

No. PL-67 (14)/75

Dated the 4th March, 1976

To

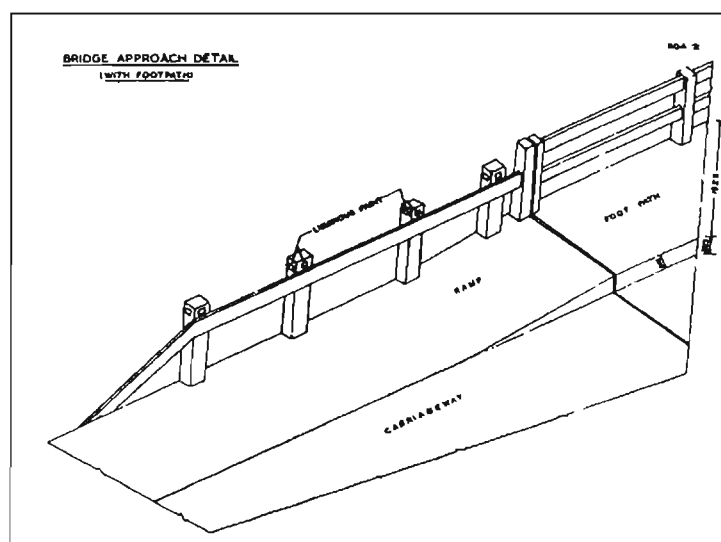
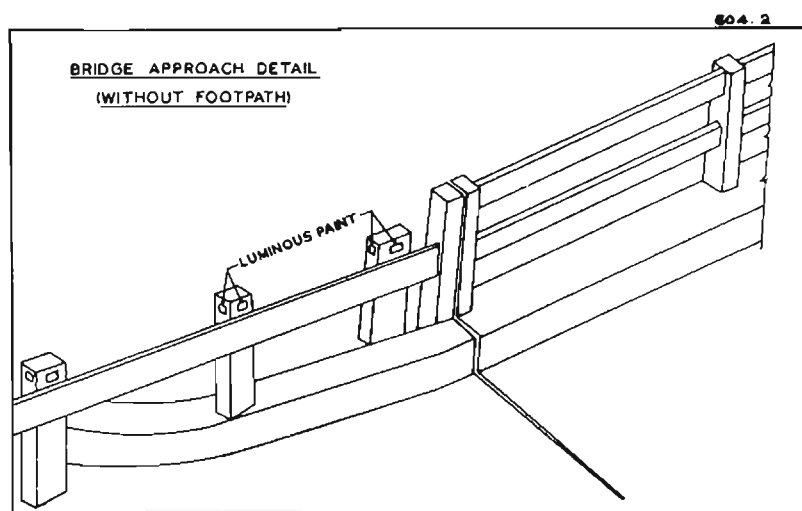
The Chief Engineers of State PWDs (dealing with roads)

Sub : Connection of approaches to Highway Bridges

The physical characteristics and the dimensions of the bridge are different from its immediate approaches. The bridges on National Highways are provided with 7.5 metres carriageway width with raised kerbs and the railings at the edges. These characteristics are absent in any adjoining connecting approaches. As a result, the railings and kerbs are normally stopped abruptly at the end of the bridge without any indication of such a change in the characteristics of the roadway system. Another aspect is that the total width of the structure for bridges without footpaths is about 8.4 metres whereas the total width of the embankment at top is normally 12 metres in approaches.

2. The absence of any standard layout for sudden narrowing of the overall roadwidth and indication of the change in the physical characteristics like raised kerbs and railings the connection of approaches remains a road hazard and serious accidents take place for **run-off-the-road** vehicles. The extent of the hazard is increased by the presence of channels or other obstacles over which the bridges are built.

3. A layout for the guard rails in the immediate approaches to the bridge aligning with the railings has been worked out to serve as delineators to guide the vehicles on the bridge and to exclude the **run-off-the-road** vehicles from the dangerous area of road site hazard and redirecting them as far as possible. Isometric views of the proposal are also enclosed with a copy of the proposed layout. The structural details, however, will have to



be worked out before these guard rails are adopted. You are requested to examine this proposal and communicate your comments and suggestions within 15 days of the receipt of this letter before we finalise this proposal for adoption. You are also requested to send a report of the performance of any such structures adopted in your State.