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TRANSPORTATION CABINET

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SECRETARY

CONSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM

CM 25-08

TO: Chief District Engineers
TEBMs for Project Delivery and Preservation
Section Engineers

CC: KY Association of Highway Contractors (KAHC)
Plantmix Asphalt Industry of KY (PAIKY)
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Kentucky Division

FROM: Matthew P. Simpson, P.E.
Director *MPS*
Division of Construction

DATE: December 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Release of KYTC Standard Specifications for Road & Bridge Construction
Edition of 2026
Effective with January 2026 Letting

New Standard Specifications are now complete and available for review on the KYTC website at the following address:

<https://transportation.ky.gov/Construction/Pages/Kentucky-Standard-Specifications.aspx>

These new specifications will be effective with the January 2026 letting. Hard copies will be available for order and purchase soon. Instructions to procure printed copies will also be posted at the website above.

Attached to this memo is a document highlighting the major changes coming.

If you have questions, please contact the Division of Construction at 502-564-4780.

MPS/tmc
Attachment

2026 KYTC Standard Specifications - DRAFT Major Revisions		
Section	Subsection	Major Revision
105	13	Pay material escalation for utility delays.
106	04	Updated Buy America language. Added Build America, Buy America language. New certification requirements.
109	04	Revised force account percents and allowables.
109	07	Reduced liquid asphalt threshold to 1,000 tons and added asphalt seal coat as an adjustable contract item.
109	07	Add language stating adjustments will not be made to supplemental items.
112	03	Flagger credentials must be current within the last 2 years.
113	03	Remove aggregate and concrete plant.
114	00	Add new specification section for formal partnering.
201	00	Completely revised language for electronic surveying requirements.
205	00	Revised waste/borrow permit language to align with requirements.
206	03	Benching clarification.
212	03	Revise fertilizer blends.
212	03	Require erosion control blanket on slopes greater than 3:1.
302	03	Revised mixing, stockpile and transport language.
302	02	Add mixer inspection form requirements
302	03	Remove the Three Drop Method requirement.
303	02	Allow the use of Type 1L cement.
304	03	Allow geogrid consult to be contacted virtually.
402	03	Add language allowing progress payments to be held for failure to submit AMAWs.
402	03	Allow KM 64-438 for testing AC.
403	03	Add Hamburg rut test and asphalt cracking test mix requirements.
403	03	Add requirements for when an MTV is to be used.
403	03	Update Durable Pavement Edge language.
406	00	Add non-tracking tack and applicable specifications.
408	05	Update "Adjust Manhole" payment section.
409	03	Add KYTC RAP Stockpile Management Document reference.
409	03	Add new method for preparing mix when using RAP/RAS.
413	00	Update specification to align with most recent special note.
501	03	Allow Engineer to request a Cold Weather Plan.
501	03	Allow Longitudinal Grooving of Concrete Pavement.
504	00	Section completely revised.
505	00	Add detectable warning language for sidewalk retrofits.
513	00	New section for Polymer Concrete Overlay Systems.
601	03	Revise to only require trial batch if the producer doesn't have an approve trial batch for Class AA.
601	03	Revise to included prestress plants in SCC section.
601	03	Add Class P 24-hour mix
601	03	Allow longer discharge time.

2026 KYTC Standard Specifications - DRAFT Major Revisions		
Section	Subsection	Major Revision
601	03	Eliminate the requirement of a test section if certain conditions are met.
601	03	Move construction tolerances to Appendix A.
601	00	Remove the word "fly ash" and replace with "coal ash"
602	04	Revised language regarding test Mechanical Couplers payment.
603	00	Add Structure Granular Backfill specifications to this section.
605	03	Revise cement factor to 900 pounds per cubic yard.
605	03	Add Type 1L cement.
606	00	Add hydrodemolition to specification section.
606	02	Add more stringent requirements to this section.
607	03	Require all structural steel to be cleaned to SP5/NACE No. 1 prior to fabrication.
607	03	Allow plasma cutting of secondary members.
607	03	Cleaning and Painting of Structural Steel is now included in Section 617.
613	03	Add Large Block Retaining Walls to section.
615	03	Add Type 1L cement.
616	00	New section for Misc. Concrete Coatings and Steel Bearing Lubrication with critical revisions from previous specifications.
617	01	Allow all three coats of paint to be shop applied when approved.
617	00	New Section for Cleaning and Painting of Fabricated Structural Steel with critical revisions from previous specifications.
701	03	Removed bedding specific language and referenced Standard Drawing.
701	03	Add language prohibiting handling RCP in freezing temperatures.
701	03	Add time limit on when CMP is to be installed following project delivery.
701	03	Remove camera/video inspection from this specification section.
701	03	Require pipe extensions to be like-kind materials.
701	04	Add language for pipe undercut to be paid as extra work instead of set price.
705	00	Cored Hole Drainage Box Connector specification added to Section 710.
705	00	New section for Pipeline Inspection with several critical updates.
710	00	Cored Hole Drainage Box Connector specification added to Section 710.
711	00	Removed section.
712	00	Add proving period for pavement markers.
713	03	Add striping width requirements.
714	00	Add ribbon and spray thermo.
714	04	Add striping width requirements.
715	03	Remove Type B beams and add Type D breakaway supports
719	03	Revised language for guardrail post embedment in rock - including payment details.
719	03	Remove "Relocate Existing Guardrail System" and "Adjust Existing Guardrail" from specification.
723	03	Add Loop and Radar Detection specifications.
723	04	Add additional sign system related bid items.

2026 KYTC Standard Specifications - DRAFT Major Revisions

Section	Subsection	Major Revision
727	00	New section for Sheet Signs.
728	00	New section for Barcode Label on Permanent Signs.
801	01	Requires labs to be ASTM C150 and C595 accredited.
801	01	Add additional requirements for Type IL cement.
804	02	Add that fine aggregates are subject to preliminary source approval.
804	00	Add microsurface sand to Section 804.
806	04	Add non-tracking tack.
806	05	Add CQS-1hL per existing special note.
806	09	Updated price adjustment calculations.
811	09	Removed ASTM A 617 dowel bars.
813	09	Removed values from ROCAP testing procedures and referenced current ASTM F 3125.
814	04	Add square sawed posts requirements.
829	01	Add material requirements for hardware.
830	00	Updated to align with recent industry changes and construction memo language.
832	00	Removed Steel Post Type 2 from the specification.
834	05	Add HDPE specifications.
835	05	Add HDPE specifications.
837	00	Add spray thermo and modified polymer and all applicable material requirements.
843	05	Add geotextile fabric for stabilization.
844	00	Revise "fly ash" to be "coal ash".
847	00	New section for Polymer Concrete Overlay Systems.