Regional Engineers

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Special Provision for Deck Slab Repair

September 26, 2025

This special provision was developed by the Central Bureau of Materials and the Bureau of Bridges and Structures to re-format Guide Bridge Special Provision (GBSP 28) for deck slab repair into a BDE Special Provision.

This special provision should be inserted into contracts containing a bridge deck concrete overlay, HMA surface removal (deck), or deck slab repair.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the January 16, 2026 and subsequent lettings. The Project Coordination and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

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# DECK SLAB Repair

Effective: January 1, 2026

Add the following Section 530 to the Standard Specifications:

“**SECTION 530. DECK SLAB REPAIR**

**530.01 Description.** This work shall consist of the removal of existing hot-mix asphalt (HMA) surface and loose and deteriorated concrete from a bridge deck, and the replacement with new concrete to the existing top of deck.

Work will be classified as follows.

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| Removal Type | Description |
| HMA Surface Removal | Removal of the HMA surface from the concrete bridge deck. |
| Deck Slab Repair (Partial) | Removal and replacement of the concrete deck, at least 3/4 in. (20 mm) but not more than 1/2 of the concrete deck thickness. |
| Deck Slab Repair (Full Depth, Type I) | Removal and replacement of the concrete deck to full depth, for an area 1 ft x 1 ft (300 mm x 300 mm) to 5 sq ft (0.5 sq m). |
| Deck Slab Repair (Full Depth, Type II) | Removal and replacement of the concrete deck to full depth, for an area greater than 5 sq ft (0.5 sq m). |

**530.02 Materials.** Materials shall be according to the following.

Item Article/Section

1. Portland Cement Concrete (Note 1) 1020
2. Reinforcement Bars 508

Note 1. Class PP-1, PP-2, PP-3, PP-4, PP-5, or BS concrete shall be used unless otherwise noted on the plans.

**530.03 Equipment.** Equipment shall be according to the following.

Item Article/Section

(a) Concrete Equipment 1020.03

(b) Finishing Equipment 503.03

(c) Hydrodemolition Equipment 1101.11

(e) Hydro-Scarification Equipment (Note 1)

Note 1. Hydro-scarification equipment shall consist of filtering and pumping units operating with a computerized, self-propelled robotic machine capable of removing unsound concrete in a single pass to the specified depth and operating at a 16,000 psi (110 MPa) minimum water pressure with a 55 gal/min (208 L/min) minimum water flow rate.

**CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS**

**530.04 General.** Sidewalks, curbs, drains, reinforcement, existing transverse and longitudinal joints, and other appurtenances which are to remain in place shall be protected from damage during removal and cleaning operations.

The Contractor shall control the runoff water generated by the various construction activities in such a manner as to minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, the discharge of untreated effluent into adjacent waters, and shall properly dispose of the solids generated according to Article 202.03. The Contractor shall submit a water management plan to the Engineer specifying the control measures to be used. The control measures shall be in place prior to the start of runoff water generating activities. Runoff water shall not be allowed to constitute a hazard to adjacent or underlying roadways, waterways, drainage areas or railroads nor be allowed to erode existing slopes.

**530.05 HMA Surface Removal.** The existing HMA surface and waterproofing membrane shall be removed and disposed of according to Articles 440.04 and 440.06, except milling equipment will not be allowed if the deck is to receive a waterproofing membrane system. Removal of the HMA surface by the use of radiant or direct heat will not be permitted. If the HMA surface or waterproofing membrane contains asbestos fibers, removal shall be according to the Recurring Special Provision “Asbestos Waterproofing Membrane or Asbestos Hot-Mix Asphalt Surface Removal”.

**530.06 Concrete Removal.** Concrete shall be removed, as determined by the Engineer, in areas of loose, disintegrated, and unsound concrete. Areas designated for partial depth repair in which unsound concrete is found to extend below half the concrete deck thickness shall be removed to full depth.

A concrete saw shall be used to provide vertical edges 3/4 in. (20 mm) deep around the perimeter of the area to be patched. Where reinforcement bars lack sufficient concrete cover, the depth shall be reduced as directed by the Engineer. A saw cut will not be required if the deck is to get an overlay, or along the face of the curb, parapet or joint, or when sharp vertical edges are provided by hydrodemolition.

(a) Partial-Depth. The loose and unsound concrete shall be removed using power-driven hand tools or hydrodemolition equipment. Power-driven hand tools include jackhammers less than or equal to the nominal 45 lb (20 kg) class. Chipping hammers heavier than the nominal 15 lb (7 kg) class shall not be used for removing concrete from below reinforcing bars, or for removal within 1 ft (300 mm) of existing beams, girders, or other structural members that are to remain in service. Jackhammers and chipping hammers shall not be operated at an angle less than 45 degrees measured from the surface of the deck.

(b) Full Depth. Full depth removal shall be performed according to Article 501.05 except that hydraulic impact equipment may be permitted in areas of full depth removal more than 1 ft (300 mm) away from the edges of existing beams, girders or other supporting structural members or more than 1 ft (300 mm) from the boundaries of full depth repairs.

Forms for full depth repair may be supported by hangers with adjustable bolts or by blocking from the beams below. When approved by the Engineer, forms for Type I patches may be supported by No. 9 (3.8 mm) wires or other devices attached to the reinforcement bars.

Exposed reinforcement bars and newly exposed concrete shall be blast cleaned. If the Engineer determines the bond between existing concrete and reinforcement bars within the patch area has been destroyed, the concrete adjacent to the bar shall be removed to a depth that will permit new concrete to bond to the entire periphery of the exposed bar. A minimum of 1 in. (25 mm) clearance will be required. If the Engineer enlarges a designated removal area due to deterioration beyond the limits previously designated, a new saw cut shall be made around the extended area before additional removal is begun. The removal area shall not be enlarged solely to correct debonded reinforcement or deficient lap lengths.

**530.07 Reinforcement Treatment**. Care shall be exercised during concrete removal to protect the reinforcement bars and structural steel from damage. Damage to the reinforcement bars or structural steel to remain in place shall be repaired or replaced. Existing reinforcement bars shall remain in place and loose bars shall be tied. Reinforcing bars which have been removed with the patch or lost at least 25 percent of their original cross-sectional area due to corrosion shall be supplemented by new in-kind reinforcement bars. New bars shall be lapped a minimum of 32 bar diameters to existing bars. A mechanical splicer capable of developing in tension at least 125 percent of the yield strength of the existing bar shall be used when it is not feasible to provide the minimum bar lap. No welding of bars will be permitted.

**530.08 Cleaning.** After concrete removal and reinforcement repairs, the repair areas shall be cleaned of dust and debris. Once the initial cleaning is completed, the repair areas shall be blast cleaned to a roughened appearance free from concrete fines and foreign matter.

Exposed reinforcement bars shall be free of dirt, detrimental scale, paint, oil, or other foreign substances which may reduce bond with the concrete. Loose, scaling rust shall be removed by rubbing with burlap, wire brushing, blast cleaning, or another method approved by the Engineer.

Dust, concrete fines, debris, and water resulting from the blast cleaning shall be confined and immediately removed. If concrete placement does not follow immediately after the final cleaning, the area shall be protected with anchored polyethylene sheeting.

**530.09 Placing.**  Concrete placement shall be according to Articles 503.07, 503.16, 1020.14(b), and the following.

The patch area shall be cleaned to the satisfaction of the Engineer and shall be thoroughly wetted and maintained in a dampened condition with water for at least 12 hours before placement of the concrete. Excess water shall be removed by compressed air or by vacuuming prior to the beginning of concrete placement. Water shall not be applied to the surface within one hour before or at any time during placement of the concrete.

When an overlay system is not specified, the patches shall be finished according to Article 503.16(a), followed by a light brooming.

**530.10 Curing and Protection.** Concrete patches shall be cured according to Articles 1020.13(a)(3) or (a)(5). The curing period shall be three days for Class PP-1, PP-2, PP‑3, PP-4, and PP-5 concrete, and seven days for Class BS concrete. When the air temperature is below 55º F (13º C), the Contractor shall cover the patch according to Article 1020.13(d)(1) with minimum R12 insulation.

A 72 hour minimum drying period shall be required before placing waterproofing or HMA surfacing.

**530.11 Opening to Traffic.** No traffic will be permitted on a patch until after the cure period and the concrete has obtained a minimum compressive strength of 4000 psi (27.6 MPa) or flexural strength of 675 psi (4.65 MPa). Construction equipment will be permitted on a patch during the cure period if the concrete has obtained the minimum required strength when the specimens are cured with the patch.

**530.12 Method of Measurement.** HMA surface removal and deck slab repair will be measured for payment in place and the area computed in square yards (square meters).

**530.13 Basis of Payment.** HMA surface removal will be paid for at the contract unit price per square yard (square meter) for HOT-MIX ASPHALT SURFACE REMOVAL (DECK).

Areas removed and replaced up to and including a depth of half the concrete deck thickness will be paid for at the contract unit price per square yard (square meter) for DECK SLAB REPAIR (PARTIAL). Areas removed and replaced to a depth greater than half the concrete deck thickness will be paid for at the contract unit price per square yard (square meter) for DECK SLAB REPAIR (FULL DEPTH, of the type specified).

Concrete protected according to Article 1020.13(d) will be paid according to Article 503.22.

Reinforcement bars repaired in-kind, as approved by the Engineer, will be paid according to Article 109.04.”

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