

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Staff Bridge Branch
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Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 757-9309 FAX (303) 757-9197



September 29, 2004

Douglas Bennett
Acting Division Administrator
FHWA Colorado Division
12300 W Dakota Ave., Suite 120
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

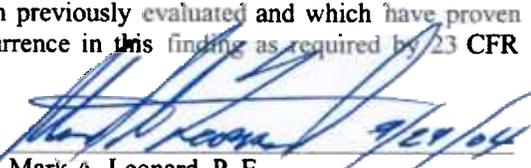
Dear Mr. Bennett,

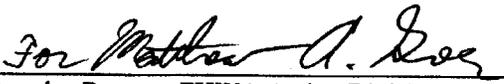
The following is being submitted at the request of Matt Greer in his E-Mail August 5, 2004.

Modular Expansion Devices, although used infrequently in Colorado, are necessary on some of the very long bridge structures in the state. The joint systems allow for large amounts of seasonal movement in these bridge, seal the deck to protect bearings and girders, and provide support for a smooth ride over the required joint opening. A Modular Expansion Device amounts to a significant investment each time one is installed, and repair or replacement of a Modular Expansion Device results in additional costs due to delays, engineering, and inconvenience to the traveling public.

Because of the significant initial investment for modular expansion devices, it has been CDOT practice to evaluate modular joints on the basis of a technical submittal consisting of manufacturers literature, references, test reports, typical shop drawings, fabrication capabilities, and long term performance of previously installed joints. Currently two manufactures have complied with the submittal requirements and have joints displaying adequate long term performance, DS Brown Steelflex Modular Expansion Joint and Watson Bowman WABO Modular Expansion Joint System. In the past, other joint systems have been reviewed and rejected or have been removed from the CDOT supplier list. Those joint systems have been removed or rejected due to non-compliance with the approved details, poor quality fabrication, or poor performance of the installed joint. At this time, we have no approvals pending and we do not have any submittals awaiting review. CDOT working drawings show the names of the two approved Modular Expansion Devices and are to be used on all projects where Modular Expansion Devices are required.

We are submitting a "Finding in the Public Interest" so two manufactures may continue to appear on CDOT bridge plans where Modular Expansion Devices are required. Please consider this letter certification by the State Highway Agency that no suitable alternatives exist for the Modular Expansion Device manufactures indicated on the CDOT working drawings. We find that the public's interest would be best served by specifying the two Modular Expansion Devices that have been previously evaluated and which have proven performance in existing installations. We request your concurrence in this finding as required by 23 CFR 635.411.


Mark A. Leonard, P. E.
CDOT Bridge Engineer

I Concur:  10/3/04
Douglas Bennett, FHWA Acting Division Administrator

MAL/SLW/slw

Attachments: Bridge Worksheets B-518- MIC and MIS

CC: Larry Brinck, CDOT Standards and Specifications Unit
Matthew Greer, FHWA division Bridge Engineer