



GUIDELINES FOR DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION OF
GRADE SEPARATION
UNDERPASS STRUCTURES



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RAILROAD**

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UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

UNDERPASS GRADE SEPARATION STRUCTURES

I PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The **intent of** this guideline is to inform public agencies, design engineers and **contractors of** Union Pacific Railroad **Company's current** standards and requirements concerning **design** and construction of **grade separation** underpass structures.

Continuity of safe rail operations shall be required for the **duration** of the project and **construction work** shall in no way impede the train **operations** of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The specific **requirements addressed in** this document should be followed for structures on which the Union Pacific Railroad operates regardless of whether it is maintained by Union Pacific Railroad. **Compliance with these** requirements **will help** to expedite the completion of design and construction **reviews**.

Designs of **all** public works projects shall be **prepared either** by the engineering staff of that agency or **a consulting engineer who** has been approved by both Union Pacific Railroad Company and that **public agency**.

Selection of consultants shall be **limited to** those who are familiar with the design of railroad bridges, **and** particularly with the special **requirements and** operating conditions of the Union **Pacific** Railroad Company.

Public Agency, **or their** representative shall provide information requested on attached data sheet to, the Manager of Industry and Public **Projects of the district that project** is located in the **preliminary** stages **of the** project. See **Data Sheet, Appendix A**.

This guideline supplements the applicable sections of the **American** Railway **Engineering** Association (AREA) Manual **of** Recommended Practice in connection with the design of ballast deck railway bridges.

II STRUCTURE SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1. Grade** separation underpass structures shall be **ballast** deck type structures. Open **deck type** structures shall not be used, as permanent structures; Open **deck type structures** can be used only for temporary structures built in

conjunction with **shoofly construction**.

2. **When possible, simple span structures should be used.**
3. Continuous span, deck or through truss type, structures are to **be avoided**.
4. Trough type p&t-tensioned simple or continuous structures are not **acceptable**.
5. **Grade separation structures** may require inside guard rail. Refer to Union Pacific Railroad Company standard drawing 4005 (**Double Inside Guard Rail for Timber Ties**) or 4015 (**Double Inside Guard Rail for Concrete Ties**) for **details** and requirements. **See** Appendix A.

III LIST OF PREFERABLE UNDERPASS STRUCTURES

Following is a list of underpass structures preferable to Union Pacific Railroad Company **in priority** order. The Union Pacific Railroad Company will require the most preferred alternative in all cases, unless the **agency** can provide **sufficient reasons** for proposing a less preferred **alternative**.

1. Steel plate girders with cast-in-place concrete **deck**. **See** drawing **UP1**, Appendix A.
2. Rolled beams with c&t-in-place, concrete deck. **See** drawing **UP2**, Appendix A.
3. Prestressed concrete box girders single or double cell. **See** drawing **UP3**, Appendix A.
4. Prestressed concrete "AASHTO" type girders with **cast-in-place** concrete deck. **See** drawing **UP4**, Appendix A.
5. Cast-in-place concrete box girders conventional **reinforced**. **See** drawing **UP5**, Appendix A.
6. **Post-tensioned concrete box girders**. **See** drawing **UP6**, Appendix A.
7. **Through type simple** supported steel girder **spans** with concrete or **steel deck** will be considered by the office of the Chief Engineer when conditions preclude any **other solution**. **See** drawing **UP7**, or **UP8**, Appendix A.

8. **Grade separation** underpass structures of deck, or through truss design are not preferable. However, in **unusual** circumstances, they will **be considered** by the office of the Chief Engineer Design if conditions preclude **the use** of any other type of structure.

IV ACCESS TO UNDERPASS STRUCTURE

For all grade separation underpass structures, an access roadway, or **bridge maintenance structure shall be provided** for Union Pacific Railroad Company **off-track maintenance equipment**.

Access roadway with a turnaround shall be designed and **constructed in conjunction with** the grade **separation bridge** structure. Turnaround pad shall start no **further** than 30 ft. from the ehd of bridge structure **and** with embankment shoulder 66 ft. **minimum from centerline** of track, **Roadway grade** should not exceed **10%** and shall terminate at the sub ballast elevation: **Roadway shall** have sufficient width to provide for one 12 ft. **wide** road, drain ditch and shoulder. Roadway and **turnaround shall be constructed on** compacted material and have a 12 inch thick **minimum** base and 6 inch thick A.C. pavement. Turnaround pad and roadway **shall** be sloped to drain **away** from track **subgrade** and dispose water to drainage **system or existing right-of-way** ditches. All down slopes of turnaround pad and roadway shall **be protected** with **A.C. curbs** to **prevent embankment erosion**.

Bridge maintenance structure may be part of the railway supporting **structure** or a completely separate structure. If bridge maintenance structure is part of the **main railway** structure, the structure shall be designed for E-30 **load to** accommodate any **future track** needs or modifications. If bridge maintenance **structure** is a totally separate **structure** it shall be, **designed for HS20-44** live load. The bridge **maintenance** width shall accommodate one **12 ft.** paved lane with Curbs and **railing**. **Deck of** bridge structure shall be concrete with **6 Inches thick** AC. pavement. **Bridge deck** shall provide curbs, railing; drainage, and joint **seals as** required;” Pavement of deck shall extend **20 ft.** past the end of the structure and be placed **over** a **12 Inch** thick minimum **base**.

Access roadway with turnaround or bridge **maintenance** structure shall be shown **in** the preliminary plans and complete design shall be included in all subsequent **s u b m i t t a l s**.

V. SPECIFICATIONS

A. Design Specifications:

Underpass grade separation structures shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the most current edition of the American Railway Engineering Association (AREA) Manual of Recommended Practice.

Separate bridge maintenance structure shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the current edition of the American Association Of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standard specifications for highway bridges.

B. Construction Specifications:

Technical specifications for bridge construction shall comply with following:

1. AREA Specifications for Fabrication and Erection of Structural Steel (Chapter 15).
2. AREA Specifications for Concrete Structures and Foundations (Chapter 8)
3. AREA Specifications for Waterproofing (Chapter 29).
4. The Standard Specifications of the State Highway Department or local agency responsible for the design and construction of highway bridges.
5. Standard Specifications of the Public Works Department.
6. American Association of State transportation and Highway Officials (AASHTO).

VI. U N I T S

Grade separation underpass projects that require the use of metric units shall indicate all controlling dimensions, elevations, design criteria assumptions, and material stresses in dual units. English units to be in parenthesis. Controlling dimensions refer to length of structure, span length, thickness of all deck elements; Controlling elevations refer to top of rail, rail profile, bridge seats, and footings. Design criteria or assumptions refer to live load, design speed etc;

VII BRIDGE LAYOUT

The following items shall be considered and adequately addressed in the layout of the grade separation underpass structure:

1. **Layout of underpass structures shall indicate the limits** of the Railroad right-of-way; exact locations of all existing overhead or underground **utilities**, pipeline locations, fiber optic locations, proposed drainage, proposed **construction** sequences including layout details for any temporary bridge structure such as **shooflys** etc. All construction must be scheduled to **minimize the amount** of track interference during construction.
2. **No utility attachments** will be permitted on the new structure. Existing or future fiber optic lines shall be placed underground and away from bridge structure. Refer to current Union Pacific Railroad. Fiber. **Optic Rules Construction** and Engineering Standards. Manual or call **1-800-336-9193**. **Relocation of** any existing utilities **must be** performed by the owners of said utility.
3. Minimum longitudinal grade of 0.2% on structure shall **be provided for** drainage purposes. Designer may provide drainage toward one end of structure or, when structure length is excessive, provide adequate deck grades to drain the structure to **both ends**. If the top of rail grades remain constant over **the length** of structure the depth of ballast may be varied but should be taken into account in the design.
4. For bridges **located within a curve**, the girders, abutments and piers **shall be located with** reference to **chords**.
5. Vandal fencing shall be **provided** on all underpass structures in urban areas and on underpass structures in rural areas where pedestrian **traffic** patterns, past history of vandalism, **or** other conditions near the project site may warrant.
6. Sloping embankments in front **of abutments** shall **be paved**.
7. The distance from the centerline of **bridge to the nearest railroad** milepost, shall be **shown** on the **plans**.
8. **Structures having multiple tracks** shall be design to accommodate **any** future shifting or relocation of track. **Longitudinal** members **are** to be evenly spaced, with no less than two support members per raft.

9. Cantilever type, **abutment** stems shall be at least **0.2H** in thickness at the **base**.
10. **Columns** shall be at least **0.2H** in thickness at the base;
11. Floor beams shall be a minimum of 21 inches in depth...
12. The year of construction shall be shown at the face of **backwall**. Numbers shall be embedded into the concrete and be 6 inch size.

VIII SKIEW OF BRIDGE

The preferred angle of roadway crossing and bridge structure' **relative** to the centerline of track is **90°**. However, in cases where a **90°** crossing cannot be obtained, the **maximum** skew of bridge structure from **90°** shall not exceed the following, for **various types** of structures:

T Y P E O F S T R U C T U R E S K E W I N D E G R E E S

Steel spans with concrete deck
(Beams, Deck Girders, Through Girders) **30° MAX.**

Prestressed concrete with concrete deck
(AASHTO beams) **30° MAX.**

Prestressed concrete box girders **15° MAX.**

Cast-in-place box girders conventionally
reinforced or **Post-tensioned** **20° MAX.**

Trough **type prestressed** girders, **15° MAX.**

Align roadway, bridge piers, and abutments **as** required to **comply with** the **above maximum skew** limitations.

Transverse tie rods in **end blocks** and interior **diaphragms** should be in the **direction** of skew. **Multiple** prestressed concrete girders shall be bonded together with epoxy or grout. in addition, transverse tie rods shall be installed through the end block and **interior** diaphragms., See **drawing UP9, Appendix A**

Where conditions preclude any other solution, the skew proposal will **require special structural** consideration and proof of adequacy. **Skews** in excess of **15°** are not permitted **for continuous** structures.

At the ends of a skewed bridge, support slabs shall be provided for each track. End of track slab shall be perpendicular to the centerline of the track and be 12 ft. minimum width placed symmetrically to the centerline of the track. Length of track slab shall be 12 ft. minimum beyond the back face of backwall.

IX VERTICAL CLEARANCES

Underpass structures shall be designed and provide sufficient vertical clearance and protective devices to ensure that structure will be protected from oversized and unauthorized high, loads. Designers and public agencies shall comply with the following vertical clearances:

STRUCTURE OVER	STEEL	CONCRETE
Freeways	16.5 ft.	17.5 ft.
Designated arterial routes	16.5 ft.	17.5 ft.
Local roads and streets	15.5 ft.	16.0 ft.
Rural roads	15.0 ft.	15.5 ft.
Pedestrian under crossing (no vehicles)	6.0 ft.	8.0 ft.
Recreational roads	12.5 ft.	12.5 ft.

All concrete structures in above table except pedestrian under Crossing without vehicular traffic shall be protected with collision impact devices installed over the full width of traveled lanes and attached to the bridge soffit. All structures with vertical clearances less than 17.5 ft. shall be protected with a steel sacrificial beam. Sacrificial beam shall be installed a minimum of 5 ft. ahead of the collision impact device or ahead of the main supporting member and shall not carry railway loads. Sacrificial beam shall be of steel shape (wide flange or tubing) and of sufficient strength to limit horizontal deflection to 6 inches caused from the impact from oversized vehicle or load. Additionally it shall be anchored sufficiently to bridge seat at an elevation of at least 6 inches below the bridge soffit. For more details see drawing UP16 Appendix.4

If resurfacing or any other activity is to be performed below the underpass structure, the owner of the roadway must submit a request for approval from Union Pacific Railroad Company. This request must provide the existing measured and posted clearances of the structure and the proposed configuration after work is completed.

The owner of the roadway shall be responsible of posting and maintaining structure sign clearances and any advance street notifications as required.

X DESIGN LOADS,

1. Underpass bridge structures shall be designed for all loads **specified in Chapters 9, 9, or 15 of the AREA Specifications.**

The design of underpass structures shall comply with the **seismic Criteria of the current edition of AREA, Chapter 9 - Seismic Design for Railway Structures.**

2. Live Load and Impact as **specified in the AREA Specifications.**

3. All **underpass** structures shall be designed for a **maximum** thirty (30) inches of ballast (**top of deck** to top of tie) to account for future track **raises**. Structures shall be constructed to the required grades **with the minimum** depth of ballast under the tie of eight (8) inches for timber, and twelve (12) inches for concrete.

4. Under normal **working** loads, **composite** action may be **expected between** a concrete deck and its **supporting steel members**, when shear transfer devices are used. The bottom of the deck slab shall be placed at least one inch below top of supporting steel members. **For design purposes, the supporting steel members shall be proportioned to carry E65 live, impact, and dead loads without taking into account any composite action, and E80 live, impact, and dead loads taking into account composite action. Composite action may be taken into account when satisfying the deflection-length ratio requirement of Chapter 15, Article 1.2.5 of the AREA Specifications provided shear transfer devices are installed.**

5. Live load distribution for precast prestressed single or **double cell boxes** shall be in accordance **with Part 2, Reinforced Concrete Design, Article 2.2.3.c.(1)** of the AREA specifications. Live load shall not be assumed to be distributed to the number of **boxes supporting the tracks.**

For multiple track structures, **live** load shall be distributed, **based on** the assumption of the track being in any location.

XI SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PRECAST PRESTRESSED BOX OR AASHTO TYPE GIRDERS

1. Box shaped (Single or **Double** void) or **AASHTO** type precast **prestressed** girders for all spans shall be designed **with end** and interior **diaphragms**. Interior diaphragms shall be **spaced** equally across, the span length. Provide diaphragms as follows for various span lengths:

SPAN IN FEET	NUMBER OF INTERIOR DIAPHRAGMS
35-j;	1
51-75.	2
Over 78	3

Above number of diaphragms per span is minimum **required**. The definite number to be considered in each case depends on the particular design, span lengths, member rigidities; etc.. Diaphragm spacing should not exceed **25 ft. center to center**.

2. Transverse tie rods shall be installed at the end and each interior diaphragm. Minimum size of tie rod to be **1-1/4** inches in diameter. Tie rod to be protected in one **of the** following ways:
 - a) Rod, plates and nuts shall be hot dip galvanized per **ASTM A123** and **A153**.
 - b) All assembly parts **left plain**, but void between **rod** and hole to be pressure grouted. Tie rod anchor assembly shall be **recessed into the** concrete and shall have **one (1)** inch minimum **grout** cover.
3. Strands at the ends of precast prestressed members **shall be cut one (1) inch** minimum into the member and the resulting recessed pocket **filled with grout**.
4. For **AASHTO** beams the designer **shall provide** eighteen (18) inches minimum gap between bottom flange **of beams** to accommodate inspections and repairs.
5. The **keyway** for **precast concrete box** girders **shall be bonded with** high strength epoxy or non shrink cementitious **grout**. Strength **of epoxy** or grout **to be** at least equal to the strength **of concrete** member being bonded, **For details see drawing UP9, Appendix A**.

XII SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR POST-TENSIONED STRUCTURES

CONCRETE

All post-tensioned structure ducts shall be **bonded** (grouted).

A. Simple Spans

1. **Post-tensioned simple spans** shall be **designed such** that a minimum compressive force of **100 psi** is maintained in the topmost regions of the element, and to maintain a minimum compressive force of **zero** in the lower most regions of the element. At no time either during construction or under any load configuration shall these minimum requirements be violated. **In addition there shall be sufficient straight tendons top and bottom to produce a uniform compression of 200 psi over the cross-section; Prestress can be applied in a single stage for spans 80 ft. and under, stressing the Straight tendons first, sequentially alternating between top and bottom tendons to maintain a uniform stress pattern over the cross-section, then continuing stressing operations on the draped tendons until all post-tensioning is complete.**
2. Simple spans over 80 ft. in length, shall be **prestressed in two stages**. The first stage of **posttensioning** shall be **applied** when the most **recent concrete** has attained a minimum, compressive strength of 1500 psi as determined by compression cylinder tests and **shall consist** of tensioning the straight tendons, alternating sequentially between top and bottom tendons, to **maintain** a relatively uniform compression of **200 psi** over the cross-section. **The** second stage of post tensioning shall be the **application of** the remaining portion of design prestress force when the last placed concrete reaches the minimum compressive strength as required at transfer by the AREA Specifications.

B. Continuous Spans

1. Post-tensioned, continuous structures shall be **designed for a minimum** compressive force of 200 psi in the topmost regions of the element, and 50 **psi** minimum compressive force **at lowermost regions of the element in the positive** moment regions of the structure. **In the negative moment regions of the structure the requirement will be reversed such that a minimum** compressive force of 50 psi **will** be required in the topmost regions of the element and a minimum compressive force of 200 **psi** in the lower most regions of the element. **These** minimum compressive force requirements must be maintained during any stage of construction or any loading **case**.

2. **Cast-in-place, continuous, post-tensioned structures shall have sufficient straight tendons placed both in top and bottom fibers to produce a calculated uniform compression over the entire section of 200 psi; The prestress in the straight tendons (1st stage prestress) to be applied when the most recent and final concrete has reached a minimum compressive strength of 1500 psi as determined by compression cylinder tests. The stressing of these straight tendons shall be applied by alternating sequentially between top and bottom tendons to maintain a relative uniform stress as possible over the cross-section during the posttensioning operations. The second stage, shall be the application of the remaining portion of design prestress force when the most recent concrete reaches the minimum compressive strength as required at transfer by the AREA Specifications;**
3. **The above procedures 1) and 2) are to be applied in conjunction with a concrete placement schedule for the structure in which the positive moment regions are placed first and the negative moment regions are placed second. This two-stage procedure applies to spans 100 ft. or less. Placement schedule shall be three-stage for longer spans; positive moment regions to within four (4) ft. of inflection point first; negative moment regions to within four (4) ft. of inflection point second; and closure section eight (8) ft. long at the inflection point & last. On the longer spans it may be required to subdivide the sequence steps into placement sections depending on the structure type and amount of non prestressed reinforcement used to control shrinkage cracking. For each stage of concrete placement, the entire structural cross-section shall be completed before moving to the next stage. When casting the stage over supports, the concrete placement shall proceed from the outer ends to the support.**
4. **The radius of curvature for any post-tensioning duct must not be less than 60 ft.**

XIII MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STEEL STRUCTURES

1. **Thickness of structural steel (except for fillers), shall not be less than 0.335 inch thick. Parts subject to corrosive influences shall be of greater thickness than otherwise specified or steps taken to protect same against such influences.**
2. **The thickness of gusset plates connecting the chords and web members of a truss shall be proportional to the force being transferred but not less than 1/2 inch.**

3. **Minimum** size of **high** strength bolt for bolting structural **members** shall be **7/8** inch diameter
4. The allowable bearing pressures as **contained** in AREA Chapter **15** are to, be used for steel superstructure bearing on concrete substructure;
5. **All** fracture critical members shall be designated as FCM on the 'plane. Fracture critical members shall be designed for a 'minimum service temperature of **- 30°F** corresponding to Zone **2**.
6. Designer shall provide details such that all exposed parts will be **accessible** for inspection, cleaning and painting. Preferably not less **than 18 inches** clear shall be provided. between the flanges of. parallel lines of **beams** having depths in excess of 38 inches.
 - i. **All designs must provide drain holes** for pockets or depressions that may hold water so that steel areas drain **effectively**. Structural members shall not be seated by welding except **as approved** by the Engineer.

XIV PAINTING OF STEEL STRUCTURES

All underpass steel structures shall be **painted** except **where** galvanized or weathering steel is used.

Painting of **steel structures** shall comply with the requirements of **current AASHTO** specifications and recommendations of Steel Structures Painting **Council** Manual (**SSPC**).

Paint shall be applied in accordance with the **Manufacturer's recommendations** or in compliance with the recommendations of SSPC, whichever is most restrictive,

Painting system including primer and top coats shall be submitted by the **agency** for review and approval by the Chief Engineer Design.,

XV BALLAST DECK BRIDGE STRUCTURE

For typical **cross section** of superstructures see drawings **UP1 - UP8** Appendix A.

1. Deck width:

For a single tangent **track bridge structure** the **width** of the **deck shall be not** be **less than 17 ft.** wide, measured from **inside face of parapet to inside face**

of parapet. **The clear** distance from centerline of **track** to the inside face of **parapet** shall **not** be less than **8'-6"** for tangent track and **9'-6"** for track on curve. For multiple tracks an **allowance** of **20** ft. shall be provided **for each** existing track or future track.

2. **Curb Height:**

The top of **ballast curb** or walkway shall be approximately the same elevation as the base of highest rail plus eight (8) inches to accommodate **possible future track raises**:

3. **Walkway:**

In general, walkways shall not be less than 2 ft. **wide**. **Ballast** structures **do** not require **walkway** in most cases. Structural members (such as floor beam knee **braces**) shall not be considered **an obstruction to the walkway**.

Walkways on bridges over highways or other **locations** where **spillage of ballast or lading** is possible shall be constructed of solid **material** and a curb or toe board shall, be provided. **The clear distance from centerline of track to ballast retainer for bridges with walkway shall be 6'-6" minimum.**

To prevent cracking under live loads, provide **1/4** inch wide joint **at 10** ft. maximum spacing **on** concrete curbs, walkways, and ballast retainers.

4. **Handrail:**

Handrails shall be provided on both **sides** of **deck**. **Horizontal clearances from the centerline of the nearest track** shall not be **less than 8'-6"** for **tangent track**, and **9'-6"** for track **on curve**. Handrails shall be simple designs that require minimum maintenance. **Union Pacific Railroad Company recommends the following types of handrails:**

- a) **Chain link fencing.** See drawing **UP10, Appendix A.**
- b) **Tubular style fencing.** See drawing **UP11, Appendix A.**
- c) **Picket style fencing.** See **drawing UP12, Appendix A.**

Variations from the **above** suggested fencing shall be submitted **for approval** by the office of the Chief Engineer Design.