



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25201, RALEIGH, N.C. 27611-5201

E. NORRIS TOLSON  
SECRETARY

February 24, 1998

To: Area Engineers  
Group Leaders

From: D. E. Burwell, Jr., PE *D. E. B. J.*  
State Location & Surveys Engineer

Subject: Plan-Design Bridges

There is still considerable confusion on the concept and development of the Plan-Design Bridge Projects. A bridge falls under the consideration of the Plan-Design concept if there is insufficient data initially to determine the necessary location during the preliminary phase of design. This is as determined by P&E or Roadway Design.

In these cases, the planners and designers need a wider area of coverage to evaluate the placement of the detour, or any minor roadway revisions. Photogrammetry has agreed to fly and map these bridges in order to alleviate the demand for additional coverage. At the time of our surveys, little is known about the bridge, little is known about the intentions in design revisions, and we can discuss very little with the property owners. However, the process as it exists now has created confusion for several of those involved.

Due to the need to clarify the plan-design process, certain procedures have now been established and timetables set. Those procedures are:

- The P&E Branch and Roadway Design Unit will identify Plan-Design Bridges based upon the above mentioned needs. They will notify Photogrammetry and Location & Surveys prior to the flying season of these bridges and the dates that complete bridge design files are needed. These dates will be no earlier than July of the year of paneling.
- This notification of bridges and dates will be the only request for surveys that the Group Leader will receive.
- Photogrammetry will provide L&S with a panel plan.
- L&S personnel will evaluate each of these bridges. If it is determined that it is ineffective for any reason for Photogrammetry to fly and map a particular bridge, they should be notified. Please note that this will not change the project status. L&S will still be responsible for delivering the design file on the date requested, with full coverage as requested.
- If panels are set, they should be set and controlled during the flying season. Photogrammetry will then provide shell mapping for the entire project.
- Photogrammetry will return shell mapping to L&S no later than 2 months prior to the plan sheet delivery date. At that time, L&S will complete bridge design files as requested by Roadway Design in initial coverage, for delivery to Roadway Design at requested due date.



Attached is the letter for the 1998 Bridge Plan-Design Projects. As stated, these are your requests for surveys. We have assigned LS numbers accordingly. Please proceed with these surveys as per these procedures as defined. We anticipate a letter similar to this every fall. This letter will be your only request for full surveys. Each group Leader will be responsible for ensuring that all data is gathered and delivered in a timely manner. Project progress reports should be created upon receipt of the initial letter and revised as needed.

This procedure does not conflict with the established procedures on "B" projects. Given sufficient time to work these into their schedules, Photogrammetry will always try to be of assistance on "B" jobs. They will provide shell mapping of whatever can be seen. It is now as it always has been, L&S' responsibility to provide complete bridge design files to Roadway Design. The only difference between these and any other bridges is that coverage may be wider than normal.

Six of these bridges are identified as being due in July, 1998. These will be designed by others. Because of this, these bridges will have a due date that requires a shortening of the described procedure. Photogrammetry needs panels and controls on these 6 as soon as possible, in order to map and return mapping to us within a reasonable amount of time for us to finish plan sheets by July 1, 1998.

We hope that this will clear up any confusion about Plan-Design Bridge projects. Please do not hesitate to contact your Area Engineer or this office with any questions that you might have. As always, thank you for your time and consideration, and keep up the good work.

DEB:cwb

cc: Mr. R. L. Hill, PE  
Mr. G. T. Shearin, PE  
Mr. Cecil Hinnant