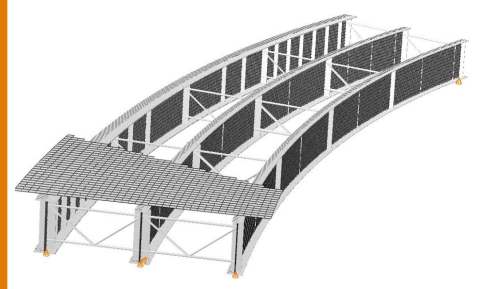


# Guidelines for Steel Girder Bridge Analysis

G13.1-2019



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS  
**AASHTO**



American Association of State Highway and  
Transportation Officials  
*National Steel Bridge Alliance*  
*AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration*

## PREFACE

This document is a standard developed by the AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration. The primary goal of the Collaboration is to achieve steel bridge design and construction of the highest quality and value through standardization of the design, fabrication, and erection processes. Each standard represents the consensus of a diverse group of professionals.

It is intended that Owners adopt and implement Collaboration standards in their entirety to facilitate the achievement of standardization. It is understood, however, that local statutes or preferences may prevent full adoption of the document. In such cases Owners should adopt these documents with the exceptions they feel are necessary.

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ISBN: 978-1-56051-744-3

PUB CODE: NSBASGBA-3

# FOREWORD

The First Edition of *G13.1, Guidelines for Steel Girder Bridge Analysis* was originally published in 2011 and represented a comprehensive treatment of issues related to steel girder bridge analysis, but the guidance presented was largely qualitative.

In the time after the writing of the First Edition, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) completed NCHRP Research Project 12-79, the results of which are documented in NCHRP Report 725, *Guidelines for Analysis Methods and Construction Engineering of Curved and Skewed Steel Girder Bridges*. The research included extensive analytical studies of over 70 different steel girder bridges, comparing the accuracy results of a variety of one-dimensional (1D), two-dimensional (2D), and three-dimensional (3D) analysis methods, and leading to recommendations on appropriate levels of analysis based on the geometric complexity of a given steel girder bridge. Important findings about the nature of current 2D analysis methods were also reported, along with recommended improvements to the modeling of I-girder torsional stiffness and truss-type cross-frame stiffness to increase the accuracy of 2D methods and a recommended method for estimating I-girder flange lateral bending stresses in straight, skewed bridges analyzed using 2D methods. Preliminary findings concerned with the estimation of locked-in force effects and fit-up forces associated with the chosen cross-frame detailing method were also presented. The key findings reported in NCHRP Report 725 were summarized and included as revisions to G13.1 and formed the majority of the changes in the Second Edition. Other changes included: clarifications to the text on prediction of deflections and load rating analyses, incorporation of recommendations on the impact of connection stiffness on cross-frame stiffness, incorporation of recommendations on global second-order amplification of structural response and narrow system stability analysis, and other minor editorial corrections.

The revisions incorporated in the Third Edition of G13.1 again largely reflect summaries of advances in the state of knowledge gained since the publication of the Second Edition. These advances include improved knowledge of steel I-girder fit resulting from the findings and recommendations of NCHRP Research Project 20-07, Task 355, improved methods for evaluating global stability and global second-order amplification of structural responses, the implementation of minimum strength and stiffness requirements for stability bracing of steel I-girder bridges (particularly in straight bridges with little or no skew), improved guidance regarding the effect of connection eccentricity on the stiffness of cross-frames, and significant advancements and refinements in the classification of members as System Redundant Members or Internally Redundant Members, providing objective methods to avoid the costs and complications associated with classification of bridges as fracture-critical. Other editorial changes and clarifications of previous text were also addressed.

AASHTO/NSBA Steel Bridge Collaboration Task Group 13, Fall 2019

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>
--------------------------

SECTION 1—Modeling Description.....	1-1
1.1—Introduction .....	1-1
1.2—Hand Analysis Methods.....	1-1
1.2.1—Beam Charts .....	1-1
1.2.2—Line Girder Analysis Method.....	1-1
1.2.3—V-Load Method.....	1-1
1.2.4—M/R-Load Method.....	1-2
1.3—Finite Element Method .....	1-2
1.3.1—Basic Concept.....	2-2
1.3.2—D Grid Analysis Method .....	2-2
1.3.3—Plate and Eccentric Beam Analysis Methods.....	2-2
1.3.4—Generalized Grid Analysis Method.....	2-3
1.3.5—3D FEM Analysis Methods.....	2-3
1.3.6—Element Types.....	2-4
SECTION 2—HISTORY OF STEEL GIRDER BRIDGE ANALYSIS .....	2-1
2.1—Introduction .....	2-1
2.2—History of Change in the Complexity of Bridges .....	2-1
2.3—Bridge Design Code Advancements.....	2-2
2.4—Bridge Analysis Advancements.....	2-3
2.5—Concurrent Initiatives Parallel to This Guideline Document.....	2-3
SECTION 3—ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES COMMON TO ALL STEEL GIRDER BRIDGE ANALYSES .....	3-1
3.1—Behavior Considerations.....	3-1
3.1.1—Behavior of Tangent, Non-Skewed Steel Girder Bridges .....	3-1
3.1.2—Behavior of Curved and/or Skewed Steel Girder Bridges.....	3-1
3.1.2.1—Torsional Stress Effects.....	3-1
3.1.2.2—Flange Lateral Bending .....	3-4

3.1.2.3—Torsional Deformation Effects.....	3-5
3.1.2.4—Load Shifting.....	3-5
3.2—Section Property Modeling Considerations.....	3-7
3.2.1—Section Properties as Related to Loading Levels in New Construction.....	3-7
3.2.1.1—Level 1: Erection of Structural Steel Framing.....	3-7
3.2.1.2—Level 2: Placement of Structural Deck Slab.....	3-8
3.2.1.3—Level 3: Placement of Appurtenances.....	3-9
3.2.1.4—Level 4: Bridge In-Service Condition.....	3-10
3.2.2—Section Properties as Related to Phased Construction.....	3-10
3.2.3—Section Properties as Related to Evaluation of Existing Bridges.....	3-11
3.3—Loads on the Permanent Structure.....	3-11
3.3.1—Dead Load—Weight of Structural Steel.....	3-13
3.3.2—Dead Load—Weight of Deck Forming System.....	3-13
3.3.3—Dead Load—Weight of Concrete Deck.....	3-13
3.3.4—Dead Load—Barriers and Sidewalks.....	3-14
3.3.5—Dead Load—Future Wearing Surface.....	3-14
3.3.6—Dead Load—Utilities and Other Appurtenances.....	3-15
3.3.7—Live Loads.....	3-15
3.3.8—Construction Loads.....	3-16
3.3.9—Dynamic Load Allowance (Impact).....	3-16
3.3.10—Centrifugal Force.....	3-17
3.3.11—Braking.....	3-17
3.3.12—Wind on Structure.....	3-17
3.3.13—Wind on Live Load.....	3-18
3.3.14—Uniform Thermal Contraction or Expansion.....	3-18
3.3.15—Thermal Gradient.....	3-18
3.4—Strength Design.....	3-18
3.5—Inelastic Design.....	3-19
3.6—Fatigue Analysis and Evaluation.....	3-20
3.7—Superstructure Live Load Reactions for Substructure Design.....	3-21

3.8—Constructability—Analysis Issues.....	3-21
3.8.1—Erection of Steel Framing.....	3-21
3.8.1.1—General Guidance.....	3-22
3.8.1.2—Analysis Techniques .....	3-22
3.8.1.3—Investigation of Steel Erection Sequence.....	3-23
3.8.2—Deck Placement Sequence .....	3-26
3.8.3—Overhang Analysis and Effects on Girders .....	3-27
3.8.3.1—Selection of Overhang Width versus Beam Spacing.....	3-28
3.8.3.2—Selection of Overhang—Effect on Forming.....	3-28
3.8.3.3—Overhang Effects on Structural Design.....	3-29
3.8.4—Wind Loading during Construction.....	3-31
3.8.5—Live Loads during Construction.....	3-32
3.8.5.1—Bridge Construction .....	3-33
3.8.5.2—Bridge Rehabilitation or Demolition.....	3-33
3.8.6—Miscellaneous Construction Loading.....	3-33
3.8.7—Stability Analysis during Various Stages of Construction.....	3-34
3.8.8—Analysis for Incremental Launching of Steel Girders.....	3-35
3.9—Prediction of Deflections .....	3-35
3.9.1—General .....	3-35
3.9.2—Skewed Bridges.....	3-37
3.9.3—Curved Bridges.....	3-38
3.9.4—Final Deflections (Vibration, Dynamic Response) .....	3-38
3.10—Detailing of Cross-Frames and Girders for the Intended Erected Position .....	3-40
3.10.1—Detailing Methods.....	3-43
3.10.2—Straight, Skewed I-Girder Bridges.....	3-48
3.10.3—Curved I-Girder Bridges.....	3-49
3.10.4—Tub Girders .....	3-51
3.10.5—Calculation of Locked-In Force Effects Due to Cross-Frame Detailing.....	3-52
3.10.6—Estimation of Fit-Up Forces.....	3-53
3.11—Cross-Frame Modeling (2D versus 3D) .....	3-54

3.11.1—Impact of Connection Stiffness on Cross-Frame Stiffness.....	3-55
3.11.2—Simplified Euler–Bernoulli Approximations of the Stiffness of Truss-Type Cross-Frames .....	3-56
3.11.3—Shear-Deformable (Timoshenko) Beam Approach for Modeling the Stiffness of Truss-Type Cross-Frames .....	3-58
3.11.4—“Exact” Modeling the Stiffness of Truss-Type Cross-Frames .....	3-61
3.12—Modeling the Torsional Stiffness of I-Girders.....	3-61
3.13—Deck Modeling (e.g., Deck Effective Width, Composite Action).....	3-62
3.14—Bearings, Substructures, and Boundary Conditions for Models.....	3-64
3.14.1—Rollers versus Pins .....	3-64
3.14.2—Fixed versus Guided versus Free Bearings .....	3-68
3.14.3—Unusual Substructures and the Effect of Variable Substructure Stiffness .....	3-71
3.14.3.1—Straddle Bents and Other Variable Substructure Stiffness Effects.....	3-71
3.14.3.2—Integral Straddle Bents .....	3-74
3.14.3.3—Integral Pier Caps .....	3-76
3.14.3.4—Integral Abutments.....	3-79
3.15—Roadway/Structure Geometry Considerations.....	3-83
3.15.1—Suggestions to Simplify Structure Geometry in Curved and/or Skewed Bridges.....	3-84
3.15.2—Superelevation Effects on Loading .....	3-88
3.16—Second-Order Effects .....	3-90
3.16.1—Second-Order Analysis Methods.....	3-91
3.16.2—Analysis Assumptions versus Observed Behavior.....	3-92
3.16.3—Application.....	3-92
3.16.3.1—Straight Steel Girders, Trusses, and Arches .....	3-94
3.16.3.2—Curved Steel Girders .....	3-94
3.16.3.3—Narrow Steel Girder Systems .....	3-95
3.16.3.4—Global Second-Order Amplification and Global System Buckling .....	3-95
3.16.3.5—Local Second-Order Amplification of Flange Lateral Bending between Cross-Frames.....	3-100
3.17—Phased Construction, Redecking, and Widening.....	3-101
3.17.1—Consideration of Permanent (Dead Load) Deflections .....	3-101

3.17.2—Consideration of Transient (Live-Load) Deflections during Phased Construction...	3-102
3.17.3—Stability of Narrow Sections during Interim Phases of Construction .....	3-103
3.17.4—Considerations for Cross-Frames between New and Existing Sections.....	3-103
3.18—Temperature Effects .....	3-105
3.18.1—Uniform Temperature Changes .....	3-105
3.18.2—Temperature Gradients .....	3-105
3.18.3—Temperature Effects during Construction .....	3-106
3.18.4—Wide and/or Highly-Skewed Bridges.....	3-106
3.19—Analyzing Older Bridges .....	3-106
3.19.1—Bridge Inspections.....	3-106
3.19.2—Load Rating .....	3-107
3.19.3—Fatigue Evaluation.....	3-108
3.19.3.1—Load-Induced Fatigue.....	3-108
3.19.3.2—Distortion-Induced Fatigue.....	3-108
3.19.4—Bridges with Hinges .....	3-108
3.19.5—Load Testing as Part of Analysis of Existing/Older Bridges .....	3-108
3.20—Discontinuities in Structures.....	3-109
3.20.1—Stress Concentrations—Need for Detailed Stress Analysis .....	3-109
3.20.2—Access Openings .....	3-110
3.21—References to Benchmark Analysis Problems .....	3-110
<b>SECTION 4—ANALYSIS GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF STEEL GIRDER BRIDGES</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1—Plate Girders—General Issues.....	4-1
4.1.1—Cross-Frame Analysis .....	4-1
4.1.1.1—Minimum Strength and Stiffness Requirements for Stability Bracing.....	4-1
4.1.1.2—Two-Dimensional Analysis Techniques .....	4-2
4.1.1.3—Three-Dimensional Analysis Techniques.....	4-3
4.1.2—Lateral Bracing.....	4-4
4.1.3—Narrow Systems, Stability Analysis.....	4-4
4.1.4—Narrow Systems, Redundancy Analysis .....	4-5
4.1.5—Variable-Depth Girders .....	4-7

4.1.6—Width-to-Span Ratios and Influence on Secondary Effects .....	4-7
4.1.7—Improved Calculation of I-Girder Flange Lateral Bending Stresses from 2D Grid Analysis .....	4-8
4.2—Tangent Steel Plate Girders or Rolled Beams .....	4-13
4.2.1—No Skew or Limited Skew (<20 Degrees) .....	4-13
4.2.2—Significantly Skewed.....	4-14
4.2.3—Multiple Different Skews .....	4-16
4.2.4—Through Girder Bridges .....	4-17
4.3—Curved Steel Plate Girders or Rolled Beams.....	4-17
4.3.1—Methods of Analysis.....	4-17
4.3.1.1—V-Load Analysis .....	4-18
4.3.1.2—Grid or Grillage Analysis .....	4-19
4.3.1.3—3D Finite Element Analysis .....	4-20
4.3.2—Skewed and Curved I-Girder Bridges .....	4-22
4.4—Tub Girders—General Issues .....	4-22
4.4.1—Analysis of Internal Framing (Internal Intermediate Cross-Frames, Top Flange Lateral Bracing)—Grid Analysis and Hand Calculations versus 3D.....	4-24
4.4.2—Consideration of External Intermediate Cross-Frames .....	4-25
4.4.3—Cross-Frame Modeling (Shear Stiffness, Flexural Stiffness).....	4-25
4.4.4—Narrow Systems, Stability Analysis.....	4-26
4.4.5—Narrow Systems, Redundancy Analysis .....	4-27
4.4.6—Variable Depth Girders .....	4-28
4.4.7—Recent Improvements to Simplified Analysis Methods for Tub Girders.....	4-28
4.5—Tangent Steel Tub or Box Girders.....	4-29
4.5.1—No Skew or Limited Skew (<10 Degrees) .....	4-29
4.5.2—Significantly Skewed.....	4-30
4.5.3—Multiple Different Skews .....	4-30
4.6—Curved Steel Tub or Box Girders .....	4-30
4.6.1—Skewed and Curved Steel Tub or Box Girder Bridges.....	4-32
4.7—Bridges with Significantly Complex Framing.....	4-33
4.7.1—Variable Girder Spacing.....	4-33

4.7.2—Discontinuous Girders.....	4-34
4.7.3—Transfer Girders .....	4-35
4.7.4—Girder-Substringer Systems .....	4-36
4.7.5—Elevated T-Intersections.....	4-37
4.7.6—Single Point Urban Interchanges.....	4-38
REFERENCES .....	R-1
GLOSSARY .....	G-1
APPENDIX A—SURVEY OF CURRENT PRACTICE .....	A-1
A1—Background.....	A-1
A2—Participation in the Survey.....	A-1
A3—AASHTO RESPONSES .....	A-2
A3.1—Overall Trends and Comments.....	A-2
A3.2—Responses To General Questions .....	A-2
A3.3—Responses To Specific Questions.....	A-3
A3.3.1—Responses to Questions about Tangent (Straight) Steel Plate Girders or Rolled Beams with No Skew or Limited Skew (Skewed Less than 20 Degrees from Non-Skewed) .....	A-3
A3.3.2—Responses to Questions about Tangent (Straight) Steel Plate Girders or Rolled Beams, Significantly Skewed (Skewed More than 20 Degrees from Non-Skewed).....	A-3
A3.3.3—Responses to Questions about Curved Steel Plate Girders or Rolled Beams with No Skew or Limited Skew (Skewed Less than 20 Degrees from Non-Skewed).....	A-4
A3.3.4—Responses to Questions about Curved Steel Plate Girders or Rolled Beams, Significantly Skewed (Skewed More than 20 Degrees from Non-Skewed).....	A-5
A3.3.5—Responses to Questions about Tub Girders or Box Girders.....	A-5
A3.3.6—Responses to Questions about Bridges with Significantly Complex Framing Plans (e.g., Variable Girder Spacing, Bifurcation of Girders, Elevated T-Intersections, Single Point Urban Interchanges) .....	A-6
A4—AREMA RESPONSES.....	A-6
A5—OTHER RESPONSES.....	A-6
APPENDIX B—RECOMMENDATIONS ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS.....	B-1
B1—INTRODUCTION .....	B-1
B2—I-GIRDER BRIDGES .....	B-1
B2.1—I-Girder Bridge Level of Analysis Example 1.....	B-5

B2.2—I-Girder Bridge Level of Analysis Example 2..... B-6

B2.3—I-Girder Bridge Level of Analysis Example 3..... B-7

B3—TUB GIRDER BRIDGES..... B-8

    B3.1—Tub Girder Bridge Level of Analysis Example..... B-11