



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Mike Beard, Chair
House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee
417 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, Ranking Minority Member
House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee
213 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Joe Gimse, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
303 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation Committee
115 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am pleased to share with you the Biennial Report on Bridge Inspection Quality Assurance. The report describes bridge inspection quality control and quality assurance procedures used in Minnesota and summarizes changes that have been made to the state bridge inspection program since the August 2007 collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge.

Minnesota's bridge inspection program must meet the National Bridge Inspection Standards in addition to state statutes and rules. Mn/DOT is responsible under the NBIS for establishing bridge inspection quality control and quality assurance procedures to maintain a uniformly safe inventory of bridges on all public roadways. The procedures summarized in this report help to assure the quality of all inspections conducted by state, county and municipal bridge owners.

The Federal Highway Administration is responsible for monitoring our state's inspection program to ensure compliance with the NBIS and to recommend improvements where needed. The report contains a comprehensive discussion of FHWA recommendations and Mn/DOT responses to program reviews conducted in 2008 and 2009. The report also discusses several program improvements initiated by Mn/DOT.

Mn/DOT strives for continuous quality improvement in the management of our public infrastructure. The changes made to bridge inspection practices described in this report are evidence of that commitment. Mn/DOT will continue to partner with the Federal

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Highway Administration and county and municipal bridge owners to annually review and strengthen our statewide bridge inspection program. We will work to provide the best available training to bridge inspection staff and to integrate current technology into our inspection processes, as we work to create a safe, efficient and sustainable transportation system for the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this report, or you can contact Duane Hill in Mn/DOT's Bridge Office at duane.hill@state.mn.us or 651-366-4501.

Sincerely,



Thomas K. Sorel
Commissioner

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