

Northeast Bridge Preservation Peer Exchange

Bridge Washing Update

- FHWA Agreements for Funding
- Environmental Requirements

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Bridge Washing Update

FHWA Agreements for Funding

- Typically involve a systematic approach to picking which bridges are chosen.
- Proof of cost justification is typically antidotal
- One nationwide study showing cost effective may be best approach for all states. Why should each state have to show effectiveness of washing?

Bridge Washing Update

Environmental Requirements

- Typical

- Collect debris before washing
- Wash during high flows (Spring)
- Pressure from 3000-5000psi

- Special

- Prefer water source from stream
- Don't wash flaking paint
- Date restrictions due to bird nests

Bridge Washing Update

Issues /Research

- Washington State doing research
- Need to separate issues with washing decks vs. superstructures such as trusses
- Trusses would be nearly impossible to collect water (cost prohibitive) and probably the most important bridges to wash
- Does wash water actually do any more damage than perhaps high water flows?
- Consider working with painting industry (Society of Protective Coatings – SSPC) to determine benefits of periodic washing superstructures