



# MEMO

June 11, 2025

**To:** Directors of Transportation Planning and Development

**From:** Robert Owens, P.E.   
Bridge Design Section Director, Bridge Division

**Subject:** Prestressed U-Beam Standards Drawings– Retired

The Prestressed Concrete U-Beam standard drawings are retired and withdrawn from the Bridge Standards webpage and are no longer recommended for new construction.

In recent years, the use of Prestressed Concrete U-Beams has become increasingly inconsistent, with significant gaps between projects utilizing this beam type. As a result, the industry has experienced a decline in fabricators and contractors familiar with their construction. Each use of the U-Beams requires a steep relearning process, often leading to fabrication and construction errors. To address these challenges and promote consistency in beam usage, we have made the decision to retire the Prestressed Concrete U-Beam standard drawings.

If Prestressed Concrete U-Beams are being considered for special circumstances, contact Bridge Division to discuss the circumstance and possible alternates.

For questions or comments concerning these standard drawings, please contact Taya Retterer, P.E. at 512/993-0330.

**CC:** Federal Highway Administration      District Bridge Engineers  
Bridge Design Consultants              District Bridge Coordinators  
District Design Engineers                Bridge Division