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From: Gregory E. Sanders
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To: BRST; BRSD; BRPM; BRSLE
Subject: Development Section Bulletin No. 15-02-DSB-Splicing Slab Longitudinal Bars

<<DEVELOPMENT SECTION BULLETIN>>

No. 15-02-DSB-Splicing Slab Longitudinal Bars
Contact: Gregory Sanders
Effective: Immediately for Jobs in Design and Detail

Currently, it is design practice to not splice slab longitudinal bars more than two bar sizes different. It may have been based on several factors like more common use of larger-sized bars in slabs due to longer spans, vertical bar clearance differences, unpredictable stress differences between bar sizes of such difference, bar chair height limits, or a combination of these or other factors. Regardless it is not clear and seems unreasonable.

Therefore, this bulletin discontinues this design practice provided that splicing satisfies EPG or ASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

This change makes it a rational and cost effective decision to continue to use the No. 5 longitudinal slab bars, for example, in a standard slab design when negative moment resistance requires the use of No. 8 bars over the bents. It will no longer be the case that the sole reason to change the No. 5 to No. 6 longitudinal bars at 15" cts. in a bridge slab when splicing with No. 8 bars that are required over the bent(s) has as its basis this past design practice.

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