



# Florida Department of Transportation

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GOVERNOR

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THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.  
SECRETARY

October 25, 2002

**This Memo Has Expired**

## MEMORANDUM NO. 26-02

**TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS**

**FROM:** Ananth Prasad, State Construction Engineer *Ananth Prasad*

**COPIES:** W. Nickas,

**SUBJECT: ROLE FOR THE STATE CONSTRUCTION STRUCTURES ENGINEER (SCSE)  
RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION OF COMPLEX CATEGORY 2 (CC2) BRIDGES**

The Department has had, and continues to have, concerns with the quality of construction and inspection of Complex Category 2 (CC2) bridges such as segmental and movable types. Over the last few years both the State Construction Office and the State Structures Design Office have become aware of a variety of quality problems on CC2 projects. The causes of the quality problems include unacceptable Contractor practices that are not recognized by CEI staff; inadequate Contractor QC; and in some instances, inexperienced and under-trained consultant, contractor and Department staff.

Some of the causes of these concerns are being addressed through various new and planned training and qualification programs, improved design requirements and details, and stronger construction specifications. As the Department "raises the bar" on expectations for the quality of construction and inspection of projects, the State Construction Office is expanding the role of the SCSE to serve as a resource in a proactive way.

The role of the SCSE on CC2 projects will include the following:

- Attend, when warranted, project events such as critical pre-operations meetings and meetings that take place to resolve and/or discuss critical technical problems.
- Require notification and consultation with the SCSE by the CEI staff on technical matters such as any proposed deviation from the plans and specifications; Contractor means and methods that might adversely impact the performance or durability of the finished bridge; and Contractor proposed corrections of damaged or defective structural components.
- When the need arises, provide on site training related to critical specifications such as Post-tensioning, grouting, erection and bolting.
- When requested by the District, provide assistance with evaluating the qualifications of shortlisted firms for selection of CCEI services on CC2 projects.

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If a District Construction Office determines that it has a CC2 expert that can be assigned the above responsibilities, then the SCSE will have the responsibility of formally confirming that the qualifications and experience of this engineer are acceptable. Only engineers confirmed by the SCSE will be permitted to be the District's bridge construction expert and this engineer will be referred to as the District Construction Structures Engineer (DCSE). The DCSE will assume the responsibilities of SCSE as it relates to bullets 2 and 3 listed above and will be required to get concurrence from the SCSE on critical decisions and to keep the SCSE aware of the status of the project and of non-critical decisions.

It is not our intent to "take over" the management and decision-making on any project nor is it our intent to supersede the authority of CEI or District Construction Offices. However, it is our intent to provide expertise where needed and to assist the Districts through a more formalized approach.

In order to ensure consistent decision making and communication with the SCO and the State Structures Design Office, we are requesting that the SCSE be the single point of contact for all CC2 project related inquiries whether construction or design related. The SCSE will consult with the appropriate State Structures Design Office representative if a concern is design related. The SCSE's role is advisory with regard to recommendations; therefore, the District will make the final decision on all matters.

The SCSE's expanded role goes into effect as of the date of this memorandum. If you have any questions, please contact Ananth Prasad at 850-414-4140 or sc 994-4140.

AP/pw