ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

May 10, 1994

CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM NO. 94-7

TO: District Engineers and Resident Engineers

SUBJECT: Elastomeric Bridge Bearings

Recent developments have revealed some significant problems with the epoxy bond between elastomeric bearing pads and steel sole plates. In a few cases the pad was un-bonded and completely detached from the plate when it arrived on the project. There have been at least one case where the epoxy was still pliable and not set several months after the beams were placed on cap.

Contractors should be cautioned to look for problems of this nature as soon as the items arrive on the job. Each assembly should be carefully examined before installation.

Also, there have been cases where beveled sole plates were placed on the beam backwards, and some beam seats were not level. Either of these situations can cause the pad and plate to separate due to the extreme eccentric forces applied to the bond. These failures may be mistaken for a bonding problem but are actually the result of poor workmanship. Please caution the contractors regarding this problem. Correcting these problems after the beams have been set or the decks poured is costly and difficult. Any problems encountered should be handled appropriately.

A. L. Holmes
State Construction Engineer

ALH:bkw
cc: Director
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer
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Bridge Engineer
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