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INTERIM SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL BRIDGE DESIGNERS

FROM: HOSSEIN GHARA, P.E.  
BRIDGE DESIGN ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: BRIDGE DESIGN TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM NO. 15 (BDM.15)  
VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT IN PRESTRESS GIRDERS FOR OVERPASS  
STRUCTURES

DATE: May 5, 2010

Effective immediately, the following policy shall be applied to all projects with Letting Dates after July 31, 2010.

Vertical shear reinforcement and lower flange confinement reinforcement in prestressed girders supporting overpass structures shall not exceed 12 inches throughout the full girder length.

This policy shall apply to all prestressed girders supporting overpass structures over current or future anticipated traffic lanes and railroad tracks.

This is an effort to contain damaged concrete following vehicle collisions and prevent such concrete from falling on vehicles. This will also provide minimum shear strength to better facilitate temporary shoring following vehicle collisions, which may better enable a damaged structure to carry traffic until such time the structure can be repaired.

This technical memorandum will be posted on the Bridge Design Website: [http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside\\_LaDOTD/Divisions/Engineering/Bridge\\_Design/Pages/Technical-Memoranda.aspx](http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Engineering/Bridge_Design/Pages/Technical-Memoranda.aspx)

Please contact Ms. ZhengZheng "Jenny" Fu (225-379-1321, [ZhengZheng.Fu@la.gov](mailto:ZhengZheng.Fu@la.gov)) if you have any questions or comments.

HG/zzf