AASHTO Response to NTSB Recommendations After I-35 Bridge Investigation

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NTSB RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation Letter Issued November 2008

- Six recommendations for AASHTO
  - H-08-20 through H-08-25

- Response letter written to NTSB on March 12, 2009
Recommendations Addressed by AASHTO
AASHTO Actions on NTSB Recommendations

- **H-08-21**: Revise your Manual for Bridge Evaluation to include guidance for conducting load ratings on new bridges before they are placed in service
  - In a recent AASHTO survey, a few states indicated that they use load rating as a secondary “quality check” of bridge designs
  - T-18 plans to include language in their ballot items (#45) to further clarify the purpose of load rating.
AASHTO Actions on NTSB Recommendations

- **H-08-22**: Modify the guidance and procedures in your Manual for Bridge Evaluation to include evaluating the capacity of gusset plates as part of the load rating calculations performed for non-load-path-redundant steel truss bridges

- T-18 Ballot Items #43 (Inspection methods of gusset plates/connections) and #47 (Load rating of gusset plates)
AASHTO Actions on NTSB Recommendations

- **H-08-24**: Develop specifications and guidelines for use by bridge owners to ensure that construction loads and stockpiled raw materials placed on a structure during construction or maintenance projects do not overload the structural members or their connections.

- **T-4 Ballot Item #3** – Change to *LRFD Construction Specifications*
AASHTO Actions on NTSB Recommendations

H-08-25: Include gusset plates as a commonly recognized structural element (CoRe) and develop guidance for bridge owners in tracking and responding to potentially damaging conditions in gusset plates, such as corrosion and distortion; and revise the AASHTO Guide for Commonly Recognized (CoRe) Structural Elements to incorporate the new information.

T-18 Ballot Item #48 addresses this issue and includes a new section on Gusset Plates within CoRE
Recommendations to be Addressed in the Near Future
AASHTO Actions on NTSB Recommendations

- **H-08-20**: Work with the Federal Highway Administration to develop and implement a bridge design quality assurance/quality control program...

- AASHTO investigation – Survey of States on QA/QC practices in Bridge Design
- White Paper – Synthesis of Practices
  - Made Available to FHWA
AASHTO Actions on NTSB Recommendations

- **H-08-23:** When the findings of the Federal Highway Administration/American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials joint study on gusset plates become available, update the Manual for Bridge Evaluation accordingly.

- Update on research later in the General Session
- Experimental results available by SCOBS meeting in 2010, with information most likely included in the 2011 SCOBS ballots
Questions??