



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**Eric Holcomb, Governor**  
**Joe McGuinness, Commissioner**

May 11, 2020

## CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM 20-08

TO: District Deputy Commissioners  
District Construction Directors  
District Technical Services Directors  
District Area Engineers  
District Project Management Director  
Project Management Director  
District LPA Coordinators  
Project Engineers/Supervisors  
Field Engineers

FROM: Gregory G. Pankow, P.E.   
Chief Engineer of Construction  
Division of Construction Management and District Support

Subject: Non-Placement of Polymeric Overlays on Bridge Approach Slabs

It has been brought to the attention of INDOT's Strategic Steering Committee that various divisions within the Department are advising that polymeric overlay material should no longer be placed on bridge approaches because the material is failing to perform in this application.

Based on the recommendations, it has been decided by INDOT's Strategic Steering Committee that polymeric overlay material will no longer be placed on bridge approaches and guidance has already been given to designers to that affect. The information to designers can be found in "INDOT Bridge Design Aids", BDA 412-03, January 2020, under the heading for "Bridge Condition Considerations" and reads:

*"Polymeric overlays are sensitive to moisture and shouldn't be used where water is anticipated to wick through cracks, such as bridge approach slabs or other slabs on grade."*

INDOT has experienced several failures of polymeric overlays, mainly in the form of delamination, on bridge approach slabs due to moisture.

Therefore, moving forward on all construction projects with polymeric bridge deck overlays, the polymeric material is not be placed on the approach slabs.

If you have a contract that is already let, please get with your contractor and advise them that the polymeric overlay material is not to be placed on the approach slabs.

The “INDOT Bridge Design Aids” document can be found at the following link:

[https://www.in.gov/dot/div/contracts/standards/bridges/BDA/BDA%20412\\_03%20Polymeric%20Overlay%20Considerations.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dot/div/contracts/standards/bridges/BDA/BDA%20412_03%20Polymeric%20Overlay%20Considerations.pdf)

If you should have any questions, please contact your Central Office Field Engineer.

GGP