



# P O L I C Y

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| Policy Title<br><b>BRIDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> | Date<br><b>March 12, 2020</b> | Resolution No.<br><b>C/135/20</b> |

## Policy Statement

Lacombe County will establish and maintain a Bridge Management Plan with the objective of improving and maintaining the bridge infrastructure and ensuring adequate funding is available to facilitate the maintenance, repair and replacement of bridge structures. The needs of all areas of the County shall be given equal consideration when developing the Bridge Management Plan.

## Regulation

### Components of the Bridge Management Plan

1. Regularly scheduled inspections:
  - a) As per Bridge Inspection & Maintenance System (BIM) inspection program
  - b) Generally inspected at least once every five years
  - c) Structures that have identified issues may be inspected on a more regular basis
2. Maintenance - priorities for the bridge maintenance program are to be based on the greatest need and most benefit using the following criteria:
  - a) Public safety
  - b) General condition of existing structure
  - c) Traffic volumes and type of traffic
  - d) Traffic patterns and alternative roads available
  - e) Maintenance concerns
  - f) Cost of construction
3. Repair program – major repairs will be subject to annual budget allocations:
  - a) Repairs to be undertaken subject to availability of materials, manpower, and equipment
  - b) Subject to cost/benefit calculations
4. Replacement program -- priorities for the bridge replacement program are to be based on the greatest need and most benefit using the following criteria:
  - a) Sufficiency rating
  - b) Structural rating
  - c) Cost
  - d) Traffic volumes
  - e) Life expectancy

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- f) Functionality
  - g) Detour length
  - h) Local importance
5. Alternative Structures – Lacombe County will consider alternative structures comparable to Bailey bridges or low level crossings in some circumstances. A cost/benefit evaluation should be undertaken to justify an alternative structure. Factors to consider prior to installing an alternative structure are:
- a) Public safety
  - b) Condition of structure
  - c) Cost analysis
  - d) Traffic volumes and types of traffic
  - e) Traffic patterns and alternative roads available
  - f) Number of residences directly impacted
  - g) Length of detours
  - h) Local importance
  - i) Liability issues
  - j) Risk mitigation plan
6. Closure of Bridges – Lacombe County will only consider the closure and removal of a bridge as a last resort. The general public will be consulted prior to the permanent closure or removal of a bridge. The following criteria will be used to evaluate the possible closure and removal of a bridge:
- a) Public safety
  - b) Condition of structure
  - c) Traffic volumes and types of traffic
  - d) Traffic patterns and alternative roads available
  - e) Number of residences directly impacted
  - f) Length of detours
  - g) Use of alternative structures such as low level crossing or bailey bridge
  - h) Local importance

### **Administration**

The Bridge Management Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the County Manager or his designate:

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1. To facilitate design, land acquisition, and environmental approvals, a two to four-year bridge management schedule will be established and maintained.
2. The bridge program will be reviewed in conjunction with the long-range road construction schedule in order to coordinate the planning and work.
3. Annual contributions to the bridge reserve and repair or replacement of bridge structures shall be approved by Council through the budget process.
4. The County Manager or designate will review the proposed projects and subsequent evaluations based on the above criteria and provide recommendations to Council.
5. Projects that are currently on the long-term bridge schedule will normally be given a higher priority and completed prior to any new projects.

Approved: June 27, 2013  
Revised: February 28, 2019