



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

August 26, 2026

Daniel Holt, PE, PTOE
Director, Project Delivery
Director, Technical Services
FHWA
400 West Washington Street, Suite 4200
Orlando, FL 32801

Re: State Specifications Office
Section: 125
Proposed Specification: **1250100 Excavation and Embankment For Drainage Structures and Pipe**

Dear Mr. Holt:

We are submitting, for your approval, two copies of the above referenced Supplemental Specification.

The changes are proposed by Jason Russell to revise the title and section to only reference excavation and embankment for drainage structure and pipe and add clarifications to Site Restorations to ensure areas disturbed for drainage structures and pipe are restored up to the top of pavement and to clarify the Basis of Payment.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks (10 business days). Comments should be sent via email daniel.strickland@dot.state.fl.us.

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at (850) 414-4130.

Sincerely,

Signature on File

Daniel Strickland, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer

DS/jb
Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENT FOR DRAINAGE STRUCTURES AND PIPE (REV 6-2-26)

ARTICLE 125-1 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-1 Description.

Excavate for box culverts, pipes, ~~retaining walls~~, headwalls for pipes and drains, catch basins, drop inlets, manholes, and similar drainage structures. Construct and remove cofferdams, sheeting, bracing, etc.; pump or otherwise dewater foundations; remove and dispose of any existing structures or portions of structures not covered by other items in the Contract, including foundations, abutments, piers, wings, and all other materials, or obstructions, found necessary to clear the site for the proposed work; backfill, dispose of surplus material, and perform final cleaning, as may be necessary for the proper execution of the work.

125-1.1 Trench Excavation Safety System and Shoring, Special (Trench Excavation): When performing trench excavation in excess of 5 feet in depth, comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) trench safety standards, 29 CFR 1926, Subpart P, and all subsequent revisions or updates adopted by the Department of Labor and Employment Security. Ensure that trench boxes are wide enough to accommodate compaction and density testing.

Submission of bid and subsequent execution of the Contract will serve as certification that all trench excavation in excess of 5 feet in depth will be in compliance with Section 553.62, Florida Statutes.

Consider all available geotechnical information when designing the trench excavation safety system.

Consider these and any more stringent trench safety standards as minimum Contract requirements.

ARTICLE 125-4 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-4 Excavation.

125-4.1 Requirements for ~~all~~ Excavation: Perform all excavation to foundation materials, satisfactory to the Engineer, regardless of the elevation shown in the Plans. Remove rock, boulders or other hard lumpy or unyielding material to a depth of 12 inches below the bottom of pipes and box culverts elevations. Remove muck or other soft material to the depth indicated in the Plans or as directed by the Engineer.

125-4.2 Earth Excavation:

125-4.2.1 Foundation Material other than the Rock: When masonry is to rest on an excavated surface other than rock, take special care to avoid disturbing the bottom of the excavation, and do not remove the final foundation material to grade until just before placing the masonry. In case the foundation material is soft or mucky, the Engineer may require excavation to a greater depth and to backfill to grade with approved material.

~~125-4.2.2 Foundation Piles: Where foundation piles are used, complete the excavation of each pit before driving the piles. After the driving is completed, remove all loose and displaced material, leaving a smooth, solid, and level bed to receive the masonry.~~

125-4.2.32 Removal of Obstructions: Remove boulders, logs, or any unforeseen obstacles encountered in excavating. Compensation will be in accordance with the requirements of 4-3.

125-4.3 Rock Excavation: Clean all rock and other hard foundation material, remove all loose material, and cut all rock to a firm surface. Either level, step vertically and horizontally, or serrate the rock, as may be directed by the Engineer. Clean out all seams and fill them with concrete or mortar.

125-4.4 Pipe Trench Excavation: Excavate trenches for pipes to the elevation of the bottom of the pipe and to a width sufficient to provide adequate working room. Remove soil not meeting the classification specified as suitable backfill material in 125-8.3.2.2 "Soil Envelope," to a depth of 4 inches below the bottom of the pipe elevation. Where the soils permit, ensure that the trench sides are vertical up to at least the mid-point of the pipe.

For pipelines placed above the existing surface, place and compact the embankment, prior to excavation of the trench, to an elevation at least 2 feet above the top of the pipe and to a width equal to four pipe diameters, and then excavate the trench to the required grade.

For pipe trenches utilizing trench boxes, ensure that the trench box used is of sufficient width to permit thorough tamping of bedding material under and around the pipes as specified in 125-8.1.6 "Placement and Compaction."

Do not disturb the installed pipe and its embedment when moving trench boxes. Move the trench box carefully to avoid excavated wall displacement or damage. As the trench box is moved, fill any voids left by the trench box and continuously place and compact the backfill material adjacent to and all along the side of the trench box walls to fill any voids created by the trench box.

ARTICLE 125-10 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-10 Site Restoration.

Wherever the existing site is disturbed solely for the purpose of constructing or removing box culverts, pipes, inlets, manholes, ~~or similar drainage structures etc.~~, completely replace and restore the site up to the top of pavement and to the Engineer's satisfaction, without additional compensation.

ARTICLE 125-13 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-13 Basis of Payment.

~~Payment for excavation of bridge structures will be made under Section 120.~~ Payment for excavation of drainage system items will be incidental to those items.

EXCAVATION AND EMBANKMENT FOR DRAINAGE STRUCTURES AND PIPE (REV 6-2-26)

ARTICLE 125-1 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-1 Description.

Excavate for box culverts, pipes, headwalls for pipes and drains, catch basins, drop inlets, manholes, and similar drainage structures. Construct and remove cofferdams, sheeting, bracing, etc.; pump or otherwise dewater foundations; remove and dispose of any existing structures or portions of structures not covered by other items in the Contract, including foundations, abutments, piers, wings, and all other materials, or obstructions, found necessary to clear the site for the proposed work; backfill, dispose of surplus material, and perform final cleaning, as may be necessary for the proper execution of the work.

125-1.1 Trench Excavation Safety System and Shoring, Special (Trench Excavation): When performing trench excavation in excess of 5 feet in depth, comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) trench safety standards, 29 CFR 1926, Subpart P, and all subsequent revisions or updates adopted by the Department of Labor and Employment Security. Ensure that trench boxes are wide enough to accommodate compaction and density testing.

Submission of bid and subsequent execution of the Contract will serve as certification that all trench excavation in excess of 5 feet in depth will be in compliance with Section 553.62, Florida Statutes.

Consider all available geotechnical information when designing the trench excavation safety system.

Consider these and any more stringent trench safety standards as minimum Contract requirements.

ARTICLE 125-4 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-4 Excavation.

125-4.1 Requirements for Excavation: Perform all excavation to foundation materials, satisfactory to the Engineer, regardless of the elevation shown in the Plans. Remove rock, boulders or other hard lumpy or unyielding material to a depth of 12 inches below the bottom of pipes and box culverts elevations. Remove muck or other soft material to the depth indicated in the Plans or as directed by the Engineer.

125-4.2 Earth Excavation:

125-4.2.1 Foundation Material other than the Rock: When masonry is to rest on an excavated surface other than rock, take special care to avoid disturbing the bottom of the excavation, and do not remove the final foundation material to grade until just before placing the masonry. In case the foundation material is soft or mucky, the Engineer may require excavation to a greater depth and to backfill to grade with approved material.

125-4.2.2 Removal of Obstructions: Remove boulders, logs, or any unforeseen obstacles encountered in excavating. Compensation will be in accordance with the requirements of 4-3.

125-4.3 Rock Excavation: Clean all rock and other hard foundation material, remove all loose material, and cut all rock to a firm surface. Either level, step vertically and horizontally, or

serrate the rock, as may be directed by the Engineer. Clean out all seams and fill them with concrete or mortar.

125-4.4 Pipe Trench Excavation: Excavate trenches for pipes to the elevation of the bottom of the pipe and to a width sufficient to provide adequate working room. Remove soil not meeting the classification specified as suitable backfill material in 125-8.3.2.2 “Soil Envelope,” to a depth of 4 inches below the bottom of the pipe elevation. Where the soils permit, ensure that the trench sides are vertical up to at least the mid-point of the pipe.

For pipelines placed above the existing surface, place and compact the embankment, prior to excavation of the trench, to an elevation at least 2 feet above the top of the pipe and to a width equal to four pipe diameters, and then excavate the trench to the required grade.

For pipe trenches utilizing trench boxes, ensure that the trench box used is of sufficient width to permit thorough tamping of bedding material under and around the pipes as specified in 125-8.1.6 “Placement and Compaction.”

Do not disturb the installed pipe and its embedment when moving trench boxes. Move the trench box carefully to avoid excavated wall displacement or damage. As the trench box is moved, fill any voids left by the trench box and continuously place and compact the backfill material adjacent to and all along the side of the trench box walls to fill any voids created by the trench box.

ARTICLE 125-10 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-10 Site Restoration.

Wherever the existing site is disturbed solely for the purpose of constructing or removing box culverts, pipes, inlets, manholes, or similar drainage structures., completely replace and restore the site up to the top of pavement and to the Engineer’s satisfaction, without additional compensation.

ARTICLE 125-13 is deleted and the following substituted:

125-13 Basis of Payment.

Payment for excavation of drainage system items will be incidental to those items.