

March 25, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Structures Design Engineers
(G Moiliere, R Nelson, John Golden, John Danielsen, Neil Kenis,
Kim Saing, Jose Rodriguez, Agnes Spillman)
District Construction Engineers
(Dan Foss, Henry Haggerty, Steve Benak, Jennifer Olson, Frank
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FROM: William N. Nickas, State Structures Design Engineer
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COPIES: Directors of Operations, Directors of Production, Duane F. Brautigam,
William Domico, Robert Nichols, Jack Evans, Area Structures Engineers

SUBJECT: Construction Memorandum Number 04-02
SDO Temporary Design Bulletin CO-02-05
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There seems to be the continued question from the design community and field operations over whether "Very High Bond Tape" may be used on ground sign structures. FDOT Standards, Semi-Standards, and Specifications shall not be modified to allow the use of tape of any type to make horizontal or vertical sign panel splices or to attach sign panels to supporting elements. Only bolts, nuts and washers in accordance with the Standards and Specifications shall be used.

AASHTO has no design criteria or provisions for using tape. Only mechanical fasteners are defined by the AASHTO Code, and only mechanical fasteners may be used on FDOT projects. Physical, mechanical fasteners are defined as welding, riveting, bolting, or screws. With bolts, there is room for adjustment for final aligning of the panels at installation; whereas, if the panels are taped together before connection to the supports, no adjustment is possible. The slight visibility of the bolt heads is not a sufficient issue to override a national code requirement.

WNN/GX:s