

SUMMARY

Bridges are key elements of the road network within a country. The inadequacy or failure of only one bridge may limit or severely obstruct road traffic over a large portion of the network. For this reason there is clearly a need for a comprehensive manual covering all aspects of bridge management from conception of the bridge to its completion.

A review of the past and present local conditions of Jamaica with the view to illustrate their effects on the development of bridge within the country has been made. Descriptive information has been presented on the condition of bridges, evaluation and inventory procedures, and ranking and assessment of bridges in order of priorities. Discussion is also carried out on the country's financial arrangement for the bridge project, and the various financial and technical facilities available to Caribbean countries undertaking major bridge projects.

The report outlines all the necessary management functions required for the construction of bridge projects including: planning for the project, design detailing and documentation, and construction plans and techniques. This report is intended to serve as a manual for use in Construction of short and medium span roadway bridges in the Caribbean.

The management of maintenance, repair and rehabilitation for bridges, including the various techniques are dealt with. The report suggests recommendations on formulation, project planning, construction, maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of bridge projects and concludes identifying the specific need for a bridge policy, especially in the light of the present techno-socio-economic and environmental constraints.