National Bridge Deck Preservation Working Group

Sarah Sondag | Co-Chair | Minnesota DOT

Pat Martens | Co-Chair | Bridge Preservation and Inspection Services

Andy Nanneman | Vice-Chair | Arkansas DOT

Steven Austin | Secretary | Texas DOT









Flushing/Washing



Sealing



Joint Maintenance





Concrete Repair



Overlays



Other Actions

- Cathodic Protection
- Chloride Extraction
- Joint Elimination
- Preserving Bridge Decks with Traffic Induced Distress







Bridge Deck Flushing and Washing

Description

Bridge deck flushing and washing are cyclical preventive maintenance activities performed to clean the bridge deck, joints, and drains. Deck washing consists of applying water under high pressure and deck flushing consists of applying water at a low pressure, but high volume. The process and water pressure allowed will depend on agency environmental regulations.

Benefits

Flushing and washing reduce the potential for waste, debris, deicing chemical residue, bird droppings, and other contaminants to accumulate, which can hinder drainage and joint function and, according to the FHWA Bridge Preservation Guide, lead to accelerated deterioration of concrete and steel elements. In addition, elements that are free of debris are easier to inspect.

Best Practices

- Follow all agency guidelines, state and federal environmental regulations, best management practices and time of year restrictions.
- Be aware of hazardous materials on the bridge that may require special procedures and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the safety of the workers and the environment.
- Sweep and collect debris from the bridge deck within two weeks prior to the flushing or washing operation.
- Consider flushing or washing other bridge elements, such as joints, drains, sidewalks, medians, curbs, barrier and parapet walls, abutment seats, back walls, bearing seats, bearings, pier columns in the splash zone, beam ends, end diaphragms and truss members in the splash zone with an emphasis on panel points, in order to more effectively preserve the life of the entire bridge.
- Perform flushing or washing on a cycle. Example agency recommendations include flushing or washing every 0.5 to 2 years or as often as constraints allow.

Resources

- A User's Guide to Bridge Cleaning
- AASHTO TC3 Training on Bridge Cleaning (Item Code TC3MN037-19-T1, 1 PDH)
- (2013) Standard Practice for Washing and Cleaning Concrete Bridge Decks and Substructure Bridge Seats including Bridge Bearings and Expansion Joints to Prevent Structural Deterioration, Washington State <u>Transportation Center</u>
- (2013) Evaluation of Bridge Cleaning Methods on Steel Structures, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Description

Benefits

Best Practices

Resources













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HOMEPAGE

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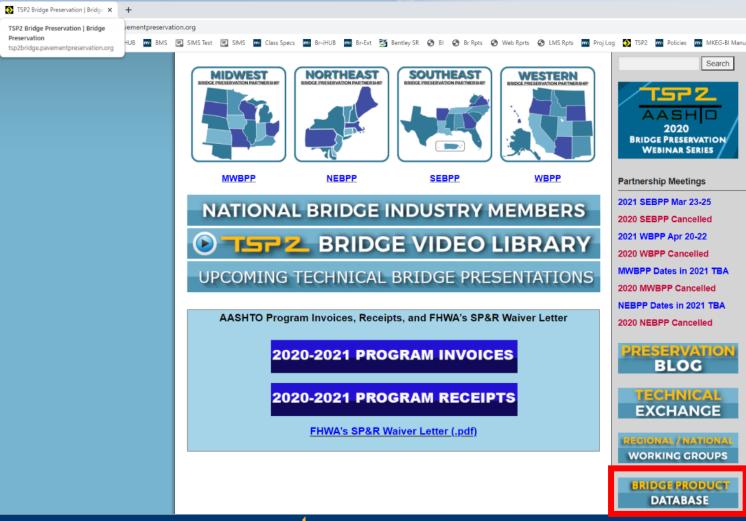
Harrisburg, PA

2022 SEBPP 8/30-9/01

Raleigh, NC



Bridge Product Database



- Sealers
- Overlays
- Deck Patching Products



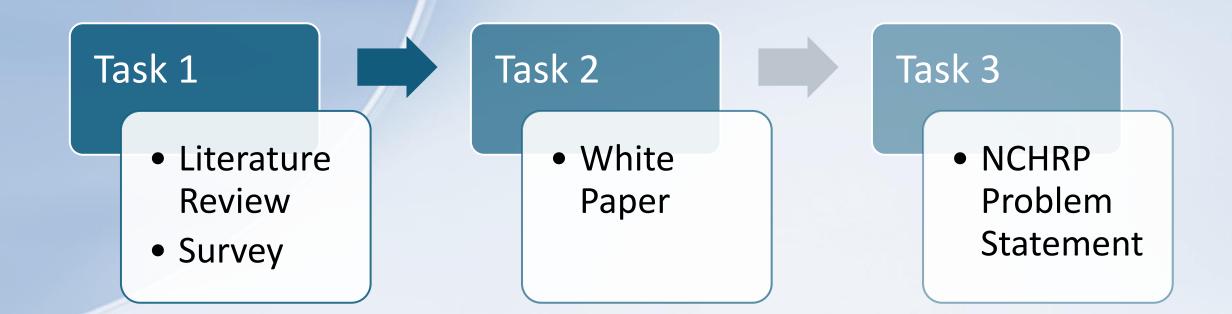








Sealer Synthesis Study



Principal Investigator: Dr. Qingxu "Bill" Jin, Michigan State University









Next Steps



Update Resource Guide



Advance sealer research



Update "Decks & Joints" Webpage



Identify topics and develop resources













Construction Inspection Training

Product/Technology Evaluation

Treatment Frequency

Epoxy Injection, Flushing, Joint Surface Prep

Training/Video Guides









Thank you!

National Bridge Deck Preservation Working Group Update Sarah Sondag | Minnesota DOT | sarah.sondag@state.mn.us







