

**761—115.11(306A) Utility facility attachments to bridges.**

**115.11(1)** *Department determination.* Utility facilities may be attached to an existing primary road bridge if the department determines that the attachment is in the best interests of the public. The department may accommodate utility facility attachments or conduits in the department's design for a new bridge if the department determines that the accommodation is in the best interest of the public.

**115.11(2)** *Method and weight of attachment.* The plan identified in subrule 115.7(3) is to show the method and weight of attachment. A separate permit is required for each bridge.

*a.* All attachments are to be placed in conduits, cells, pipes or trays; beneath the bridge's floor; inside the outer girders or beams; and above low steel or masonry of the bridge.

*b.* Department-approved clamps are to be used for any attachments to structural steel. Attachments are to be designed to withstand expansion or contraction forces.

*c.* If necessary, expansion devices, such as expansion joints, offsets or loops, shall be used. Utility facilities in cells or casings are to be grounded wherever necessary.

*d.* Welding or drilling holes in structural steel primary members is prohibited.

*e.* Utility facilities may be attached to noncritical concrete areas.

*f.* Holes should not be cut in wing walls, abutments or piers.

**115.11(3)** *Attachment considerations.*

*a.* Carrier pipe is to be suitably insulated from electrical power line attachments.

*b.* Pipelines may be attached to primary road bridges when installation below ground is not feasible, the design of the bridge can accommodate the attachment, and space is available.

*c.* Pipelines that have an operating pressure of more than 75 pounds per square inch or that are larger than 2 inches in diameter are to have shutoffs not more than 300 feet from each end of the bridge.

*d.* The department will consider pipeline attachment casing requirements on an individual basis. In some instances, thicker-walled or extra-strength pipe may be considered in lieu of encasement. Encasement is required for plastic pipe attachments to bridges.

*e.* The utility owner is to provide an indemnity bond to be executed by either itself or by a responsible bonding company, at the department's option.

(1) The indemnifier under the bond is to, in the event of damage resulting from any cause whatsoever arising out of or from permission to attach a pipeline, indemnify the department against all loss or damage to the department or any third party, including but not limited to the expense of repairing or replacing the bridge and the cost of alternate primary road facilities for traffic during the period when the bridge is being repaired or replaced.

(2) The indemnity bond is to be kept in force for as long as the pipeline is attached to the bridge.

(3) The department may periodically review the amount of the bond and require adjustments in the bond amount.

*f.* All costs attributable to the installation of an attachment to a bridge are to be paid by the utility owner unless the attachment is installed pursuant to a utility agreement.

**115.11(4)** *Attachment fee.*

*a.* The utility owner is to pay to the department an attachment fee for attaching the utility owner's utility facility to a primary road bridge. The attachment fee is \$181.60 per bridge plus \$0.99 times the weight of the attachment in pounds per foot times the length of the bridge in feet. The fee will increase 3 percent per year over the previous year after the base year of 2024. Additional fees may apply for longitudinal freeway occupancy (more information contained in subrule 115.15(8)). The department maintains the current fee listing available on the department's website at [www.iowadot.gov/consultants-contractors/right-way/utility-accommodation-coordination](http://www.iowadot.gov/consultants-contractors/right-way/utility-accommodation-coordination).

*b.* The attachment fee is due before any construction work commences within the rights-of-way and shall be submitted to the department upon request.

*c.* Utility facilities dedicated solely to government use may, at the department's discretion, be attached to a primary road bridge without assessment of an attachment fee.

**115.11(5)** *Utility attachments to freeway border bridges.* The department may permit a utility facility to be attached to an existing or planned freeway border bridge if the following conditions are met:

*a.* The appropriate state agency of the adjoining state approves the attachment.

*b.* Except for communication cable, the utility facility exits the freeway rights-of-way as soon as physically practical after crossing the state line into Iowa.

*c.* The attachment otherwise complies with this chapter, specifically including this rule and rule 761—115.15(306A) on longitudinal freeway occupancy.

[ARC 9265C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]