
BRIDGE MEMO – CRITICAL FINDINGS NOTIFICATION BY ADOT DISTRICT’S

TO: ADOT District Administrators, Assistant District Engineers, and Maintenance Superintendents

FROM: David Benton, P.E.

Bridge Group

State Bridge Engineer

DATE: January 30th, 2026

RE: Critical Findings on Bridges Located on the National Highway System (NHS)

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform ADOT District’s Administrators, Assistant District Engineers, and Maintenance Superintendents about FHWA’s notification requirements after the discovery of a critical finding on a bridge located on the National Highway System (NHS).

Per the Code of Federal Regulations, ADOT must notify FHWA within 24 hours of the discovery of any critical findings on a bridge located on the NHS. The notification to FHWA will include the completed, temporary, and/or planned actions to resolve the discovered critical findings that either requires a full or partial bridge closure, including a bridge’s shoulder.

Critical Findings are defined as structural or safety related deficiencies which require immediate action to ensure public safety. Closing the bridge, shutting down one or more travel lanes, or closing access to the shoulder are examples of immediate action taken. Closures as a result of a crash or clearing of an incident are not considered a critical finding, unless the closure is a result of damage to the bridge.

Upon the discovery of a bridge related safety issue, and a full or partial closure has been implemented; Bridge Group must be notified immediately. Calling the ADOT Traffic Operations Center (TOC) is the most efficient communication method. The TOC staff will contact the Bridge Group emergency contact personnel alerting them about a bridge related issue. Bridge Group personnel will then call the TOC to collect information about the incident and to determine if it is a critical finding. If the incident qualifies as a critical finding, the Bridge Inspection Program Manager (Amjad Alzubi or a proxy from the Bridge Group Emergency Contact List) will notify FHWA as soon as possible, but within the required 24 hours notification window.

The expectations of determining if the bridge location is on the NHS may not be feasible at the time of a critical finding, since some routes are not fully designated as NHS from beginning to end of milepost limits. Therefore, it is recommended that any full or partial closure of a bridge due to a safety related issue be communicated as soon as possible. Bridge Group’s staff members have the necessary information available to determine if the bridge is located on the NHS.

A map of NHS routes in Arizona can be accessed via this link:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e15d10a39391455c89616a6e7b8662f8/page/Page?org=azgeo>

The table below contains the Bridge Group Emergency Contact List to be contacted to report a bridge incident:

Bridge Group Emergency Contact List			
Title	Name	Phone Number	Email
ADOT State Bridge Engineer	David Benton	Office (602) 712-7910 Cell (480) 253-8854	dbenton@azdot.gov
ADOT Assistant State Bridge Engineer - Bridge Inspection Program Manager	Amjad Alzubi	Office (602) 712-8619 Cell (480) 547-9216	aalzubi@azdot.gov
ADOT Bridge Inspection Section Leader	Ramon Gama	Office (602) 712-8791 Cell (480) 416-6296	rgama@azdot.gov

Additional information about Critical Findings on Bridges located on the NHS can be found on the Bridge Group's website by clicking on this link:

<https://azdot.gov/business/engineering-and-construction/bridge/bridge-preservation-services>