IABMAS

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Meeting Minutes

IABMAS Technical Committee on Bridge Load Testing

Zoom Meeting ID: 880 257 05271 https://usfq.zoom.us/j/88025705271?from=addon

Wednesday April 29th 2026 9:00 – 11:00 CDT, 16:00 – 17:00 CEDT

Mission: *Bridge Load Testing is a field testing technique that can be used to obtain more information about the performance of bridges. In particular, diagnostic load tests can be used to quantify elements of structural performance such as transverse distribution, unintended composite action, repair effectiveness, etc. and the information of a diagnostic load test can serve to develop field-validated models of existing bridges that can be used to develop a more accurate assessment of the bridge's performance. Proof load testing can be used to demonstrate directly that a bridge can carry a load that is representative of the live load, provided that the bridge does not show signs of distress. Other types of load testing include testing for dynamic properties, and parameter-specific tests. Load test data as well as the analytical assessment of the data can be used to make more informed decisions and manage the life-cycle performance and maintenance of bridges.*

Aspects of bridge load testing that are of particular interest to bridge owners are having an overview of the typical uses for bridge load tests, the decision on when to load test or not, which information to obtain from the load test, and how this information can be used to reduce the uncertainties regarding the tested bridge. This committee is eager to learn about and disseminate the potential for applying new technologies for bridge load testing through learning from technologies used in other industries.

Associated with bridge load testing, the following topics are also of importance to this committee: instrumentation used during load testing and the interpretation of the obtained measurements during the load test, determination of required load, method of load application, methods of updating assessments using collected field data, the link between load testing and structural health monitoring, the uncertainties (probabilistic aspects as well as risks during test execution) associated with load testing, the interpretation of load test results, laboratory testing of bridge components to improve assessment methods in the field, and optimization of related costs keeping adequate reliability to spread their use worldwide.

The IABMAS Bridge Load Testing Committee aims to be an international committee of participants from academia, industry, and bridge owners, which provides a forum for the exchange of ideas on bridge load testing. Best practices as well as the insights from the development of national codes and guidelines will

be exchanged among participants from countries that use load testing for the assessment of their existing bridges, those who are exploring the possibilities of this method, and those who are in the process of standardizing the procedures or developing guidelines.

Goals:

- Organize dedicated sessions to the topic of load testing at IABMAS conferences.
- Develop national IABMAS group events on the topic of load testing.
- Exchange information on the use of load testing in different countries.
- Exchange lessons learned and best practices.
- Inform about case studies of bridge load testing.
- Communicate load testing guides or standards that have been developed.
- Provide a forum for new ideas and applications of technology.
- Identify potential research topics.
- Establish international collaborations.
- Liaise with relevant committees internationally outside of IABMAS and liaise with the national IABMAS groups.

Committee Members

Eva Lantsoght	David Kosnik (TRB AKB40 liaison)
Jesse Grimson	Daniele Losanno
Mitsuyoshi Akiyama	Marcelo Marquez
Sreenivas Alampalli	**Johannio Marulanda**
Numa Bertola	Armin Mehrabi
Fabio Biondini	**Piotr Olaszek**
Tulio Bittencourt	Pavel Ryjacek
Alok Bhowmick	**Marek Salamak**
Matteo Breveglieri	Gabriel Sas
Anders Carolin	Jacob Schmidt
Hermes Carvalho	Tomoki Shiotani
Joan Ramon Casas	Hisatada Suganuma
Rolando Chacon	Matias Valenzuela
Dave Cousins	Michal Venglar
Ivan Duvnjak	**Esteban Villalobos Vega**
Dan Frangopol	David Yang
Monique Head	Yuguang Yang (fib TG 3.2 liaison)
Robert Heywood	Gloria Zhang
Boulent Imam	Ales Znidaric
Ho-Kyung Kim	**Grzegorz Poprawa**

Guests:
Regrets: Dave Cousins

1. Administrative

1.1. Welcome and introduction

Jesse opened the meeting, welcomed all participants, and outlined the agenda. A round of introductions followed.

1.2 **Review and approval of agenda**

The meeting agenda was reviewed without comments.

2. Strategic Planning and Discussion

2.1. Membership and committee leadership

Changes to committee leadership and open positions were discussed. Eva, Jesse, and Rolando announced that the Secretary position is open and invited interested members to volunteer. Eva will be stepping down from the role due to her increasing administrative responsibilities as Vice Dean.

3. Old business

3.1. Development of joint bulletin of proof load testing of concrete structures with fib TG 3.2

Eva mentioned an update was provided on the joint bulletin on proof load testing of concrete structures with fib TG 3.2. Progress on the document and planning activities is ongoing

3.2. Special Session on Bridge Load Testing – IABMAS 2026

It was confirmed that **at least two sessions** on bridge load testing will be held at IABMAS 2026. This was received as positive news, and participants expressed enthusiasm about meeting in Orlando. Status of the (MS) was briefly mentioned.

3.3. Collaboration with Other IABMAS Technical Committees and Digital Twin Activities

It was confirmed that at least two sessions on bridge load testing will be held at IABMAS 2026. This was received as positive news, and participants expressed enthusiasm about meeting in Orlando. Status of the (MS) was briefly mentioned.

Concerning the workshop, it was mentioned that Basak Bektas has sent a first draft of the workshop outline to review. Not yet officially agreed upon.

ASNT Materials paper (expected to be published in the summer edition; members will likely need an account/subscription to access the paper upon publication)

4. New Business

4.1. Liaison updates

TRB AKB40 Liaison (Dave Kosnik):

No update was provided, as the liaison was not present.

fib TG 3.2 Liaison (Yuguang Yang):

The update is consistent with the information presented earlier under Item 3.1.

Other Liaisons:

Rolando highlighted the importance of monitoring developments from IABSE's newly formed Digital Twins group, particularly regarding load testing and digital twin integration.

4.2. Upcoming conferences and events

IABMAS 2026: Preparations are ongoing, with the conference approaching in approximately two months.

SMAR 2026: Briefly mentioned as an upcoming event.

4.3. Any other business

Alok Bhowmick shared an invitation for a special session on load testing at IABSE India, focused on Structural Failures.

Rob Heywood initiated a discussion on the influence of temperature during load testing, noting its potential impact on results. Numa contributed insights based on fiber optic measurements.

Ho-Kyung Kim announced the upcoming IABSE Incheon conference in September, where group members will contribute. He also highlighted relevant commissions on BIM and Digital Twins worth monitoring.

5. Adjournment

Rolando thanked all participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions.
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next Meeting: To be held during IABMAS 2026.