Blue Water History

1938	Original span opens
1950s	Plaza upgraded including first ramp over Pine Grove Avenue
1983	Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) completed for improvements to the plaza
1980s/90s	Existing elevated plaza constructed over Pine Grove Avenue
1990s	Truck traffic increases substantially
1997	Second span completed and opened Original span closed for maintenance
1999	Original span re-opens
2002	Current study begins

Purpose and Need

- Accommodate projected 30-year traffic growth and potential future facility needs.
- Minimize backups on Highway 402 and I-94/69.
- Accommodate the latest inspection technologies and procedures.
- Provide flexibility for *future* unknown inspection technologies and procedures.
- Improve facility security and separate customs brokers and FAST/NEXUS enrollment from secure areas.
- Provide exit control and maintain control of primary to secondary inspection referrals.
- Reduce weave movements on the bridge, plaza, and I-94/69.
- Reduce vehicle and pedestrian conflicts on the plaza.
- Improve local access and reduce associated local traffic conflicts.
- Minimize routing of through commercial traffic to local roads during maintenance operations.

BLUE WATER BRIDGE PLAZA STUDY

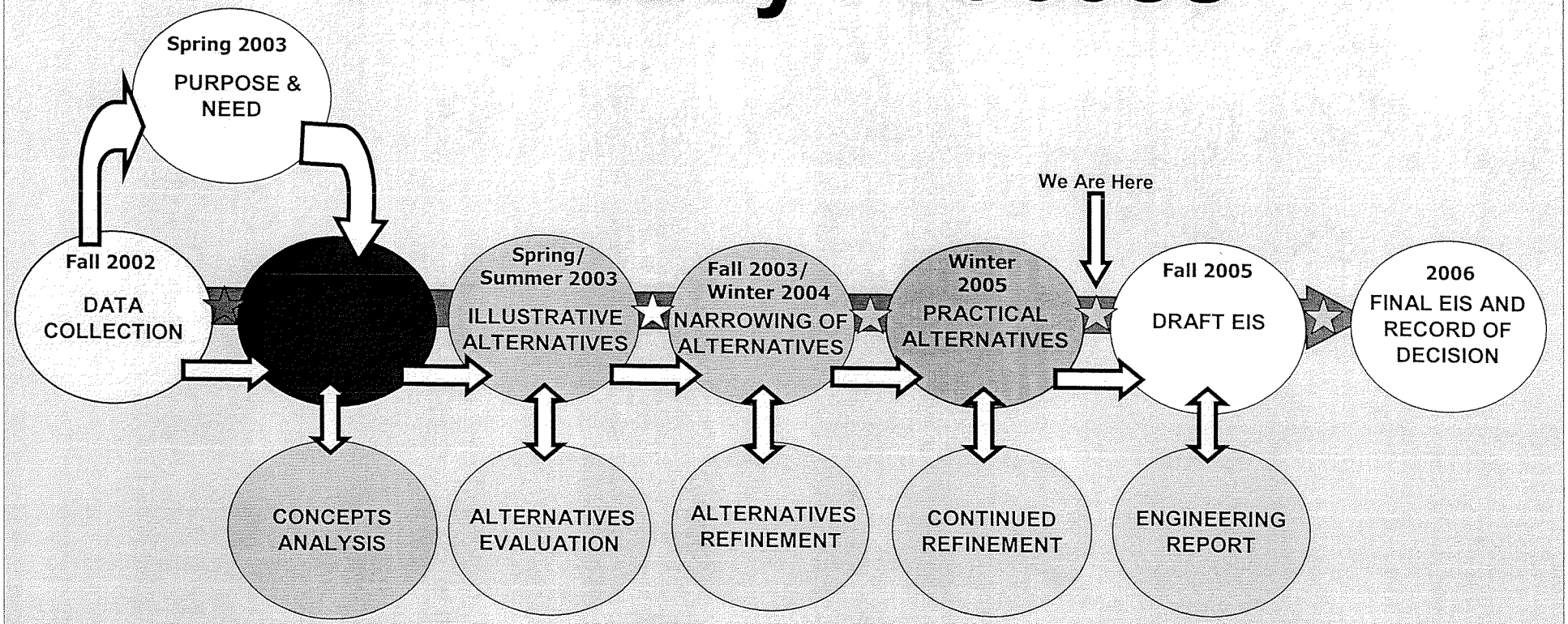
Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study

MDOT Michigan Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Wilbur Smith Associates
ENGINEERS PLANNERS ECONOMISTS

EIS Study Process



- ★ Public Involvement Kickoff Meeting – March 13, 2003
- ☆ Illustrative Alternatives Public Meeting – September 23, 2003
- ☆ Updated Alternatives Public Meeting – May 17, 2004
- ☆ Practical Alternatives Public Meeting – February 9, 2005
- ☆ Public Hearing

MDOT Michigan Department of Transportation

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Next Steps

The following are the next steps for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study.

- Prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) – Spring/Summer 2005
- Hold a public hearing on the DEIS – Fall 2005
- Community Workshops on Appearance and Visual Issues – Winter 2006
- Complete a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) – Spring 2006
- Record of Decision (ROD) issued that officially selects an alternative for design and construction – Fall 2006
- Begin the Design Phase for the project

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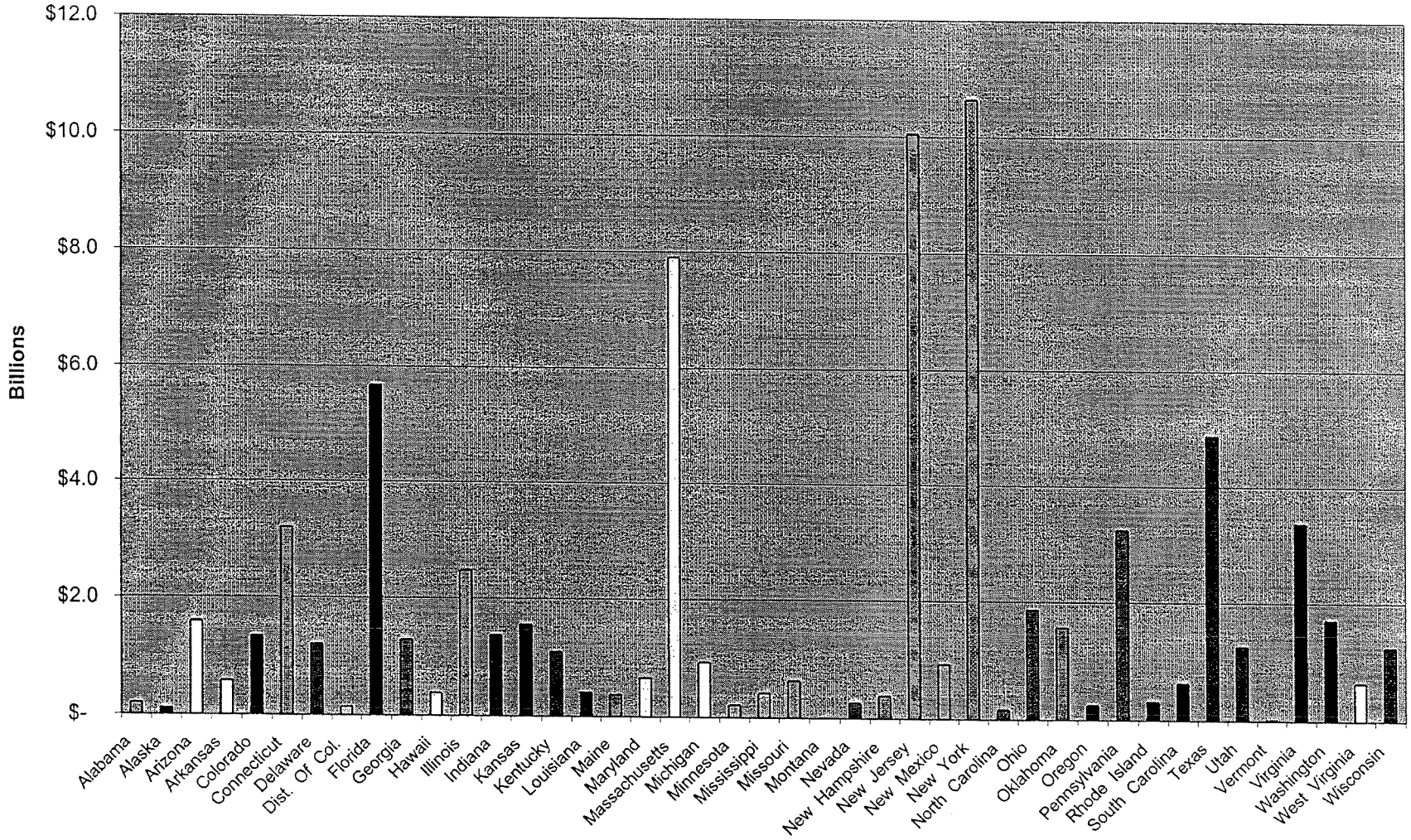
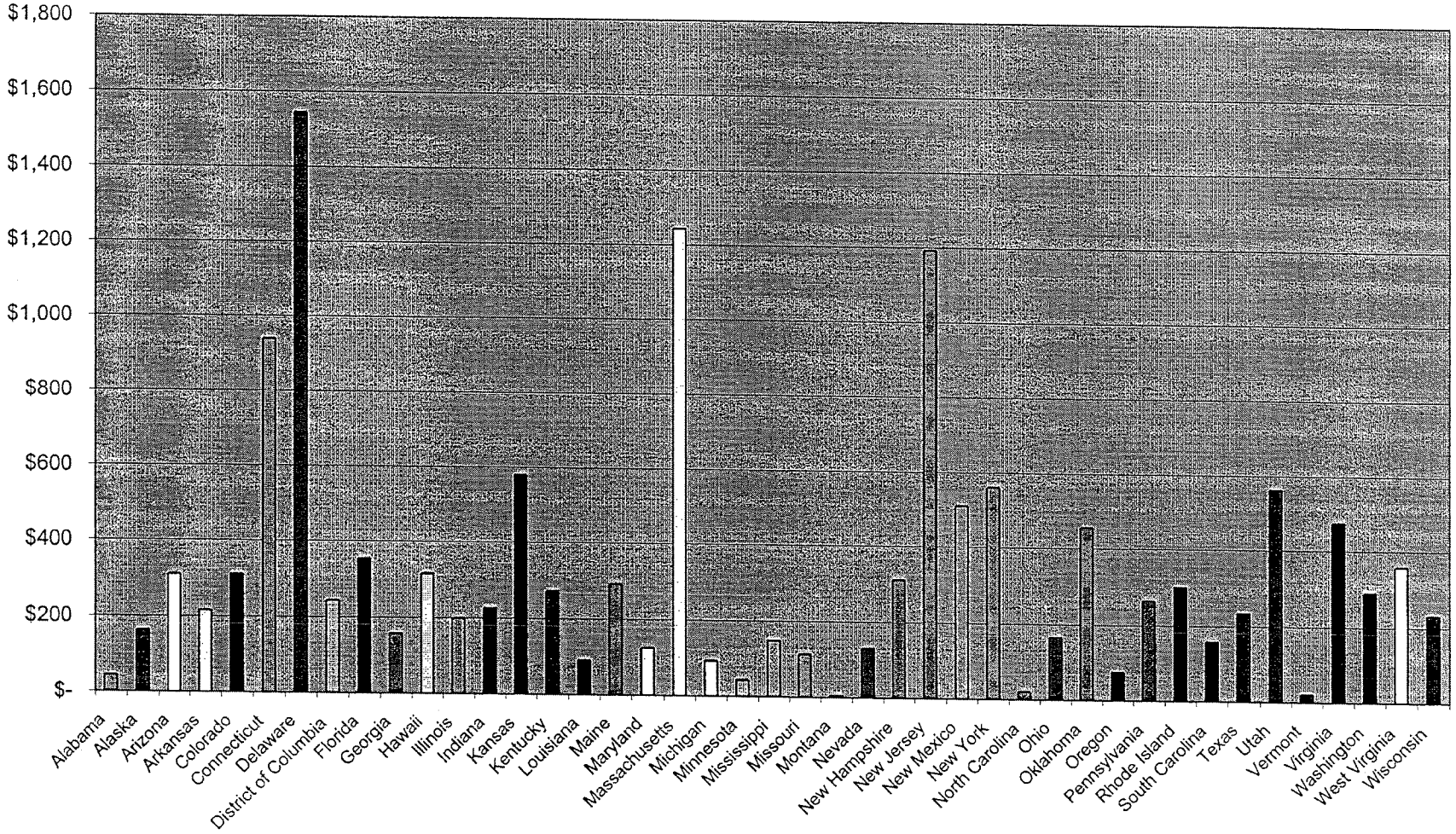
2003 Outstanding State Obligations for Highways



Source: 2003 FHWA Highway Statistics

2003 Outstanding State Obligations per Capita



Source: 2003 FHWA Highway Statistics and 2000 Census