**Structures Design Section**

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DATE: 04/12/2023

TO: Consultant Structure Design Staff

FROM: Aaron M. Bonk, P.E.

Chief Structures Design Engineer

Bureau of Structures

SUBJECT: Standard Bridge Design Tool Update

The Bureau of Structures (BOS) has updated the Standard Bridge Design Tool (SBDT) that first launched for pilot project use in 2021. The updates have resolved some of the minor plan assembly items found with the initial project testing and have aligned the plans with the BOS CADD styles developed over the past couple of years. As of Wednesday, April 12, 2023, the updated website user interface is available for more widespread use at the following link:

[https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrces/strct/standard-bridge-tool.aspx](http://apwmad0p7106:37108/Pages/doing-bus/eng-consultants/cnslt-rsrces/strct/standard-bridge-tool.aspx)

For more information on the Local Bridge Replacement Program or the SBDT, please click on the following links respectively:

[https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/localbridge.aspx](http://apwmad0p7106:37108/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/localbridge.aspx)

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/lpm/lp-standarized-bridge-plan-pilot.aspx>

Designers should coordinate the use of the SBDT with their local program project manager and local stakeholders for future projects. If it is agreed upon to utilize this tool, an active and coordinated Construction, Project, and structure ID must be inserted into the tool for plans to be downloaded. These IDs will allow BOS to track which projects are utilizing the tool.

This design tool functions under a shared liability between the Department and the Consultant design firm assembling the plans. The intent is for the Department to take on the liability for the accuracy of the design and drafting associated with these projects, whereas the Consultant takes on the liability for the preliminary type/size/location design and the use of the tool according to the language that is contained within Chapter 18 of the Bridge Manual.

To be eligible to use the tool and for your project to go through the BOS consultant review process, your firm must have a signed WisDOT Standard Bridge Design Tool Use Agreement on file with BOS. Updates to these agreements must be submitted at a minimum of once every five years. If the person from your firm who signed this document leaves, an updated, signed document must be resubmitted to me at [aaron.bonk@dot.wi.gov](mailto:aaron.bonk@dot.wi.gov). In addition to this document, an abbreviated statement within the SBDT user interface will ask for agreement each time you utilize the tool for a project.

BOS will continue to assess the incorporation of this tool’s use into other programs (100% locally let/funded, state system, etc.) in the future. If you have any questions related to the SBDT, please reach out to me and I’d be happy to discuss them with you.

Thanks.