



AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

Bridge Infrastructure Assessments

June 14, 2024

Audit No. 2407

WHY WE DID THIS AUDIT

This audit of *Bridge Infrastructure Assessment* was included on the City Council-approved fiscal year (FY) 2023/24 Audit Plan. The audit objective was to review processes and controls relating to bridge inspections, repair, maintenance, including follow-up on related recommendations from Audit No. 1905.

BACKGROUND

Transportation & Streets, a department within the Public Works Division, is responsible for managing inspections, maintenance, and repair of most City-owned bridges and culverts. Through an Intergovernmental Agreement, ADOT perform inspections on bridges that meet National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) criteria. ADOT sends its completed bridge inspection reports to the Street Operations department, which is responsible for handling the recommended maintenance and repair items.

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WHAT WE FOUND

More than half of recent ADOT inspection reports have not been obtained and reviewed; more effective monitoring of inspection results is needed.

Since the 2019 audit, the department more actively reviews ADOT inspections results and recommended work. However, stronger monitoring practices are still needed.

- Recent reports for about 130 structures were missing. Procedures needed to ensure inspections are received and reviewed.
- Incomplete inventory led to a bridge going uninspected for nearly 30 years. Also, an inaccurate inventory impacts the department's ability to effectively monitor inspection results.
- Work order status is not effectively monitored and follow-up on deferred work is needed.
- A culvert rated in poor condition needs attention.

A lack of an asset management program puts small bridges at risk of expensive repairs or replacement.

Limited progress has been made in establishing an asset management program for non-NBIS bridges and culverts.

- Roles and responsibilities for these assets, which cross multiple city departments, need to be defined or formalized.
- Non-NBIS bridges have not been identified and inventoried; a plan for periodic assessments or inspections needs to be developed.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

We recommend:

- Transportation & Streets should establish stronger processes to ensure all ADOT inspection reports are received, reviewed and work orders are created when needed. Additionally, the department should follow-up on deferred work orders and further assess the culvert in poor condition.
- Transportation & Streets should develop procedures for reporting new structures and ensuring accurate structure information.
- Public Works Director work with departments to define roles and responsibilities for non-NBIS asset management.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The department agreed with the recommendations.