



WisDOT SEF Construction Multi-Lane Highway/ Freeway Vertical Bridge Clearance Guidance and Example

Bridge clearance measurements are required whenever construction activities have the potential to change bridge clearances. This includes both major rehabilitation on the superstructure of the bridge and paving operations below the bridge.

The [*Bridge Vertical and Horizontal Clearance – Divided Highway*](#) statewide form documents vertical measurements of clearance for two lane divided highways after paving operations are completed. The project engineer should determine the number of vertical clearance checks needed for each traffic control stage and final plan, at the start of the project or stage as applicable. A plan should be developed to obtain measurements when staging closures or contractor lane closures can be utilized for safety. Clearances must be recorded prior to placing traffic under the structure.

Multi-lane divided freeways and highways should be photo documented, complete with the following information, and submitted to the regional Bridge Inspection Program Manager. Photos should depict one span of the freeway or highway, be taken post construction or when final pavement grade is established, and submitted in JPG format.

Photos taken to document clearance should be redlined in Bluebeam, Adobe Acrobat or equivalent software with the following information:

- Structure Number
- Name/ Number and cardinal direction of freeway or highway and intersecting road indicated as over or under the freeway/ highway.
- Project ID
- Date of measurement
- Photos should be taken in direction traffic is traveling and labeled with orientation.
- Measure and indicate vertical clearances at the edges of pavement, edges of shoulders, and along all lane lines. Indicate the lowest girder elevation at each location as shown in the attached examples. Arrows should be drawn accurately at point of measurement, which may be the far side of the structure.
- The controlling (lowest vertical measurement) girder location should be indicated and highlighted in a yellow box for clarity.

“Save as” the marked up photos in JPG format and email to the regional Bridge Inspection Program Manager.

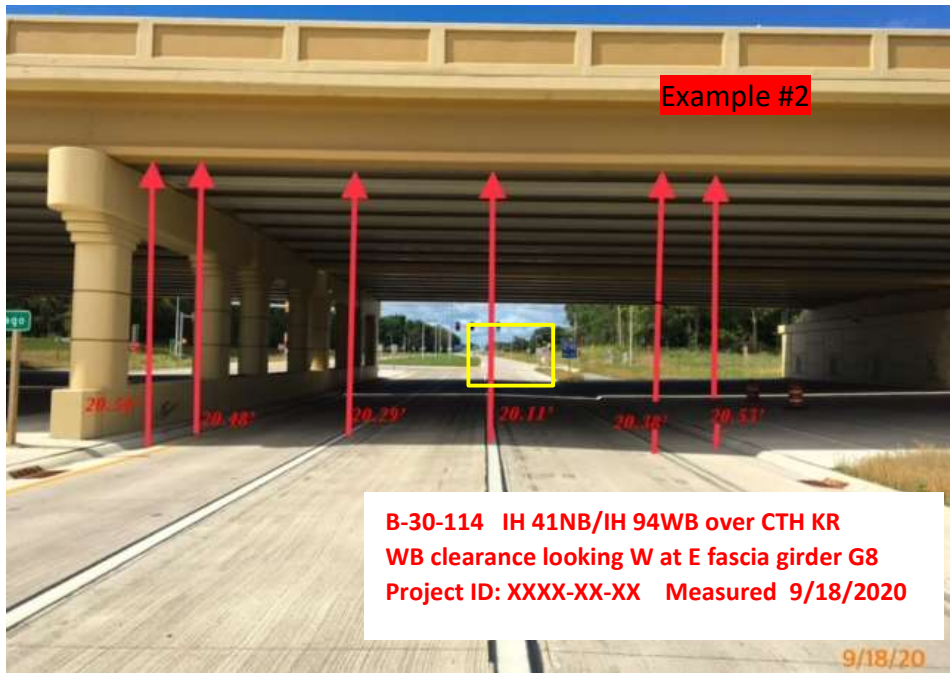


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Examples of Multi-Lane Vertical Clearance Photos:



Clearance taken during staged construction



In example two, IH 41SB/ IH 94EB over CTH KR could be submitted using the same photo but should be marked up accordingly with the arrows drawn at the proper location and submitted in a separate JPG file. For bridges over multi-lane roadways, over a highway, use as many photos as necessary for clarity.