



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

April 24, 2008

## **CIRCULAR LETTER 2008-03**

### **STANDARD BRIDGE PLAN RETIREMENT**

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

This circular letter provides an update to information contained in Circular Letter 2007-20, PPC Deck Beam – New Shape Implementation, Standard Bridge Plan Retirement, and PPC Deck Beam Inspection, issued on November 30, 2007, which may be found at <http://www.dot.il.gov/blr/manuals/infocirculars/CL2007-20.pdf>.

Circular Letter 2007-20 was issued to provide information and procedures for implementation of the transition to the new Precast Prestressed Concrete (PPC) deck beam shapes. The premise behind this circular letter was that after considerable discussions with industry and owners, the consensus was that an industry-wide conversion would be implemented in conjunction with the timeframe of the June 13, 2008 state letting.

With recent developments from industry and owners regarding fabrication and deck beam usage, it is apparent that the current beam shapes will continue to be used for some time beyond this date, and clarification is necessary for the continued use of the Standard Plans for Precast Prestressed Concrete Deck Beam (PPCDB) Bridges (Standard Bridge Plans). Circular Letter 2007-20 provided a method for updating the Standard Bridge Plans.

The Standard Bridge Plans, except for the need for the design of the foundation/geotechnical aspects, in the past have been considered to be approved by the Engineer of Bridges and Structures. This office believes that the new PPCDB shapes are superior to the older PPCDB designs currently in use, and therefore do not feel it is appropriate to approve Standard Bridge Plans for the old (current) PPCDB design based on the seal of the Engineer of Bridges and Structures.

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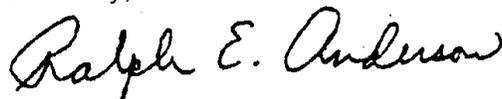
Therefore, for any **projects let after June 30, 2008**, the approval and implied seal of the Engineer of Bridges and Structures shall be considered removed from the Standard Bridge Plans.

If agencies still desire to use the Standard Bridge Plans after this date, the Standard Bridge Plans must be treated essentially as base sheets. The approval signature block in the bottom left-hand corner, and the sheet name and number in the bottom right-hand corner must be removed. The plans must then be certified, sealed and signed by an Illinois Licensed Structural Engineer.

As a reminder and as presented in Circular Letter 2007-20, Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD), the new PPCDB shapes will be required for federal-aid projects initiated after October 1, 2007, as discussed in the Bureau of Local Roads and Streets' Circular Letter 2007-06, LRFD Design Implementation, dated April 30, 2007. The Load and Resistance Factor Design precludes the use of the "old" PPC deck beam design, and therefore, the use of the Standard Bridge Plans as base sheets. Circular Letter 2007-06 may be found at <http://www.dot.il.gov/blr/manuals/infocirculars/CL2007-06.pdf>.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Mr. Jim Klein at (217) 782-5928 or [james.klein@illinois.gov](mailto:james.klein@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,



Ralph E. Anderson, P.E., S.E.  
Engineer of Bridges and Structures



Charles J. Ingersoll, P.E.  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

cc: FHWA, Illinois Division, Attn: Dan Brydl  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Gary Iles  
Township Officials of Illinois, Attn: Bryan Smith  
Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois, Attn: Ron Johnson  
(St. Charles Township, Kane County)