



Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement–
FHWA’s Implementation of Prior OIG Bridge
Program Recommendations and MAP-21 Bridge
Provisions
Project No. 13M3005M000

Date: August 5, 2013

From: Joseph W. Comé *Joe Comé*
Assistant Inspector General
for Highway and Transit Audits

Reply to JA-40
Attn. of:

To: Federal Highway Administrator

The May 23, 2013, collapse of a portion of the Skagit River Bridge in Washington State brought renewed attention to the safety and conditions of the Nation’s bridges. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is responsible for overseeing States’ compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and with legislative provisions for Federal bridge funding. Since 2006, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) has issued three reports recommending improvements to FHWA’s oversight of bridge programs. On June 12, 2013, the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure requested that OIG assess FHWA’s efforts to improve bridge safety, including addressing related OIG recommendations and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) bridge safety provisions.¹

Accordingly, we plan to conduct a series of audits to address this request. For our initial audit, our objectives are to assess FHWA’s actions in response to (1) prior OIG bridge report recommendations and (2) the bridge safety provisions in MAP-21. We plan to begin the audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or David Pouliott, Program Director, at (202) 366-1844.

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cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
FHWA Audit Liaison, HAIM-13

¹ P.L. 112-141 (July 2012).