



## ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Bureau of County Transportation

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Robert Bentley  
Governor

John R. Cooper  
Transportation Director

August 28, 2014

### MEMORANDUM 2014-13

TO: All County Engineers and Division County Transportation Engineers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.E. Phillips, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

FROM: D.E. Phillips, Jr., P.E.  
State County Transportation Engineer

RE: County Bridge Posting Re-Certification and ABIMS Coordinate Verification

#### Bridge Posting Re-Certification

All Counties are required to certify, in writing, to the Bureau of County Transportation by **October 1, 2014**, that all bridges requiring posting are posted in accordance with current standards. **Effective with the November 7, 2014 letting and all future lettings next year, FHWA will not authorize Federal Aid projects for any County that has not re-certified that its bridges have been posted.**

Please be aware that failure to post bridges properly is a serious violation of the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) and any County doing so is considered in non-compliance with the NBIS. **Any County found to be in non-compliance with the NBIS is subject to having any and all Federal or State aid withheld.**

All Bridge Inspection Compliance Reviews now include a field review to ensure that bridges are being properly posted. Some of the inconsistencies noted during recent Bridge Inspection Reviews include the following:

- Bridges that were posted for values higher than those recommended by the Rating Section of the ALDOT Maintenance Bureau
- Bridge posting signs that were only present at one end of the bridge
- Bridges recommended to be posted by ALDOT that were not posted
- Bridges recommended to be closed by ALDOT that were not closed

Please submit a listing of all posted bridges in your county. Please note that this list cannot be an ABIMS generated posting report, but must be a report the county produced. An excel spreadsheet that can be used as a template and may be helpful in collecting all of the required data is attached. The counties are not required to use this exact spreadsheet; however the fields listed on this spreadsheet must be provided and are the minimum required to be in full compliance.

### ABIMS Coordinate Verification

In addition to the re-certification of all posted structures as outlined above, all counties are also required to verify that the latitude and longitude in ABIMS are accurate for **all structures (posted and non-posted bridges and culverts)**. These coordinates are going to be used for multiple applications in the near future, and it is imperative that this data is accurate in ABIMS.

This data will be utilized is in the new **AASHTOware Bridge Management (ALDOT BrM)** software. This software will have a mapping function that utilizes Google maps, and will locate every structure according to their Lat-Long coordinates entered into ABIMS / BrM. But this great feature will only be as accurate as the data entered, so please verify that all Cord are accurate.

All counties are required to verify that Items 16 and 17 (Longitude and Latitude) are accurate in ABIMS for **all bridges and culverts**. These coordinates must be accurate to **3 decimal places** as shown in the example below. The county can field verify the Lat. and Long. with the use of a GPS unit, or they can be verified via the internet. A link to a mapping website is provided below ([itouchmap](http://itouchmap.com)). This website is very accurate, user friendly, and can be used in a variety of ways. It will allow you to identify the location of a structure using Google map images, and will provide the coordinates simply by clicking on the map image. The website can give you degrees-minutes-seconds, decimal degrees, or coordinates for specific street addresses.

<http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

Example: Here are the coordinates for the ALDOT Central Office using Itouchmap.

Latitude:      32D   24M   40.243sec  
 Longitude:    -86D   16M    0.537sec

- Note that the correct Longitude degree is a negative number, but ABIMS does not take negative numbers. Therefore, enter the degrees as a positive number and it will be converted to a negative as needed by the GIS program

This format should be used when entering the coordinates into ABIMS Items 16 and 17 (disregarding the negative sign).

Google Maps also has this capability if you are more comfortable / familiar using that site.

The Posting Re-Certification and ABIMS Coordinate Verification should be transmitted to this office under a cover letter, signed by the County Engineer, certifying that **“the attached list includes all of the bridges that are posted, and all that have been recommended to be posted by the ALDOT Bridge Load Rating Section. The bridges on this list are posted in the field for the recommended posting values (or lower). All of the county structures have also had their latitude and longitude coordinates verified for accuracy in ABIMS via the internet or by a GPS unit in the field”**

This memo will also be e-mailed to all of the counties. The email will include a link to the itouchmap website as well as the template spreadsheet.

If you have any questions about the posting re-certification or the ABIMS coordinate verification, please feel free to contact James Boyer at (334)-242-6619.

JFB:jfb

Pc: Mr. George Conner

Mr. Eric Christie

FHWA – Mr. Lewis Harden

File

