The FRA routinely examines NS BRIDGES & INSPECTION REPORTS to ensure safety. Bridges are inspected MONTHLY or ANNUALLY based on individual conditions. The 670 NS employees who work in bridge inspection, maintenance, and replacement ensure that these bridges safely connect trains to our customers and the communities we serve.

There’s more to Norfolk Southern’s 9,840 railroad bridges than meets the eye. From concrete structures spanning wide rivers to timber bridges crossing creeks, NS bridges cover 275 track miles and come in all styles, sizes, and construction materials. The 670 NS employees who work in bridge inspection, maintenance, and replacement ensure that these bridges safely connect trains to our customers and the communities we serve.

There are 3 MAJOR NS BRIDGE TYPES:
- **Steel**: 74%
- **Concrete**: 21%
- **Timber**: 5%

**NS RAILROAD BRIDGES**: are WELL-BUILT and designed to last.

**BRIDGE BASICS**

**REMARKABLY SAFE**

Zero Casualties and no significant property loss caused by structural deficiency on an NS bridge in modern times.

**MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION**

Norfolk Southern’s bridge management program is extensive and effective. All bridges and structures are inspected regularly by certified NS bridge inspectors.

**NS Bridge Inspection Practices**

**HANDS-ON INSPECTIONS:**
Using SNOOPER TRUCKS and LADDERS, MAN LIFTS, HIGH-RAIL TRUCKS.

**WALKING INSPECTIONS:**
Using LADDERS, MAN LIFTS, HIGH-RAIL TRUCKS.

**UNDERWATER INSPECTIONS:**
Using SCUBA GEAR to examine foundation.

NS inspectors file detailed reports using PHOTOGRAPHS, SKETCHES, AND VIDEOS to describe bridge conditions.

NS’ inspection supervisors & bridge engineers REVIEW INSPECTION REPORTS and develop a plan for maintenance or repair.

Bridges are inspected MONTHLY or ANNUALLY based on individual conditions.

Norfolk Southern is in full compliance with FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION Bridge Safety Standards, often exceeding requirements.

“The FRA routinely examines NS BRIDGES & INSPECTION REPORTS to ensure safety. We truly care about the safety of each and every bridge on the Norfolk Southern system.”

Kevin Hauschildt
NS Chief Engineer
Bridges and Structures
STRENGTHENING OUR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
Norfolk Southern understands the importance of building and maintaining a safe, reliable, and efficient freight rail network. Tracing our roots to the 1830s, NS monitors and improves our infrastructure to support the nation’s growing transportation needs.

THE KENOVA OHIO RIVER BRIDGE
Like most NS bridges, the Kenova Ohio River Bridge has undergone major upgrades over the past century and remains functionally and structurally sound today. The bridge is an integral link in the national railway system.

- Spans nearly 4,000 feet across the Ohio River
- Stands 82 feet above water
- Built with 21.6 million pounds of solid steel
- Handles 35 trains a day with double-stack clearance capacity

Its excellent condition is a testament to the precision and commitment of the NS workforce – past and present – to keep these structures safe and serviceable.

*A bridge’s age and appearance bear little or no relevance to its safety and stability.*

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS
NS employs world-class engineers, inspectors, & supervisors responsible for maintaining the highest standards of bridge safety.

NS’ certified bridge engineers developed an in-house BRIDGE INSPECTION training program.

ALL INVOLVED in NS’ bridge inspection program TAKE THE COURSE every three years in classroom and field settings.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS
NS FUNDS MOST INFRASTRUCTURE & IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS without taxpayer dollars.

NS INVESTS SOME $2 BILLION in our infrastructure annually.

Replacement of Portageville Rail Bridge
The 963-foot steel arch bridge over New York’s Genesee River Gorge replaced the 140-year-old Portageville Bridge. The new $75 million bridge upgrade will better serve and support the region’s economy and connect businesses from Buffalo to Albany.