



July 20, 2009

The Epoxy Interest Group of CRSI (EIG) believes that Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) decision to move to higher priced and limited availability alternate reinforced steel corrosion protection systems is based on limited and misleading technical and economic data.

This decision eliminates use of a low cost protection system that has proven long-term performance in the Commonwealth in favor of less proven, higher cost technologies. For this reason we request that implementation of Instructional and Informational Memorandum IIM-S&B-81.1, dated April 30, 2009, be delayed until this matter can be appropriately reviewed.

VDOT's contention that the corrosion performance of epoxy-coated reinforcing bars is limited by moisture induced-delamination leading to significant spot corrosion is not substantiated by major studies anywhere else in the US, nor, do we believe, is substantiated by totality of VDOT's own data.

EIG would like to formally work with VDOT to thoroughly examine:

1. VDOT-collected information,
2. Other key national research studies and investigations,
3. Further investigations, with hopes of coming to a partnered conclusion on the viability of epoxy-coated reinforcement in the Commonwealth.

That said, EIG believes that for bridge decks, two layers of ECR, good quality concrete, and adequate cover will provide many years of service at the lowest initial and life cycle cost.

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