To: W. W. McLaughlin  
Testing and Research Engineer

From: E. A. Finney

Subject: Premolded Rubber and Polyvinyl Chloride Base Plates.  

The records show that the first major installation of subject material was made on US 12, Kalamazoo Bypass (IN 39-40, C7 & 8) in 1956.

Subsequent letter reports covering the condition of such base plates on the above and other projects have been submitted as follows:

Report 334 - June 3, 1960
Report 343 - September 8, 1960
Report 349 - November 1, 1960

These reports are well documented with photographic evidence that more construction deficiencies exist in the case of base plates made with subject materials than when galvanized sheet metal was used.

The attached photographs taken September 18, 1962, on Project EBI 33084, C5 & 6 (Fig. 1) present further evidence on the general condition of end plates made of subject material.

In view of construction experience as depicted by the above evidence, we strongly recommend that the subject materials for base and end plates fabrication be deleted from the Department specifications.

OFFICE OF TESTING AND RESEARCH

E. A. Finney, Director  
Research Laboratory Division  

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Figure 1. Four examples of polyvinyl type end plate installations on Construction Project EBI 33084, C5 & 6, 9-18-62.
Figure 1 (Continued).