

Ministry of Transportation  
Office of the Chief Engineer  
Provincial Highways Management  
Division  
4th Floor, Garden City Tower  
301 St. Paul Street  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7R4  
Tel Number: 905-704-2299

Ministère des Transports  
Bureau de l'ingénieur en chef  
Division de la gestion des routes  
provinciales  
4e étage, tour Garden City  
301 rue St. Paul  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7R4  
Tél 905-704-2299



July 24, 2019

Dan Cozzi, P.Eng.  
Executive Director  
Municipal Engineers Association  
1525 Cornwall Road, Unit 22  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6J 0B2

Dear Mr. Cozzi:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to correspond with you as the Chief Engineer for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. I look forward to working with you in my new role.

As you are aware, the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act (PTHIA) legally requires that the structural integrity, safety and condition of every bridge in Ontario be determined through inspection every two calendar years by or under the direction of a Professional Engineer, in accordance with the Ontario Structure Inspection Manual (OSIM). Besides a knowledge of structure condition, inherent in any bridge inspection is a proper understanding of the articulation of the structure and its behaviour. OSIM is primarily based on visual inspection and there are situations where components to be inspected are difficult to access or not readily visible and/or the bridge contains details that are critical to the performance of the bridge. In these cases, additional efforts are required to adequately inspect the bridge either through an enhanced OSIM inspection or through additional investigations.

Bridges where the above considerations are of particular importance are bridges with short end spans with hold down anchors at the abutments and/or drop in spans. Bridges where the length of end spans are less than 60% of the adjacent main spans are more likely to have uplift reactions at the abutments and require hold down anchorages. In cases where the hold downs are not visible for inspection, a visual inspection may not be sufficient, and a more invasive investigation and evaluation may be required.

The ministry is recommending that municipalities review their inventory for bridges that have hold down anchors and/or drop in spans, and ensure that all inspections and other investigations are completed to ensure these bridges are safe.

Dan Cozzi  
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We would appreciate if you can share this information with your members. If there are any questions, please contact the ministry's Bridge Office at 905-704-2406.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Harkness', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Graham Harkness, P.Eng.  
Executive Director / Chief Engineer