Bridges using slabs designed by AASHTO-LRFD Empirical Method do not land themselves well to future widenings.

**Effective immediately (for all projects with a letting date of 11/01/03 or later),** the following shall be implemented:

1. **All bridges using this method of design** shall have a Note in the appropriate location (Gen. Notes) indicating that bridges have been designed using AASHTO-LRFD Empirical design method and require appropriate consideration when they are being widened. Also, a sketch should be added to indicate the preferred location of the temporary barrier during future construction.

2. For bridges **currently in final stages of design**, additional design shall be performed and provide additional positive reinforcing in the exterior bay (placing one additional steel between existing in the first bay) to handle future temporary loading conditions (Central Office recommendation)

3. Bridge slabs **in early stages of design** (BDR, 30%, 90%) should preferably be designed using the conventional method.

**In the future**, the TPPPH (Turnpike Plans Preparation and Practices Handbook) will address changes from the AASHTO/SDG for slab designs.