Washington State Bridges

Facts & Statistics

- In 2013, there are 66,405 structurally deficient bridges in the US. This represents 11% of all US highway bridges. Structurally deficient bridges are those that require significant maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement.
- Most bridges are designed to last 50 years before requiring major changes or replacement. On average 'structurally deficient bridges' are 65 years old.
- Washington State Bridge DataRank: 46
- Total number of bridges: 7,806
- Total number of deficient bridges: 362
- Percent deficient: 4.6%
- Average age of all bridges: 43
- Average age of deficient bridges: 61
- Average daily traffic on deficient bridges: 2,925,184
- As of 2011, there were 7,743 bridges in Washington State. Of these, 5% (391) are structurally deficient. This places Washington state sixth in the nation for least number of structurally deficient bridges.
- 36% of Washington's bridges are over 50 years old.
- 205 of Washington bridges (1,548) are classified as functionally obsolete because they either cannot meet current traffic demands or do not meet current design standards.
- 366 of the 7,840 bridges in Washington (4.7%) are considered structurally deficient.
- 1,693 of the 7,840 bridges in Washington (21.6%) are considered functionally obsolete.
- Washington received $146 million from the Federal Highway Bridge Fund in FY2011
- 139 state-owned bridges classified as structurally deficient as of January 2014.
- The USDOT also issues ratings for the condition of each bridge. The scorses –entitled sufficiency ratings – range from 1 to 100, with 1 being the worst. The ratings are based on the condition of the bridge's deck, superstructure (structural elements that support the deck) and substructure (the bridge's foundation, abutments, piers).
- "Structurally deficient means that a bridge requires repair or replacement of a certain component, such as cracked or spalled concrete or the entire bridge itself. Being structurally deficient does not imply that the bridge is in danger of collapse or unsafe to the traveling public." Of the 7,800 bridges across the state of Washington, 366 of them have been deemed "structurally deficient" by the US Department of Transportation's Bridge Inventory Database.
- According to a 2012 Skagit County Public Works Department, 42 of the county's 108 bridges that are 50 years or older. The document says eight of the bridges are more than 70 years old and two are over 80.
- When a bridge is built, it is given a design life of 75 years. The average age of state-owned vehicular bridges is now 41 years. (WSDOT)
- Washington State was given a C in the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2013 infrastructure report card and a C- when it came to the state's bridges. The group said that more than a quarter of Washington's 7,840 bridges are considered structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.
- In King County, 38 of the 180 bridges in the area are listed as structurally deficient by the US Department of Transportation's Bridge Inventory Database.

Sources:

The Fix We're In For: The State of Our Nation's Bridges 2013, published by *Transportation for America*.
2013 Report Card For Washington's Infrastructure, published by American Society of Civil Engineers
WSDOT Structurally Deficient Bridges, Washington State Department of Transportation, January 2014. WSDOT