



Report Highlights

Bridge Inspection Program

Department of Transportation and Development

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Why We Conducted This Audit

We conducted this audit to determine whether the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) inspected bridges in accordance with federal requirements during fiscal year 2013.

What We Found

Overall, we found that DOTD was compliant with nine (39%) and either substantially compliant or conditionally compliant with 14 (61%) of the 23 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) metrics (performance measures) for bridge inspections. There were no metrics where DOTD received a non-compliant rating. DOTD needs to improve on inspection frequency, inspection procedures, and bridge inventory. DOTD does have an approved plan in place with FHWA to reach full compliance with all metrics.

Exhibit 1 2013 FHWA Compliance Ratings by Metric Area				
Metric Area	Total Number of Metrics	Compliant	Substantially Compliant	Conditionally Compliant
Bridge Inspection Organization	1	1	0	0
Qualifications of Personnel	4	4	0	0
Inspection Frequency	6	0	1	5
Inspection Procedures	10	3	1	6
Bridge Inventory	2	1	1	0
Total	23	9	3	11

Source: Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using data provided by FHWA.

In addition, during our audit we found the following:

- Of the 12,905 bridges in Louisiana, 1,806 (14%) are classified as structurally deficient based on the results of DOTD's bridge inspections. According to a Transportation for America report on the state of the nation's bridges, Louisiana ranks 13th highest in its population of structurally deficient bridges.
- DOTD estimates that Louisiana has a backlog of \$2.7 billion in bridge maintenance and construction projects primarily consisting of structurally deficient bridges. Because of the limited funding available to address all of the bridges in the backlog, DOTD has been unable to significantly reduce the backlog of bridge needs. As a result, the number of structurally deficient bridges has remained fairly constant from 2009 through 2013.

Exhibit 2 Structurally-Deficient Bridge Population 2009-2013	
Year	Number of Structurally Deficient Bridges
2009	1,712
2010	1,710
2011	1,626
2012	1,758
2013	1,806

Source: Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using data provided by FHWA.