

INTRODUCTION TO THE PURPOSE AND USE OF THE JANUARY 2020 REVISION TO THE 2013 LRFD BRIDGE MANUAL

i. PURPOSE

Since the 2013 LRFD Bridge Manual was issued in early 2014, there have been many changes made to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, to MassDOT Specifications, and to the way that MassDOT conducts business. In addition, changes have been made to the standard bridge construction details that MassDOT uses. These have come from industry, such as development of new beams shapes by PCI NE, and advancements in materials and fabrication.

In response to this, and in addition to revising Part I, MassDOT has undertaken a comprehensive effort to review all of our Part II and Part III standard details and make modifications as needed. This was the first comprehensive review of the Bridge Manual standard details since the current Bridge Manual was developed in 1995. This effort proved to be greater than originally anticipated, but it was felt that such a review was needed to keep the Bridge Manual accurate and to address the inconsistencies that have crept in over the years.

This effort has delayed MassDOT in issuing the anticipated new edition of the Bridge Manual. However, the revisions made to Part I were sorely needed to provide Designers with the latest guidance and information. As a result, it was decided to issue a revision to the 2013 LRFD Bridge Manual Part I in order to get this information into the hands of Designers now and then fold them into a new edition when the revisions to Parts II and III were finished and available for issue.

Since some of the changes in Part I affected the tables of information that are presented on the Construction Drawings and Sketch Plans, it was decided to also issue a new Chapter 1 of Part II as part of the January 2020 revision.

ii. USE OF THE JANUARY 2020 REVISION

Due to the extent of the revisions that were made to all the Part I Chapters, MassDOT decided that it would be more efficient to issue a new, revised Part I as a whole rather than each revision piecemeal. In order to help Designers to identify and distinguish the revisions from the original 2013 Part I, all new text, tables, and figures that are part of the January 2020 revision are highlighted in yellow. This way, Designers will know what is new, but will be able to use the revised Part I as an uninterrupted document.