**DTSD – BOS Standardized Bridge Plans Justification**

As part of the Department’s efforts to reduce oversight, delivery and overall costs associated with the Local Bridge Program; the Bureau of Structures (BOS) is developing standardized single slab concrete span bridge plans to reduce the required effort and costs associated with the design and plan production of local bridges. Concrete flat slab bridges represent about 45% of the types of replacement bridges used on the local roads. An automated catalog of concrete flat slab bridge plans that cover a range of lengths, widths, and skews – amongst other bridge features – will provide an efficient means of creating plans with reduced final design engineering cost.

The standardized plans will provide for a significant reduction in the overall delivery cost associated with simple flat slab concrete slab bridges. Bridge type, size and location (preliminary engineering, including hydraulics and geotechnical analysis) will still be required, however that work typically accounts for only about 20% of the overall bridge design and plan preparation cost. We anticipate approximately 25-30 local road flat slab bridges per year, on average, could utilize standardized bridge plans.

This initiative has moved forward with the full support of the DTSD Administrator’s Office and WisDOT Secretary’s Office. The initiative has been presented externally in a number of forums and its implementation is eagerly awaited by local bridge owners across the state.

A key part of the final delivery of this effort is the user interface. In this case, the end user (consultant engineer) will access the standardized bridge plans tool via a website. Without the website, we will not be able to realize the full efficiencies and associated cost savings that are anticipated as a part of this effort.

BITS time and efforts to help us maintain our timeline on this high-priority effort are very much appreciated.

**Josh Dietsche, P.E. | Director – Bureau of Structures**

