



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

Memorandum

October 10, 2007

CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM

07-23

TO: District Deputy Commissioners
District Highway Operation Directors
District Construction Engineers
District Testing Engineers
District Area Engineers
Project Engineers/Supervisors

FROM: Mark A. Miller, Director *Mem*
Division of Construction Management

SUBJECT: Placing Concrete for Bridge Decks and Approaches

The Department's practice over the last several years has been to allow bridge approaches to be poured at the same time and continuous with a bridge deck pour, mainly for structures with integral or semi-integral end bents. This procedure was approved based on the contractor submitting a deck pour sequence and procedure that included details of how the planned pavement ledge and 1-A joint details were to be produced. The Department approved this procedure based on the theory that a better ride was obtained between approach and deck and that the process was not detrimental to either the deck or approach. The procedure also reduces the total number of days required for a contractor to pour the deck and approaches.

Unfortunately, random cracking is occurring in the area of the 1-A joint, both during and after the pour. These cracks have occurred on both the deck and approach side of the 1-A joint and have caused the need for repairs that are both costly for the contractor and detrimental to the expected life of the concrete.

Effective immediately, the Department will no longer approve pouring of bridge approaches continuous with deck pours for structures with integral or semi-integral end bents. Unless otherwise specifically shown by the designer, approaches must be placed as separate pours from the deck and include all details shown in the plans.

For structures with non-integral end bents, the procedure may still be approved, but only when the contractor's submitted pour sequence and procedure indicates that the entire mudwall and pavement ledge will be poured as planned prior to placing concrete for the approaches and deck.

Construction personnel are reminded that a contractor must submit a pour sequence and procedure for all deck pours in accordance with 704.04. The person reviewing the submittal should provide a written response to the contractor.

Any approvals to pour a deck and approaches continuous that were given to a contractor prior to the date of this memorandum will still be honored by the Department.

Please address any questions on this matter to the Division of Construction Management.

MAM:rlh