The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia

June 21, 2024

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Program Manager (Soils and Aggregate)
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Virginia Department of Transportation
Via email: wansoo.kim@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Re: VDOT Road and Bridge Specifications Section 302

Dear Mr. Kim:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on revisions to Section 302, Drainage Structures.

PCAV responded to the pipe-related changes in an e-mail from Trygve Hoff, Director of Government Relations & Northeast Region Engineer, American Concrete Pipe Association earlier this week. This communication provides responses to the Precast Structures related changes.

Sec. 302.03.b
As written, these revisions place an unwarranted burden on VDOT and the precast concrete industry across Virginia. The revisions undue completely the over-arching systematic agreements between precast concrete producers and VDOT.

Each VDOT approved precast company has at least several, and some have dozens, of pre-approved details for drainage structures which are used daily for routine drainage items.

As written, this language will suddenly and unnecessarily cause hundreds of special submittals and subsequent reviews required by VDOT for standard items such as pipe, manholes, junction boxes, curb and drain inlets, etc. These are all considered standard drainage items, which should not be required to be reviewed as non-standard items… as are all precast box culverts. Precast producers are already required to certify the products shipped meet VDOT requirements on each shipping ticket.

As a matter of parity, if the precast industry is mandated to provide company specific detailed submittals for standard drawings in the VDOT R&B Standards, then should not contractors who choose to cast in place also be required to submit detailed drawings for department approval rather than build to the R&B Standards?

302.03.b.1.a
Some precast designs require cast in place as part of the inlet design, such as DI-10/14 and Gutter pans for Curb Inlets.

We suggest that 1a. be revised to include… “Precast components shall not be combined with cast in place construction. Casting portions of the assembly such as tops, slabs, or chambers in place is not permitted unless it is part of the approved design.”

302.03.b.1.g
We request clarification as to why this revision is needed. Contractors need the option of making field adjustments to heights using methods other than purely precast components. Some adjustments are too minor to allow for an additional piece of precast product. In those cases where a precast top unit (DI-1, DI-5, DI-7) sets directly on a round Riser section, for example, there is not a precast element that accommodates an adjustment under 12”. DI-3 Tops set on a grade on a vertical and plumb Base/ Riser/ Flattop can require an almost infinite variety of grade change possibilities, demanding an equally infinite variety of precast grade rings. A contractor must be allowed to make field adjustments with non- shrink grout and/ or other approved materials.

Unlike private projects, VDOT’s plans do not give actual heights and specific locations for every drainage inlet. The precast industry is currently unable to know the exact heights of every inlet from VDOT plans and must provide allowance for height adjustment in the field.

We are excited that VDOT has incorporated the much-needed updates to Section 302 in the proposed revisions as previously discussed in our joint VDOT/PCAV meetings. We hope that the above specific concerns regarding these new revisions do not delay the publishing of the other proposed revisions.

Please do not hesitate to contact us about these comments and proposed new wording.

Again, on behalf of PCAV, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Scott Crumpler
President