



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Integral Abutment Bridges -  
FHWA Technical Advisory

Date: SEP 19 1997

From: Chief, Bridge Division  
Office of Engineering

Reply to  
Attn. of: HNG-32

To: Mr. David S. Gendall  
Regional Administrator (HST-03)  
Baltimore, MD

This is in response to Mr. Louis Triandafilou's inquiry regarding the updating of the FHWA Technical Advisory (T5140.13) on integral/jointless bridges. We will not be updating or reissuing the technical advisory for reasons stated below.

In the late 1970's there was very little published information available on the design and construction of integral abutment or jointless bridges. The FHWA issued a technical advisory (T5140.13) dated January 28, 1980, to provide State highway agencies (SHA) with the then available data and guidelines on jointless bridges. That technical advisory was canceled October 1, 1989; however, we have been advising SHA's that the technical advisory is still a good guide for their use.

In recent years, there has been a great deal of research and development in the use of integral abutment bridge design and construction. The American Iron and Steel Institute has published a chapter on integral abutment for steel bridges in the Highway Structures Design Handbook. The FHWA research project on jointless steel and concrete bridges has been completed. The report will be published in the near future. If appropriate, we will make recommendations and/or suggestions to the AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures for possible incorporation into the LRFD bridge specifications.

Based on current available information (see attached bibliography), there is not a need to update or reissue an FHWA technical advisory on integral abutment or jointless bridges. The Load Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) Specifications for Bridges encourages the use of integral abutment bridges and provides some criteria for their design. We have been and will continue promoting the use of integral/jointless bridges whenever possible. If you have further questions, please contact Benjamin Tang at (202) 366-4592.

  
David H. Densmore

Attachment

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