

Ministry of Transportation

Office of the Executive Director

Provincial Highways Management
Division

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Ontario

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C.A.O.
Allan Brown - Aug.
Development Services
Letter.*

13 2007

August 9, 2007

His Worship Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Blvd.
Markham, Ontario
L3R 9W3

RE: Ministry of Transportation Response to Failure of Minnesota Interstate 35W Bridge

Dear Mayor Scarpitti:

Staff of the Ministry of Transportation was saddened to hear of the collapse of the Interstate 35W Bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota on August 1, 2007.

As a precaution, the ministry has ordered its bridge inspection teams to complete an immediate and full inspection of all steel deck truss bridges on the provincial highway system. These inspections are being carried out in addition to the inspections required every two years under Regulation 104/97 of the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act*.

We encourage municipalities with steel deck truss bridges to complete these inspections as well. Should you have any questions regarding bridge standards or inspection requirements, ministry staff are available to provide you with technical expertise. Please contact Bala Tharmabala, P. Eng, Manager, Bridge Office at (905) 704-2341 or by e-mail at bala.tharmabala@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Mantha, P.Eng.
Executive Director

c: Bala Tharmabala