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MEMORANDUM

From:	Tim Welter, EIT, Bridge Maintenance Engineer Dave Crumley, PE, Bridge Maintenance Engineer
Approved By:	Henry Henning, P.E., Bridge Inspection Engineer
Date:	May 23, 2023
Subject:	Interim Guidance for Joint Plow Tabs Inspection

On bridges with skews that match MDT plows there are sometimes plow tabs placed over the joints to allow the plow to ride across a joint. These tabs are typically placed at regular intervals and are welded to the joint header on the approach side of the joint. These tabs are typically found on strip seals, modular, or other similar open joints. Below are examples of plow tabs installed on a bridge.





To help keep track of these tabs and the condition of them MDT has created an agency defined protective system Element, 522 Plow Tabs. This element is measured in Linear FT and should match the quantity of the joint element (e.g., if the plow tabs are spaced at 4' on center, one tab will be 4 linear ft). The only defect associated with this element is 7000, Damage. A description of the condition states for this element is provided below:

CS1	**CS2**	**CS3**	**CS4**
No defects	Starting to curl up or leading edge is exposed or susceptible to plow blade impact	Curled up but do not pose a traffic hazard or welds appear to be broken, cracked, or loose.	Failed, missing, or curled up and pose a traffic hazard.