

## Applying the FHWA Program Comment on Common Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges

The FHWA *Program Comment on Common Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges* (Bridge PC) is a streamlining measure that removes certain common concrete and steel bridges from further consideration under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The full text is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-16/pdf/2012-27866.pdf>. FHWA also has a Bridge PC background page at [http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/program\\_comment.asp](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/program_comment.asp).

### Key concepts:

- Bridges must be of the types and date range listed in the Bridge PC
- Certain exclusions must be considered *before* the Bridge PC is determined applicable. A cultural resources professional must confirm and document that the exclusions do not apply to a project.
- The Bridge PC is not a Section 106 waiver for projects that involve bridges. The project's effects on any other historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect (APE) must still be considered.

### What bridge types are covered?

#### Post-1945

(A) Reinforced concrete slab bridges (i) Reinforced concrete cast-in-place slabs (ii) Reinforced concrete pre-cast slabs (iii) Pre-stressed concrete slabs	(C) Steel Multi-Beam or Multi-Girder bridges (i) Steel-rolled multi-beams (ii) Steel fabricated (built up) girders
(B) Reinforced concrete beam and girder bridges (i) Reinforced concrete Tee Beams (ii) Reinforced concrete channel beams (iii) Pre-stressed concrete I-Beams and Bulb Tees (iv) Pre-stressed concrete box beams	(D) Culverts and reinforced concrete boxes (i) Reinforced concrete boxes (ii) Concrete box culverts (iii) Concrete pipe culverts (iv) Steel pipe culverts

### What are the exclusions?

- ❖ The bridge is listed in or has previously been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or is located adjacent to or within a National Register listed or eligible historic district, including linear historic districts such as a parkway, historic road, or canal; or
- ❖ The bridge in question is or includes spans of the following types: Arch bridges, truss bridges, bridges with movable spans, suspension bridges, cable-stayed bridges, or covered bridges; or
- ❖ The bridge is one of the Alaska-specific exclusions
  - # 381, Eyak River Bridge (Marie Smith Jones Bridge)
  - # 688, Canyon Creek Bridge, Denali Highway
  - # 740, Gastineau Channel Bridge

Additionally, the Bridge PC does not apply on tribal lands, as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(x).

*How is the Bridge PC handled under the 2014 Programmatic Agreement for... the Federal-Aid Highway Program in Alaska (Section 106 PA)?*

» *Tier 1 Programmatic Allowance Projects*

It is not necessary to consider the Bridge PC for Tier 1 projects.

» *Tier 2 Programmatic Allowance Projects*

If a bridge over 45 years of age is present in the APE, the DOT&PF Professionally Qualified Individual (PQI) should check applicability of the Bridge PC. If the Bridge PC applies, the Tier 2 General Condition 4b is met for that structure. This review should be adequately documented in the Screening Record form for the project.

» *Section 106 Consultation under Appendix D*

If the PQI determines that there are no exclusions and the Bridge PC applies to the project, additional language is to be included in the Section 106 letter:

“DOT&PF has applied the November 2012 Program Comment for Common Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges to this undertaking. The Program Comment is a national-level Section 106 compliance streamlining measure for certain types of bridges. Bridge # [xx] is a type that is covered by this Program Comment. DOT&PF’s cultural resources specialist has reviewed the undertaking, and none of the Program Comment’s exclusions apply. As a result, Bridge # [xx] requires no further review under Section 106.”

*Can the Bridge PC be used for other agency projects?*

Other Federal agencies may apply the Bridge PC to Section 106 reviews in Alaska. The bridge program comment can also be applied in most instances for reviews under the Alaska Historic Preservation Act. That decision will be made by the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the PQI.

*Additional Information:*

State by State list of exempted bridges

[http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/bridges\\_list.asp](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/bridges_list.asp)