TEMPORARY DESIGN BULLETIN C09-01

DATE: January 21, 2009

TO: District Directors of Production, District Design Engineers, District Structures Design Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Materials Engineers

FROM: Robert Robertson, P.E., State Structures Design Engineer

COPIES: Lora Hollingsworth, Brian Blanchard, Ghulam Mujtaba, Tom Malerk, Jeffrey Ger (FHWA)

SUBJECT: Implementation Plan for the Adoption of Florida I-Beams as New Standard Prestressed Concrete Beams

REQUIREMENTS

The new Florida I-Beams (FIB’s) are standard prestressed concrete beams and will be used in all new bridge and bridge widening designs where applicable.

AASHTO and Florida Bulb-T Beams will not be used in new designs. This TDB does not affect Florida U and Florida Inverted-T Beams.

COMMENTARY

The following attachments may be used to assist in preliminary design and cost estimating:

Attachment ‘A’- FIB Section Dimensions
Attachment ‘B’- FIB Section Properties
Attachment ‘C’- FIB Estimated Maximum Span versus Spacing Charts.
Attachment ‘D’- Preliminary Bridge Cost Comparisons
Attachment ‘E’- FIB Table of Approximate Beam Cost per Linear Foot
BACKGROUND

The new Florida I-Beams have been developed in coordination with industry and with the help of Dr. Maher Tadros for the purpose of replacing currently used AASHTO Beams and Florida Bulb-T Beams. The FIB was developed to be more efficient to fabricate, safer to construct, and more cost effective when compared to currently used prestressed beams.

The FIB shape was designed to take advantage of today’s higher concrete strengths, which typically ranges from 8 to 10 ksi. When compared to currently used AASHTO and Bulb-T Beams, the FIB shape employs a larger bottom flange to allow for more prestressing strands resulting in longer span capability and/or wider girder spacing. The improved effectiveness of the FIB should allow bridge designers to reduce the number of beams and lower bridge costs. Also, improved efficiency allows for shallower beams to be used where superstructure depth is a concern.

Compared to currently used beams of equivalent height, the FIB shape is more stable during fabrication, shipping, and construction due to its wider bottom flange and lower center of gravity.

The FIB heights were chosen to match standard beam heights to accommodate the widening of existing bridges. The intent of the beam heights chosen is to minimize the need for special designs.

IMPLEMENTATION

Florida I-Beams will be used on all Design-Bid-Build projects having both a design start date of February 1, 2009 or later and a letting date of July 1, 2010 or later. The FIB shall be used for preliminary design and estimates of projects with projected schedules falling on or after these dates.

AASHTO Beams and Florida Bulb-T Beams will no longer be used in Design-Bid-Build projects where the design start time is scheduled on or after February 1, 2009. Bridge Development Reports (BDR’s) for these projects shall not include AASHTO Beams and Florida Bulb-T Beams in cost comparisons.

No currently designed projects will require a redesign as a result of this TDB, but Districts may elect to introduce FIB’s into current designs at their discretion. For projects where the BDR already recommends an AASHTO or Florida Bulb-T beam design, the FIB may be substituted into the final design without issuing a BDR addendum.

Since implementation is dependent on the design start date, there will be a period of time where lettings have some projects with the new FIB’s while others use the old AASHTO Beams and Florida Bulb-T Beams. For this transition period, the Design Standards will continue to include both the new FIB shapes and the old beam shapes.

The FIB’s may be used on Design-Build projects at any time. Technical proposals utilizing FIB’s will be accepted prior to the issuance of the FIB Design Standards. Any FIB’s constructed prior to the issuance of the FIB Standards will require the Engineer of Record to complete the design. All current prestressed beam design criteria stated in the Structures Manual applies to FIB design.
Future changes to specifications and procedures are as follows:


   All references, updates, and instructions regarding the FIB will be issued with a TDB in May, 2009.

2. Design Standards


3. Standard Specifications

   Section 450 – ‘Precast Prestressed Concrete Construction’: All references and updates regarding the FIB will be included in the FDOT January, 2010 Specifications Workbook.

4. Basis of Estimates


5. Plans Preparations Manual

   No changes are anticipated at this time.

6. Misc. Design Tool Updates

   a. CADD: New FIB cells and tables in MicroStation & PDF format will be released with the July 2009 Interims and posted on the Structures Design website. These cells and tables will be included in the MicroStation Structures Menu with the Maintenance Release to follow.

   b. Design Software: The new FIB’s will be included in the FDOT LRFD Prestressed Beam Program in May 2009. Proprietary software vendors will be contacted and given the new FIB section properties to be included for use in their design programs.

CONTACT

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RVR/rms
Attachments

www.dot.state.fl.us
Attachment A

Florida I-Beam Section Dimensions
Florida I-Beam
Section Dimensions

PRELIMINARY AND
SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Attachment B

Florida I-Beam Section Properties
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PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FLORIDA I-BEAM PROPERTIES
Attachment C

Florida I-Beam Estimated
Maximum Span Versus Spacing Charts
(Preliminary)
Florida I-Beam Estimated Maximum Span Lengths
FDOT Limits with 8.5 ksi Concrete

- **FIB 96”**: Splitting Limits Do Not Govern
- **FIB 78”**: Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 72”**: Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 63”**: Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 54”**: Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 45”**: Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 36”**: Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)

*Splitting Limit Force Governs: Final (Service III) Concrete Tensile Stress Controls @0.5L Beam (Bottom)
**Release Concrete Compression Stress Governs @EOB (Bottom~25% Debond)
***Final (Service III) Concrete Tensile Stress Governs @EOB (Top)*

Preliminary and Subject to Change
Florida I-Beam Estimated Maximum Span Lengths
FDOT Limits with 10 ksi Concrete

Max Girder Span (ft.) vs. Girder Spacing (ft.)

- **FIB 96"** - Splitting Limits Do Not Govern
- **FIB 78"** - Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 72"** - Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 63"** - Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 54"** - Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 45"** - Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)
- **FIB 36"** - Current Standard Splitting Reinforcement (#5 Bundle)

*Splitting Limit Force Governs:*  
Final (Service III) Concrete Tensile Stress Controls @0.5L Beam (Bottom)  
**Release Concrete Compression Stress Governs @EOB (Bottom~25% Debond)  
***Final (Service III) Concrete Tensile Stress Governs @EOB (Top)
Girder Maximum Span Length Comparisons
FDOT Limits with 8.5 ksi Concrete

*Splitting Limit Force Governs:
Final (Service III) Concrete Tensile Stress Controls @0.5L Beam (Bottom)
**Release Concrete Compression Stress Governs @EOB (Bottom~25% Debond)
***Final (Service III) Concrete Tensile Stress Governs @EOB (Top)
Attachment D

Preliminary Bridge Cost Comparisons
COST COMPARISON A; 3 ~ 90 FT. SPANS BRIDGE

OPTION A-1, CURRENT FOOT STANDARD BEAMS

AASHTO TYPE III:

(90 ft.) x (3 spans) x (6 beams) = 1620 LF
1620 LF @ $185/LF = $299,700

OPTION A-2, FLORIDA I-BEAMS

FIB-45:

(90 ft.) x (3 spans) x (4 beams) = 1080 LF
1080 LF @ $210/LF = $226,800

ESTIMATED SAVINGS:

$299,700 - $226,800 = $72,900
$72,900/$299,700 = 24%

Note:
Costs per linear foot were determined using price estimates from manufactures and contractors. The values above include only bridge items affected by differing beam types. These items include beam fabrication, beam placement, placed bearing pads, placed diaphragms, placed stay-in-place forms, and placed deck rebar seats.
COST COMPARISON B: 3 ~ 155 FT. SPANS BRIDGE

OPTION B-1, CURRENT FDOT STANDARD BEAMS

FBT-78:

\[ (155 \text{ ft.}) \times (3 \text{ spans}) \times (7 \text{ beams}) = 3255 \text{ LF} \]

\[ 3255 \text{ LF} @ \$255/\text{LF} = \$830,000 \]

OPTION B-2, FLORIDA I-BEAMS

FIB-78:

\[ (155 \text{ ft.}) \times (3 \text{ spans}) \times (6 \text{ beams}) = 2790 \text{ LF} \]

\[ 2790 \text{ LF} @ \$275/\text{LF} = \$767,300 \]

ESTIMATED SAVINGS:

\[ \$830,000 - \$767,300 = \$62,700 \]

\[ \frac{\$62,700}{\$830,000} = 7.5\% \]

Note:
Costs per linear foot were determined using price estimates from manufacturers and contractors. The values above include only bridge items affected by differing beam types. These items include beam fabrication, beam placement, placed bearing pads, placed diaphragrams, placed stay-in-place forms, and placed deck rebar seats.
Attachment E

Florida I-Beam

Table of Approximate Beam Cost Per Linear Foot

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<th>Beam Type</th>
<th>Area (in²)</th>
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*Price based on precast fabricators' survey estimate of 15% greater cost per unit length as compared to past standard AASHTO & Florida Bulb-T Beams of equivalent height.