

PROJECT: BRIDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Client Western Cape & Mpumalanga Roads & Works
Location Western Cape & Mpumalanga
Description: Inventory and inspection of 22 bridges



THE PROJECT:

The project involved the principle inspections of 22 bridges in the Cape Peninsula and Mpumalanga. These included railway bridges, road-over-road, road-over-rail, road-over-canal and culverts. The purpose of the inventory was to update the database systems of the respective clients and to ascertain the state of the bridges and prioritise any repair work. All this work had to be done to a prescribed format.

THE APPOINTMENT:

The inventories and inspections had to be done in a format compliant with the clients bridge management systems. All notes had to correspond with prescribed digital photographs. Standard views and information (bridge elevations, deflections, column types) had to be easily incorporated into the database systems.

Difficulties experienced on this project included the following:

- ~ Obtaining permission from MetroRail to work on the railway lines and observe their safety requirements.
- ~ Observing safety precautions on six of the bridges - two of which were on the N2 at Mowbray and four on the Marine Drive Expressway. Here visibility was all-important.
- ~ Two culvert bridges proved extremely difficult. These seemed to be water outlets sealed off when the Salt River power station was demolished.
- ~ Some areas investigated needed mechanical lifting equipment
- ~ Canals also posed health hazards as accumulated debris emitted toxic smells

OUTCOME:

Tasks were successfully completed and junior staff have been given the opportunity to learn client bridge management systems.