



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 6, 2000

TO: All District Deputy Directors, Production Administrators,
and Highway Management Administrators

FROM: Randall F. Howard, Deputy Director for Production Management
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SUBJECT: Aesthetic Treatments for Current Construction Projects

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This IOC will clarify the intent of the IOC dated March 2, 2000.

ODOT's goal for the Aesthetic Design Initiative is to build projects that are compatible with their communities. By considering aesthetics at the early planning stages of all projects, we will reach our goal with little or no additional project cost.

In order to begin integrating these principals into every project we build at ODOT we will start incorporating incremental changes to projects during the 2000 construction season.

In determining which current construction projects are best suited to incorporate these changes on an individual basis, consider the following:

Visibility - Is this project in a highly visible location? If so, this is a project that you should consider including aesthetic elements.

Location - Is this project located near other projects where aesthetic treatments are proposed? If it is, consider coordinating with the treatments that are already planned. This will help give our corridors a cohesive look.

Practical - Has painting or sealing begun? What concrete elements can accept texture? Have materials been purchased? Will changes cause any construction delays? Changes should be made on an individual project basis.

Paint / Sealer Colors

Use these paint colors on all jobs for the 2000 construction season. With exceptions to areas where painting has begun or major metropolitan areas where a signature color has previously been chosen.

The following color will be used on all Portland Cement surfaces in conjunction with epoxy urethane concrete sealers:

Federal Color Number 17778 - Light Neutral

These colors are to be used on all steel or metallic surfaces or pre stressed superstructure components:

Federal Color Number 17778 - Light Neutral

Federal Color Number 10324 - Dark Neutral

Federal Color Number 14277 - Green

Federal Color Number 15526 - Blue,

For Noise walls, use these colors:

Federal Color Number 17778 - Light Neutral

Federal Color Number 10324 - Dark Neutral

Federal Color Number 16515 - Grey

The Federal color numbers represent a change in tints to ODOT's approved existing paint and epoxy sealer systems. For projects constructed in 2000, continue to use our current approved glossy finishes. Any future changes to a less glossy finish will be determined only after we have completed investigating the prospective product's performance, availability, and visual acceptability. This will depend on when the desired product can be produced and its testing can be completed.

For maximum aesthetic impact, ensure coverage of the surface being treated is complete. For example, if a bridge structure is to receive an epoxy sealer, then treat all surfaces – piers, abutments, wing walls, parapets (both sides), median barriers, etc. Do not leave areas in a condition that gives an incomplete or inconsistent appearance.

Noise Walls

The Department's overall goal for noise walls is to move away from the array of dissimilar wall types in favor of a substantial concrete structure with a deep surface relief, and that has minimal maintenance requirements. Noise wall designs should attain a continuous even or curvilinear finished top line along its entire length, avoiding to the extent possible, abrupt, right angle steps up or down. A finished coping or sill treatment along the top edge of the wall will be standard in the future.

Obvious candidate projects for aesthetic treatment are all noise wall projects to be installed this year.

Texture

The District Construction Engineer should evaluate whether the use of texture producing form liners on concrete retaining walls, bridge abutments, and the like would result in a significant and low cost, improvement to a project. Collaboration on this issue with the Central Office aesthetics coordinator is encouraged. Note that the use of texture on

concrete barrier surfaces that are directly exposed to traffic is not currently recommended.

How to Implement Changes

For projects that already have a construction contract in place, especially those that are just beginning construction this building season, changes in these regards should be pursued if the forgoing aesthetic criteria are applicable and a delay to the project's completion will not result. Each district shall compile a list of such prospective projects for aesthetic treatment and submit it via e-mail to Julie Walcoff in Central Office (phone: 614/466-3049). Central Office, in collaboration with the affected district, will review the projects to determine which proposed changes are both desirable and feasible, and which should move forward.

Use change orders to the construction contract to put these modifications into affect as may be necessary.

Tracking Aesthetic Changes

The requested list of prospective projects will also serve as the starting point for the aesthetic program's monitoring and record keeping needs. The Central Office aesthetics coordinator will maintain an inventory of all projects that have incorporated aesthetic treatments. This data base will be used over time for reviewing what the Department has accomplished in this regard, and for considering any future changes to the aesthetic guidelines.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the foregoing direction will be individually reviewed in consultation with the Central Office aesthetics coordinator relative to suitability and possible inclusion in general practices.

Exceptions may include:

- Painting or sealing jobs in major metropolitan areas where a "signature" paint color has previously been chosen through a public involvement process.
- Partially completed jobs where either a beam is partially painted or several elements are slated for painting or sealing and the entire job is partially complete. In this case, the work should continue with the first color.
- Adding surface texture to projects already under construction.
- Noise wall material when something other than concrete was chosen during the public involvement process.