Introduction

I.1 General

The ***Instructions for Design Standards*** provides general instructions to assist the Design Engineer of Record when incorporating these ***Design Standards*** in the Contract Plans. Instructions including design criteria, usage limitations, plan content requirements, pay item information and in some cases examples and sample drawings are provided for bridge component, overhead sign structure, box culvert and mast arm standards.

Instructions are organized by ***Design Standard*** index number. Some structural items are addressed in a series of standard drawings, e.g., prestressed beams and traffic railing retrofits. Instructions for all the standards in each respective series are included in the instructions for the lead standard of the series.

It is the responsibility of the Design Engineer of Record using these instructions to determine the fitness for a particular use of each standard in the design of a project. The inappropriate use of and adherence to these instructions does not exempt the engineer from the professional responsibility of developing an appropriate design.

I.2 Use of Design Standards

The ***Design Standards*** comprise the latest and best practices of the FDOT as follows:

1. Structures related Design Standards comply with various design specifications as modified or adopted by FDOT including the ***AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications***, etc.
2. Compliance with various Federal laws and regulations including U.S. Access Board ADA Standards for Transportation Facilities; Code of Federal Regulations Title 33, Chapter 1, Part 118 Bridge Lighting and Other Signals; etc.
3. Application of FDOT design criteria, policies and preferences
4. Pay Item, Approved Products List and Construction Specification consistency and coordination
5. Detail clarity
6. Proven designs for constructability and long term maintenance
7. Reserve structural capacity and / or redundancy of design
8. Material usage
9. Contractor familiarity
10. Formwork availability for concrete components

In this regard, incorporate the ***Design Standards*** as appropriate on all projects unless a need to develop project specific designs can be documented. Examples of where a project specific design might be required include, but are not limited to:

1. A modified prestressed concrete beam for a bridge widening
2. A single modular expansion joint that can accommodate large movements in lieu of multiple strip seal expansion joints

I.3 Data Tables

Many ***Design Standards*** require Data Tables that must be completed by the designer and then included in the Contract Plans. These Data Tables provide critical information to the contractor that supplements or completes individual ***Design Standards***. These Data Tables are presented as CADD Cells and are included with the FDOT CADD Software on the "FDOT CADD Bar Menu". Typically, the most current Data Tables cannot be included in the FDOT CADD Software until the next version (or Maintenance Release) following the posting of the annual Design Standards to the website (usually in July). If the most current Data Tables are needed prior to release of the concurrent version of the FDOT CADD Software, they are available on the Design Standards website at:

http://www.fdot.gov/roadway/DesignStandards/Standards.shtm

Data Tables within this Volume include a “Table Date” in the upper right corner of each table and may include a “Notes Date” for each set of corresponding notes. Do not change or delete the “Table Date” or “Notes Date” when completing and including the tables and notes in the plans. Use of custom built or recreated versions of the Data Tables (i.e. when the officially issued CADD cell is not used to build a given table) is discouraged. The “Table Date” and “Notes Date” reflects the latest modification of the CADD cell and is intended to be used in a Quality Control process, in conjunction with these instructions and the CADD cells provided with the Structures Bar Menu and/or available at the website listed above, to confirm that the current Data Table is being used. The “Table Date” or “Notes Date” will not necessarily be the same as the “Last Revision” date shown on the associated ***Design Standard*** or ***Design Standard Revision***. The current “Table Date” or “Notes Date” within a given Data Table will be that shown in these instructions.