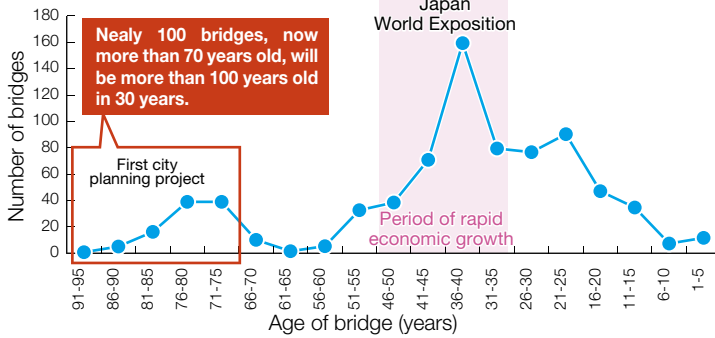


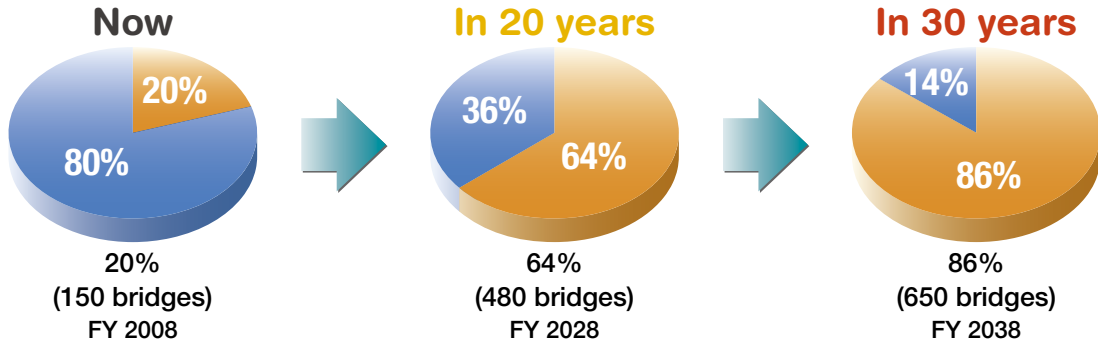
## 1. Rapid Aging of Bridges

The City of Osaka started to promote urban infrastructure development at an early stage. The proportion of city bridges 50 years old or older is approximately 20%, significantly higher than the national average of 6%. Nearly 100 bridges were constructed before World War II and are consequently over 70 years old. It is expected that the cost of maintaining and reconstructing all these bridges will increase in the future.



Hommachi Bridge: Oldest bridge in Osaka City, Constructed in 1913

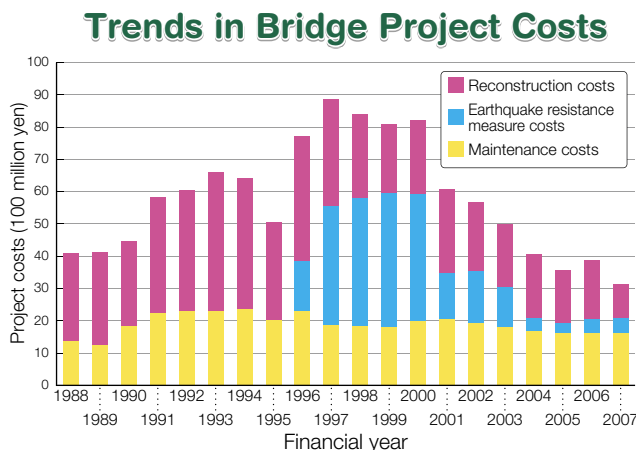
### Proportion of Maintained Bridges More Than 50 Years Old



## 2. Limited Financial Resources

In recent years, the City of Osaka has faced extremely difficult financial conditions. There is a need to make projects more efficient and effective than ever before.

We have responded by restricting reconstruction budgets such as those allocated for the construction of new bridges. Where maintenance is concerned, we have reached the point where safety considerations make it difficult to make any more cuts. Therefore, new maintenance techniques must be established.



## 3. The Need for Safety and Peace of Mind

In a public questionnaire conducted in 2008, a high priority was placed on actions such as repairs and the implementation of earthquake resistance measures for bridges, and the reconstruction of old bridges, indicating high expectations among citizens with respect to actions related to safety and peace of mind.

### Bridge-related Actions Favored by Citizens

