

README for “Railroad Bridges 2010-Present” dataset.

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); Bureau of
Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]

2021-02-16

LINKS TO DATASET

A. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520834>

SUMMARY OF DATASET

The Railroad Bridges 2010-Present database is from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics’ (BTS’) National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). FRA Grade Bridges is a spatial file that originates from the National Highway-Rail Bridges Inventory Program. The program is to provide information to the public, Federal, State, and local governments, as well as the railroad industry for information and the improvements of safety at highway-rail Bridges.

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

0. Title of Dataset:

Railroad Bridges 2010-Present [datasets]

1. Description of Dataset:

The Railroad Bridges 2010-Present database is from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). FRA Grade Bridges is a spatial file that originates from the National Highway-Rail Bridges Inventory Program. The program is to provide information to the public, Federal, State, and local governments, as well as the railroad industry for information and the improvements of safety at highway-rail Bridges.

2. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520834>

3. Authorship Information:

Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: ExecSecretariat.FHWA@dot.gov

Data Distributor Contact Information

Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), The Office of Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: ntad@dot.gov

4. Date of data collection and update interval:

Annually

5. Geographic location of data collection:

United States of America

6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION

0. Recommended citation for the data:

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]. (2020). Railroad Bridges 2010-Present [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520834>

1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:

These data are in the Public Domain.

2. Was data derived from another source?:

Yes. The dataset was generated from the FRA grade Bridges inventory which populates FRA GIS grade Bridges layer monthly.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created and shared to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Federally-Funded Scientific Research" Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.

C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW

1. File List for the bts_RailroadBridges_20210216.zip collection

A. Filename:

rrbridges_XXXX.zip

Short description:

Compressed file folders containing the geospatial data for Railroad Bridges 2010-Present dataset. Listed below are the names of the compressed file folders, classified by vintage date: rrbridges_2010.zip

B. Filename:

bts_RailroadBridges_DMP_20210216.pdf

Short description:

A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future management of the data and associated files.

C. Filename:

bts_RailroadBridges_20210216_README.txt

Short description:

The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable definitions, contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

2. File List for the rrbridges_XXXX.zip collection

A. Filename:

rrbridges.shp

Short description:

A shapefile containing the geospatial data for Railroad Bridges 2010-Present dataset. This includes associated files with extensions .prj, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .shx.

B. Filename:

rrbridges.txt

Short description:

A text file containing key metadata and documentation information such as methodology, procedures, data dictionary, etc.

D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:

The Railroad Bridges 2010-Present was created by obtaining the FRA spreadsheet for Passenger Rail Policy Division.

2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:

The data and documentation files can be opened with Esri ArcMap and any GIS software package.

E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. XXXXXX data table

Data is updated annually. Dataset Manager is contacted to verify changes to data resulting in NTAD update. The metadata is updated in the same manner. For the most recent data, please visit the NTAD catalog at <https://data-usdot.opendata.arcgis.com/>

A. Number of variables (columns):

The data dictionary found in (PDF documentation) provides definitions for the variables

B. Data Dictionary/Variable List:

Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within the file rrbridges.txt for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

E. Missing data codes:

None

F. UPDATE LOG

This bts_RailroadBridges_20210216_README.txt file was originally created on 2021-02-16 by Dominic Menegus, Geographer, dominic.menegus@dot.gov

[Note changes or update to the readme.txt file, e.g.:]

2021-02-16: Original file created