

CHANGES TO THE BRO PROGRAM

What's changing with the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program?

Federal requirements are changing how bridges are categorized. BRO eligible bridges will now be categorized as Poor, rather than Deficient, to qualify for the program.

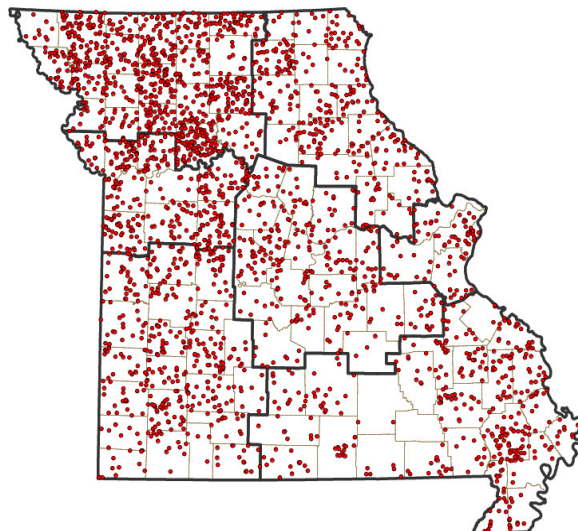
This change is intended to focus limited funds on bridges needing the most attention—the ones that are one step away from being closed due to structural inadequacies.

MoDOT has already made this change on the state-owned bridges and will begin transitioning bridges owned by local agencies in October 2021. The final list of local bridges eligible for BRO funds based on being Deficient was published in the Fall of 2020. In October 2021, MoDOT will publish the first list of BRO eligible local agency bridges that are in Poor condition and then update this list each year moving forward.

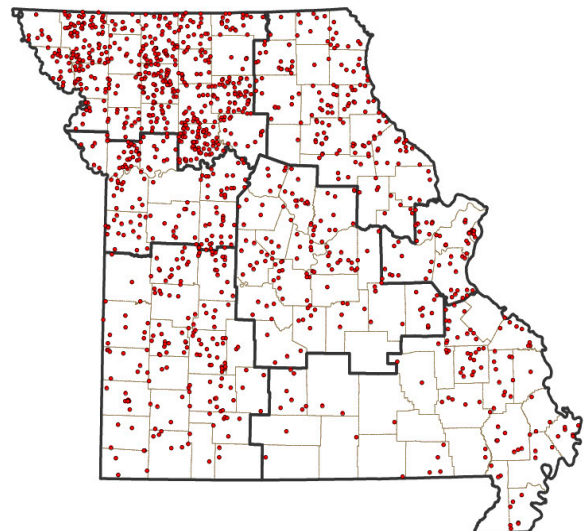
How many bridges are affected?

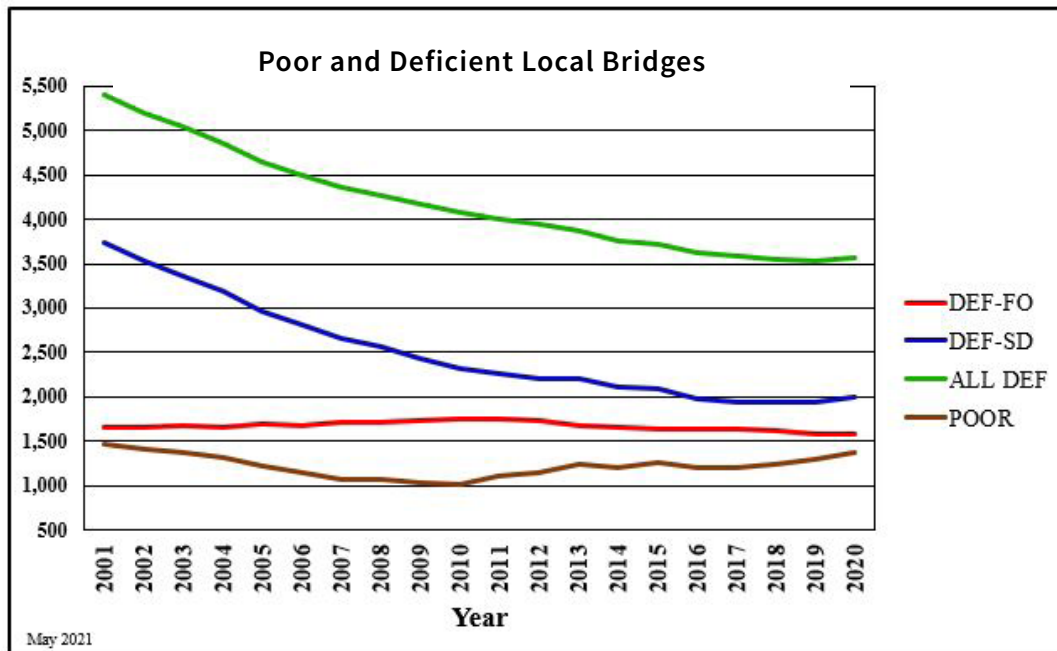
Today, there are almost 2,700 Deficient local bridges eligible for BRO funding. After the transition, the BRO program will focus on the approximately 1,300 Poor bridges eligible for funding. Missouri's local agencies are responsible for about 14,000 bridges.

Deficient Bridges under BRO Program



Poor Bridges under BRO Program





The difference between Deficient and Poor bridges

The category of Deficient includes Structurally Deficient bridges and Functionally Obsolete bridges. Functionally Obsolete includes factors such as lane width, rail heights, waterway adequacy and clearances that may make a bridge less than perfect, but not structurally concerning.

The Poor category focuses on the structural condition of the bridge. Bridges with any component condition rating of 4 or below are designated as Poor.

When will the eligibility listings change from Deficient to Poor?

The final list of eligible bridges based on being Deficient was published in the Fall of 2020. Counties can begin programming bridges from the Poor eligibility listing in October 2021. Counties can continue to program bridges for rehabilitation or replacement from the Deficient eligibility list, but those bridges must be under construction contract by the end of calendar year 2023. Beginning January 1st, 2024, only bridges from the Poor eligibility list can use BRO funding.

What is the impact on the Soft Match Credit Program?

The Soft Match Credit program will continue to be available. As with BRO bridges, bridges for which soft match credit will be requested are currently eligible using either the Deficient eligibility list or the Poor eligibility list. However, requests for Soft Match Credit for Deficient bridges must be submitted by the end of calendar year 2023. Beginning January 1st, 2024, only bridges from the Poor eligibility list can receive Soft Match Credit.

