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6. Maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of bridges

IABSE symposium – Washington, DC, USA – 9 and 10 September 1982

Objectives of the symposium

Since complete replacement of bridges is costly undertaking, the maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of bridges is a most important aspect of structural engineering. It is a challenge to the engineer to develop structurally sound repairs at minimum cost, particularly in present times when the number of structurally deficient bridges is so large and available funds are insufficient.

Eminent engineers from all over the world will be selected to present papers at the four technical sessions. These will be followed by prepared and free discussions and summaries by distinguished engineers.

Technical sessions

Session 1 – Inspection, records and maintenance

Frequency of inspections have generally been less than desirable in the past. Availability of records, particularly on old bridges, are non-existent or extremely meager making it more difficult for the engineer to assess the condition of structures

Session 2 – Rating and evaluation of remaining life of bridges

Before decisions can be made regarding the extent of proposed repairs for bridges, the rating and estimate of the remaining life of the structure are essential to obtain a clear perspective of the economic considerations

Session 3 – Rehabilitation and repair of bridges

Innovative techniques are needed to provide practical solutions to make deteriorated bridges structurally sufficient. Moreover, minimum cost is essential because of the limited funds available. Members damaged by collision or other external forces will be included

Session 4 – a) Joints, bearings and other details

b) Financial and planning considerations

One theme covers bridge details which have been problematic and are essential to proper functioning of the structure. The second theme involves the administrator whose financial planning constraints often affect the engineer's solutions.

The preliminary invitation, mailed in August 1981 to all members of IABSE is available also at the IABSE Secretariat.

