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# ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Plan Review Bureau

**SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY BRIDGE COST ESTIMATES  
STRUCTURES DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION  
TECHNICAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL  
Subject Code: 7.35-13**

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Deputy Chief Engineer (Structures)

Supersedes:

As part of the development of the Engineer's Estimate for the bridge portion of a project, the bridge share is produced by adding a variety of incidental items to the estimate of the structural items prepared by the Structures Division. These incidental items are estimated by the highway designer, and generally include one or more of the following:

- a. Utilities.
- b. Maintenance and Protection of Traffic, including Watchman Service.
- c. Removal and disposal of existing superstructure and substructure.
- d. Channel realignment and special hydraulically related items.
- e. Detour structure and approaches.
- f. Special approach or transition work.

In the past, it has been difficult to obtain early information on the identify and cost of these items. At the same time, failure to include them rarely resulted in major increases in cost estimates.

Recently, however, some final Engineer's Estimates have been substantially above the preliminary bridge cost estimates, primarily because this Division was either not aware of the intention to add special incidental work items to be bridge share, or because the preliminary estimate of the cost of such work was seriously in error.

Accordingly, for structures being designed by the Structures Division, it will be the responsibility of the office preparing the highway design to make a preliminary cost estimate of those various items, such as listed above, which are expected to be added later to the bridge share. This information should be provided to the Structures Division by the highway designer as part of the Bridge Site Data Submission. Absolute accuracy is not expected but a reasonable figure, compatible with the degree of accuracy of other information then available, should be developed.

When bridge designs are being prepared by Regional Offices or Consulting Engineers, the estimated cost of this work shall also be included in the estimated cost at the Preliminary Structure Plan stage.

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