

Section 10.10

RESOLUTION OF BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

10.10.1 Purpose

The purpose of this section is to make Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) personnel aware of the procedural requirements for resolving bridge construction project issues of varying complexity. Primarily this section addresses procedures of involvement by the State Construction Office (SCO) State Construction Structures Engineer (SCSE) but also details the involvement of District-level staff in bridge-related issues during construction.

10.10.2 Authority

Section 20.23(3)(a), Florida Statutes

Section 344.048(3), Florida Statutes

10.10.3 Reference

Section 336.045, Florida Statutes

10.10.4 General

To ensure proper resolution of bridge construction issues so as to maintain quality bridge construction, this section provides CEI Staff proper guidance for Departmental involvement on such issues. Such issues are typically submitted to the CEI in the form of one of the following Contractor initiated submittal types, guidance for which can be found in **CPAM Chapter 8.11**:

- Request for Information (RFI)
- Request for Modification (RFM)
- Request for Correction (RFC)

In general, the SCO is required to be involved with resolving all complex bridge construction issues but may be consulted on an as-needed basis for other issues. The District is to be involved with non-complex bridges and other issues needing resolution.

This procedure describes the categories of bridges requiring either SCO or District involvement as well as how that involvement shall take place.

10.10.5 Design Category 1 Members

Construction issues related to Category 1 (C1) Structures, as defined in the ***FDOT Design Manual, Number 625-000-002, Chapter 121 Bridge Project Development***, do not typically require involvement by the SCSE. When these issues arise on a project, the CEI staff shall consult with the Engineer of Record (EOR) for design issues and bridge engineers in the following District offices, whether design or construction issues, as appropriate: District Construction, District Structures Design, District Materials and District Structures Maintenance. The District Structures Design Engineer must be given the option of reviewing any EOR recommendation, by an EOR established deadline, prior to finalizing any response back to the Contractor and CEI staff must verify that this takes place. The District Structures Design Engineer's failure to concur on or before the deadline, unless an extension is requested, shall signify that the District Structures Design Engineer chooses not to review. If engineers in these District offices are unable to address or resolve an issue then CEI staff should contact the SCSE for assistance and the procedures that prescribe SCSE involvement shall be the same as for members as set forth in ***CPAM Section 10.10.6***. Issues related to bridge members with exceeding complexity of the C1 designation must be resolved with ***CPAM 10.10.6***. For example, if issues arise on a bridge with long span curved steel box girders and the substructure has cast-in-place concrete columns, ***CPAM 10.10.5*** shall be used for issues related to the column, with the stated exceptions, and ***CPAM 10.10.6*** shall be used for issues related to the steel girders.

10.10.6 Design Category 2 Members

Construction issues related to Category 2 (C2) Structures, as defined in the ***FDOT Design Manual, Number 625-000-002, Chapter 121 Bridge Project Development*** shall be resolved within the respective section of ***CPAM Sections 10.10.6.1*** through ***10.10.6.3*** by CEI staff with coordination from the EOR and SCSE. The SCSE will address complex construction issues directly and make recommendations back to the CEI staff for resolution. Obtain EOR input on complex issues either prior to or concurrently with SCSE input.

10.10.6.1 Contractor Initiated Changes for Complex Superstructure Members and Complex Issues

When a Contractor proposes a change to the plans, shop drawings, specifications or means and approved methods plans (segment erection plans, post-tensioning plan, grouting plans, etc.) that are related to complex superstructure members or complex

issues, the SCSE and the EOR, shall be informed of the Contractor's intent. If possible, this should be done prior to a formal submittal from the Contractor to allow the Department to provide a preliminary response regarding acceptability of the proposal. For design related proposals, the EOR shall be the initial point of contact with confirmation to be provided from the SCSE. CEI staff shall inform the EOR of this concurrence requirement. For proposals that are not design related, the initial point of contact shall be the SCSE who shall provide a response. This preliminary process will eliminate unnecessary submittals by the Contractor along with the corresponding effort. Questions regarding the acceptability of a Contractor Initiated change shall be directed to the SCSE.

If the Department agrees to consider the proposal then the Contractor shall formally submit the proposal to the CEI staff with appropriate supporting documents. CEI staff shall inform the Contractor that the Department's agreement to consider the proposal in no way obligates the Department to approve the proposal or to reimburse the Contractor for any costs that the Contractor may incur to prepare the proposal. CEI staff shall transmit the proposal to the EOR for design related proposals for review and comment, concurrently to the SCSE, along with the desired response time. The EOR will prepare a response to the proposal after consultation with the SCSE, making every effort to stay within the desired response time, and submit it to CEI staff and the District Structures Design Engineer. Disposition and approval of the proposal will be at the discretion of the District Construction Engineer (DCE) or a designee prior to notification of the Contractor. For proposals that are not design related, the formal proposal shall be transmitted to the SCSE who shall provide a recommendation response within the requested time. The DCE or a designee must approve the SCSE recommendation prior to notification of the Contractor. The SCSE and/or EOR may also request additional supporting documents via the CEI staff after reviewing the initial proposal; the final response may be delayed pending their receipt. On occasion, more than one cycle of submittal of additional supporting documents by the Contractor may be required before a final response can be issued. The State Structures Design Office will work through, and be coordinated by, the SCSE if their involvement is required.

10.10.6.2 Contractor Noncompliance with Contract Documents for Complex Superstructure Members and Complex Issues

Following are examples of how a Contractor can be out of compliance with contract documents for complex superstructure members or complex issues:

- Structural components (rebars, tendons, ducts, bearings, etc.) are out of tolerance
- Post-tensioning strand elongation that is above or below the required value
- The misalignment of beams in relation to their bearings

- Beam cambers that exceed specification tolerance
- Bolts are not installed and/or tightened according to specified procedures
- Grout or wax injection procedures are not in accordance with the approved injection plan

Unless the DCE directs the Contractor to remove and replace the member or component in question, when the forgoing examples or other complex noncompliance issues arise, notify the SCSE and EOR as soon as the issue is identified in order to assist in developing the Department response. Any documents submitted by the Contractor for disposition of the issue shall be forwarded to the SCSE, and the EOR for review. The SCSE and EOR may also request additional supporting documents after reviewing the initial information and final recommendations may be delayed pending their receipt.

Recommendations may include requiring compliance regardless of impact, waiver of the noncompliance, or acceptance of the noncompliance with modifications that make it the equivalent of being compliant. On-site meetings with the Contractor may be required to resolve the issue. The SCSE or EOR will make a recommendation to the CEI staff, copying the District Structures Design Engineer, about how to resolve the issue in question. However, the final resolution shall be approved by the District Construction Engineer prior to notification of the Contractor.

Resolutions that result in a change to the As-Bid plans or drawings must be reflected in the final As-Built plans and drawings in accordance with **CPAM Section 5.12**.

10.10.6.3 Resolution of Damage or Defects of Complex Superstructure Members and Complex Issues

Bridge members may be damaged during handling or placement. Examples include denting, kinking or buckling of steel girders during fabrication or erection; chipping, spalling or cracking of concrete beams during and after installation; or the damaging of concrete bridge segments during handling and erection. Some examples of typical bridge member defects include cracked concrete due to uncontrolled shrinkage; overstress or improper placement procedures; coating systems that do not adhere properly; secondary components such as bearings that are unacceptable for incorporation into the project; or machinery or electrical components that do not perform as intended. As soon as damage or a defect is discovered, the SCSE shall be notified in order to assist in developing proper disposition by the Department unless the DCE directs the Contractor to remove and replace the member, in which case notification of the SCSE is not required. If the damage or defect is design related, then the initial point of contact shall be the EOR who shall consult with the SCSE for concurrence of the Department prior to making a final disposition

recommendation on the issue. CEI staff shall inform the EOR of this concurrence requirement. Disposition may include acceptance as-is, rejection of a member or component, or acceptance with corrective action and/or credit. The SCSE may also choose to attend on-site meetings with the Contractor or with experts involved with resolution of the issue and may choose to personally inspect the damaged or defective work in place. The SCSE or EOR will make a recommendation to the CEI staff about what action to take; however, final action shall be approved by the District Construction Engineer or a designee. Actions that result in a change to the As-Bid plans or drawings must be reflected in the final As-Built plans and drawings in accordance with **CPAM Section 5.12**.

10.10.6.4 Provision of On-Site CEI Training

At the option of project CEI staff, the SCSE is available to perform on-site training in complex bridge construction and inspection topics for inspectors and other staff. The following training topics are offered:

- High strength bolt installation and inspection
- Stressing and inspection of Post-tensioning tendons
- Filler injection and inspection of Post-tensioning tendons

This training shall be requested by the Construction Project Manager or Resident Engineer. A minimum of four week's notice is preferred.