

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS  
SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION PROCEDURES**

**RAVENNA VIADUCT  
RAVENNA, NEBRASKA  
PROJECT NO. BR-68-2 (102)  
STRUCTURAL NO. S068 00044  
CONTROL NO. 42141**

Prepared by the Bridge Office

January 2010



### Inspection Descriptions:

The Ravenna Viaduct is a 174'-0" Tied Arch Bridge constructed in 2005 over six Burlington Northern / Santa Fe rail lines. The bridge has a 43'-0" clear roadway and a 8'-0" sidewalk on the east side of the bridge.

The concrete deck and the steel boxes are post tensioned. The Arch pipe and the steel boxes are filled with concrete. The entire designed structure is in compression.

The hanger rods are 1 3/4" Ø, high strength threaded rods, with single nuts at the top and bottom.

### Inspection Equipment and inspector requirements:

The snooper truck will be essential part in the inspection of the Arch Bridge. All the required supplemental visual inspection shall be done within arm's reach.

### Scheduling Inspection with Burlington Northern / Santa Fe Railroad:

It's the railroads recommendation that inspection should be done within the first 9 months of the year. There is increased freight traffic during holiday period normally beginning in September thru the month of December.

The contact person for the required track scheduling will be:

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### Purpose of the Supplemental Manual

The purpose of the supplemental manual is to aid the inspectors in identifying potential problem areas that are unique to this type of structure. Routine elements that are normally inspected by the inspector and already known to the inspector will not therefore be repeated in the supplemental manual.

With the Ravenna Bridge only being one of two tied-arch bridges in the state of Nebraska there are certain key elements and connections that need to be inspected for the maximum longevity of the structure.

## Inspecting Hanger Rod connections:

### At the top



The hanger connection between the two arch pipes is a critical welded connection.

Inspectors should inspect all welds connecting the hanger to the pipe. Inspectors shall insure the weep holes in the hanger plates are clear of debris that would inhibit proper drainage on the hanger plates.

### At the Bottom of Box



The above photo shows the Threaded Nuts at the bottom of the hanger rods. Nuts at the top and bottom of the hanger rods shall be inspected for cracks as well as tightness.

The welds on the beveled plates located as shown in the above photo where the threaded rod is attached to the bottom of the box should also be inspected.

If necessary the removal of all pigeon nesting should be done before inspecting.

The Ravenna Viaduct does not have bird spikes at the hanger connection as the Columbus Viaduct does.

If the pigeon nesting is causing drainage problems and what might be perceived as continuing detrimental damage to the hanger devices, it may be necessary to add bird spikes at the recommendation of our inspectors.

Below is a picture of the wire spikes used on the Columbus Viaduct.





Inspecting Bolted Floor Beam Connections:

Below is a picture of the bolted connection. The floor beams are bolted onto a steel angle and then the angle is bolted onto the steel box tie beam. The bolted connections shall be inspected to insure all the bolts are still tight and to insure no cracking has occurred between the drilled holes in the angle.



Inspecting the Expansion Devices:

All visible welds at the Arch to Tie-Beam and Tie-Beam to Sole Plate connections shall be inspected for cracks.



Also slots in the Expansion devices should be checked for cracks and the clearance between the bolts and the slots should also be checked for the proper allowed movement.

