

 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	Office of Structures <i>Guidelines and Procedures</i> <i>Memorandum</i>	INSPECTION
		Number: OOS-GPM-SI-121
		Date: 08-06-2026
Posting of Highway Structures for Weight Restrictions		Approval: 

For any highway bridge in Maryland, when the load rating analysis, as performed in accordance with Structural Load Ratings, D-97-47(4), indicates that the Operating Rating of any of the Maryland legal load vehicles is less than the vehicle weight, a weight restriction must be implemented accordingly. The Maryland legal load vehicles are the H-15, Type 4 (Single Unit Vehicles), HS-20 and 3S2 (Combination Vehicles). In addition, if a bridge has been evaluated as being incapable of carrying any of today's legal vehicles, i.e., Operating Rating is less than or equal to three (3) tons, then it shall be closed.

The bridge owner has the option of posting at the Inventory level. Refer to Increased Inspection Frequency, OOS-GPM-SI-105 for any impacts to inspection frequency.

When considering the need to revise an existing posting:

- If the existing posting is based on an Inventory level rating, consider only revising the posting signs if the change is greater than 2 tons.
- If the existing posting is based on an Operating level rating, the posting shall be revised if the posting would be more restrictive. If the new posting would be less restrictive, then the posting need not be revised but is up to the owner and should be dependent on the impacts of the current posting.

The required posting signs must be installed within 30 days of the date on which the posting is determined to be necessary. Posting may be delayed if, within 30 days of the date on which the posting is determined to be necessary, remedial design and construction efforts will eliminate the need for the weight restriction. The 30 day requirement also applies to situations where existing posting signs are found to be missing or not clearly visible or legible.

The following procedures must be followed when placing a posting on an unrestricted structure or rescinding, raising or lowering an existing posting.

MDOT SHA Bridges

1. The Project Engineer (PE) prepares the **Bridge Posting Impacts Memorandum** from the Director, Office of Structures to the appropriate District Engineer. The District is requested to provide written responses to a series of questions concerning potential impacts to the community, school transportation, emergency services, etc. within 10 calendar days.
2. Upon receipt of District's responses, the PE shall discuss with the Director, Office of Structures, and prepare with the assistance of the Senior Program Manager – Structure Inventory the following documents : (templates are attached to this GPM):

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Posting Memorandum for State Bridges (Standard Memorandum for Bridge Posting Recommendation – Bridges on State Highway System)

State Structure Posting Summary which contains the information received from the District including detour route and length

3. The PE shall prepare a cover letter from the Director, Office of Structures to the Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Planning, Engineering, Real Estate and Environment. The Posting Memorandum, the State Structure Posting Summary, and a copy of the previous Posting Memorandum, if existing, shall be attached.
4. Upon approval of the Posting Memorandum by the Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer, the PE shall provide the BME with the original signed Posting Memorandum. The BME will make copies for distribution to the District and all concerned parties, and place the original Posting Memorandum in the State Bridge Posting Book.
5. After all posting and if applicable detour signs are erected, the Assistant District Engineer – Traffic should return a signed copy of the Posting Memorandum to the BME. This copy along with the original signed Posting Memorandum is kept on file in the State Bridge Posting book. A copy of the Posting Memorandum along with the supporting documentation is placed in the Structure Asset Management (SAM) program. Any prior Posting Memorandum is removed from the State Bridge Posting book and placed into the SAM program.

Local Agency Bridges

1. In accordance with the State of Maryland's Vehicle Law, the following local jurisdictions have the authority to post their bridges without MDOT SHA approval. A copy of the Posting Memorandum shall be sent to the BME to be kept on file in the LA Bridge Posting Book:
 - Allegany County
 - Anne Arundel County
 - Baltimore County
 - Carroll County
 - Frederick County
 - Harford County
 - Howard County
 - Montgomery County
 - Prince George's County
 - St. Mary's County
 - Washington County

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For all other local jurisdictions and State Agencies, the LA Program Manager shall prepare the appropriate Posting Memorandum (templates are attached to this GPM):

Posting Memorandum for County Bridges (Standard Memorandum for Bridge Posting Recommendation – Bridges on County Road System)

Posting Memorandum for Agency Bridges (Standard Memorandum for Bridge Posting Recommendation – Bridges owned by State Agency)

2. The LA Program Manager shall submit to the BME the completed Posting Memorandum along with a letter providing the reasons for the posting including any actions planned for repairs, rehabilitation or replacement of the structure.
3. The BME will prepare a cover letter from the Director, Office of Structures to the Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Planning, Engineering, Real Estate and Environment. The Posting Memorandum, the LA Program Manager's letter and a copy of the previous Posting Memorandum, if existing, shall be attached.
4. Upon approval of the Posting Memorandum by the Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer, the BME will make copies for distribution to the Local Agency and all concerned parties, and place the original Posting Memorandum in the LA Bridge Posting Book (located with BME).
5. After all posting and detour signs, if applicable, are erected, the LA Program Manager shall return a signed copy of the Posting Memorandum to the BME. This copy along with the original signed Posting Memorandum is kept on file in the LA Bridge Posting Book. A copy of the signed Posting Memorandum along with supporting documentation must be kept in the LA's Structure Asset Management (SAM) program.