SUBJECT: Fire Suppression Standpipe Systems

It is the policy of the Department to allow the installation of fire suppression standpipe systems (standpipes) on bridges located on the National Highway System (NHS) when requested by a municipal first official. When the Department has a project to make major repairs to a bridge or to construct a new bridge, Federal and State funds may be used, if available, for the installation of standpipes.

If no State funds are available in a project, the municipality in which the bridge is located must provide any non-Federal share of the cost.

When requesting standpipes, the municipality shall provide the Department with appropriate justification to demonstrate a definitive need for the installation. Justification should include, but not be limited to, planned use, proximity to fire hydrants or other water supplies, and any limitations on the fire department's ability to access critical areas of a structure if standpipes are not installed. Final approval will be through the Department's Engineering Administrator.

The municipality shall enter into an agreement with the Department, which states that the municipality is fully responsible for all inspections, testing and maintenance of the standpipes, as well as any municipal share of the cost, if applicable, as noted above.

The above notwithstanding, the Department may elect to install standpipes on bridges without municipal participation where it is determined to be in the State's best interest to do so.

(This Policy Supersedes Policy Statement No. E&C -39 dated April 8, 2011)

[Signature]
James Redeker
Commissioner