



**BRIDGE ADVISORY**  
**Construction & Technology Division**  
**Bridge Operations Section**

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**BRIDGE ADVISORY NUMBER: BA-2007-04**

**DATE:** August 13, 2007

**Note:** This Bridge Advisory was originally issued as **BITA-5**. It is being reissued as a Bridge Advisory for cataloging purposes.

**SUBJECT:** Immediate Inspection of Deck Truss Bridges Containing Fracture Critical Members (FCM)

**ISSUED BY:** Richard Smith, Bridge Inspection Program Manager

**REVIEWED BY:** David Juntunen, Bridge Operations Engineer

Contact Information: Richard Smith Bridge Inspection Program Manager, 517-322-5715 or [smithr@michigan.gov](mailto:smithr@michigan.gov)

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Responding to the tragic bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters has called on all states to inspect immediately any steel deck truss bridges similar to Minnesota's I-35 W Bridge. The FHWA's Technical Advisory 5140.27 is attached.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has inspected the fracture critical deck truss bridges under its jurisdiction and has made direct contact with the local agency bridge owners who have steel deck truss bridges identified in the inspection database. However, if you believe your agency has a bridge of this design that may be miscoded in the bridge database, please contact us. The MDOT will provide assistance to local agencies to insure the precautionary actions strongly recommended by the advisory, by FHWA and, the USDOT are completed in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact either Rick Smith, Bridge Inspection Program Manager at 517-322-5715, or Dave Juntunen, Engineer of Bridge Operations at 517-322-5688.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: Technical Advisory 5140.27 - Immediate Inspection of Deck Truss Bridges Containing Fracture Critical Members (FCM)      Date: August 2, 2007

From: Frederick G. Wright (Bud)  
Executive Director (HOA-3)

To: Division Administrators  
Directors of Field Services  
Federal Land Highway Division  
Engineers

## **PURPOSE**

In light of the uncertainty surrounding the cause of the I-35 W Bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Minnesota, we strongly advise that all State Transportation Agencies and other bridge owners immediately re-inspect all steel deck truss bridges with fracture critical members. At a minimum, State Transportation Agencies and other bridge owners should review inspection reports, including those for routine, in-depth, fracture critical, and underwater, to determine whether more detailed inspections are warranted.

## **BACKGROUND**

At 6:05 P.M. EST on Wednesday, August 1, 2007, the bridge over the Mississippi River between University Avenue and Washington Avenue on highway I-35 W in Minneapolis, MN, collapsed. Numerous vehicles were on the bridge at the time.

To assist with this undertaking we are attaching the Structural Inventory and Assessment. We will provide State Transportation Agencies with additional information as it becomes available.

Please refer any question to Benjamin Tang at 202-366-4592 or [benjamin.tang@dot.gov](mailto:benjamin.tang@dot.gov).

Attachment

