures. Refer to Part 4 of this Manual for further specific discussions on the inspection of ancillary highway structures.