



Bridge Inspection Memorandum

13-02

To: County Bridge Inspectors & BIAS Users

From: Merril Dougherty, Bridge Inspection Manager

Date: 05 AUG 2013

Re: Item 72 - Approach Roadway Alignment

Due to numerous discrepancies in county reports, please review the following with all of your team members:

Item 72 - Approach Roadway Alignment – This appraisal is based on comparing the alignment of the bridge approaches to the general highway alignment of the section of roadway on which the structure is located. The rating guidelines are correctly applied by determining if the vertical or horizontal curvature of the bridge approaches differs from the section of highway the bridge is on, resulting in a reduction of vehicle operating speed to cross the bridge.

The guidelines for FHWA Item 72, Appraisal or Approach Roadway Alignment, are as follows:

- * If no reduction in the operating speed of a vehicle is required compared to the highway, code Item 72 as an "8."
- * If only a very minor reduction in the operating speed of a vehicle is required compared to the highway, code Item 72 as a "6."
- * If a substantial reduction in the operating speed of a vehicle is required compared to the highway, code Item 72 as a "3."

The following guidelines indicate a means of determining the difference between a minor reduction and substantial reduction of operating speed:

- * Minor reduction in operating speed - ≤ 9 mph
- * Substantial reduction in operating speed - ≥ 10 mph

The remaining codes between these general values should be applied at the inspector's discretion.