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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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MEMORANDUM TO: Roadway Design Project Engineers
Jay Bennett, PE
Dewayne Sykes, PE

FROM: John E. Alford, PE John E. Alford
State Roadway Design Engineer

DATE: October 16, 2001

SUBJECT: Structure Recommendations

At Tim Rountree's request, I attended the October 17, 2001 CEC/DOT Structures Subcommittee meeting to discuss information provided on structure recommendations.

The discussion mostly pertained to vertical clearances and the assumptions in span lengths and super structure depths Roadway Design makes and utilizes in setting the grades. When needed, you are encouraged to discuss span lengths, super structure depths, etc. with Structure Design prior to setting your grades. With our current procedure the actual vertical clearances provided are not determined by Structure Design until very late in the design process. As you know, grade revisions late in the design process create havoc for all the design units.

After much discussion it was determined that for structures over roadways and railroads we should submit the structure recommendations and plans to Structure Design immediately after sending the plans to Hydraulics. Upon receipt, Structure Design will review the structure recommendations, proposed grades, make their assumptions on span lengths and super structure depths, and determine if the clearances provided are adequate. They will then send Roadway a letter stating that the grades are acceptable or that a revision is needed. When grade changes are required, they are easier to make at this stage in the design process.

We should start this earlier structure recommendation submittal immediately. Let me know if you have any questions or comments. Thanks.

JEA
cc: Debbie Barbour, PE
Charlie Casey, PE
Tim Rountree, PE

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