



September 25, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO TEAM LEADERS AND CONSULTANTS

SUBJECT: Cored Slab Unit Bridges

Due to reduced construction schedules, precast cored slab units are being utilized on more and more projects. However, due to durability concerns with these types of structures, the following policy will be adhered to:

Precast cored slab units are not allowed on Interstate, National Highway System (NHS) routes, or any road with average daily traffic of 3,000 v.p.d. or greater, without prior approval of the Bridge Design Engineer and Federal Highway Administration (for Interstate and NHS routes). Additionally, if this type of structure is considered for any bridge, consideration shall be made for truck traffic that will be carried.

Substitution of precast cored slab units is not to be considered a valid Value Engineering (VE) proposal, and will not be considered as such. In the case of contractor-designed projects such as design-build projects, these units will only be allowed if specifically allowed in the bid documents.

The skew on the bridge shall not be greater than 15°, and care shall be taken to ensure proper fit on the bent caps when the bridge is on a grade or skewed. Consideration will also be given to vertical alignment such as in severe sag vertical that will increase the impact loading of truck traffic.

Precast cored slab bridges may be used for any temporary structure (design life less than 5 years).

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate Assistant Bridge Design Engineer or myself.


Randy R. Cannon, P. E.
Bridge Design Engineer

cc: Assistant Bridge Design Engineers
Bridge Construction Engineer
FHWA
CRM East
CRM West

File: PC/JLC

