

## Local firm conducts bridge inspections

**HARRIMAN** - C.V. Associates, a consulting engineering firm located in Harriman that specializes in bridge maintenance inspections.

After the collapse of the I-35 Bridge over the Mississippi River, the state Department of Transportation ordered engineers to visually inspect some of the bridges that were similar in structural configuration to the collapsed bridge.

Among those bridges inspected by a team from C.V. Associates was an arched shaped Steel Truss Bridge on Route 9W over Cedar Pond Brook at Stony Point, said company president C. V. Shashikumar.

For the past eight years, engineers from his firm have conducted more than 5,000 structures, including 4,000 bridges

and 1,000 overhead sign structures and major bridges such as Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges.

This year alone, CVA is performing inspections of 1,100 structures (750 bridges and 350 overhead signs) throughout New York and New Jersey.

From 2000, CVA has inspected more than 1,200 locally located bridges in three cycles in Region 8 of New York State Department of Transportation, which includes Orange, Rockland, Ulster and other counties. More than 20 people are working on Bridge Inspections in CVA, of which 9 are Professional Engineers. 45 percent of the total income of CVA constitutes bridge maintenance inspections.

The Bridge Inspection Program, which was started after the collapse of the Silver

Bridge in Ohio in 1967, has been well established and standardized for more than 25 years. All bridges more than 20 feet long are inspected every two years and the load capacity is determined.

Some bridges may need interim inspections depending on structural conditions. According to Shashikumar, bridge

inspections are routine and standardized.

"The public need not worry about the status of bridges," he said in a press release. "It is indeed sad that it happened in Minnesota but at least bridges of similar configuration are being revisited by engineers to make sure that it does not happen again."

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