

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

To Office Bridges and Structures

Date January 1, 2009

Attention All Employees

Ref No. 521.1

From Gary Novey

Office Bridges and Structures

Subject Methods Memo 209 (Clarification for Plain Elastomeric Pad Design)
Article 5.7.4.1.1 Analysis and design

There has been some confusion on the procedure for calculating beam slope for checking whether plain elastomeric pads may be used at a fixed bearing location. Therefore, when calculating whether uniform plain elastomeric pads or tapered pads can be used for a fixed bearing, the designer should not include the beam camber in the calculations. We realize that this is not consistent with the design procedure for laminated pads where the camber is included; however, the plain pad is confined once the concrete pier diaphragm is in place, so the decision was made to simplify the calculations.

This policy shall be used on all new bridge projects. If you have any question please check with me.

GAN/dgb/bj