

**WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS**

Resolution 2-12

**Expressing Concern with the Newly Implemented National Bridge Inspection
Standards Contained in 23 CFR 650 Subpart C.**

WHEREAS, WASHTO supports a National Bridge Inspection Program that ensures bridges are inspected in a timely manner to assure safe passage for the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, complying with the new bridge inspection standards has required a large amount of time, generated a tremendous amount of paperwork, and required a significant commitment of resources; and

WHEREAS, it does not appear that the new bridge metrics add any measurable value to the bridge inspection program or to the safety of a state's bridges; and

WHEREAS, a rigid 24 month inspection cycle creates inefficiency in the bridge inspection process; and

WHEREAS, the interpretation of the metrics varies from state to state; and

WHEREAS, emphasis is based on the details of the metric rather than increasing the effectiveness of the bridge inspection program; and

WHEREAS, risk has not been taken into consideration in establishing the metrics, the inspection frequency for an 80 year old bridge is the same as for a new bridge; and

WHEREAS, the "one size fits all" concept is flawed, a county bridge with less than 200 ADT should not be treated the same as a bridge with over 10,000 ADT; and

WHEREAS, FHWA has revised some of the original metrics, the revisions do not address the core issues associated with those metrics;

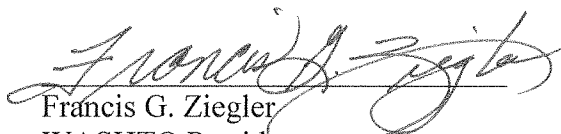
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WASHTO expresses strong concern about our ability to comply with the 23 metrics contained in the new National Bridge Inspection Standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Bridge Inspection Standards need to be revised to restore the bridge inspection program to meet individual state needs while meeting national requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the number of metrics needs to be reduced and more thought given on how the metrics will improve the efficiency of the Bridge Inspection Program while meeting the need to provide safe bridges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Department of Transportation and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Adopted by the WASHTO Board of Directors on May 20, 2012.


Francis G. Ziegler
WASHTO President

5/20/12
Date