

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

To Office Bridges and Structures

Date May 1, 2008

Attention All Employees

Ref No. 521.1

From Gary Novey

Office Bridges and Structures

Subject Method's Memo No. 199 (Revision to CADD Note E461/M461)

CADD Note E461/M461 has been revised as shown below:

THE TOP OF THE ABUTMENT BACKWALLS AS SHOWN SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED USING STRUCTURAL CONCRETE CLASS D. PROMPTLY AFTER THE CONCRETE HAS BEEN PLACED AND VIBRATED AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLES 2403.08 AND 2403.09, IT SHALL BE HAND FINISHED TO PROVIDE A SMOOTH SURFACE WITH THE PROPER CROWN. THE CONTRACTOR MAY ELECT TO USE FORMWORK WHICH IS MARKED OR TRIMMED TO THE CORRECT ELEVATION AND CROWN TO PROVIDE THE LIMITS FOR THE HAND FINISHING.

This note is used when a portion of or the entire backwall is being reconstructed.

Generally the top of the abutment backwall is 1'-0 or less in width depending on the type of expansion joint. This is too narrow an area to realistically use any type of vibrator screed. Typically the tops of abutment backwalls are surveyed and closely graded on the formwork. The concrete finishing is performed by vibrating the concrete with 'stinger' vibrators and then the concrete surface is hand float finished. The contractor would not be able to use either a finishing machine or a vibratory screed and achieve as good a grade and finish as they can by closely grading the formwork and hand float finishing.

This revision should be made to all backwall repair projects that have not yet been turned in. If you have any questions please check with me.

GAN/dgb/bj