

**Project Title:** Status of Concrete Highway Bridges on Main Freight Routes in Mississippi

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**Project Summary:**

Transportation infrastructure investments are necessary to enhance economic competitiveness and safety, and the transportation infrastructure in Mississippi depends greatly on bridges. The state has 17,032 bridges and many are now in distress. A total of 2,480 bridges in Mississippi are considered structurally deficient, some 14.6%.

How the state's bridges would handle an increase in heavy truck traffic is unknown, but they could soon be put to the test. The new Panama Canal could grow commerce at Gulf Coast ports and swell the movement of freight on Mississippi highways.

The objective of this study is to evaluate concrete highway bridges on main freight routes in Mississippi. The consultant will collaborate with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). With assistance from the MDOT Bridge Division, the consultant will access bridge records to determine bridge deficiencies and load capacity constraints. The MDOT Freight, Rails, Ports, and Waterways Division will help the consultant identify main freight routes.