



GDOT Publications

Policies & Procedures

Policy: 6865-7- Vertical Clearance of Bridges over RR Tracks

Section: Railroads

Office/Department: Office of Utilities

Reports To: Division of Operations

Contact: 404-631-1000

There have been instances where the minimum vertical clearance shown in construction plans for a bridge over railroad tracks was not obtained during construction which caused a reduction in the required vertical clearance. This situation can result from actions by both the Department (survey, design, construction, and maintenance) and the Railroad (routine maintenance involving raising their tracks). If a reduction in clearance caused by the Department is not acceptable to the Railroad, it can become very costly in some cases to adjust construction to provide the required clearance.

The Area Engineer should work to ensure that the clearances shown on the plans (as approved by the Railroad) are obtained. Measurements should be taken at the appropriate times during construction to ensure that the proper clearances will be obtained.

The Railroad companies have requested that they receive documentation of the actual clearances obtained when the Office of Utilities advises them of the final acceptance of the project. Therefore, the Area Engineer should verify clearances on final inspection and report both the clearance shown on the plans and the actual clearance obtained in construction to the Office of Utilities for reporting to the responsible Railroad, Bridge Design Office, and Bridge Maintenance Office.

References:

None.

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