



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

December 22, 2009

DCE MEMORANDUM NO: 19-09
(FHWA Approved: 12/28/09)

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: David A. Sadler, Director, Office of Construction *For* 

COPIES: Brian Blanchard, Paul Steinman

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF A MANDATORY "CRITICAL STRUCTURES
CONSTRUCTION ISSUES – SELF STUDY COURSE"

During the past year, the State Construction Office (SCO) has conducted "Critical Bridge Construction Issues" training sessions in many Districts and over 800 Engineers, Inspectors, CEI and Contractor personnel participated. This office received positive feedback from those participants who said that the training was very beneficial and that they would like to see the training continue in the future. In order to provide this training in a more cost effective manner, the SCO has developed the subject self study course which will be posted on the SCO website for all to take at their own pace. The course can be viewed at the Office of Construction webpage under "Training" then by selecting "Self Study and Tutorial Program" then selecting Item 15, Critical Structures Construction Issues and finally by selecting Critical Structures Construction Issues – Self Study Course or by using the following link:
http://www.dot.state.fl.us/construction/structures/StructuresTraining/CriticalBridgeConstructionIssues_SelfStudyCourse.pdf

The purpose of the course is to heighten awareness of specifications, procedures and other issues; to present specifications and procedures that were recently implemented; and to introduce new or upcoming specification and procedural changes that may impact Contractor and CEI efforts in the future.

Completion of this course will be mandatory for the following Department and Consultant Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) personnel involved in structures related

DCE MEMORANDUM NO. 19-09

December 22, 2009

Page 2

construction: Resident Engineers, Construction Project Managers, Senior Project Engineers (SPE), Project Administrators (PA), Senior or Lead Inspectors and Inspectors. Contactor employees are encouraged to take the course.

For the Department and Consultant personnel listed above, completion of the self-study course is required on or before June 30, 2010. New employees with either the Department or Consultant are required to complete this training within 6 months of their hire date. After the complete course is taken the first time, it shall be retaken every three years thereafter.

The SCO will update this course as necessary. All updates will be posted on the Office of Construction webpage that can be viewed as described above under "Critical Structures Construction Issues self study courses and by selecting "View Course Updates" or by using the following link:

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/construction/structures/StructuresTraining/CriticalBridgeIssueCourseUpdates.shtm> For those who have already taken this course, they will be notified of updates by the e-mail address that was provided on their certification. Review of these updates is required.

No exam will be given for the course; however, after completing the course, each participant must complete a Certification of Course Completion form and submit it to the District Construction Training Administrator for permanent filing. Certification forms are only required once every three years when retaking of the entire course is required.

The Construction Training and Qualification Manual will be updated in the future to reflect this new training requirement. The manual will be posted on the SCO web site. Once the manual is posted, the SCO will notify DCEs and DCTAs.

Please direct any questions about this new self study course to Steven Plotkin at 904-360-5501 (steven.plotkin@dot.state.fl.us).

DS/pw



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

June 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: PAUL J. STEINMAN, STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

FROM: David A. Sadler, Director, Office of Construction

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Sadler".

COPIES: Wynette Williams, Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: DELEGATION OF SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

This is to delegate signature authority for documents (excluding personnel actions) to you for when I am out of the office or on travel status from this date through July 1, 2010.

Ms. Williams is also delegated signature authority for administrative type actions.

Please insure that my office receives a copy of all correspondence signed by you for these dates.

DS/ww



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

Office of Construction
605 Suwannee Street MS-31
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450 Tel. 850-414-4150 Fax 850-412-8021

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

November 9, 2009

DCE MEMORANDUM 20-09

(FHWA Approved: 11/18/09)

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: David A. Sadler, Director, Office of Construction 

COPIES: Robert Robertson, Tom Malerk, Tim Lattner, Chris Richter, Ann Allshouse,
Brian Blanchard, Bob Burleson, Paul Steinman

**SUBJECT: TESTING OF ELASTOMERIC BEARING PADS FOR BRIDGE
STRUCTURES**

The current 2010 Standard Specification Article 932-2, Structure Bearing Pads, requires elastomeric bearing pads to be furnished in accordance with AASHTO LRFD Bridge Construction Specifications, Section 18.2. LRFD Section 18.2 then refers the reader to AASHTO Standard Specification M 251, for detailed testing requirements. The M 251 source document dated 2004 has been revised in an interim specification, designated M 251-06 which is the document that Contractors must refer to in order to be in full compliance with the current 932-2 specification.

The requirements of M 251-06 are more rigorous than the provisions they replaced. After a review, and partly based on information in NCHRP report 596, the Department has modified M 251-06 for FDOT use so that the testing requirements for this product are more comparable with past practice and the revised version is attached. In addition, there is a revision to Specification 932-2.2.3 that follows this memorandum, changing the applied testing load from 1,600 pounds to 2,400 psi (laminated pads) or 1,750 psi (plain pads).

Effective immediately, all projects currently underway and all projects let in the future, until an officially revised specification is implemented by the Specifications Office, shall use the

attached AASHTO M 251-06 revised for FDOT and the following version of 932-2.2.3 shall be used in lieu of the 2010 Standard Specification version.

Specification 932-2.2.3 Testing: Comply with the testing requirements established in the “AASHTO LRFD Bridge Construction Specifications” Section 18.2. Unless otherwise shown in the Contract Documents, the rated service load in pounds for load testing shall be 2,400 pounds per square inch (laminated pads) or 1,750 pounds per square inch (plain pads) times the pad area in square inches.

This memorandum serves as a blanket approval to process a no cost specification revision and shall be attached to the work order or supplemental agreement required for its processing.

Further, there are ongoing projects for which pads have been placed and the Contractor has submitted the required certification stating that the pads are in full compliance with the Contract Documents. This office has been informed that some of these certifications may be invalid because the bearing pad suppliers were not aware of the new provisions and did not actually perform all of the required tests. Therefore, on all active projects, District Construction personnel shall review any certifications received to ensure compliance with the detailed provisions of the revised version of AASHTO M 251-06 provided herein. If the pads are not in compliance with all the revised specification testing requirements, then one of the following actions must be taken:

- 1) The Contractor can test a coupon from the same lot of pads that have been previously installed.
- 2) The Contractor shall provide the Department with a warrantee bond having a duration of five (5) years.
- 3) The Contractor shall remove and replace all noncompliant pads with compliant pads.

For questions or discussion of this matter, contact Steven Plotkin at (904) 360-5501.

DS/pw



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

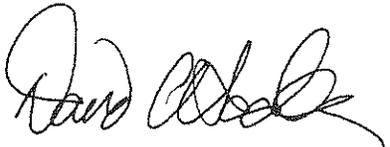
Office of Construction
605 Suwannee Street MS-31
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450 Tel. 850-414-4150 Fax 850-412-8021

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

January 20, 2010

D C E M E M O R A N D U M 01-10
(FHWA Approved: 01/20/10)

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

FROM: David A. Sadler, Director, Office of Construction 

COPIES: Robert Robertson, Tom Malerk, Tim Lattner, Chris Richter, Ann Allshouse, Brian Blanchard, Bob Burleson, Paul Steinman

SUBJECT: *ADDENDUM TO DCE MEMORANDUM 20-09*
TESTING OF ELASTOMERIC BEARING PADS FOR BRIDGE STRUCTURES

This memorandum is a follow-up to memorandum 20-09 and clarifies the Contractor options offered in 20-09 as well as adding others. All other requirements of 20-09 remain in force.

If elastomeric bearing pads have not been shipped or are not in full compliance with the revised specification testing requirements covered in 20-09 then one of the options below must be followed by the Contractor depending on which applies.

For pads that have not been shipped from the supplier by February 15, 2010:

- 1) The bearing pads shall comply fully with the applicable provisions of Specification 932-2.2 of the project Contract Documents and with AASHTO M 251-06 revised for FDOT and the version of Specification 932-2.2.3 included with DCE Memorandum 20-09.
- 2) The required Mill Analysis Reports and Certification shall be submitted with the bearings along with proof that an approved independent laboratory has performed the tests or has observed the tests and certifies that they were done properly.

DCE MEMORANDUM 01-10

January 20, 2010

Page 2

For pads that are in transit from the supplier to the project prior to February 15, 2010, are in storage on the project or that are in their final position on a pile or pier cap, options available to the contractor are:

- 1) The Contractor can test a coupon from the same LOT of pads that are in storage and/or in their final position.
- 2) The Contractor shall provide the Department with a warrantee bond having a duration of five (5) years.
- 3) The Contractor shall remove and replace all noncompliant pads with compliant pads.
- 4) The bearings shall be in full compliance with the 2007 FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, Article 932-2, including Mill Analysis Reports, independent laboratory reports, and Certification. If these conditions are met, the bearing pads will be accepted and will be paid for at 50% of the bid unit price (Pay Item 400-147, Unit: cubic feet).

For questions or discussion of this matter, contact Steven Plotkin at (904) 360-5501.

DS/pw