

ENGINEERING SEMINAR

Utilizing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Bridge Inspection

Abstract

Starting in 2014, Collins Engineers, Inc. entered into a joint pilot project with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to study the feasibility and practicality of utilizing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS's) in routine and special bridge inspection programs. To date the project has progressed through three phases, each validating and progressing the use of UAS's in bridge inspection. Through the three phases of study MNDOT and Collins Engineers has unveiled specific strengths, weaknesses, limitations, and restrictions, which continue to form the fabric for a UAS based bridge inspection program.

Specific topics addressed will include FAA regulation, current inspection methodology, safety in bridge inspection, highlight specific projects where UAS's have been used for inspection, and a summary of challenges overcome thus far in the project.

Marc Parker, S.E., PE
Collins Engineers, Inc.



Marc B. Parker has been with Collins Engineers for 6 years, specializing in the fields of structure inspection and design. Marc graduated with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Purdue University followed by a Masters in Structural Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology. During his time at Collins Engineers, Marc has focused on the above and below water inspection of roadway bridges as well as industrial structures and waterfront facilities. In 2015, Marc obtained his UAS remote pilots license and has been working with a team of Engineers from Collins Engineers and MNDOT on the UAS bridge inspection program.

Date: October 30, 2017 Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 pm, EDT
Location: 200G Baldy Hall, North Campus, University at Buffalo
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