



Roadway Infrastructure Maintenance Responsibility

August 3, 2012

Project Summary

Over the years there have been events or maintenance situations on roadways and bridges in which questions of responsibility arose. For example, there may be a culvert failing in a village under a state route in which the village assumes that it is the responsibility of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to repair the culvert because it is on a state route. On the contrary, ODOT assumes it is the responsibility of the village since it is in a village. These situations arise frequently and, although most cases are solved through communication, stakeholders made it clear that maintenance responsibility guidelines are needed.

As a result of there being no set of published guidelines for roadway infrastructure maintenance, several problems and concerns arise. If maintenance responsibilities are unclear, maintenance repairs are delayed, which costs time and money. In the worst case, maintenance responsibilities are not performed at all, and failure may occur. In the events of delayed maintenance and failure of the roadway infrastructure, a public safety hazard is created, and the traveling public is adversely affected. A global understanding of maintenance responsibilities will help to avoid and minimize these problems. Furthermore, by addressing routine maintenance responsibilities, “emergencies” can be minimized.

This project set out to answer the question of responsibility by creating a reference manual and guidelines that helps government agencies and private entities easily determine which roadway infrastructure items they are responsible to maintain. Various forms of these guidelines have informally existed for many years. This document serves to replace those ad hoc documents with one official document that has been researched, reviewed and confirmed by all stakeholders.

Project Goals

The goal of this project is to create and distribute a complete Roadway Infrastructure Maintenance Responsibility (RIMR) reference, complete with legal references and links. There are three main parts to the document: 1) Roadway Infrastructure Maintenance Responsibility Guidelines 2) Bridge Maintenance & Inspection Responsibility Guidelines and 3) references to US Code, Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Attorney General opinions.

Project Methodology

In order for this project and reference manual to be effective, several steps needed to happen.

1. Research the Ohio Revised Code
2. Research the US Code
3. Research previous AG opinions
4. Create a draft of the manual
5. Circulate the draft to identified stakeholders
6. Incorporate stakeholder comments into the document
7. Finalize the draft
8. Submit final draft to the Attorney General for review and comment
9. Prepare final document
10. Distribute final document

Project Team

For more information about this project, contact team members:

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