



ABOUT THIS PROJECT

PROJECT NAME: [Implementation of AASHTOWare BrR Program for Rating Iowa Bridges](#)

PROJECT NUMBER: TR-832

PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM:
Iowa Highway Research Board

PROJECTED END DATE: 2026

PROJECT CHAMPIONS:
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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Standardizing software for a statewide bridge rating system in Iowa

Bridges are given legal load ratings to comply with federal law and restrict heavy vehicle traffic to safe limits of the bridge. Iowa DOT currently uses AASHTOWare Bridge Rating (BrR) software to calculate ratings and to store the bridge modeling and rating data for future use.

However, to improve the management and quality control of all bridges in Iowa, it would be beneficial for all local agency bridge owners to use the same software as Iowa DOT to allow all bridge rating information to be stored in one database. The purpose of this project is to create BrR input models for standard bridges to help

bridge owners rate the over 24,000 standard bridges currently in Iowa that will make up this database.

“The AASHTOWare BrR program will be very beneficial to local agencies and the entire state of Iowa,” explained Brian Moore, executive director at Iowa County Engineers Association. “By standardizing how bridges are rated and having the ratings in a single database, local agencies will be able to react more quickly and efficiently when issuing oversize and overweight permits. Further, Iowa DOT and local agencies will be able to analyze bridges much more quickly when there are proposed legislative changes.”

Additional benefits expected to stem from adopting and using AASHTOWare software statewide include increasing bridge analysis resources, decreasing software licensing for local engineers and consultants, and streamlining practices for disseminating data to consultants.

The project is expected to conclude in 2026.

To learn more about this project and subscribe to updates, visit [Idea #3851](#).

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