



# Bridge Engineering FAQ

## **Are all bridges within Pierce County owned by the County?**

No, the State owns all bridges that are on, over and/or under a State owned highway or interstate. Incorporated cities and railroads also own bridges within the County.

## **How many bridges and structures do the County own?**

The County owns 141 bridges and co-owns 4 bridges with other municipalities. The County also owns 3 ferry landings.

## **How often are bridges inspected?**

Per Federal requirements, bridges are inspected every 2 years unless their condition warrants more frequent inspections.

## **What is the definition of a bridge?**

The Federal definition of a bridge is a structure that has a span over 20 feet. The County also inspects shorter structures (bridges) on a two year cycle and inspects culverts as needed.

## **What does it mean when a bridge is posted?**

A bridge is posted when the condition or functionality of the bridge no longer meets everyday use. Postings may be as minimal as vehicles must stop before entering onto the bridge and as restrictive as only passenger cars may use the bridge and even closing the bridge.

