



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration



# GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCED SOIL INTEGRATED BRIDGE SYSTEM

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# Introduction

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# EDC Web Site

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts)

- Taking effective, proven and market-ready technologies and getting them into widespread use

The screenshot shows the EDC website homepage. At the top is a navigation menu with links: Home, About EDC, Shortening Project Delivery, Accelerating Technology, Events, Summits, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large image of a yellow excavator at a construction site. To the right of the image is the text: "The Every Day Counts Initiative. EDC is designed to identify and deploy innovation aimed at shortening project delivery, enhancing the safety of our roadways, and protecting the environment." Below this is a section for "Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil" with a "Read More >>" link. The sidebar contains several widgets: "Request For Information (RFI)" with a description of the RFI process; "Who's making Every Day Count?" with a map of the United States and a list of featured states (Connecticut, Maryland, Nevada); "EDC Innovation Box" with a list of technologies like Adaptive Signal Control and Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil; and "Shortening Project Delivery" with a list of methods like Prefabricated Bridge and Safety Edge. At the bottom left is a "Download Brochure" section with a thumbnail of a brochure and a "Download Other Brochures" link.



# 2012 Deployment Goals

- December 2012:
  - 30 bridges have been designed and/or constructed using GRS-IBS on the NHS within 20 states
  - 75 bridges have been designed and/or constructed using GRS-IBS off the NHS



# The Current Bridge Situation

- Approximately 600,000 bridges in the U.S.
- Many have functional or structural deficiencies
- Most are small single span
- Budgets don't meet demand – Build more bridges for your dollar

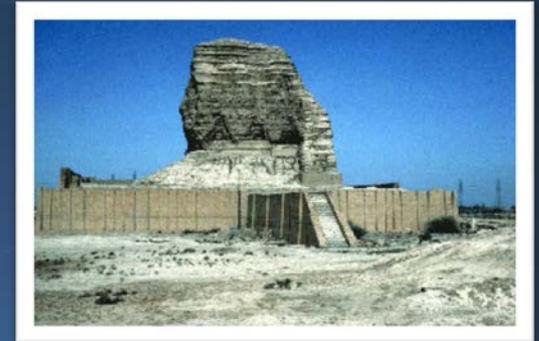


# GRS FUNDAMENTALS



# History

- **Reinforced earth** has been used for thousands of years. Ancient reinforcing materials have included:
  - Straw
  - Tree branches
  - Plant material
- **Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE)**
  - 1960s: Steel strips (Reinforced Earth®)
  - 1980s: Geosynthetic reinforcement



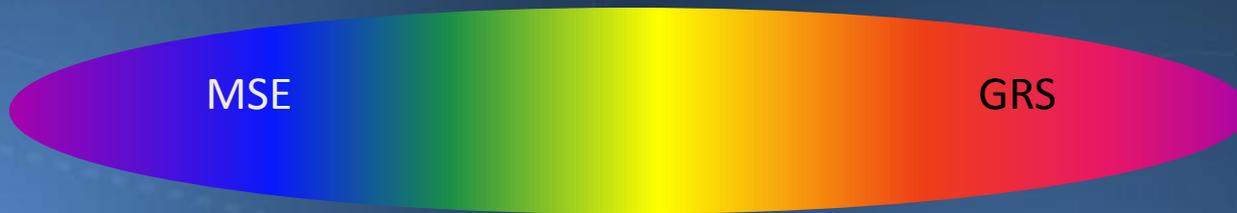


# Definitions

- **GRS - Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil**
  - An engineered fill of closely spaced ( $< 12''$ ) alternating layers of compacted granular fill material and geosynthetic reinforcement
- **IBS - Integrated Bridge System**
  - A fast, cost-effective method of bridge support that blends the roadway into the superstructure using GRS technology



# Degree of Composite Behavior

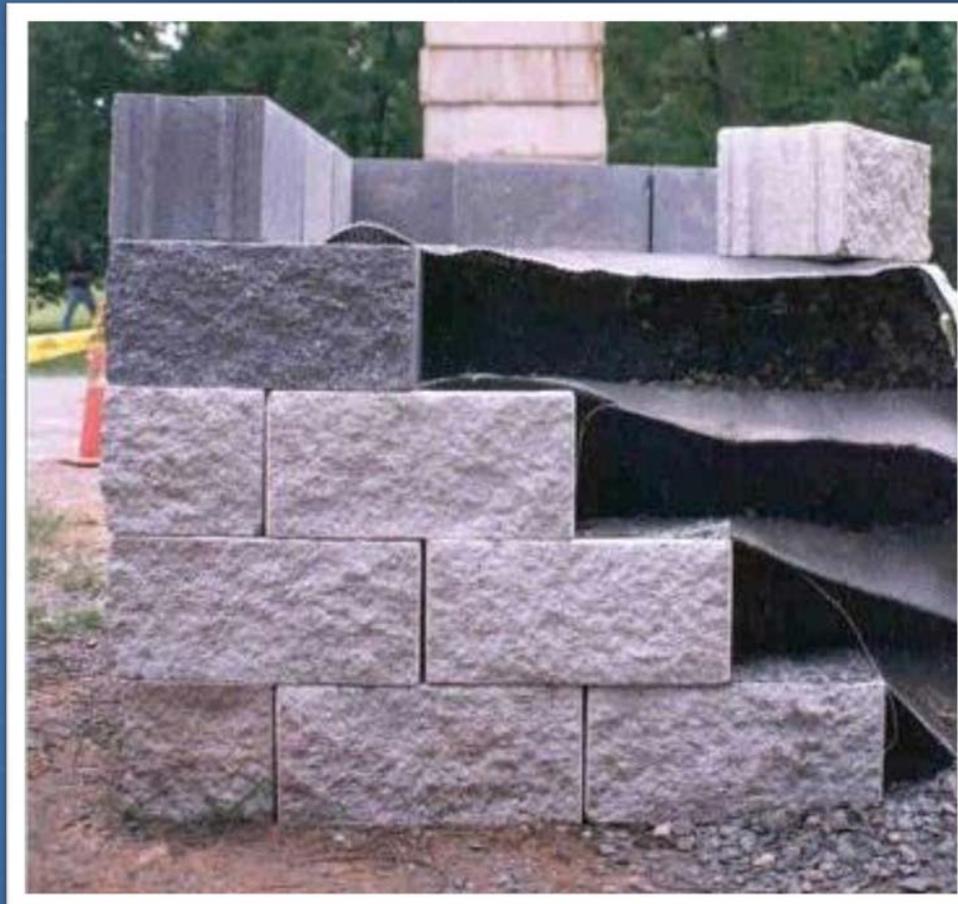


## Reinforcement spacing

36" 30" 24" 18" 12" 6"

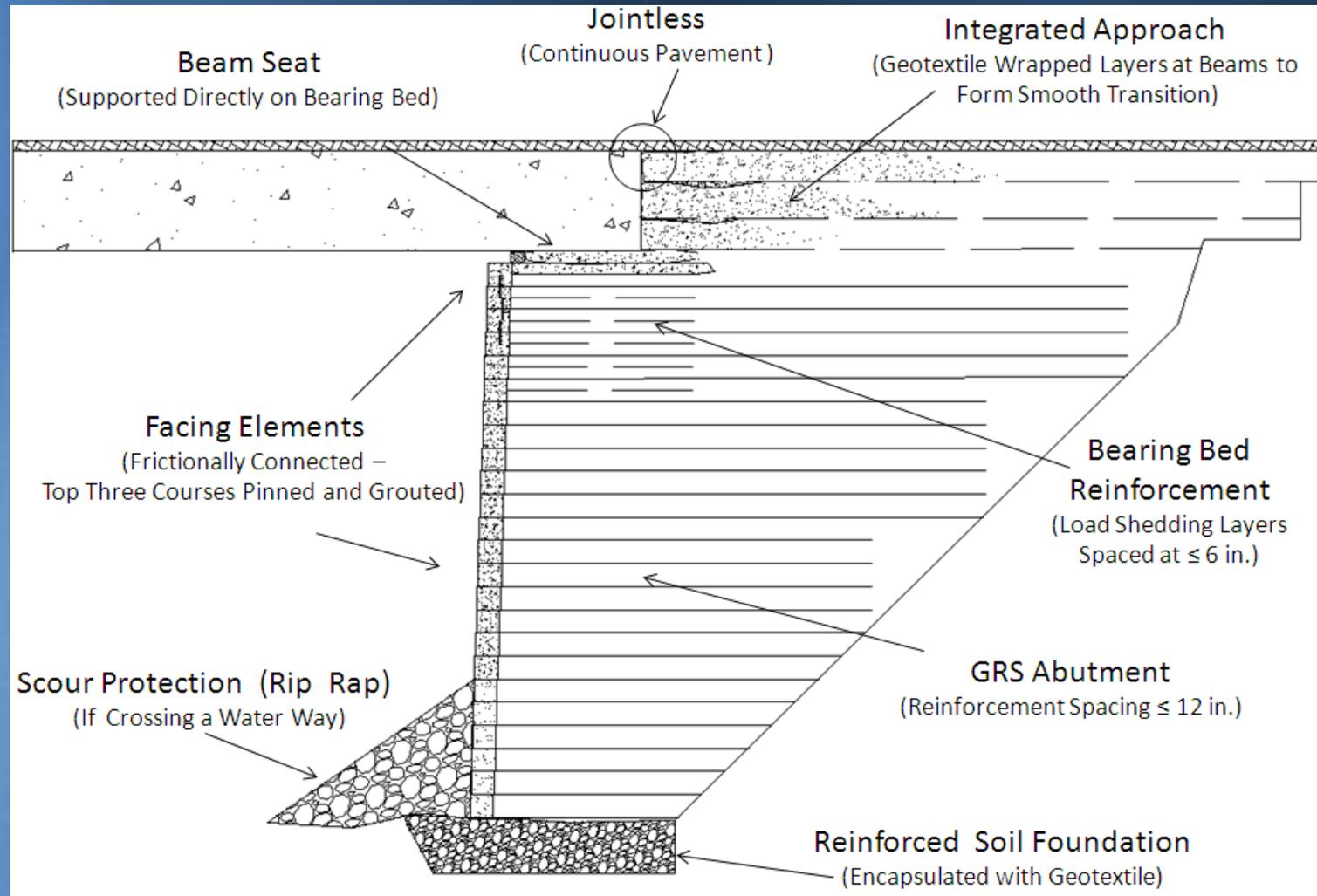


# Cut-away of a GRS Mass





# Cross-Section of GRS-IBS





# Summary of Benefits

- Reduced construction cost (25 - 60%)
- Reduced construction time
- Construction less dependent on weather conditions
- Flexible design - easily field modified for unforeseen site conditions (e.g. obstructions, utilities, different site conditions)
- Easier to maintain (fewer bridge parts)
- QA/QC Advantages



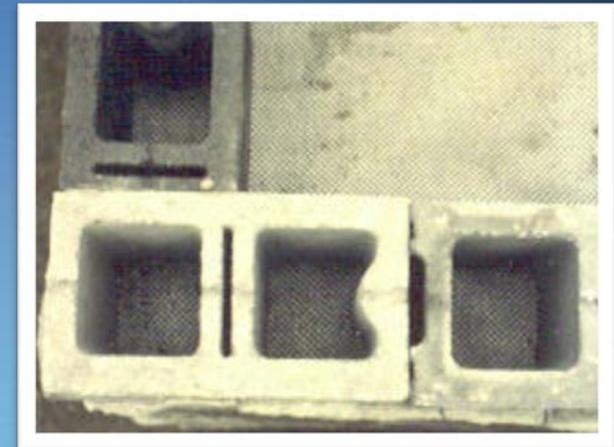
# Site Selection

- Single span (currently 140 ft)
- 30 ft abutment height
- Grade separation
- Water crossings with low scour potential
- Steel or concrete superstructures
- New or replacement structures



# Facing Elements

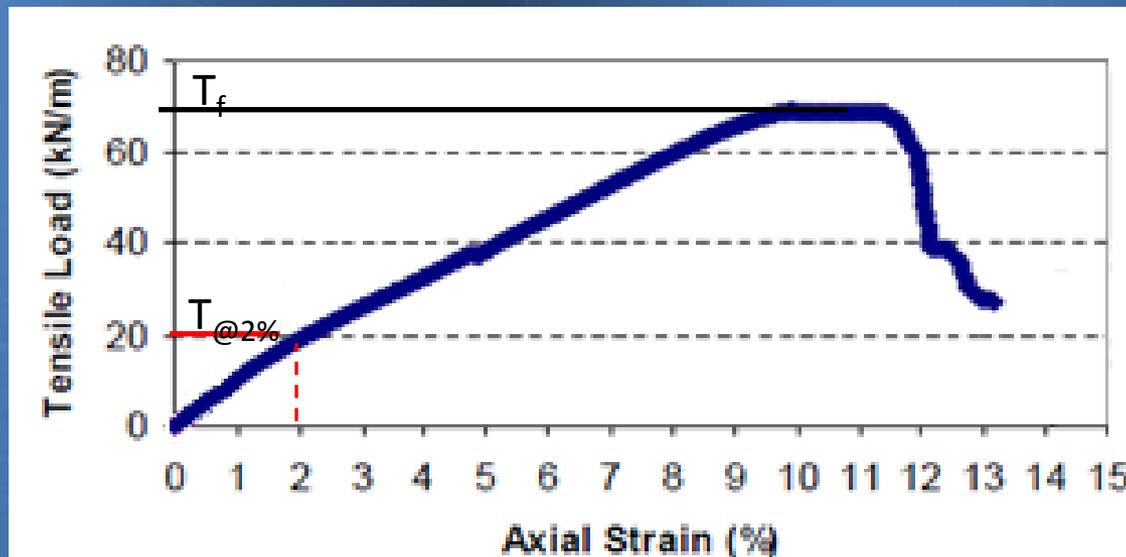
- Split face CMU Block
  - Dimensions: 7-5/8" x 7-5/8" x 15-5/8"
  - Readily available
  - Inexpensive
  - Compatible with the frictional connection to the reinforcement
  - Material Specifications:
    - Compressive strength  $\geq 4,000$  psi
    - Water absorption limit: 5%
    - Must be designed for freeze-thaw protection (ASTM 1262-10)





# Geosynthetic Reinforcement

- Geosynthetic reinforcement material can include:
  - HDPE, PP, or PET Geogrids
  - PP or PET Woven geotextiles
- Ultimate Strength:  $T_f = 4800 \text{ lb/ft}$
- Strength at 2% Strain:  $T_{@2\%}$

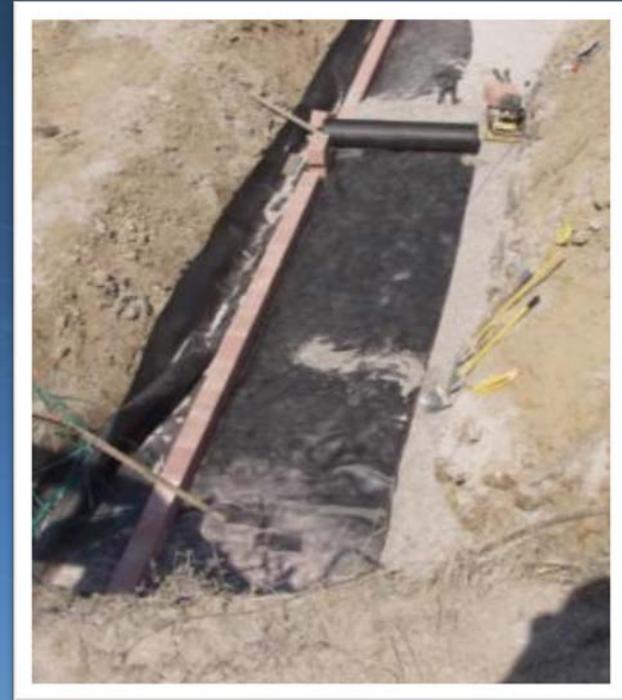
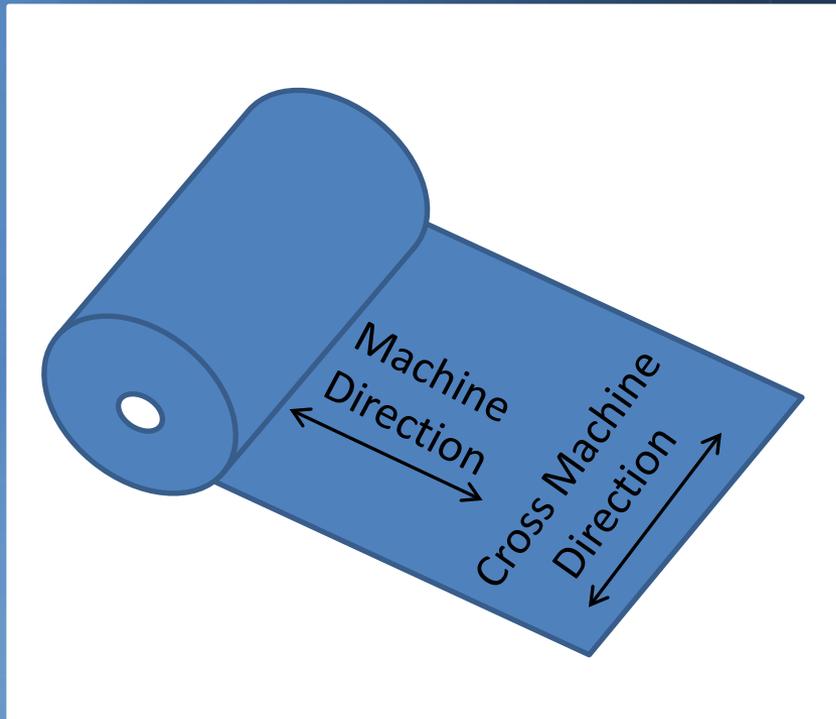




# Geosynthetic Reinforcement

## *Continued*

- Cross Machine vs. Machine Direction



- Uniaxial (strength in one direction)
- Biaxial (strength in both directions)



# Granular Backfill

- Well graded
  - $d_{\max} \leq 2''$
  - 200 sieve  $< 12\%$  ( $PI \leq 6$ )
  - $\phi \geq 38^\circ$
- Open graded
  - $0.5'' \leq d_{\max} \leq 1''$
  - 2'' max. OK but more difficult to place
  - 200 sieve  $\leq 5\%$  ( $PI \leq 6$ )
  - $\phi \geq 38^\circ$

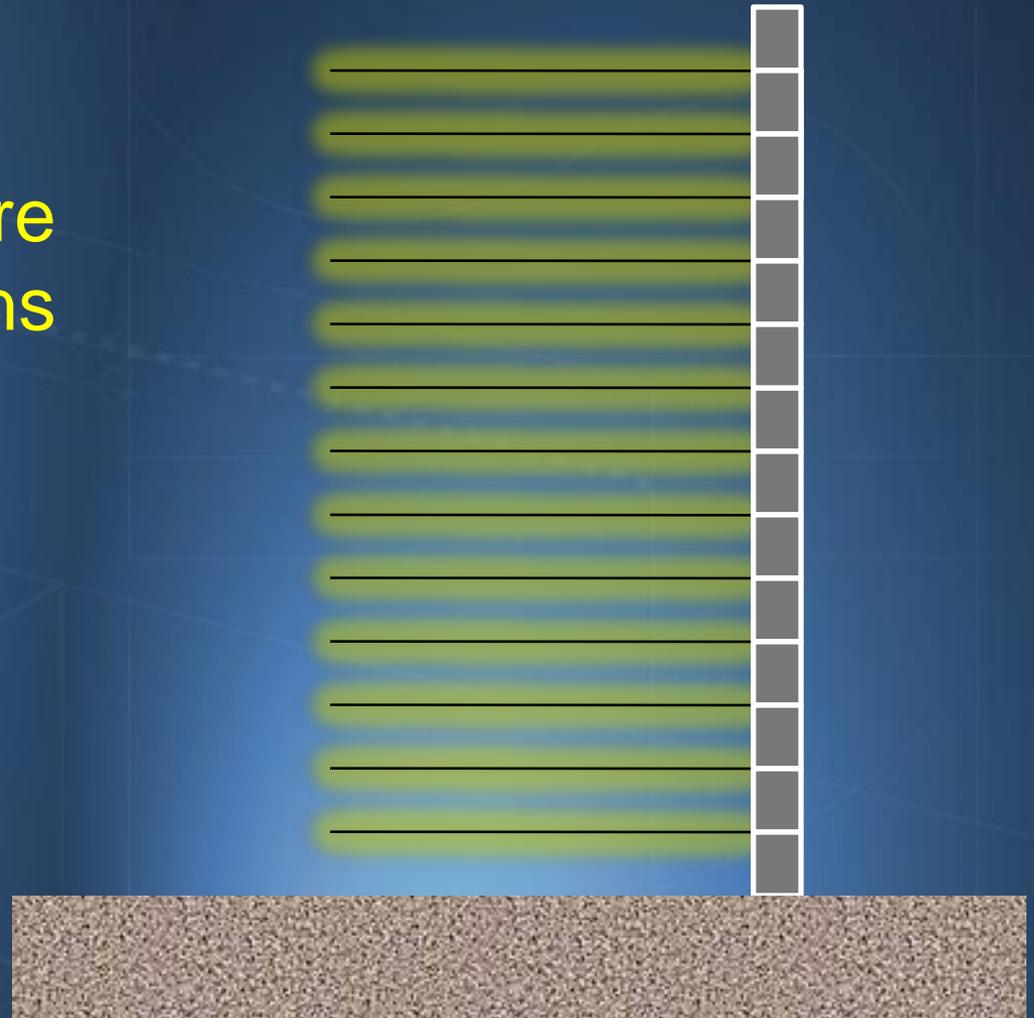




# Composite Behavior

## GRS

- Composite Structure
- Friction Connections
- Close Spacing





# PERFORMANCE Testing and Monitoring

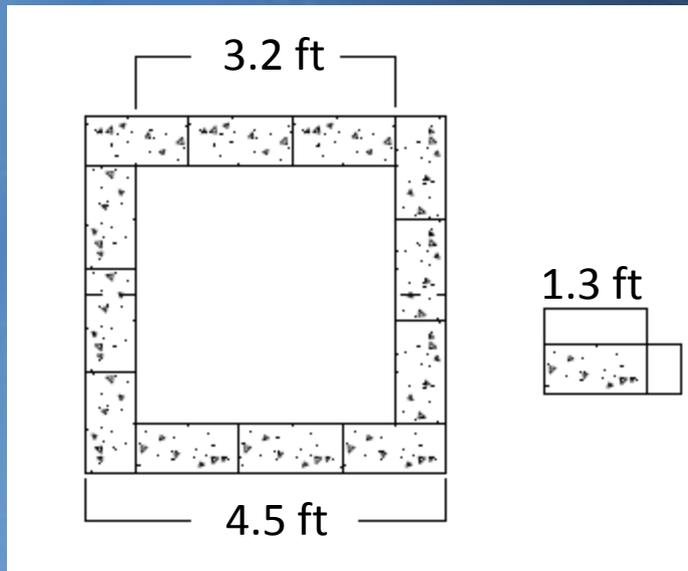


# Performance Tests

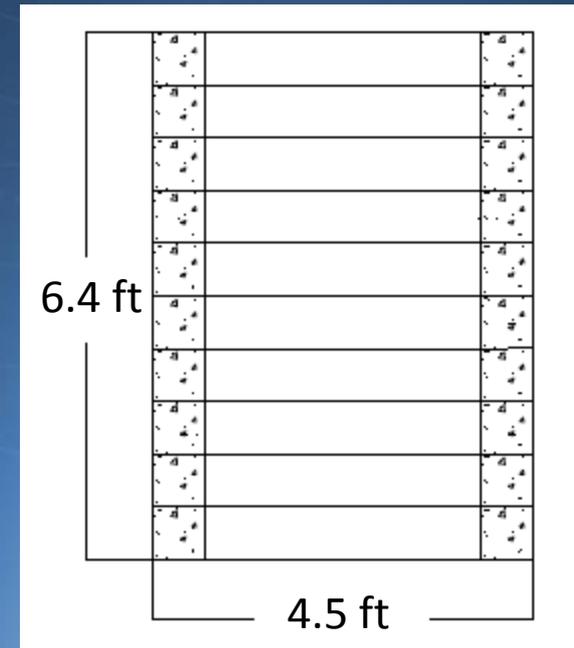
- Also known as “Mini-Pier” experiments
- Provides material strength properties of a particular GRS composite
- Procedure involves axially loading the GRS mass to measure lateral and vertical deformation



# Performance Tests *Continued*

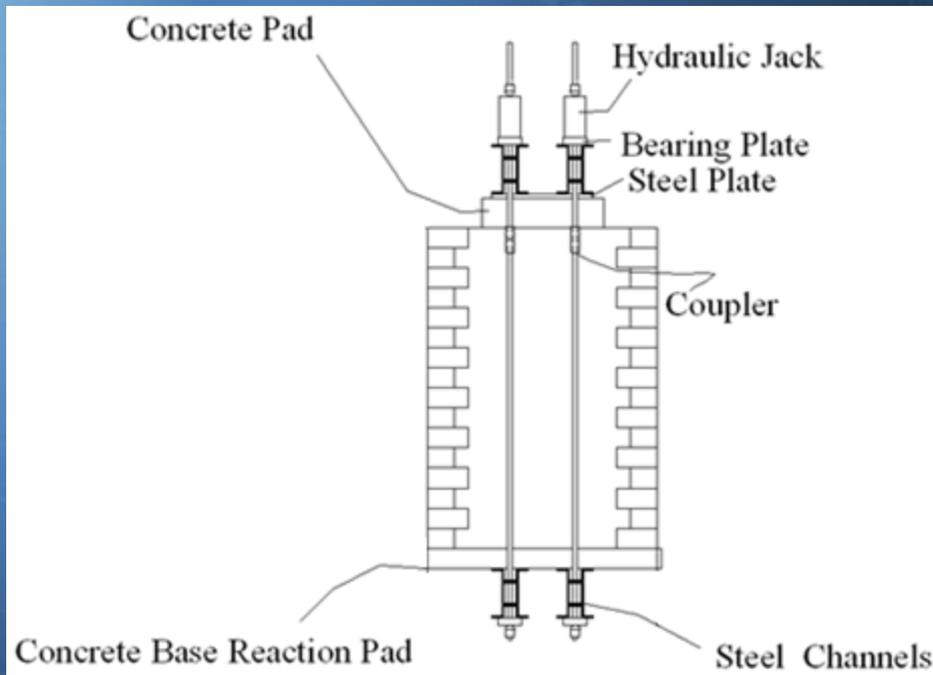


Top View



Side View

# Performance Tests *Continued*





# Performance Tests *Continued*

Before



After





# Performance Test

## 2400 lb/ft @ 8" Spacing

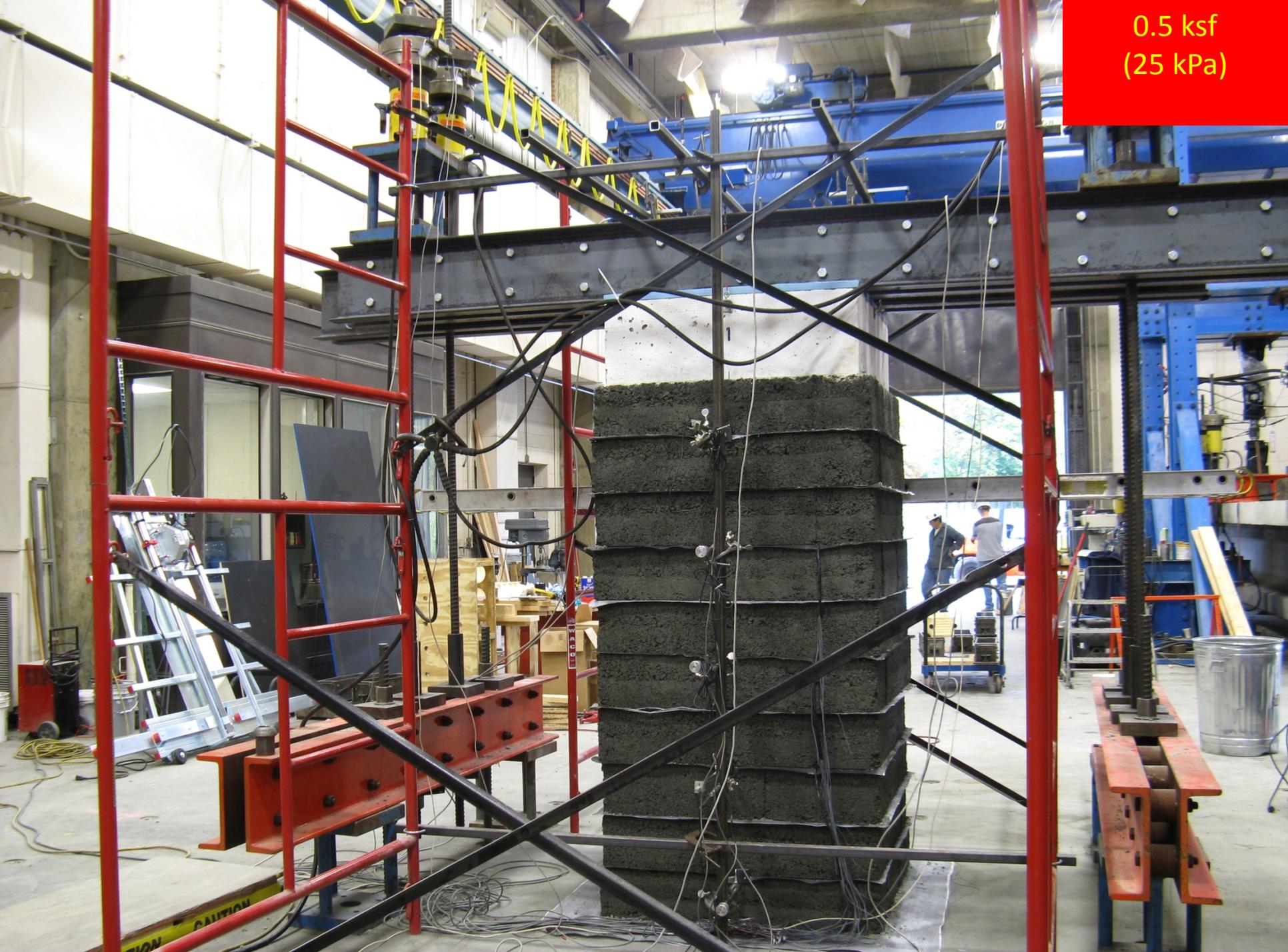
Before



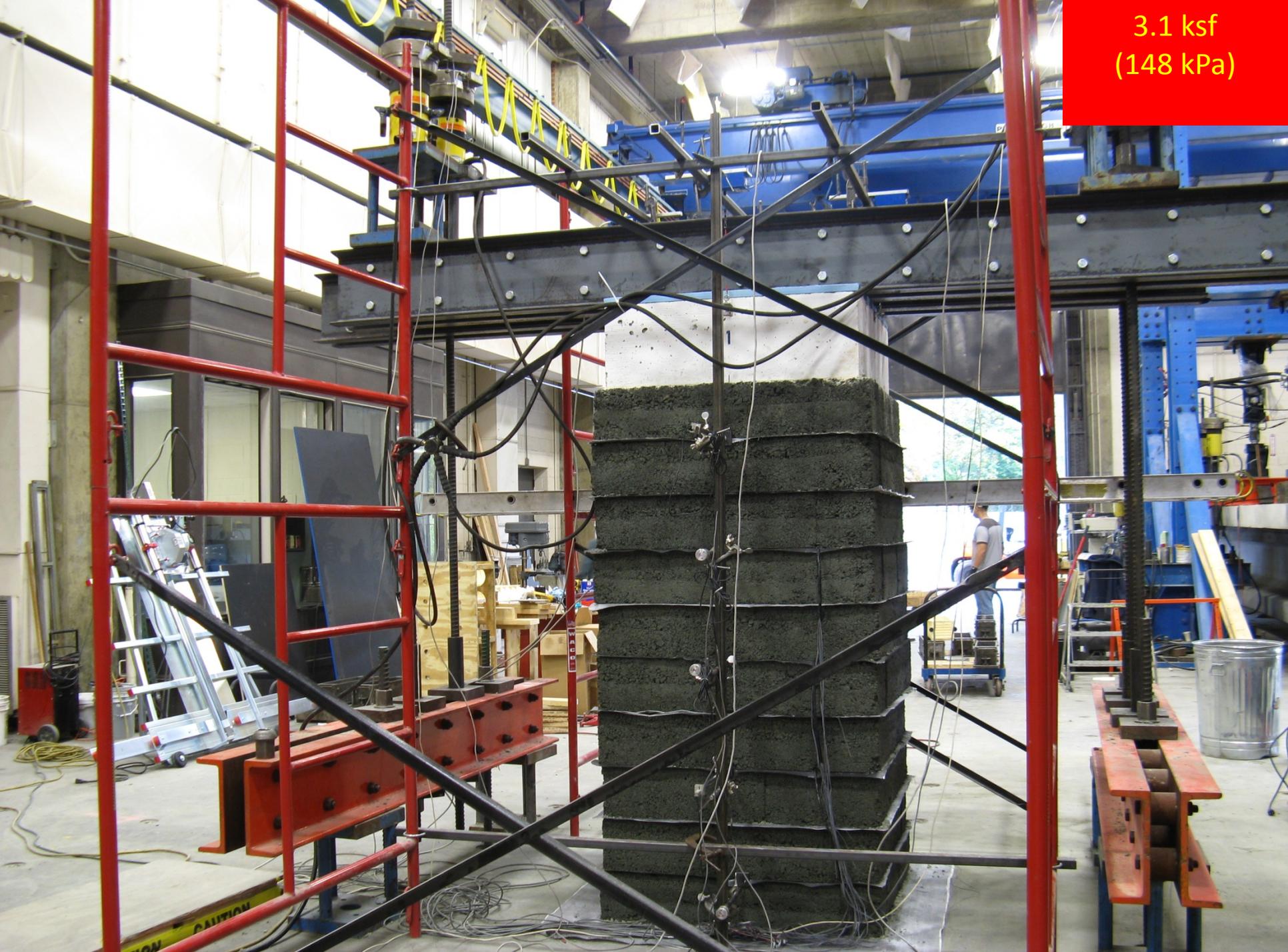
After



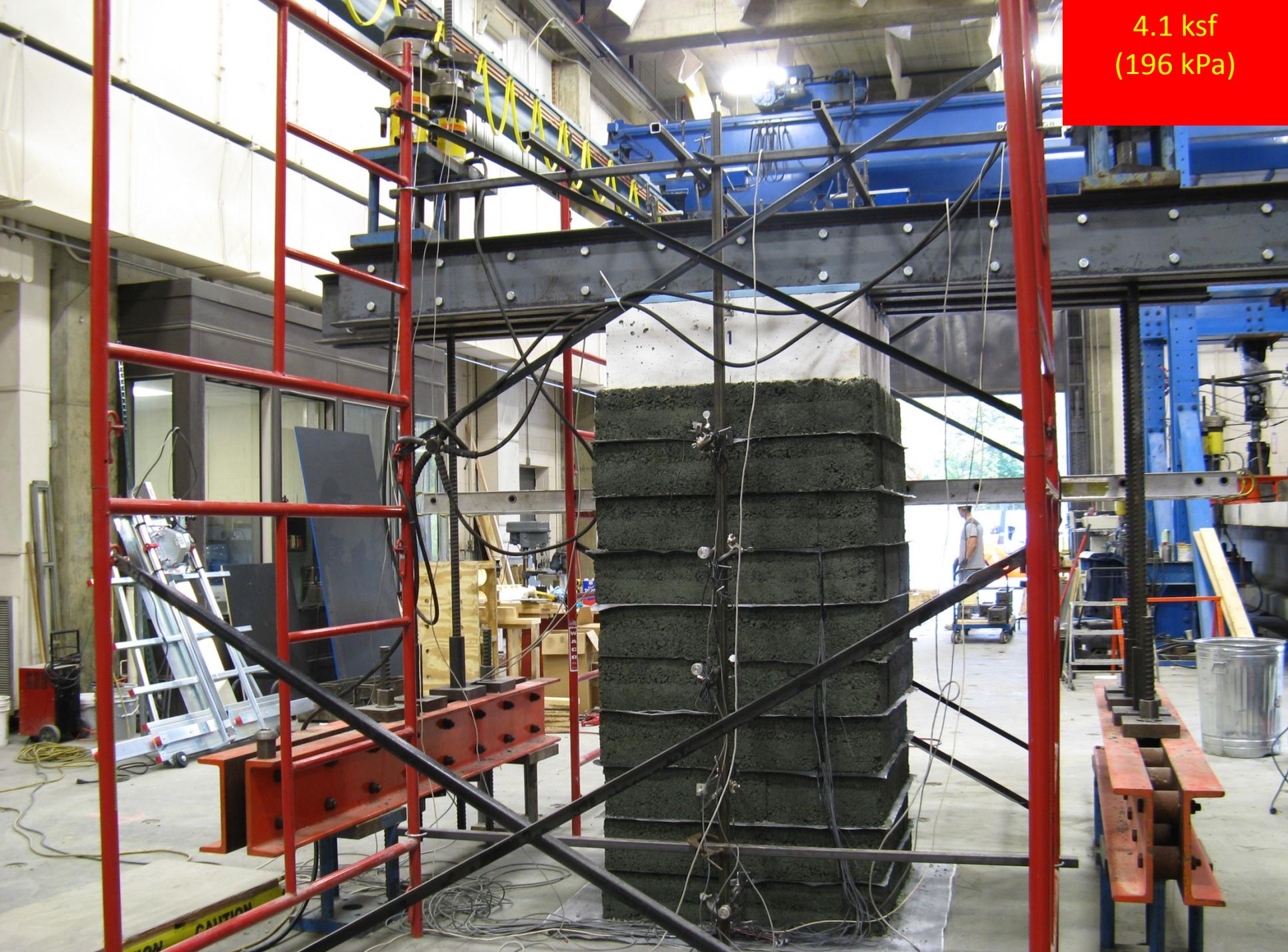
0.5 ksf  
(25 kPa)



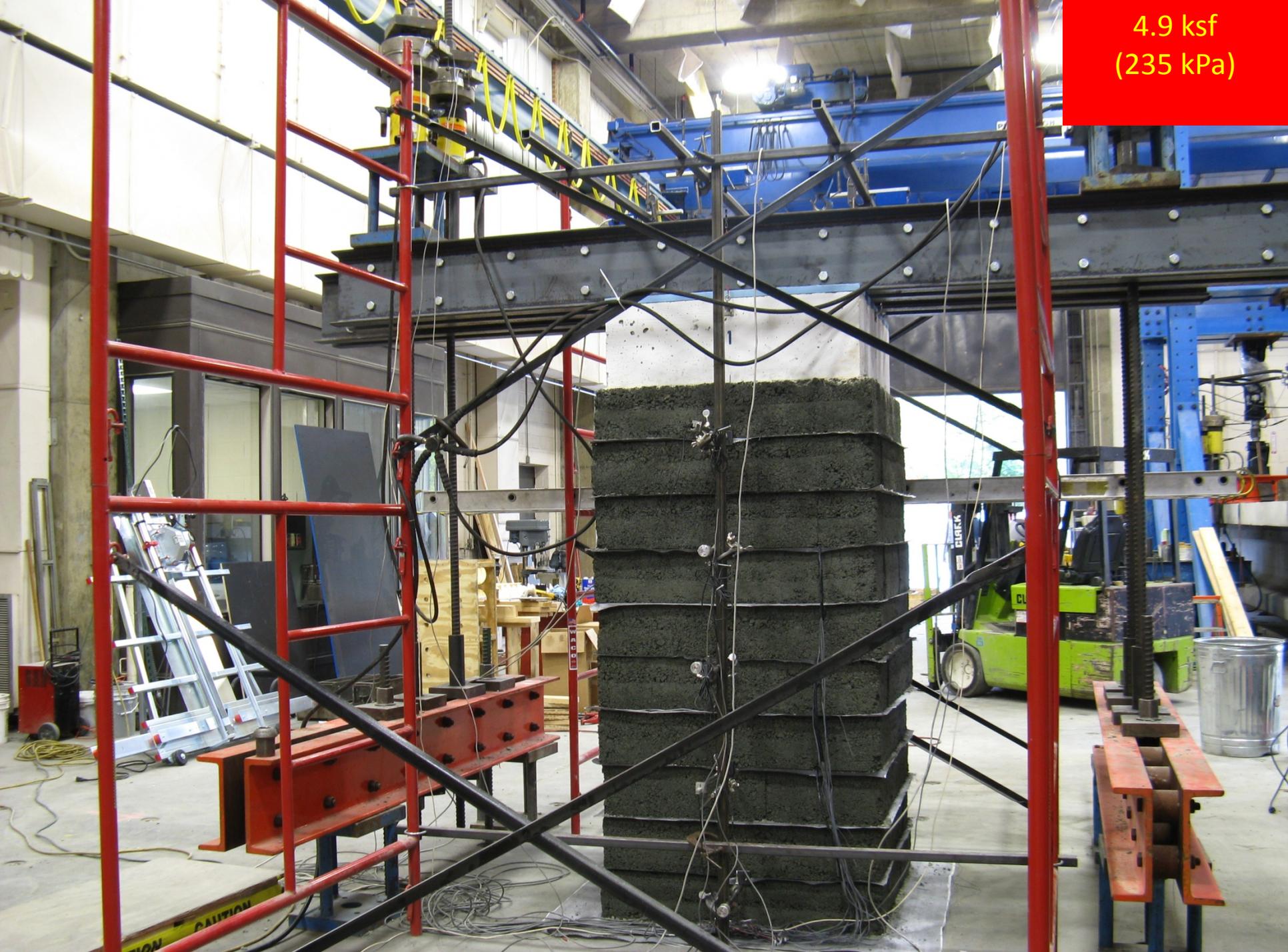
3.1 ksf  
(148 kPa)



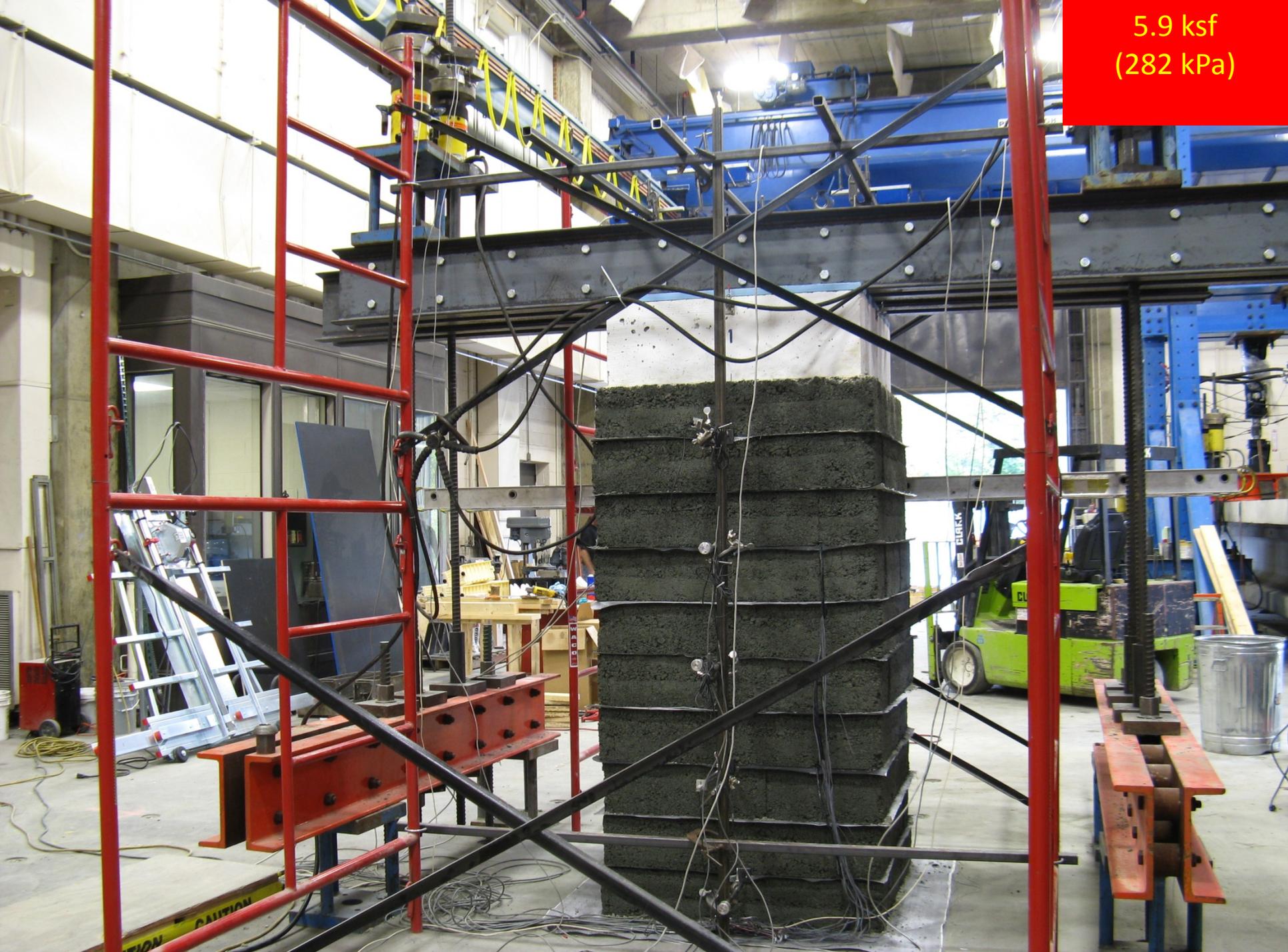
4.1 ksf  
(196 kPa)



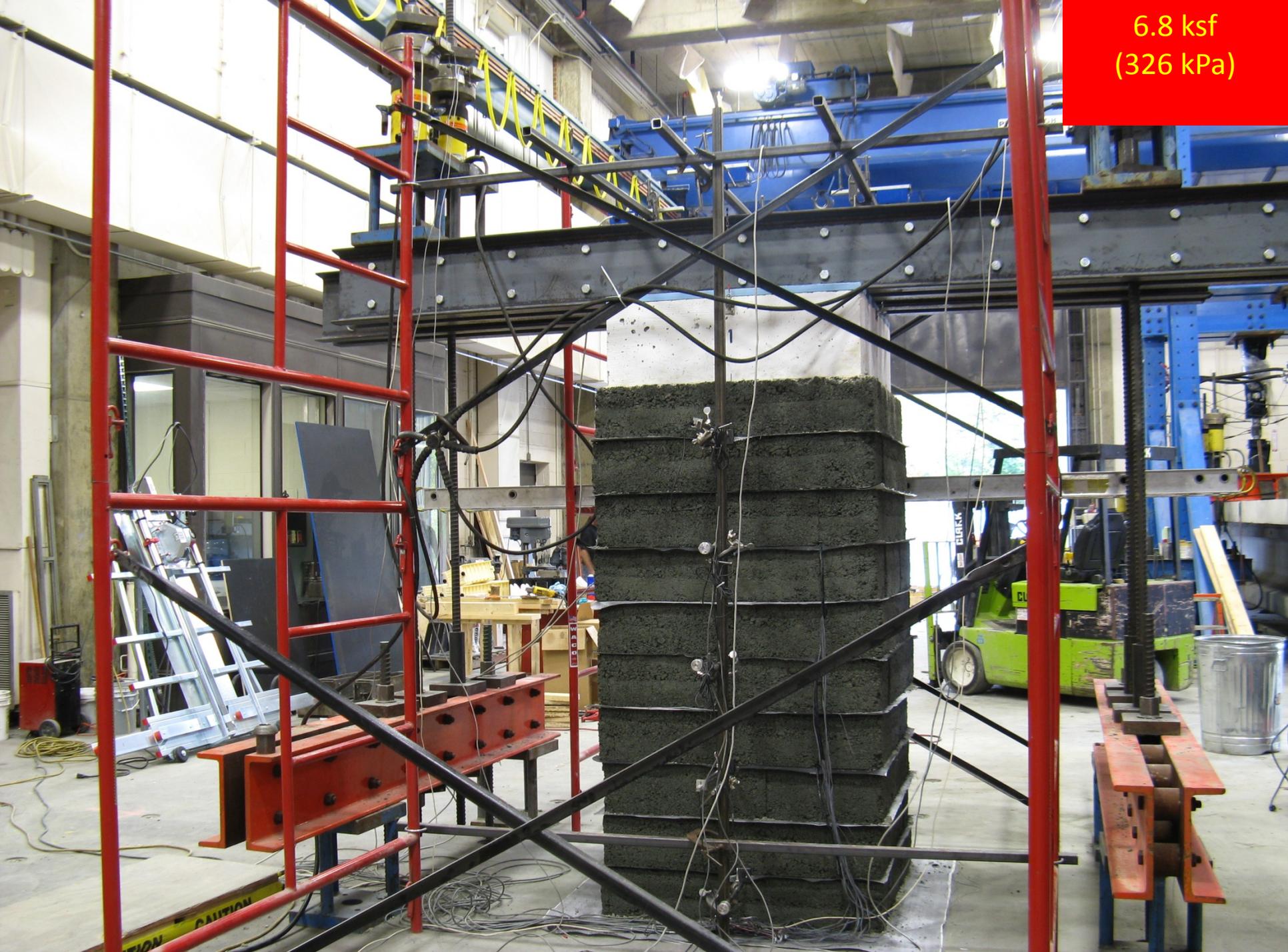
4.9 ksf  
(235 kPa)



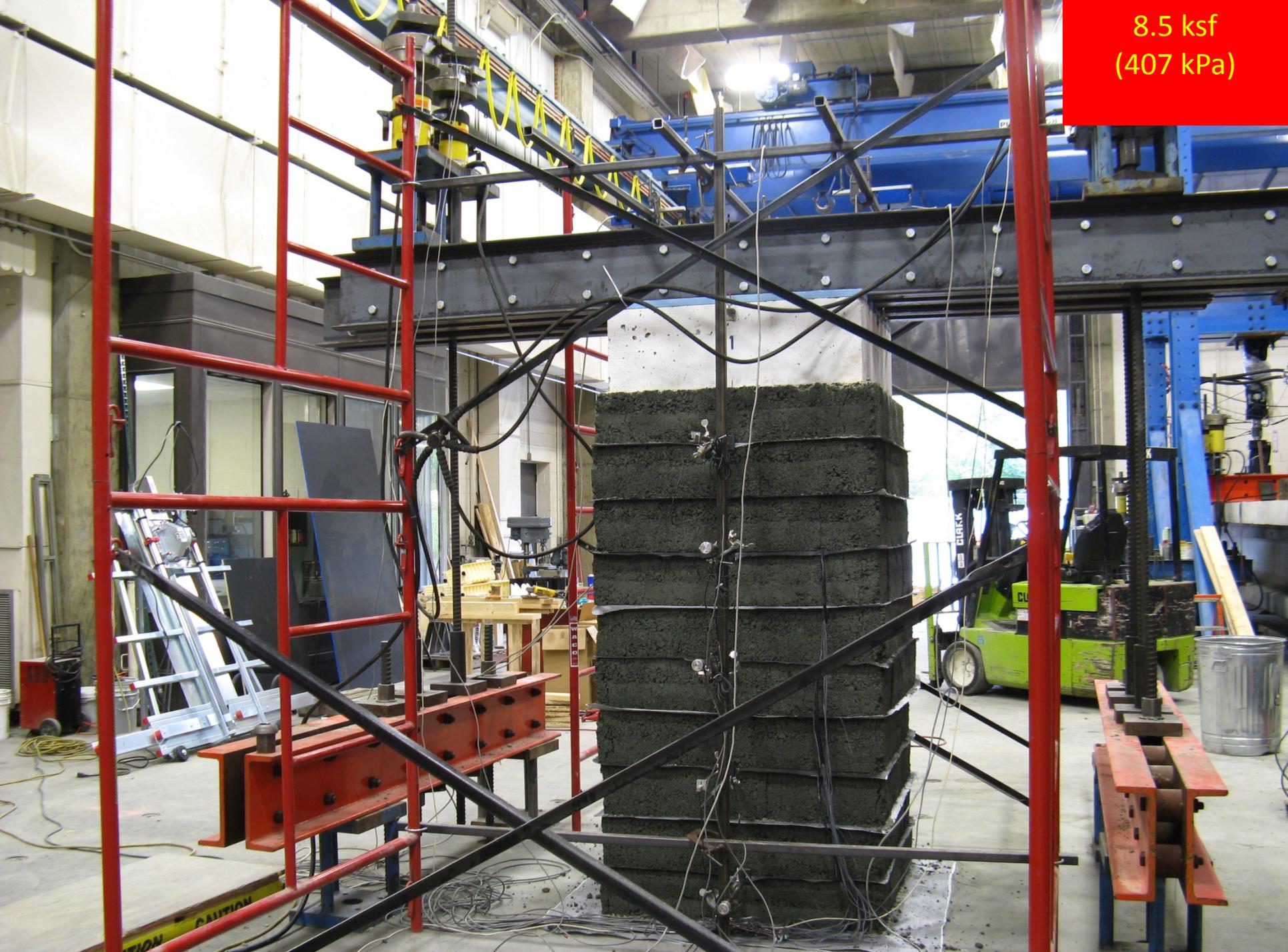
5.9 ksf  
(282 kPa)



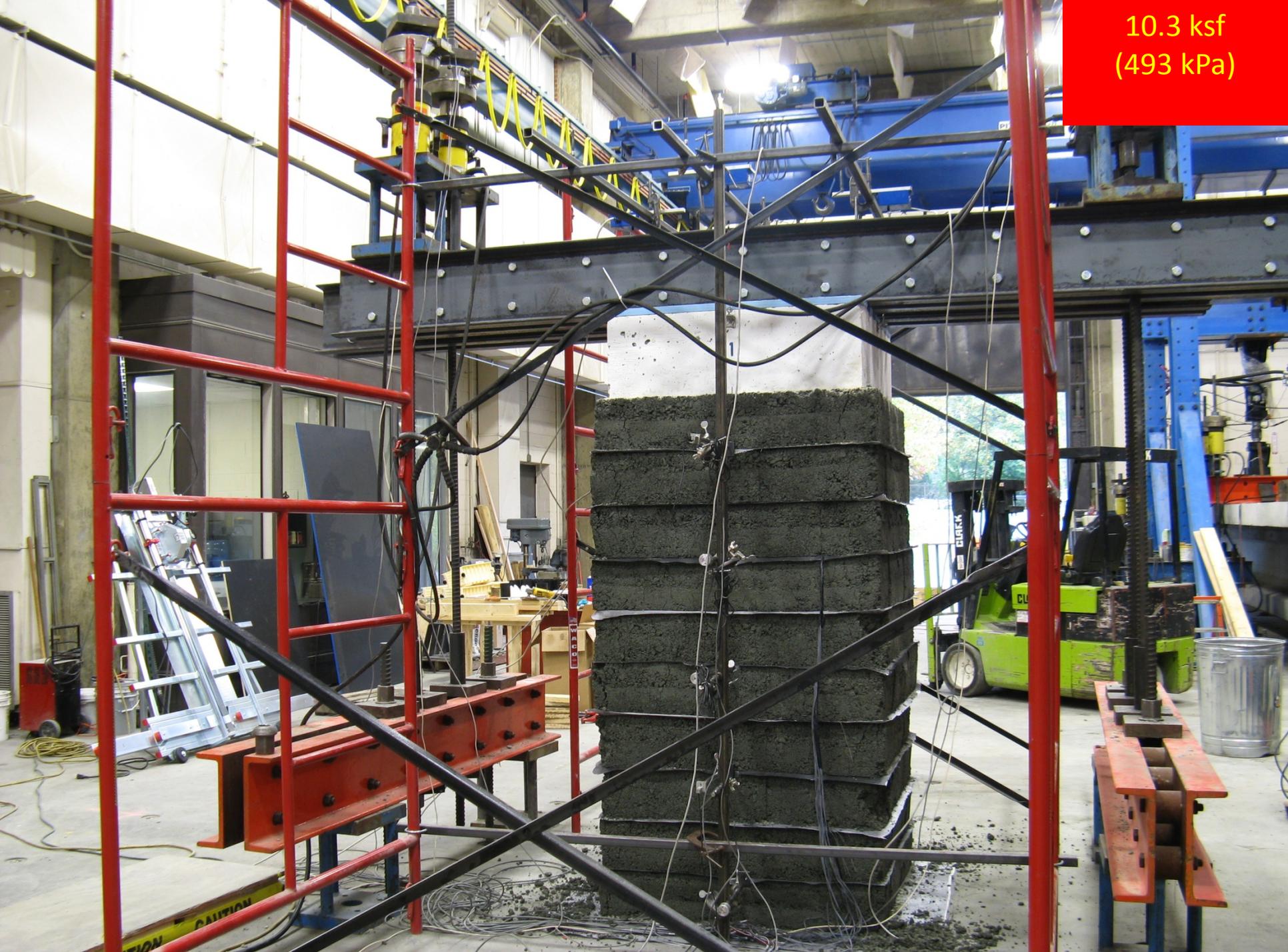
6.8 ksf  
(326 kPa)



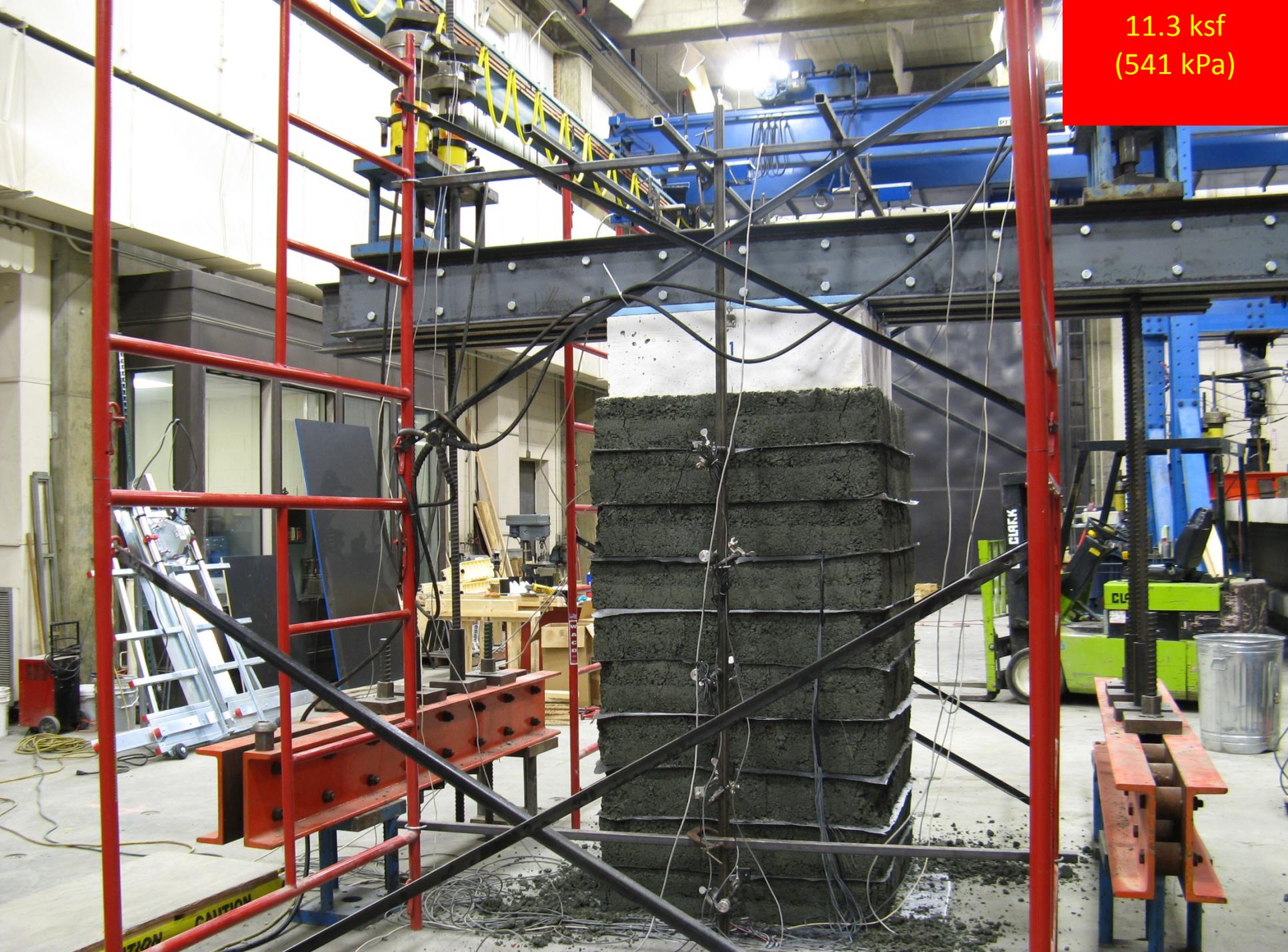
8.5 ksf  
(407 kPa)



10.3 ksf  
(493 kPa)



11.3 ksf  
(541 kPa)



13.9 ksf  
(666 kPa)



15.3 ksf  
(733 kPa)

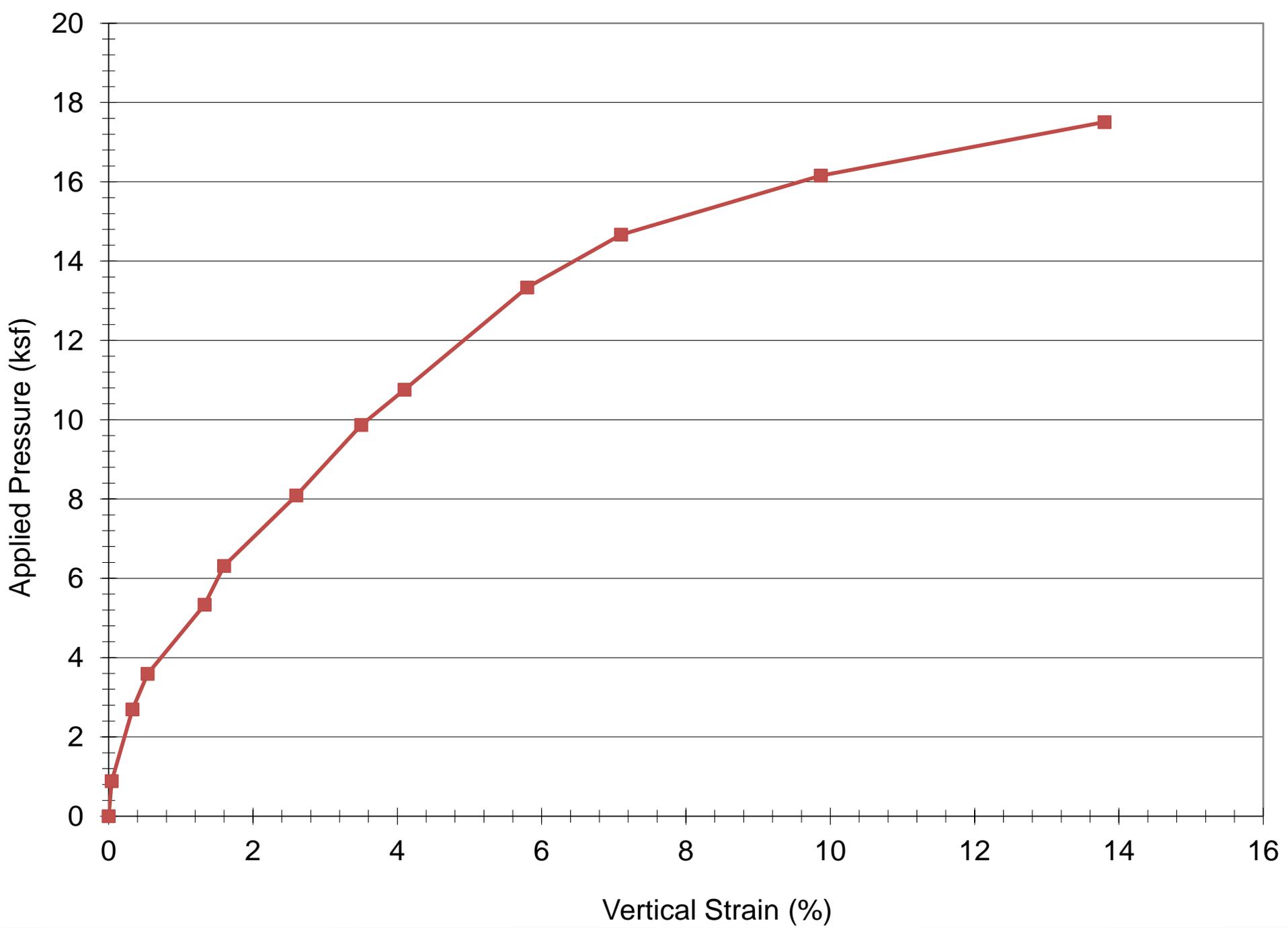


16.7 ksf  
(800 kPa)



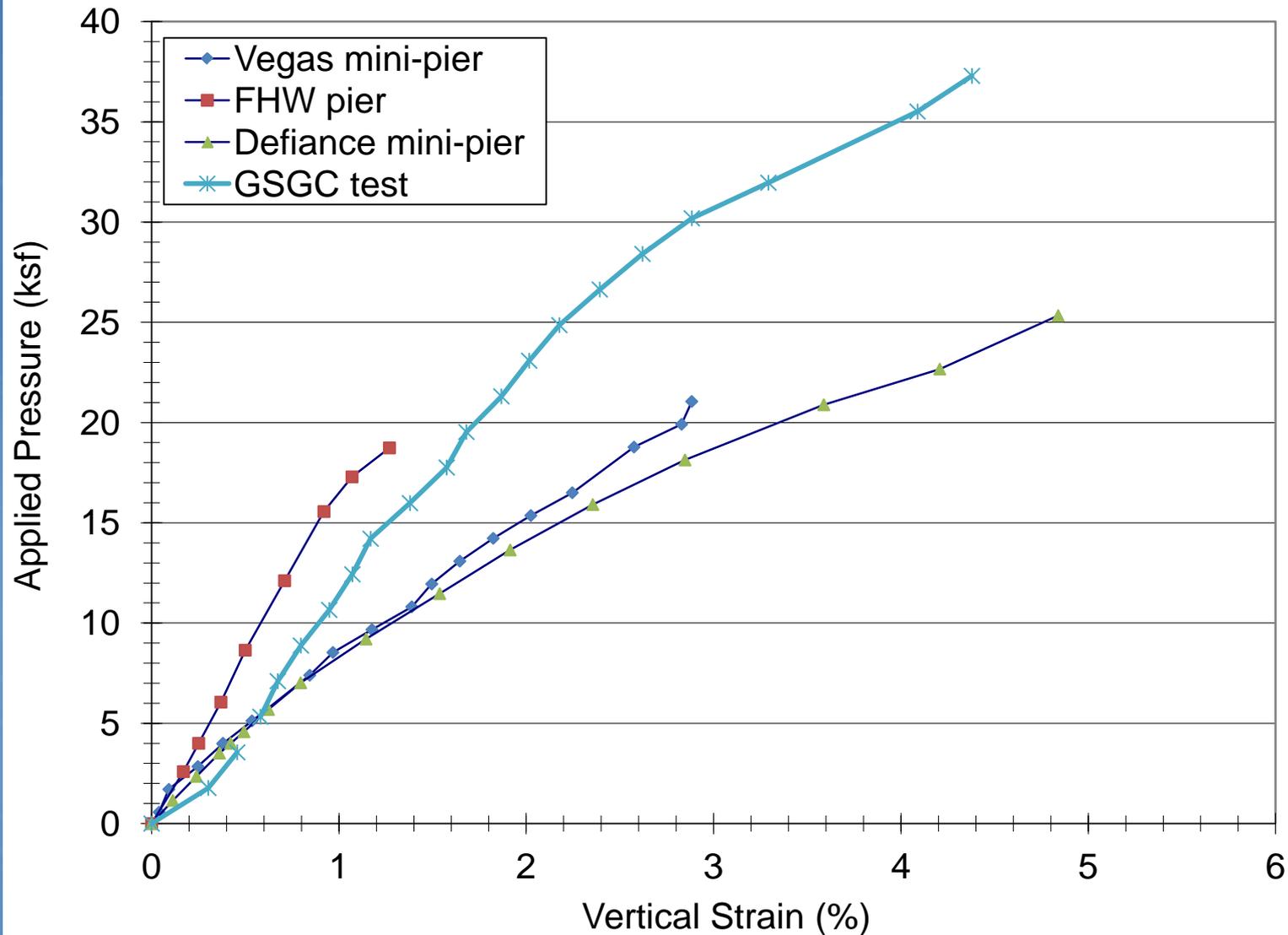
18.1 ksf  
(867 kPa)







# Performance Test Results





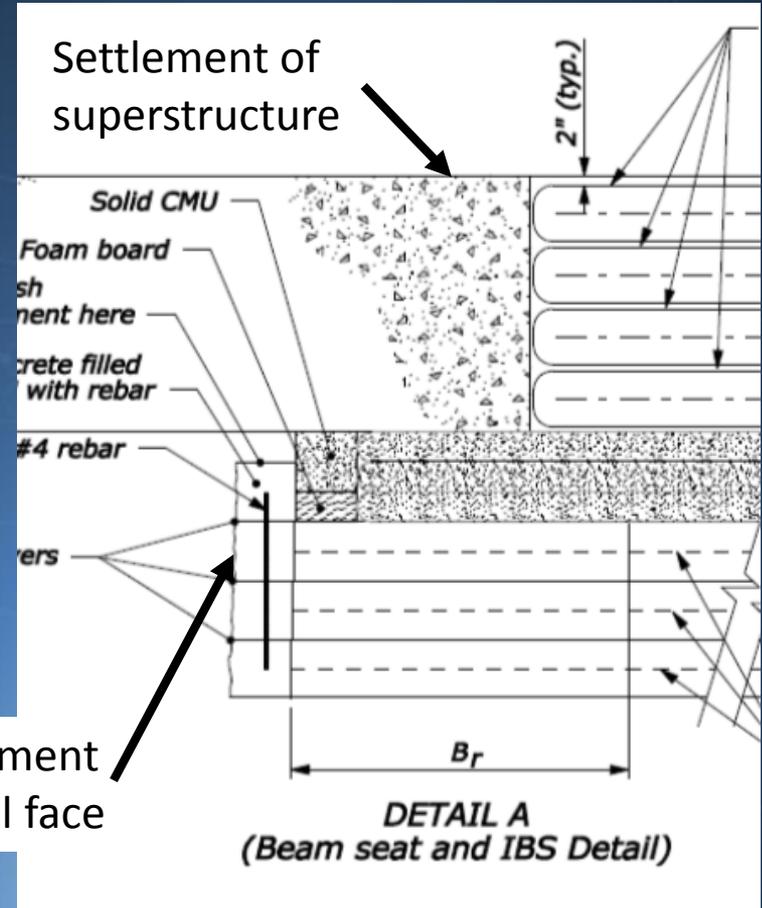
# Settlement Monitoring *Continued*





# Settlement Monitoring *Continued*

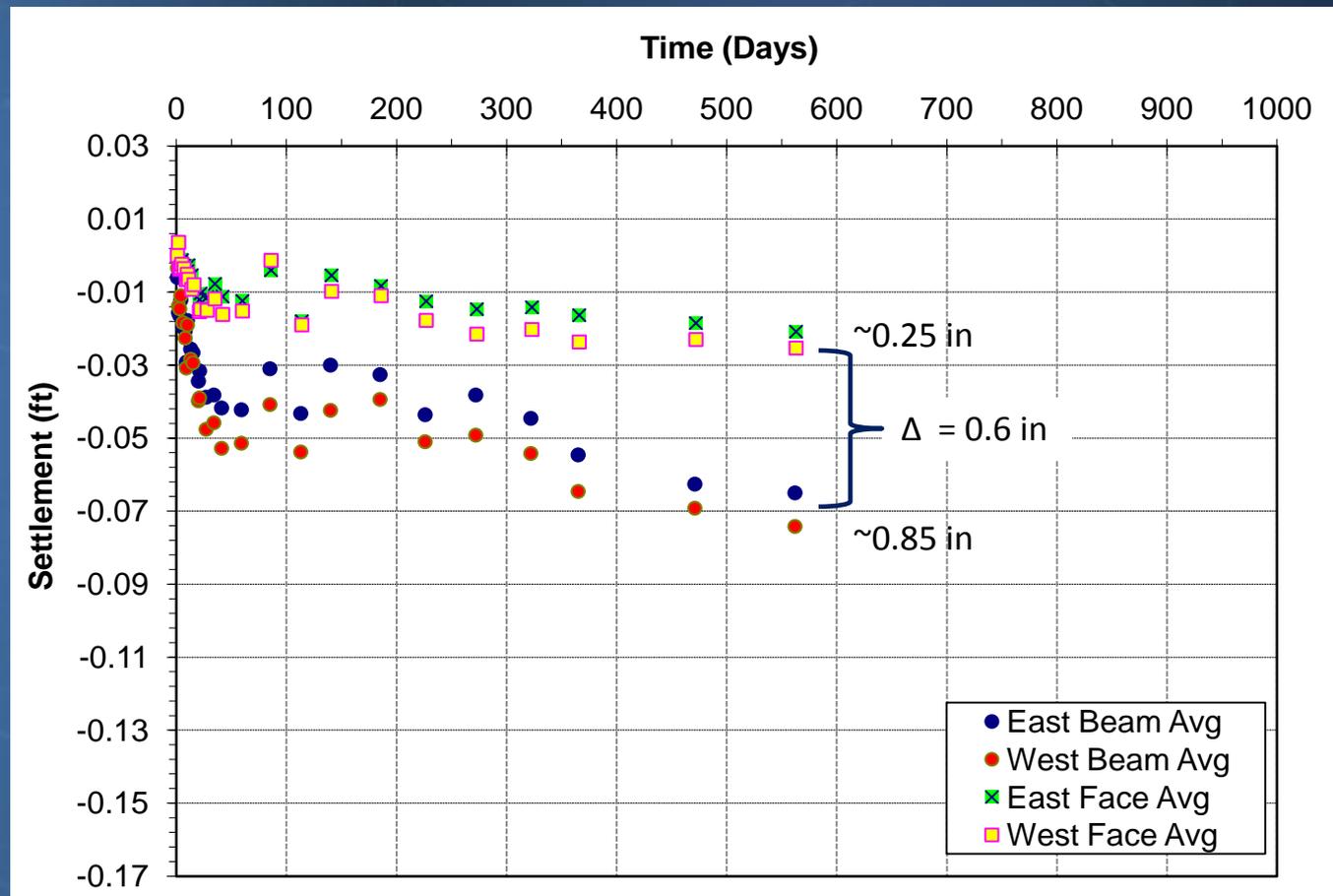
- Settlement is recorded for both the wall face and the superstructure
- The difference between the settlement on the wall face and the superstructure is the compression within the GRS mass





# Settlement Monitoring *Continued*

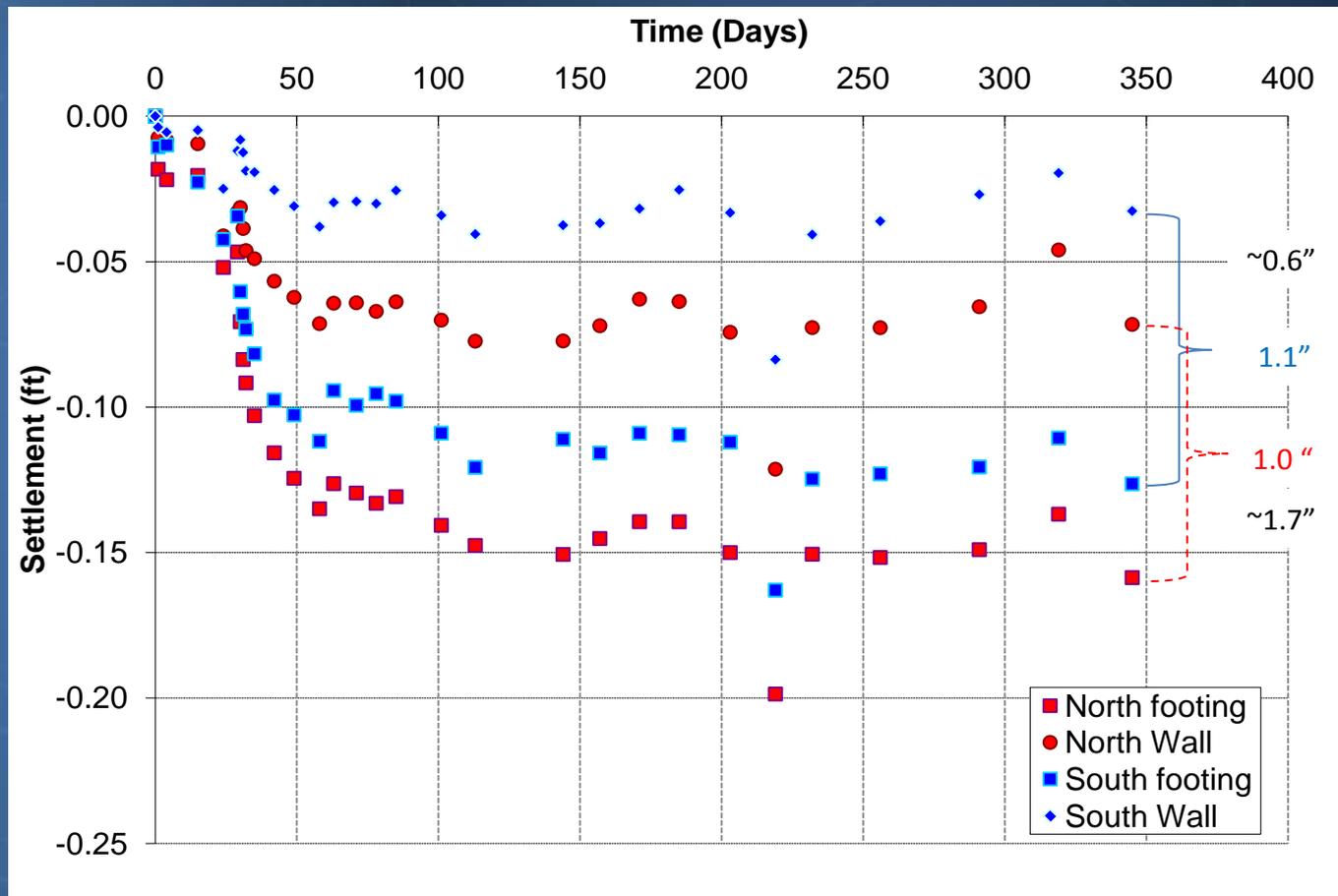
- EDM survey
  - Bowman Road





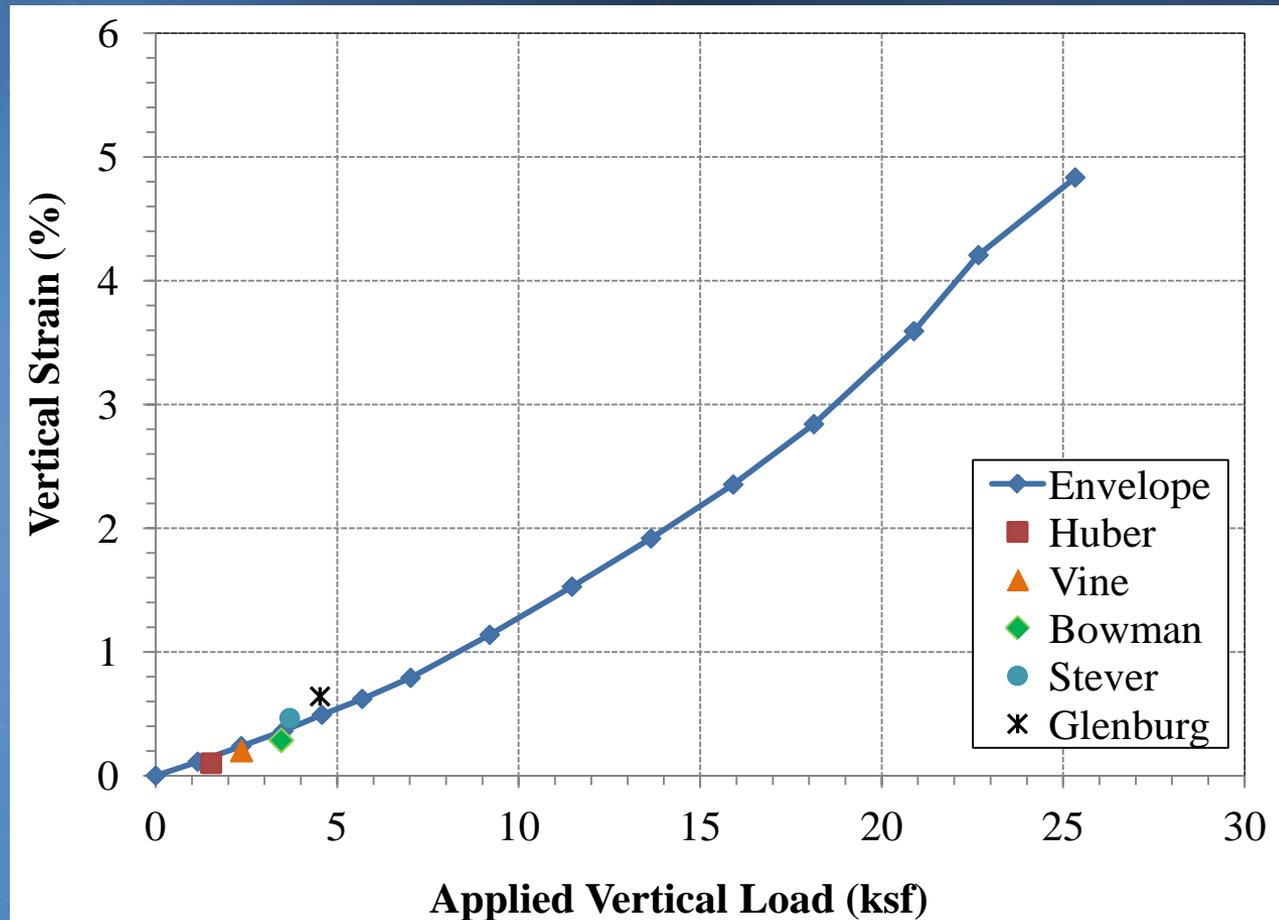
# Settlement Monitoring *Continued*

- EDM survey
- Tiffin River





# Vertical Deformation *Continued*



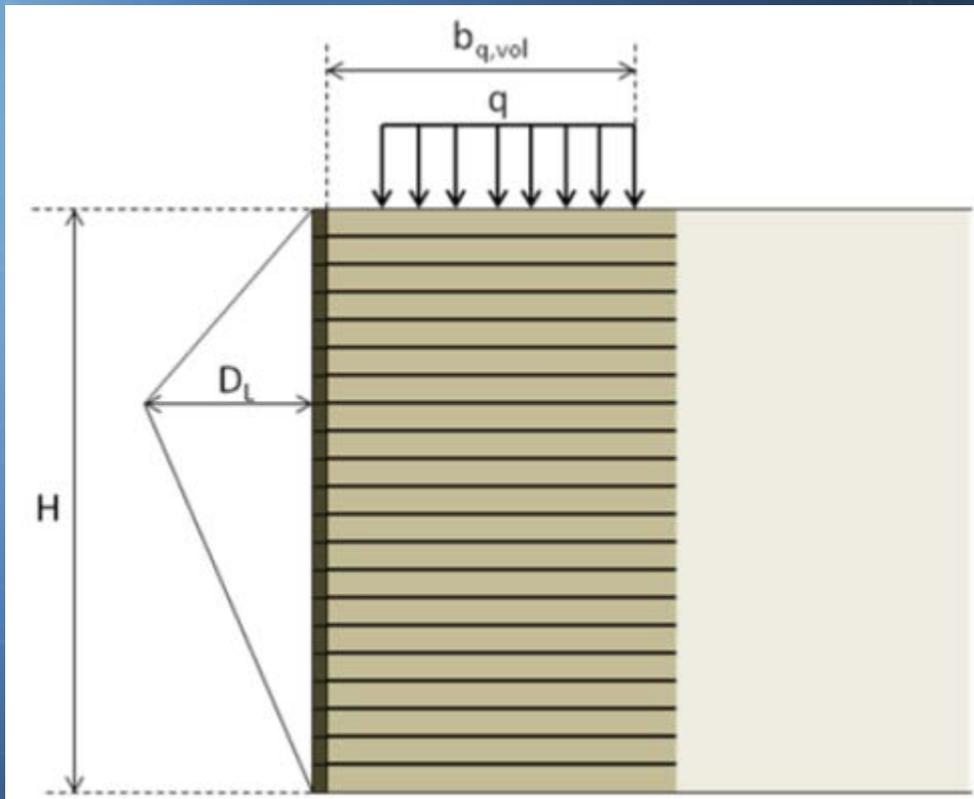


# Lateral Deformation

- Estimated
  - Theoretically assuming no loss in volume
- Measured
  - Not frequently measured on bridges
  - Can use EDM, Slope inclinometer, etc.
- Lateral strain limited to 1% (of bearing area + setback)



# Lateral Deformation *Continued*

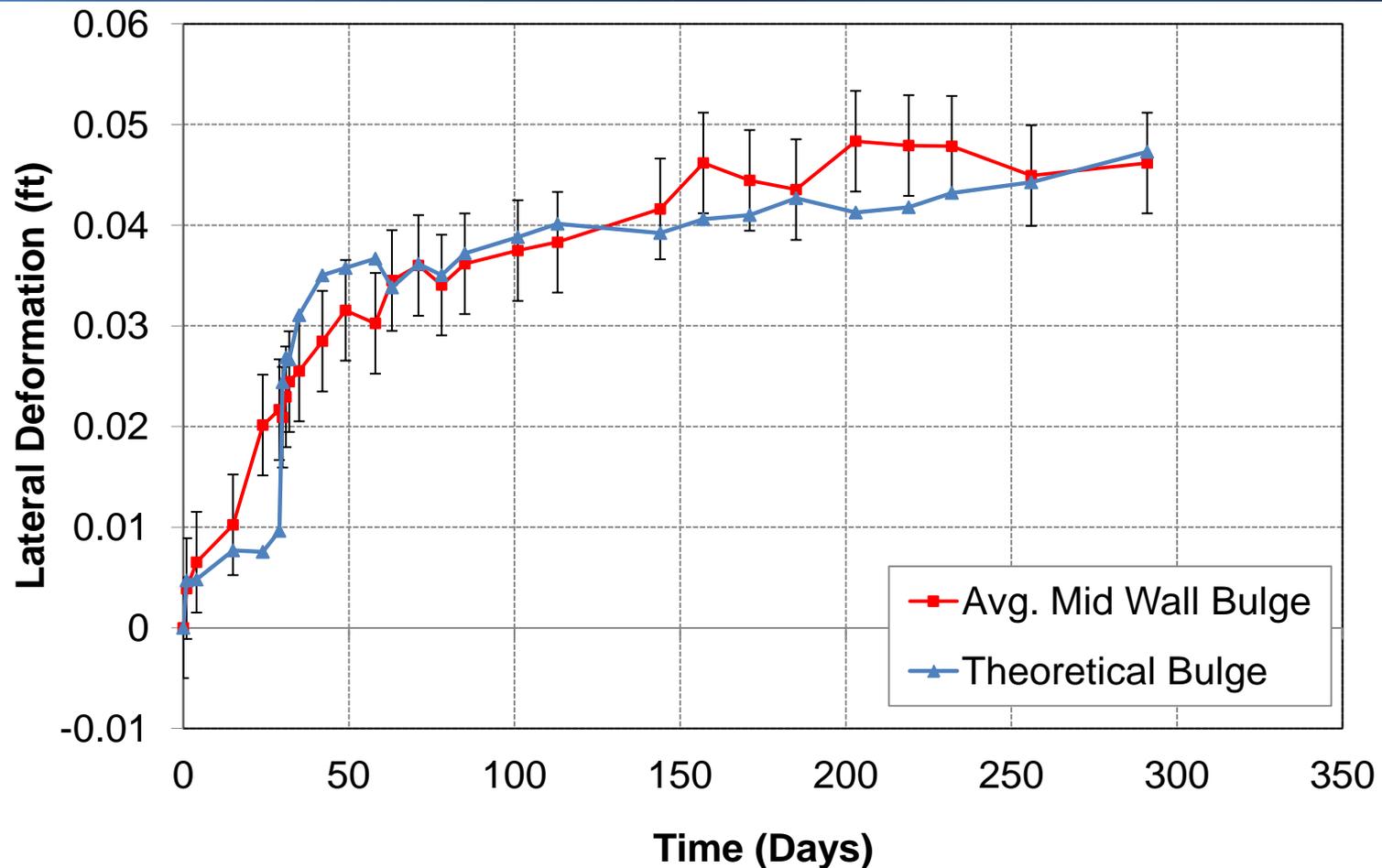


$$\Delta V_{top} = b_{q,vol} L D_v = \Delta V_{face} = \frac{1}{2} H L D_L$$

$$\varepsilon_L = \frac{D_L}{b_{q,vol}} = \frac{2D_v}{H} = 2\varepsilon_v$$



# Lateral Deformation *Continued*





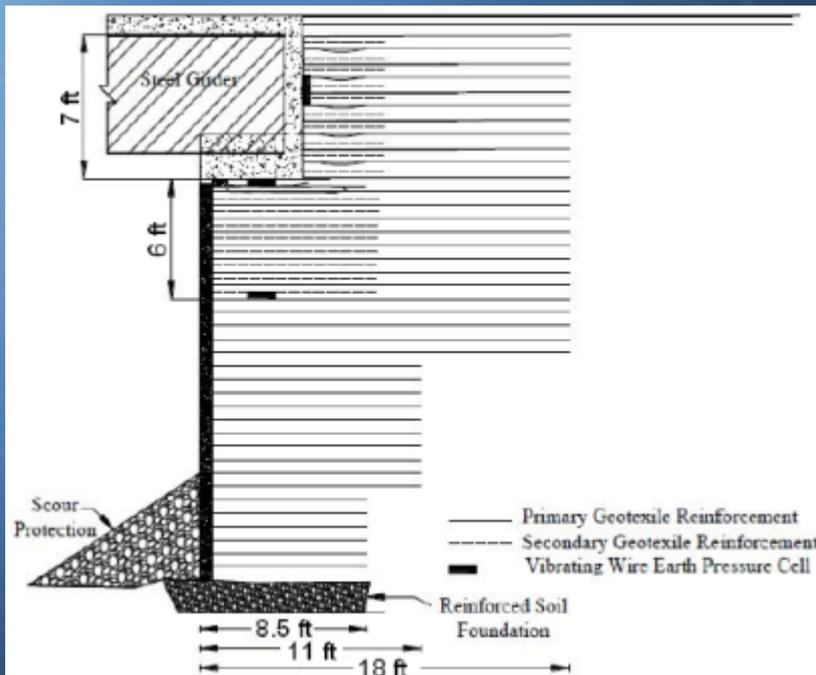
# Thermal Cycles

- Compatible with thermal cycles
- Integrated transition behind the beam ends
- The wrapped face of the integrated approach:
  - Confines the soil
  - Prevents soil sloughing behind the beam ends
  - Limits development of excess pressures behind the beams



# Thermal Cycles *Continued*

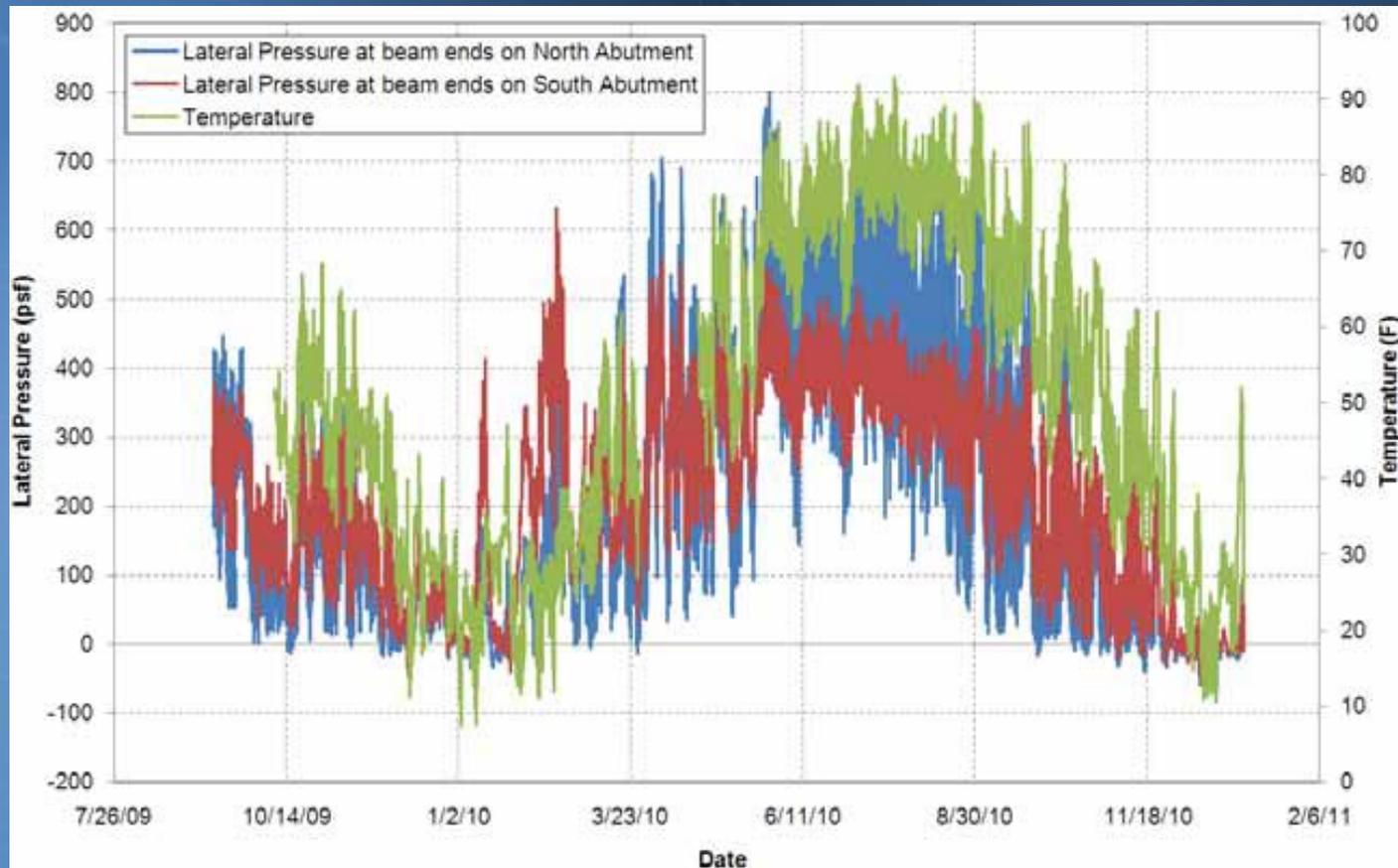
- To measure lateral pressure behind beam end, place vibrating wire vertical pressure cells behind the beam end and connect to a data logger





# Thermal Cycles *Continued*

- Tiffin River Bridge:





# CONSTRUCTION OF GRS-IBS



# Quality Assurance/Quality Control

- Block alignment
- Compaction
- Reinforcement placement
- Quality of construction materials
- Scour protection
- Drainage details



# Compaction

- Compaction of the fill is extremely important
- Compact to 95% of standard proctor
- Vibratory roller to within approximately 3 ft. of face
- Light vibratory plate compactor near the face





# Labor and Equipment

- Common labor
- Equipment: Non-specialized
  - Hand tools
  - Measuring devices
  - Heavy equipment



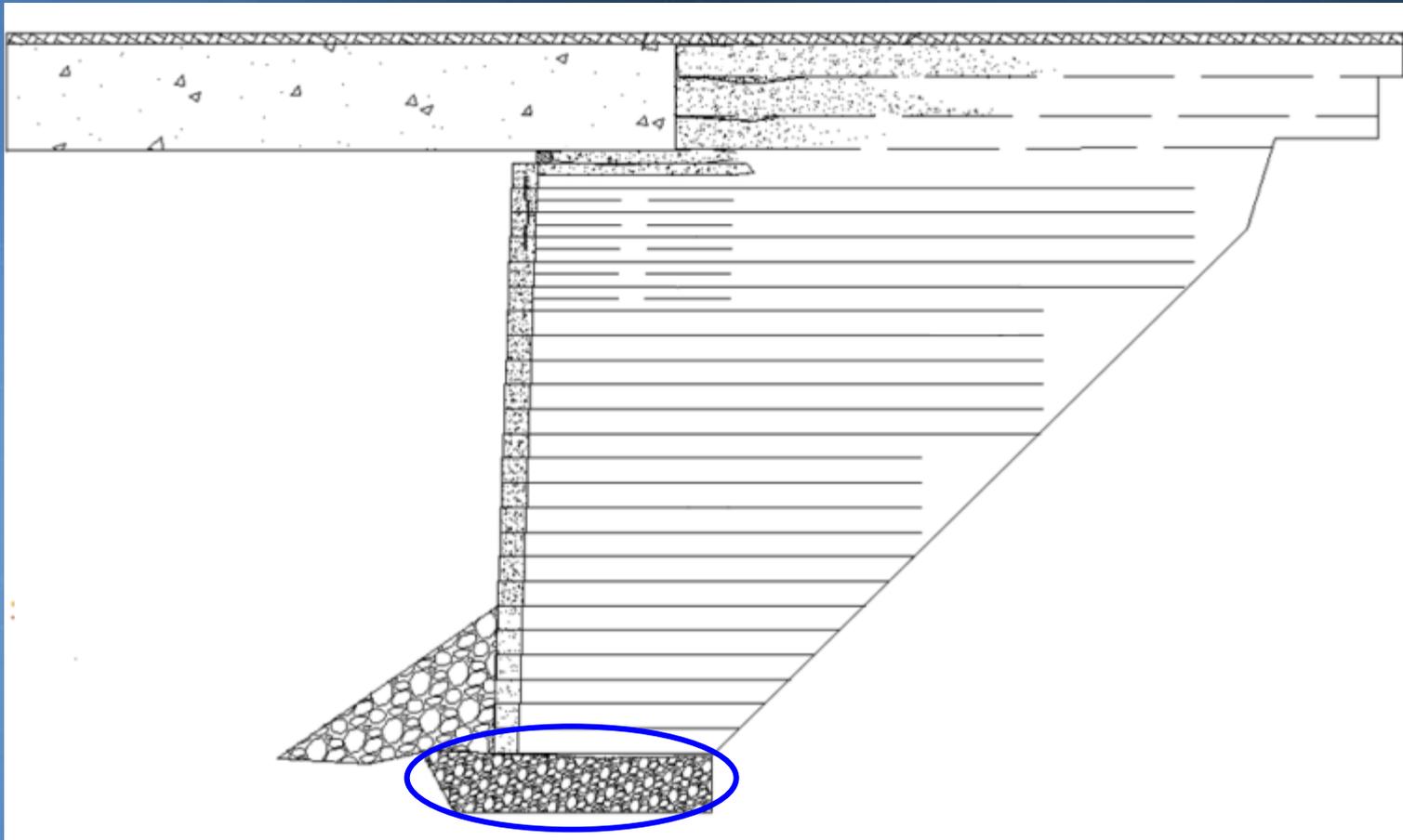
# Excavation





# Reinforced Soil Foundation (RSF)

- Provides embedment and increased bearing area





10/04/2005





Construction worker in a red hard hat and blue jeans walking on the black geomembrane liner.

Construction worker in an orange shirt and blue hard hat standing on the black geomembrane liner.

Construction worker in a light-colored shirt and orange hard hat standing on the black geomembrane liner.

Construction worker in a light blue shirt and blue hard hat kneeling on the black geomembrane liner.

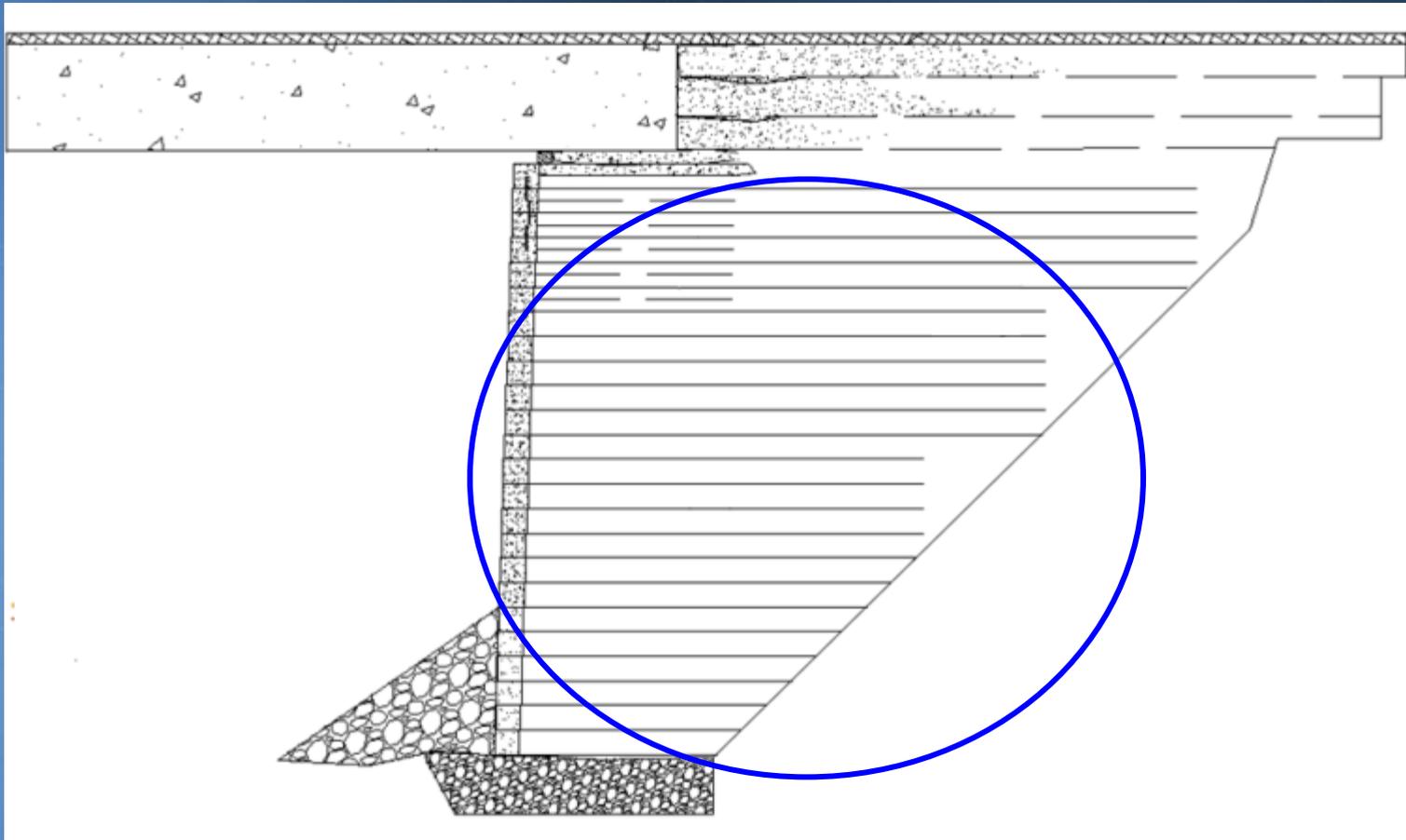
Yellow leveling tools and a shovel mounted on the trench wall.

Large green pipes visible in the background of the trench.



# GRS Abutment

- The first layers are important for leveling and alignment









## GRS Abutment *Continued*

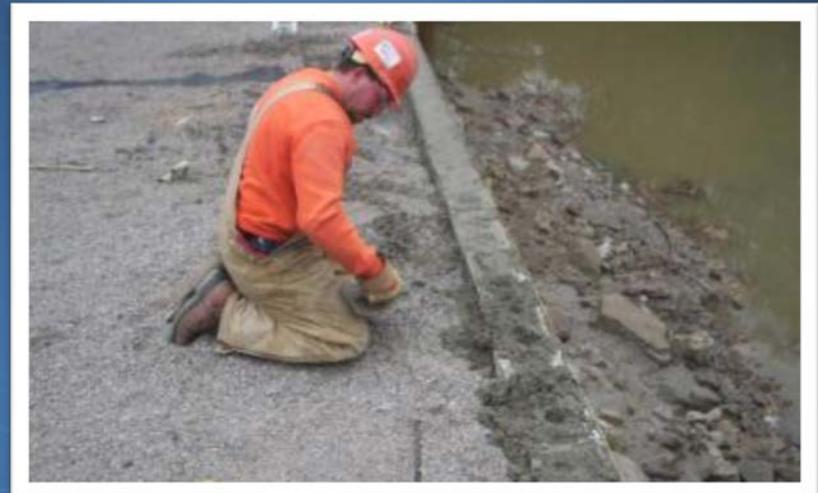
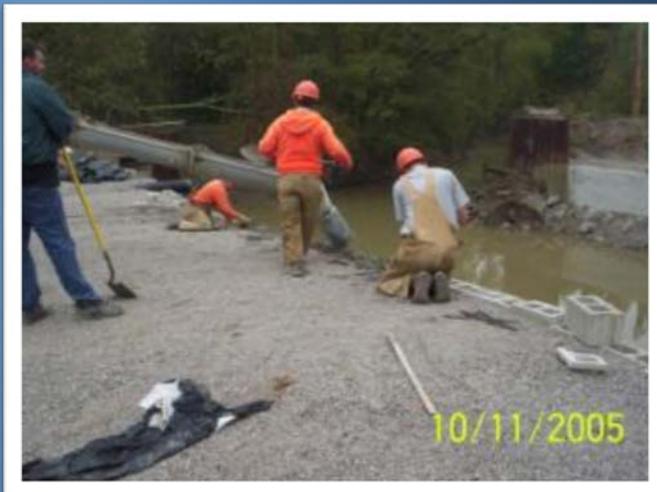
- Wall Corners:
  - Right angle wall corners constructed with CMU corner blocks that have architectural detail on two sides
  - Walls with angles  $\neq 90$  degrees require cutting of the corner blocks resulting in a vertical seam or joint. Fill with a dry concrete mix and install bent rebar





## GRS Abutment *Continued*

- Top of Facing Wall:
  - The top three courses of CMU block are filled with concrete wall mix and pinned together with No. 4 rebar
  - The reinforcement between the top two courses needs to be removed with a razor knife or burning to open the core for placement of concrete wall fill





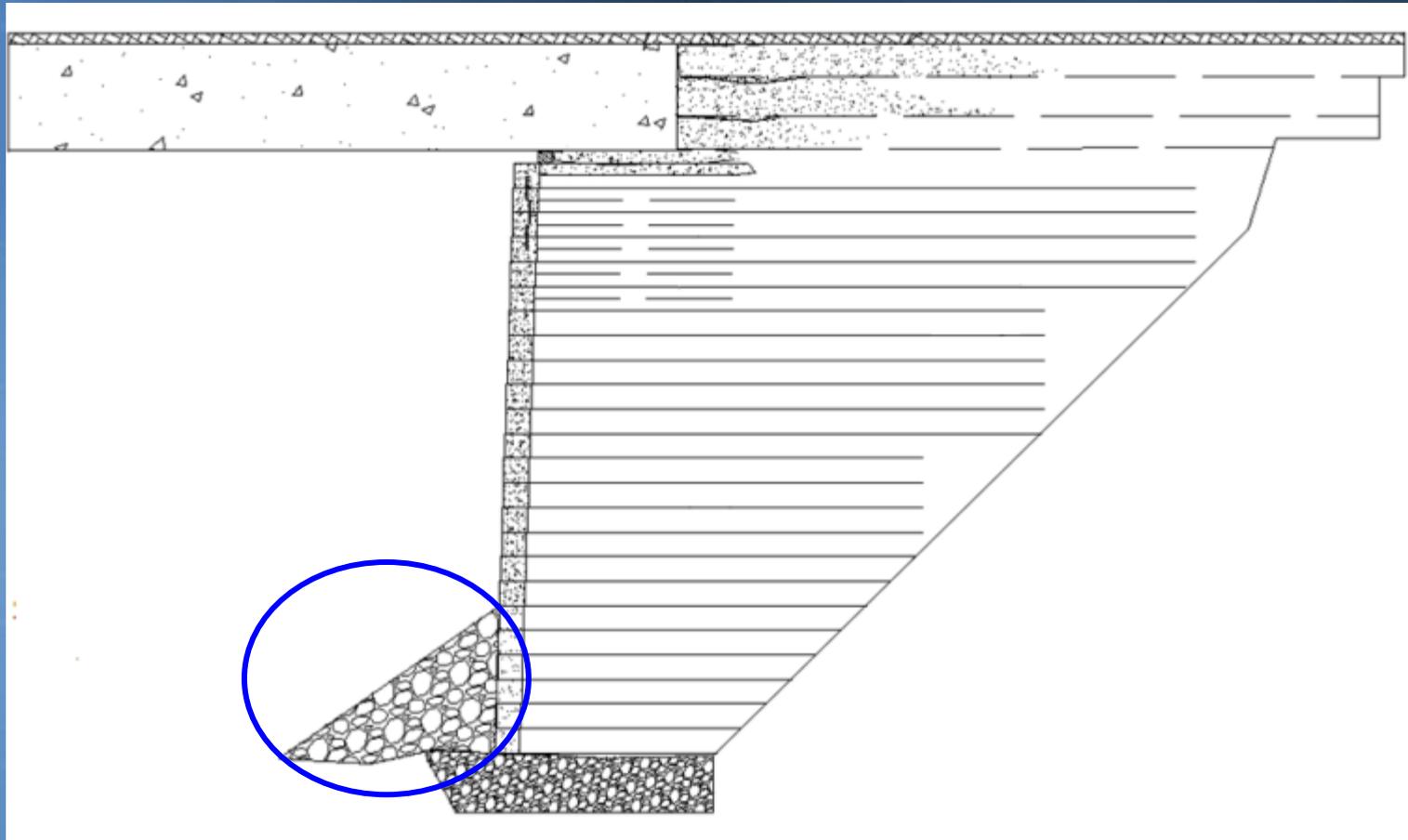
## GRS Abutment *Continued*

- Coping:
  - After filling the top three courses of block, a thin layer of the same concrete mix is placed on top of the block, to form the coping cap
  - Then hand trowel the coping either square or round and sloped to drain





# GRS Abutment *Continued*







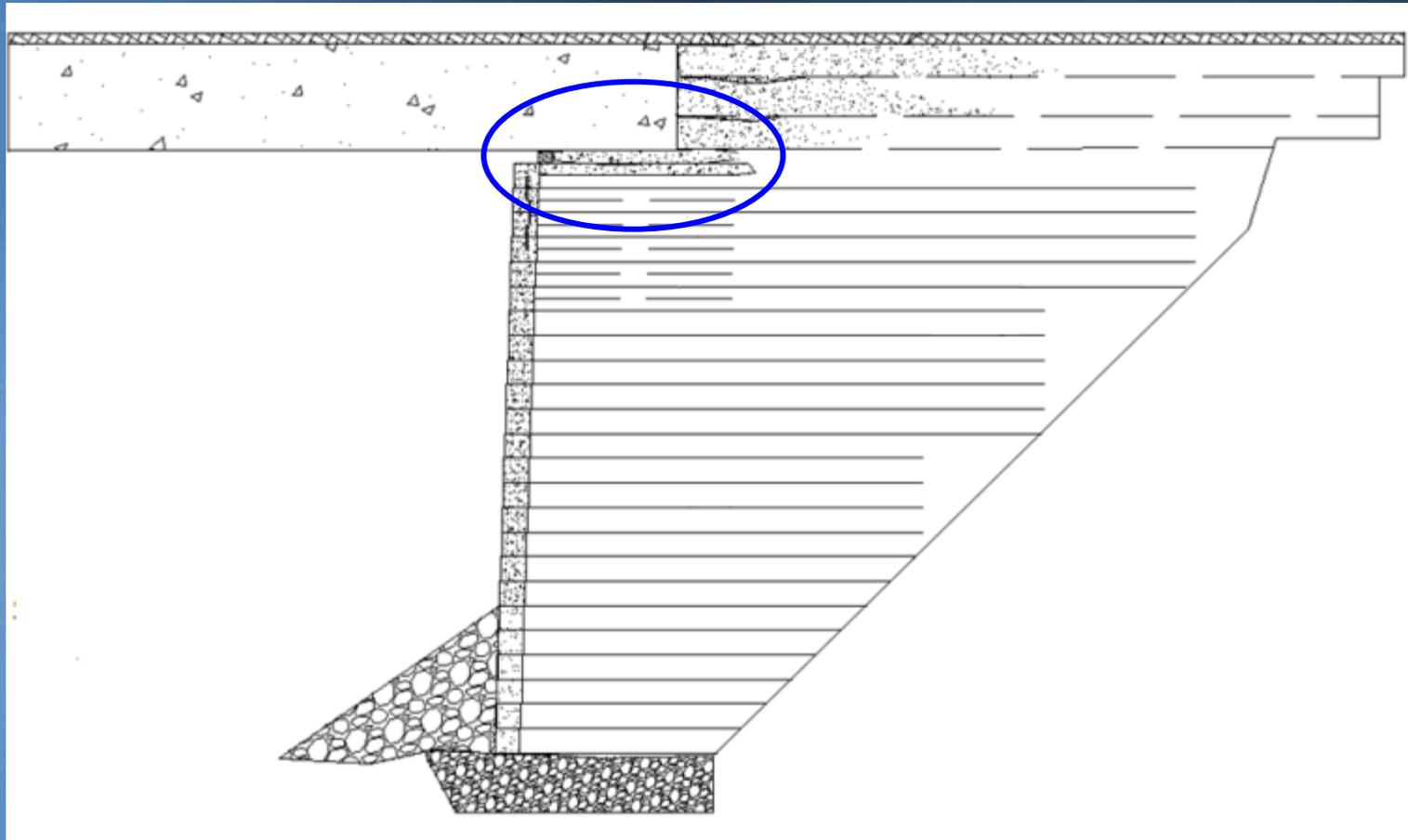


10/07/2005





# GRS Abutment *Continued*





# GRS Abutment *Continued*

- Beam Seat Procedure:
  - 1) Place pre-cut foam board of 4 in" thickness on the top of the bearing bed reinforcement. The foam board should be butted against the back face of the CMU block.





# GRS Abutment *Continued*

- Beam Seat Procedure:
  - 2) Set a 4" solid concrete block on top of the foam board, across the entire length of the bearing area.





## GRS Abutment *Continued*

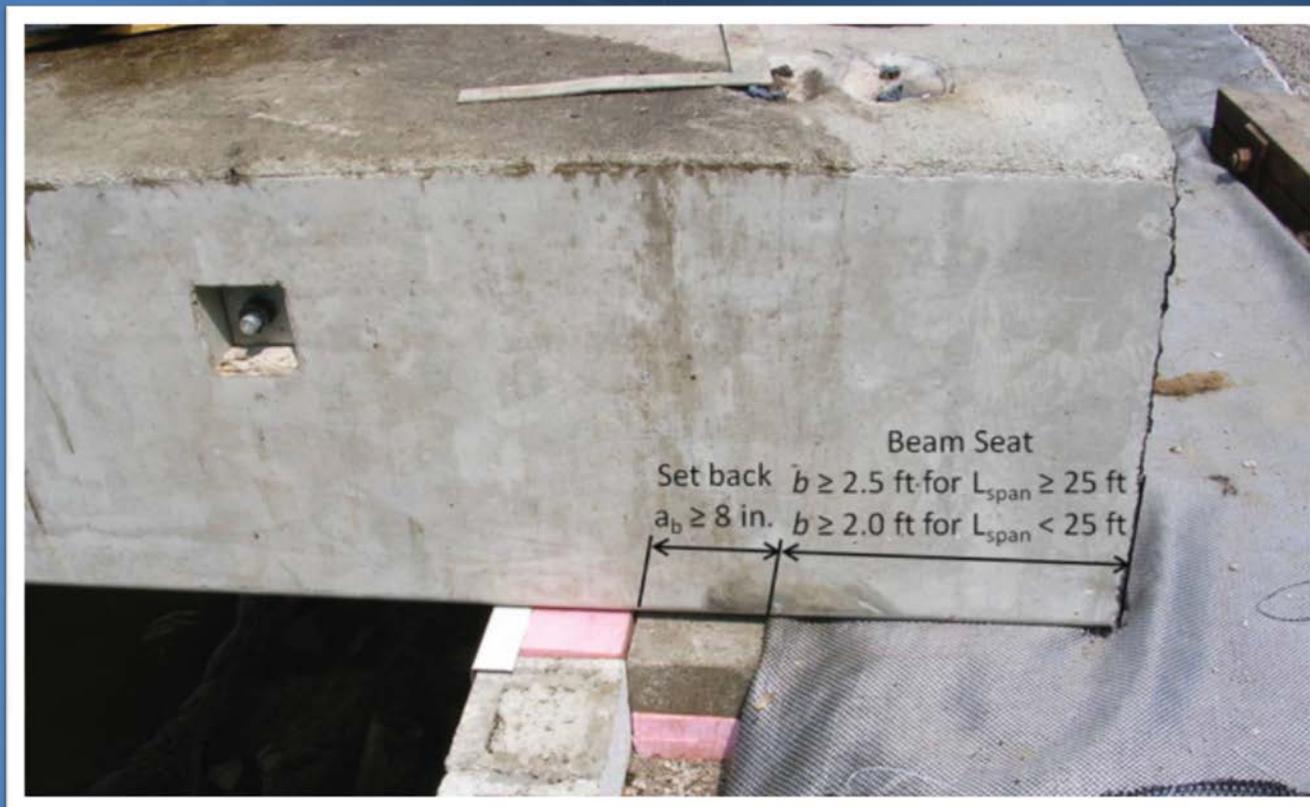
- Beam Seat Procedure:
  - 3) The first 4" wrapped layer of compacted fill is the thickness to the top of the foam board
  - 4) The second 4" wrapped layer of compacted backfill is to the top of the 4" solid block creating the clear space
  - 5) Grade the surface aggregate of the beam seat slightly high (to about 0.5") to seat the superstructure level and maximize contact with the bearing area





## GRS Abutment *Continued*

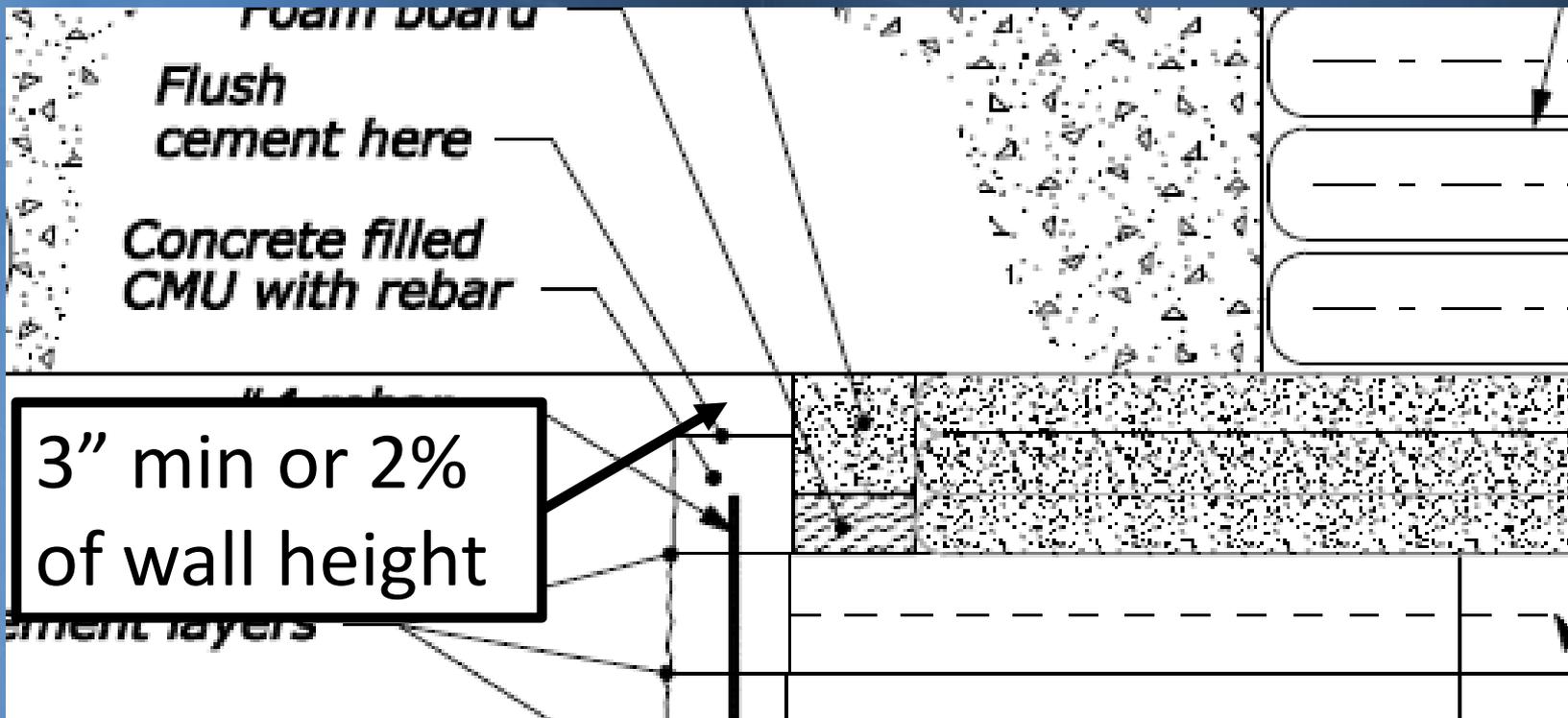
- Set Back: The distance between the back of the facing block and the front of the beam seat





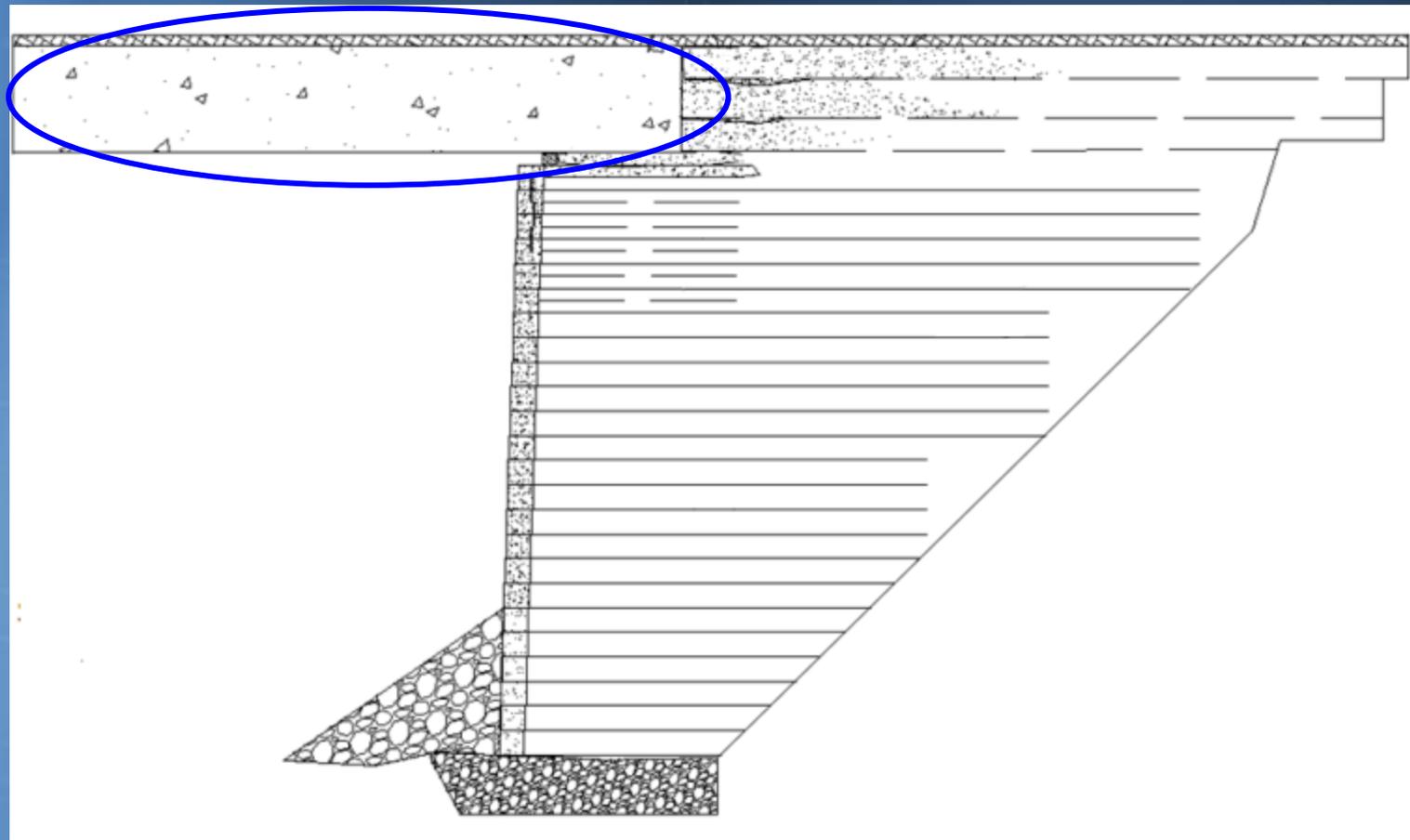
## GRS Abutment *Continued*

- Clear Space: The distance between the top of the wall face and the bottom of the superstructure





# Superstructure

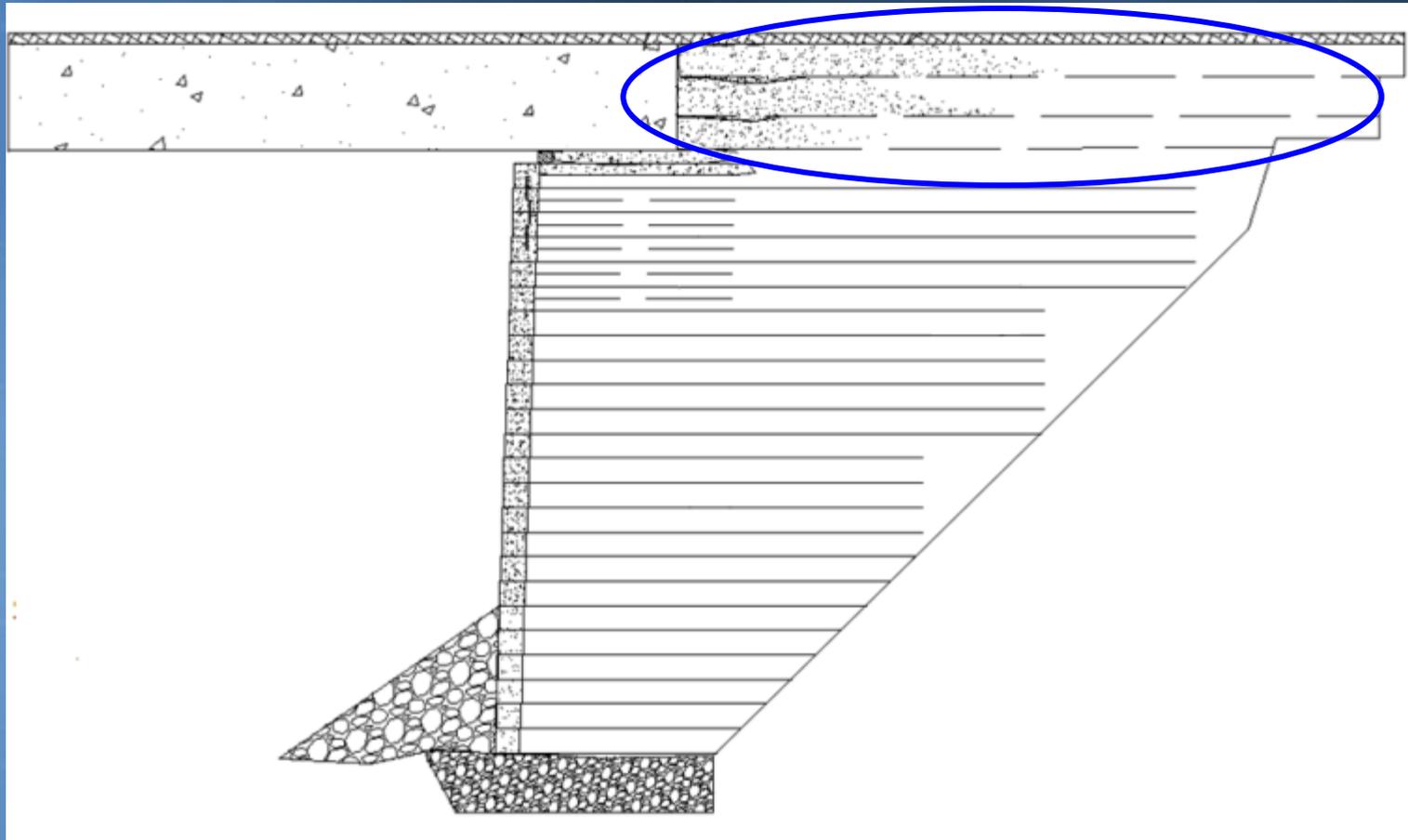








# Approach Integration





# Approach Integration *Continued*

- 1) Trim reinforcement sheet to provide planned length after it is wrapped and place behind the beam end. The width of the sheet should allow for wrapping of the sides after the fill layer is placed and compacted. Wrapping of the sides prevents migration of the fill laterally.





## Approach Integration *Continued*

- 2) Place a 6" lift of fill and compact per compaction specifications for road base.
- 3) Add a secondary layer of reinforcement on top of the 6" lift, and then place another 6" lift of fill and compact





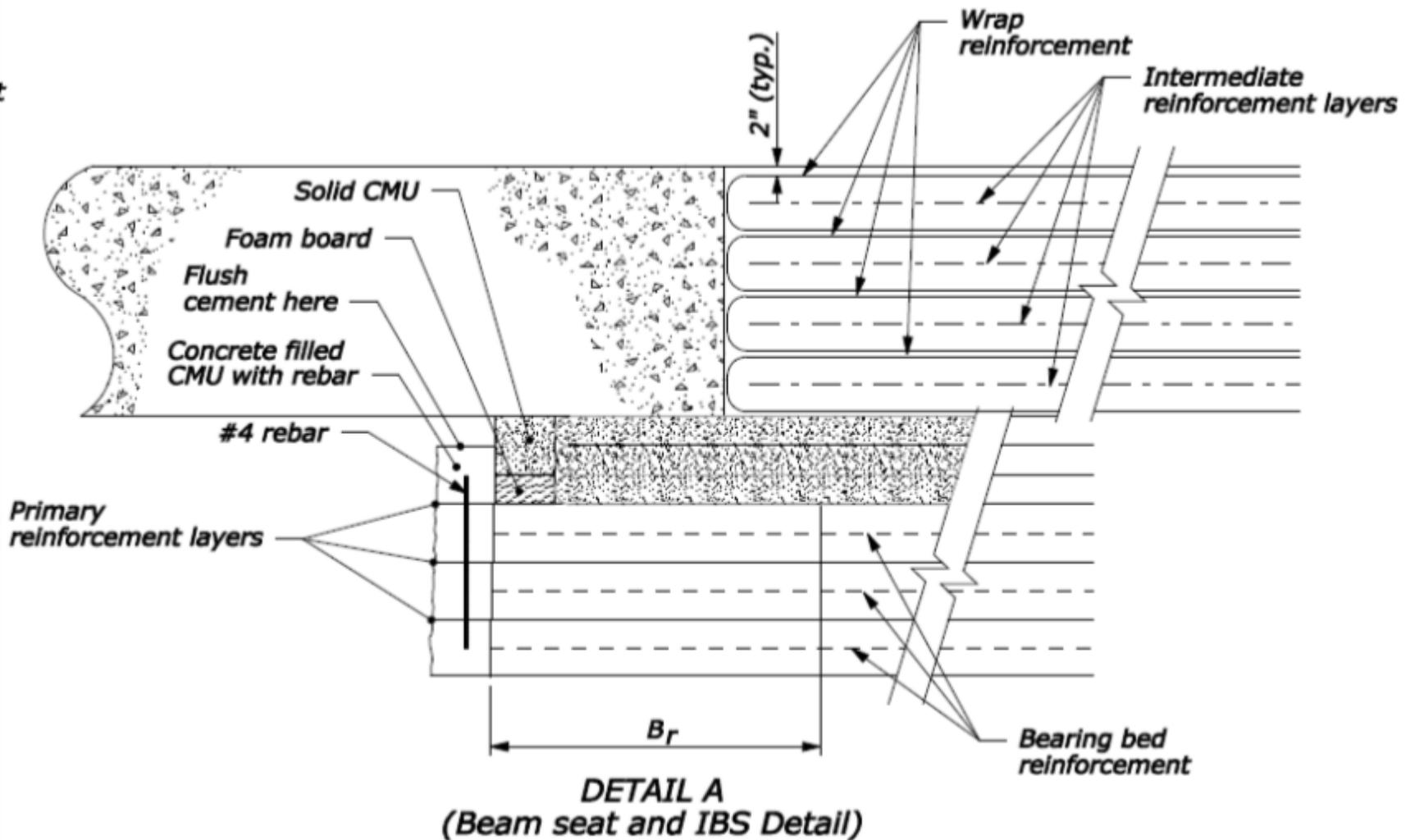
# Approach Integration *Continued*

- In order to prevent lateral spreading of the fill material at the road/bridge interface, the reinforcement sheets comprising the wrapped layers should be folded over along the sides and perpendicular to the bridge





# Approach Integration *Continued*





# Construction Video



# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS



# GRS IBS Reports

## Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Integrated Bridge System Interim Implementation Guide

PUBLICATION NO. FHWA-HRT-11-026

JANUARY 2011



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

Research, Development, and Technology  
Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center  
6300 Georgetown Pike  
McLean, VA 22101-2296

## Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Integrated Bridge System Synthesis Report

PUBLICATION NO. FHWA-HRT-11-027

JANUARY 2011



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

Research, Development, and Technology  
Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center  
6300 Georgetown Pike  
McLean, VA 22101-2296



# Design Process

- 1) Establish project requirements
- 2) Perform a site evaluation
- 3) Evaluate project feasibility
- 4) Determine layout of GRS-IBS
- 5) Calculate loads
- 6) Conduct an external stability analysis
- 7) Conduct an internal stability analysis



# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS

## Step 1: Establish Project Requirements



# Design Requirements

- Geometry
  - Bridge layout (length, width, skew, grade, super-elevation)
  - Wall layout (height, length, batter, geometry)
- Materials
  - Facing
  - Fill
  - Reinforcement
- Loading Conditions
  - Surcharges (soil, traffic)
  - Bridge loads (dead load, live load)
  - Seismic
- Performance Criteria
  - Design format (ASD, LRFD)
  - Design life
  - Tolerable deformations (vertical, lateral, differential)
  - Factors of Safety/Resistance Factors



# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS

## Step 2: Perform a Site Evaluation



# Perform a Site Evaluation

- Conduct a subsurface evaluation for the foundation soil: (1 boring per abutment)
  - Density ( $\gamma_f$ )
  - Friction Angle ( $\phi_f$ )
  - Cohesion ( $c_f$ )
  - Undrained Shear Strength ( $c_u$ )
  - Groundwater conditions
- Refer to:
  - AASHTO (2003): “Standard Practice for Conducting Geotechnical Subsurface Investigations”
  - FHWA (2006): Soils and Foundations Manual



## Perform a Site Evaluation *Continued*

- Evaluate soil properties for the retained earth (soil behind the abutment)
  - Density ( $\gamma_b$ )
  - Friction Angle ( $\phi_b$ )
  - Cohesion ( $c_b$ )



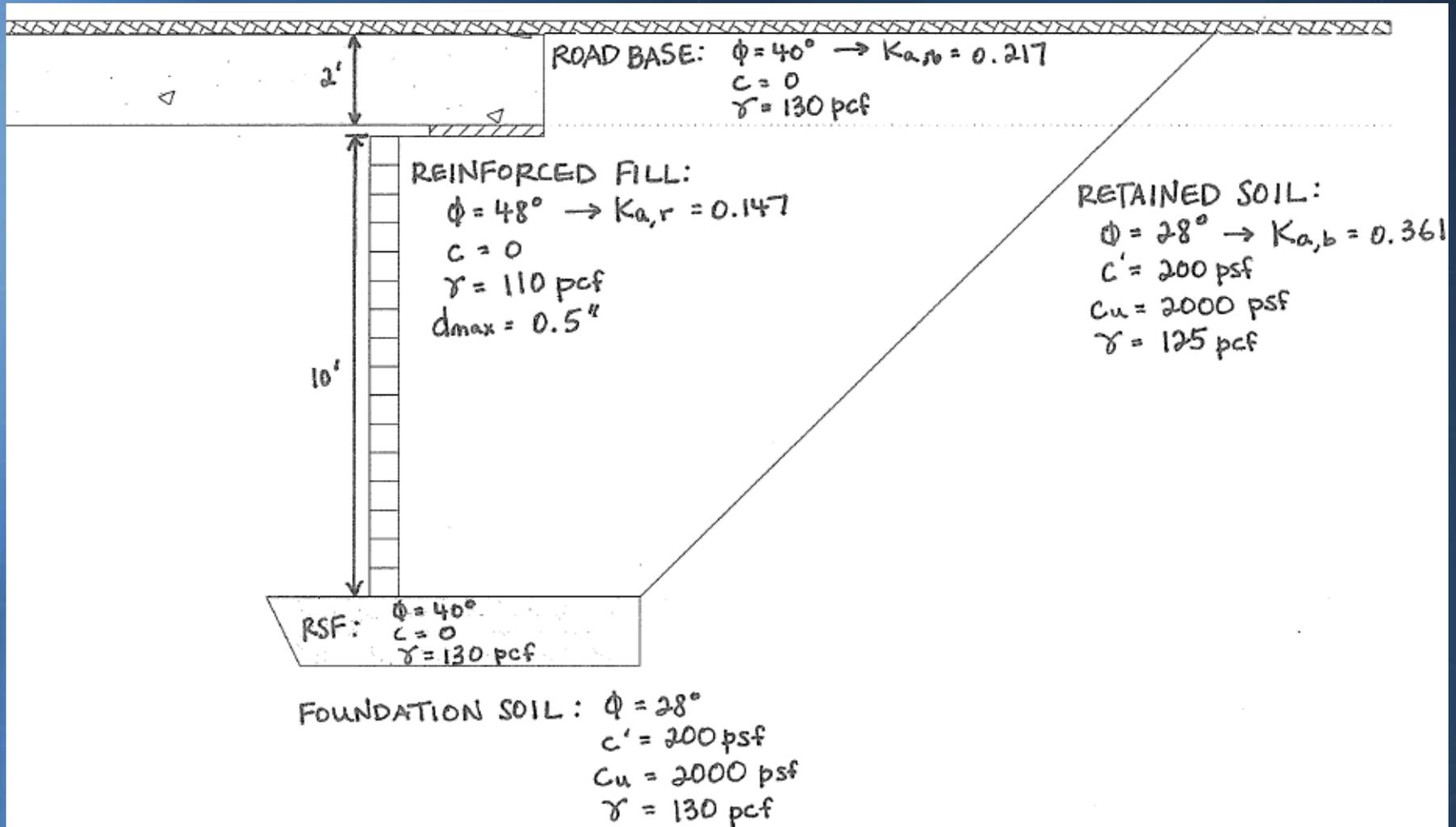
## Perform a Site Evaluation *Continued*

- Evaluate soil properties for the reinforced fill
  - Density ( $\gamma_r$ )
  - Friction Angle ( $\phi_r$ )
  - Cohesion ( $c_r$ ): *Assume cohesionless soil*
  - Maximum aggregate size: ( $d_{max}$ )



## Design Example

## Design Soil Parameters





# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS

## Step 3: Evaluate Project Feasibility

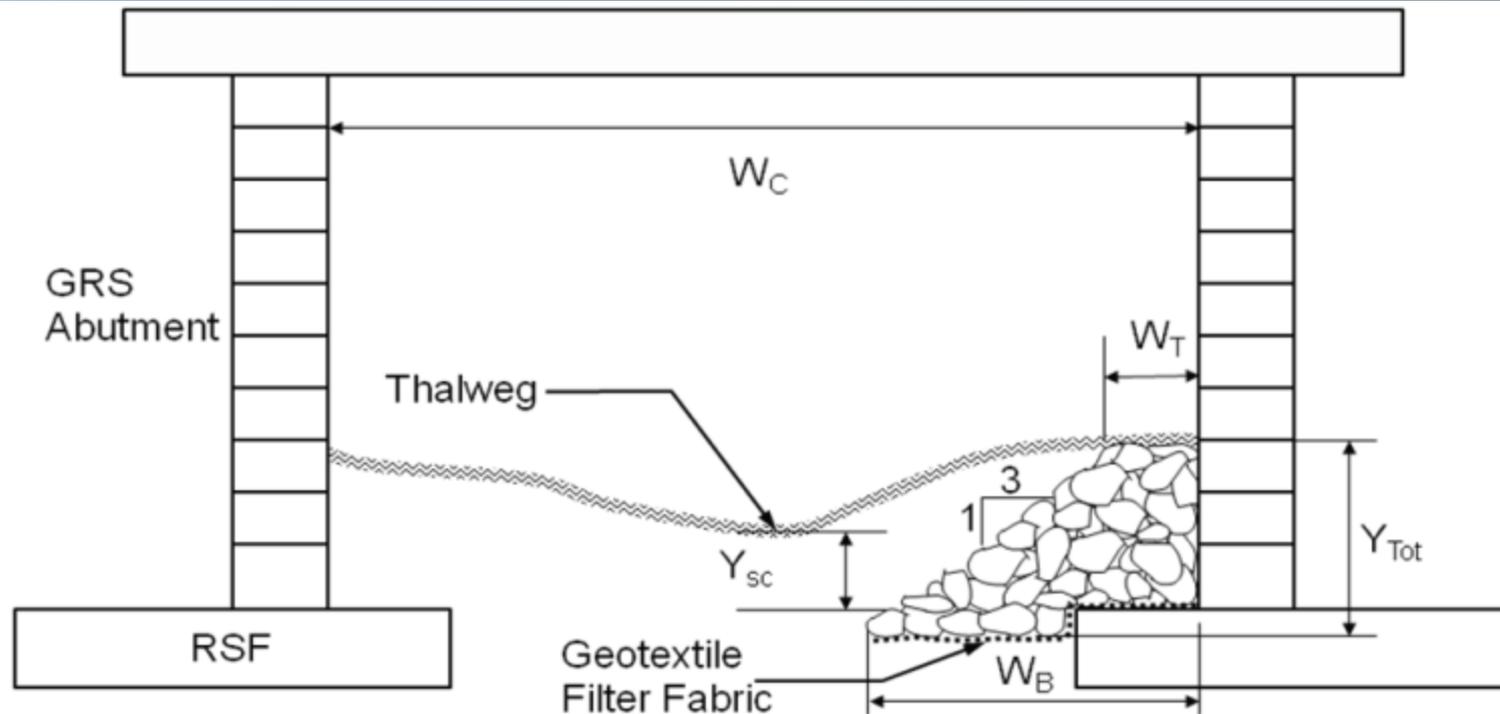


# Project Feasibility

- Is the proposed structure within the limits of the manual
  - Bridge Span < 140 ft
  - Wall height < 30 ft
  - Are the foundation materials competent
- Project cost
- Technical requirements
- Performance objectives
- Scour and/or channel instability



# Scour Design



## Constructed Sloping Rock

$Y_{sc}$  = Contraction scour plus long-term degradation referenced to the thalweg.

$Y_{Tot}$  = Distance from top of riprap to bottom of riprap ( $3 \times D_{50riprap}$  minimum and keyed at least 1 ft (0.3 m) below top of RSF).

$W_T = 3 \times D_{50riprap}$  or 5 ft (1.5 m), whichever is greater.

$W_B = W_T + 3Y_{Tot}$

Top of RSF (footing) elevation at  $Y_{sc}$  (or deeper) as recommended in HEC-18.

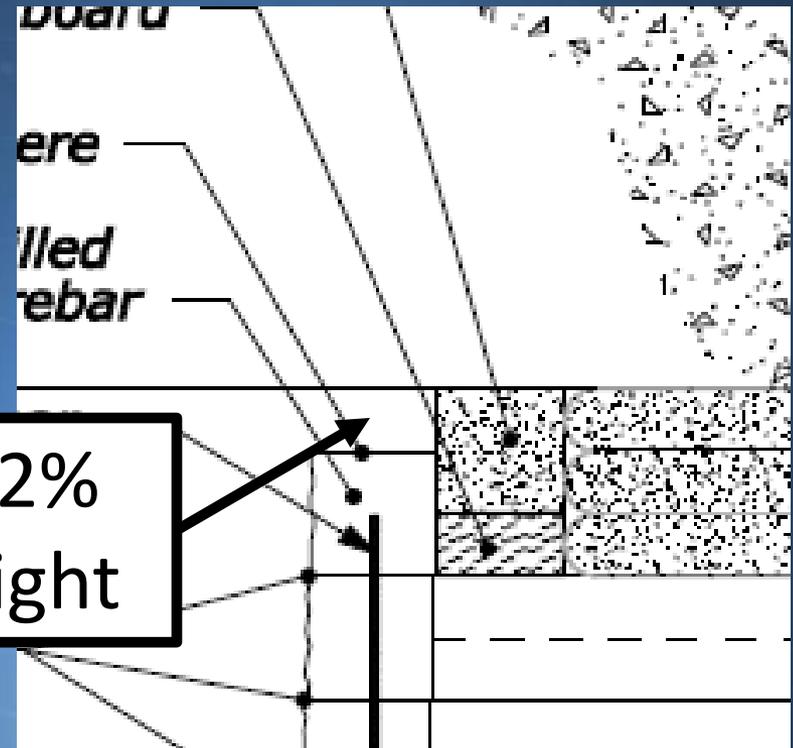


# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS

## Step 4: Determine Layout of GRS-IBS

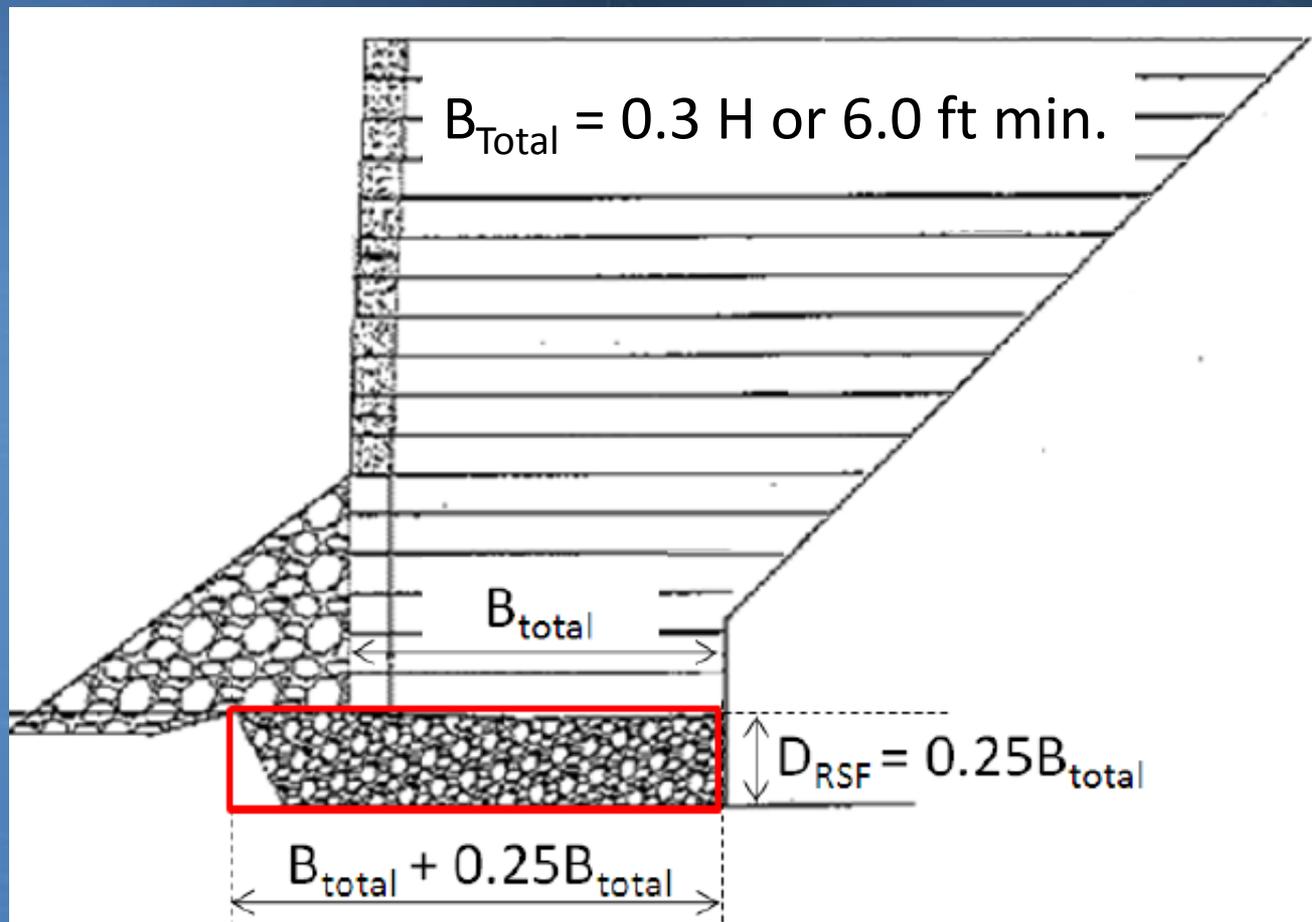


# Beam Seat, Set Back and Clear Space





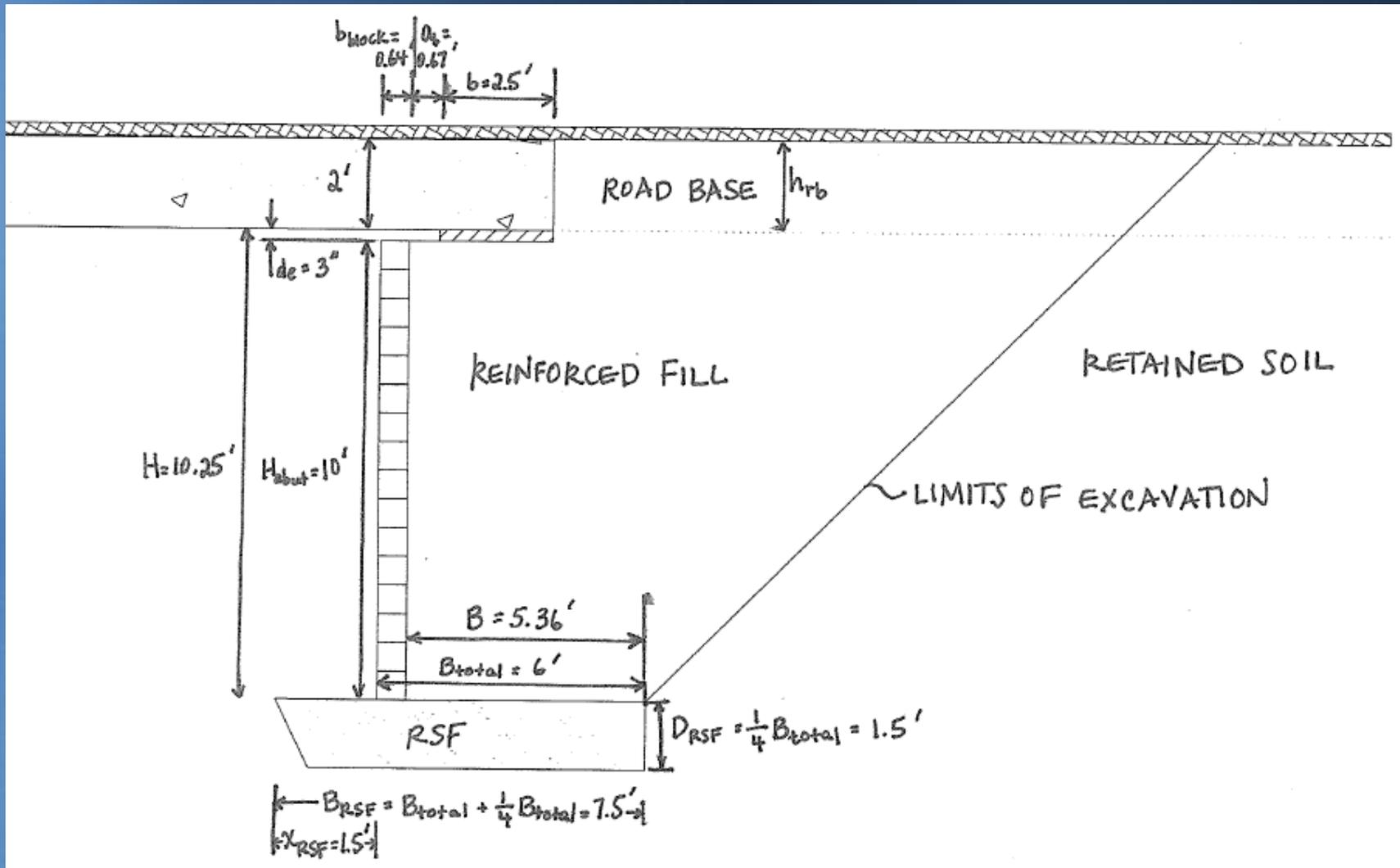
# Reinforcement embedment length





## Design Example

# GRS-IBS Layout





# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS

## Step 5: Calculate Applicable Loads



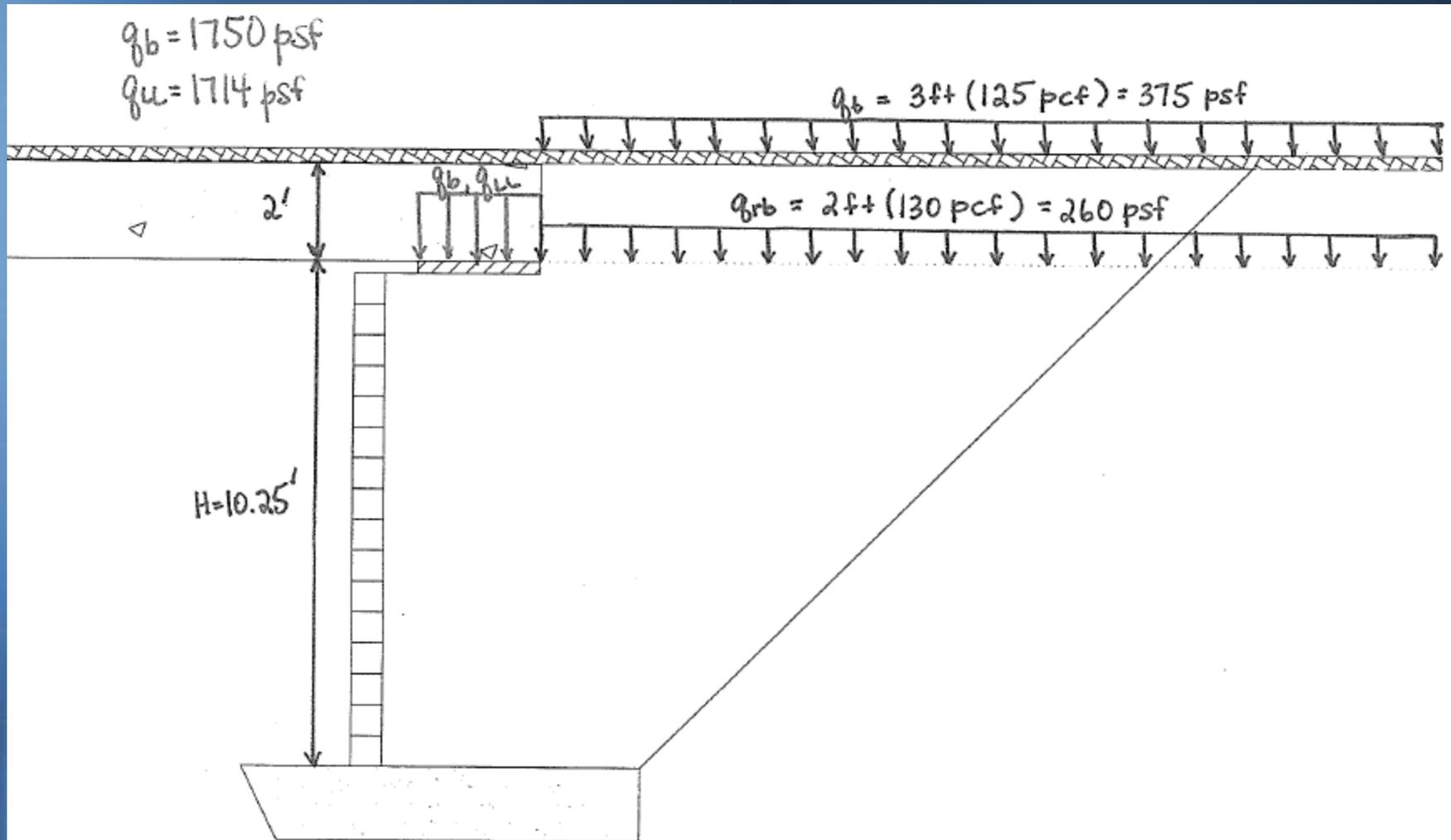
# Calculate Loads

- Traffic live loads above embankment
- Road base above GRS abutment
- Bridge loads (from Bridge engineer)
  - Dead loads from superstructure
  - Live loads from design vehicle



# Design Example

## Design Loads





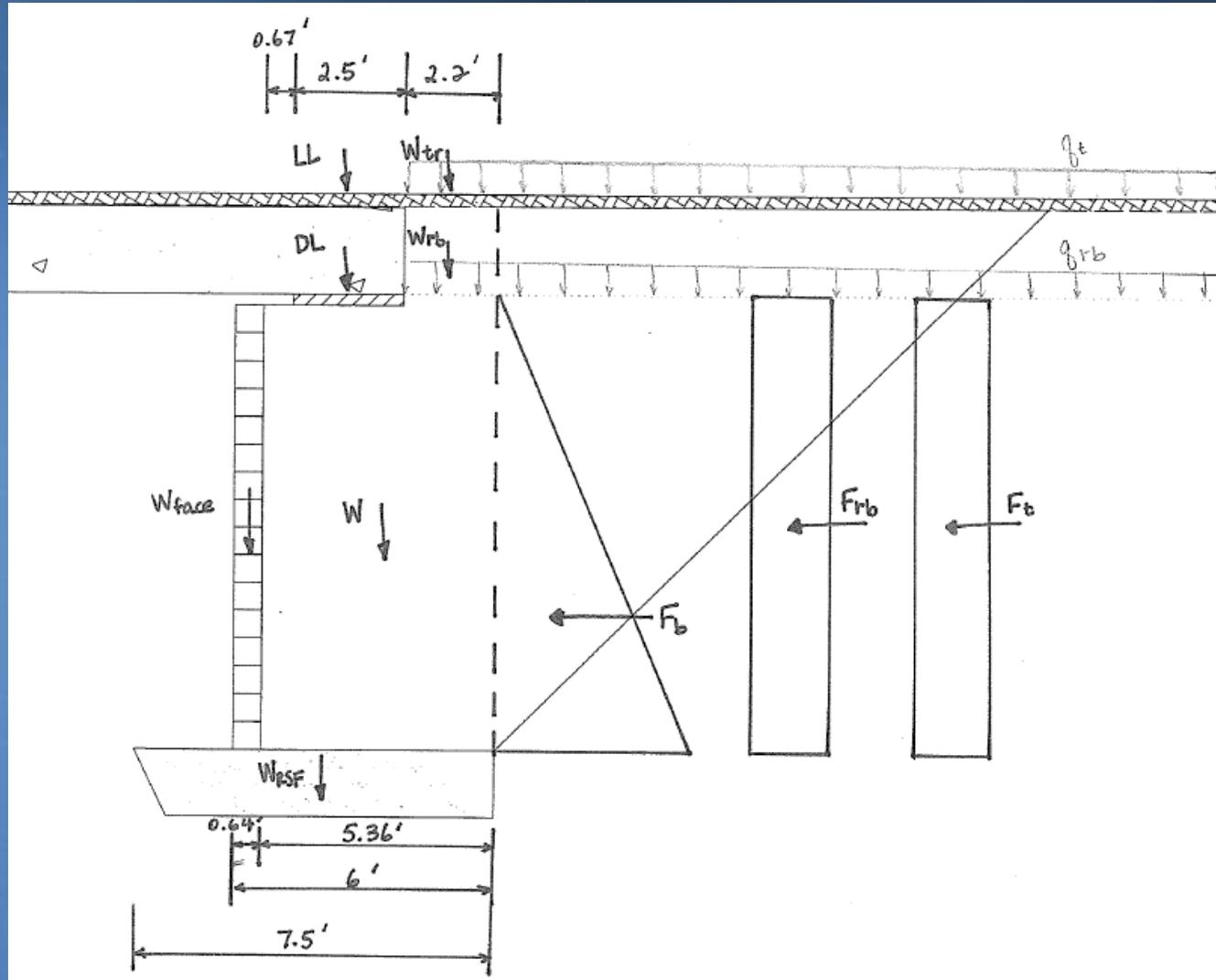
# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS

## Step 6: Conduct an External Stability Analysis



## Design Example

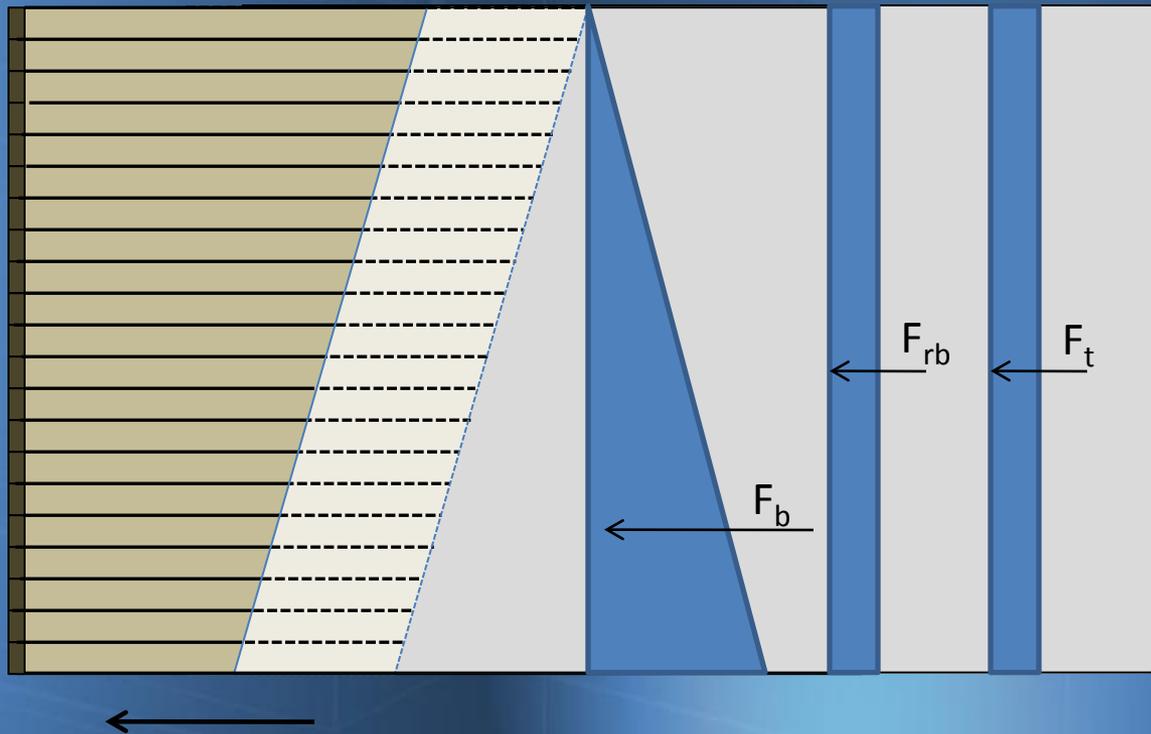
# External Stability – Forces *Continued*





# Direct Sliding

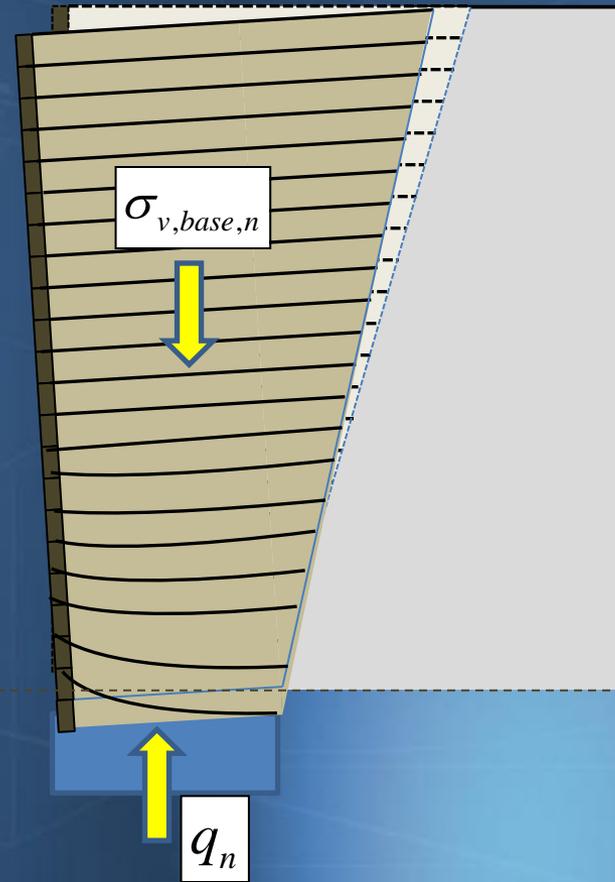
$$FS_{slide} = \frac{R_n}{F_n} \geq 1.5$$





# Bearing Capacity

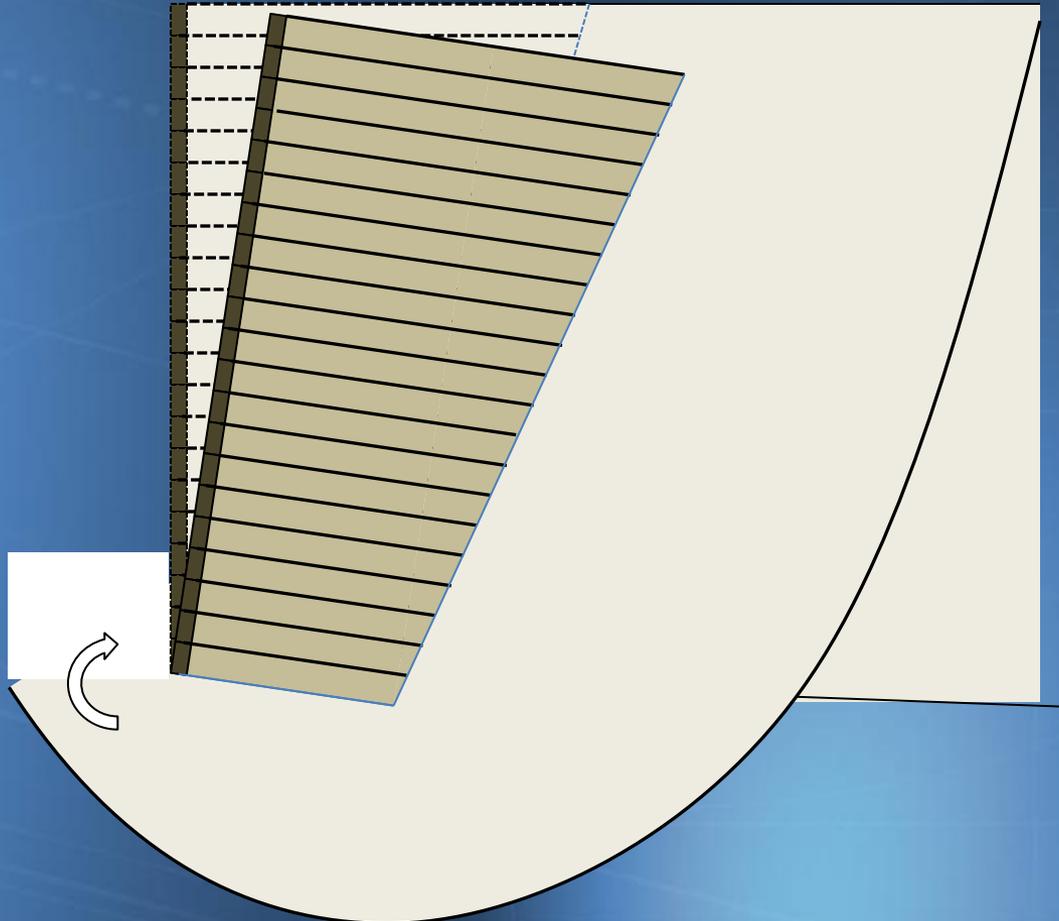
$$FS_{bearing} = \frac{q_n}{\sigma_{v,base,n}} \geq 2.5$$





# Global Stability

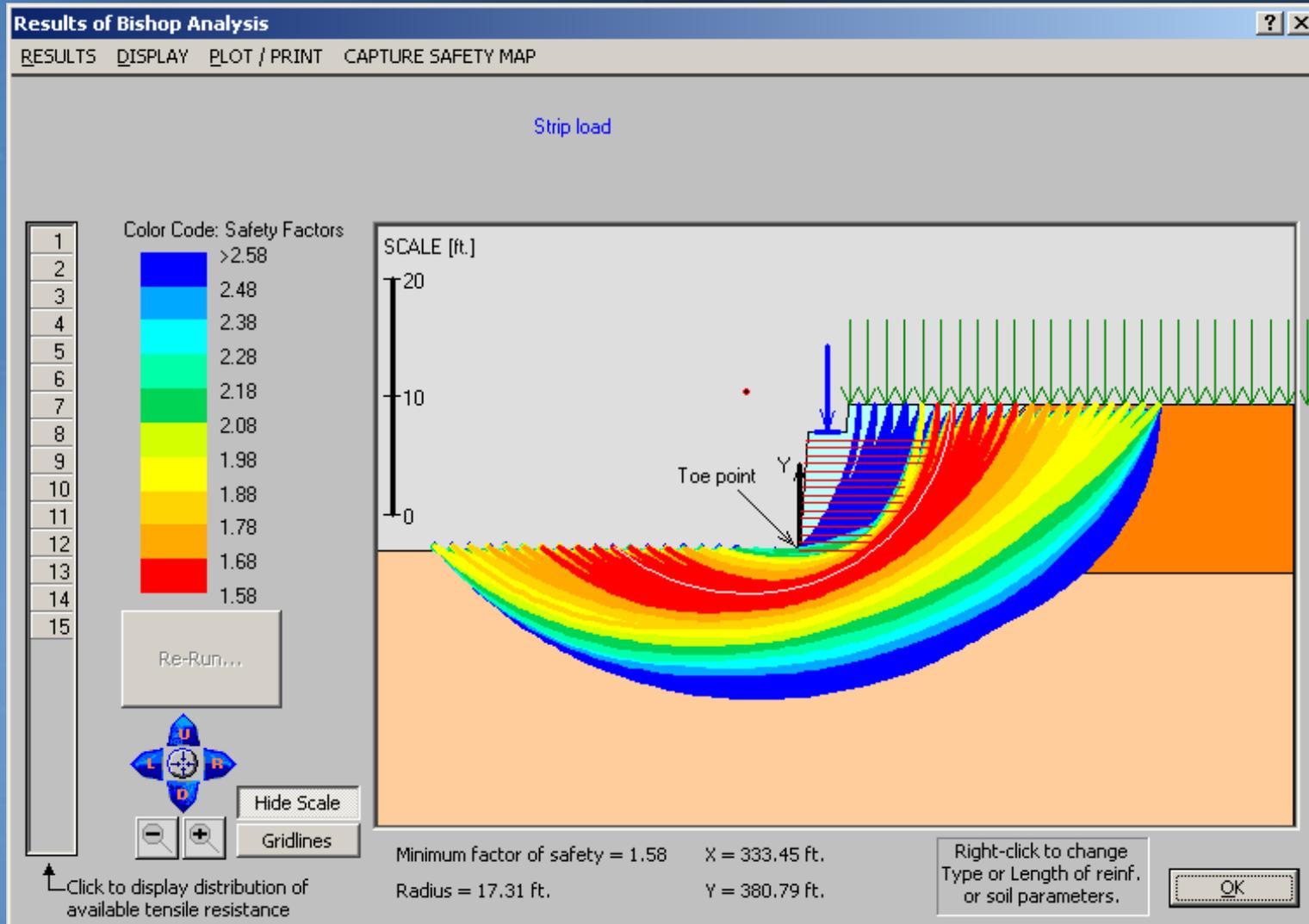
$$FS_{global} \geq 1.5$$





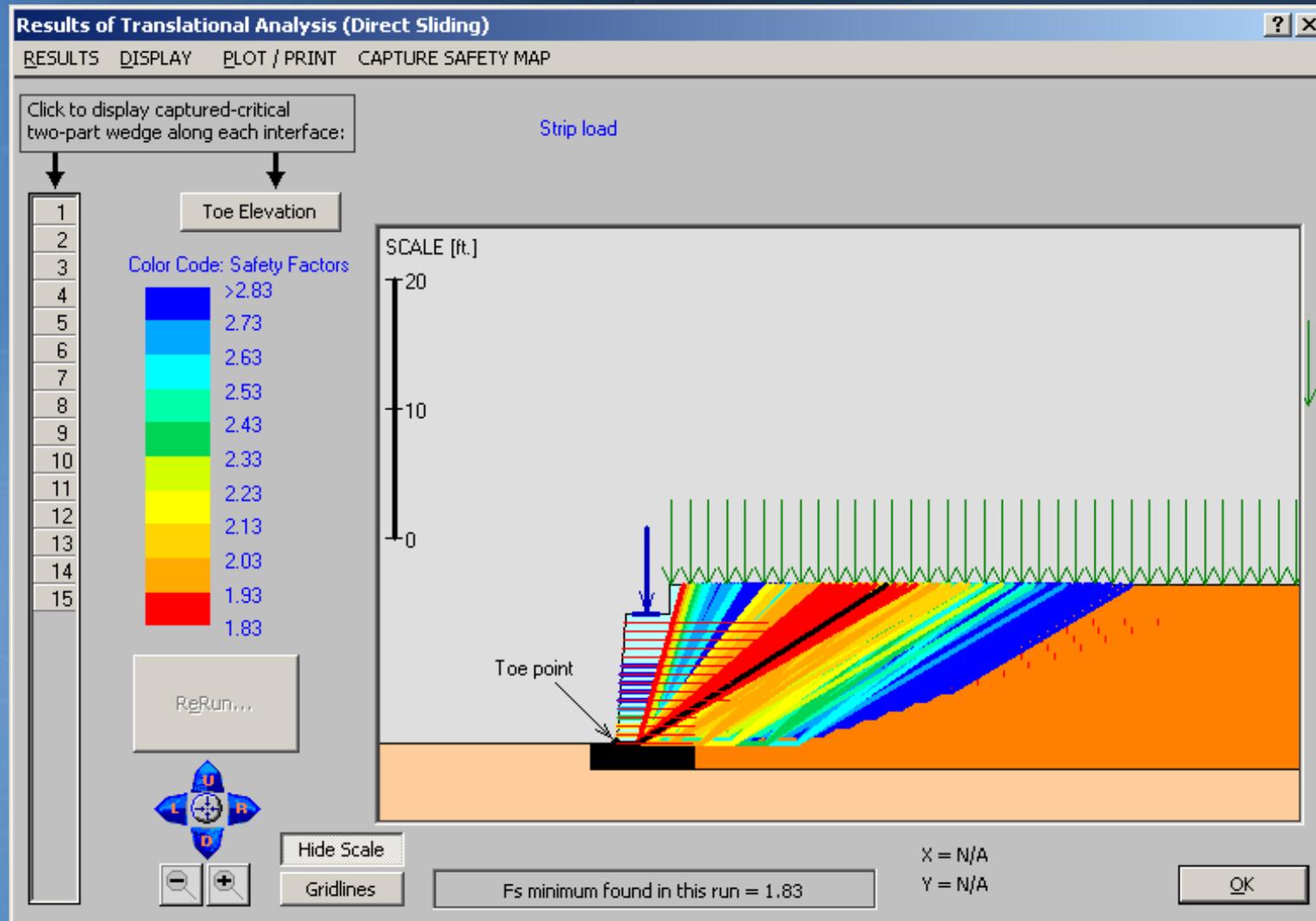
# Design Example

## Global Stability *Continued*





## Design Example

Global Stability *Continued*



# DESIGN OF GRS-IBS

## Step 7: Conduct an Internal Stability Analysis



# Internal Stability Analysis

- Ultimate Capacity (Empirical and Analytical)
  - Empirical Method
  - Analytical Method
- Deformations
  - Vertical
  - Lateral
- Required Reinforcement Strength



# Ultimate Capacity

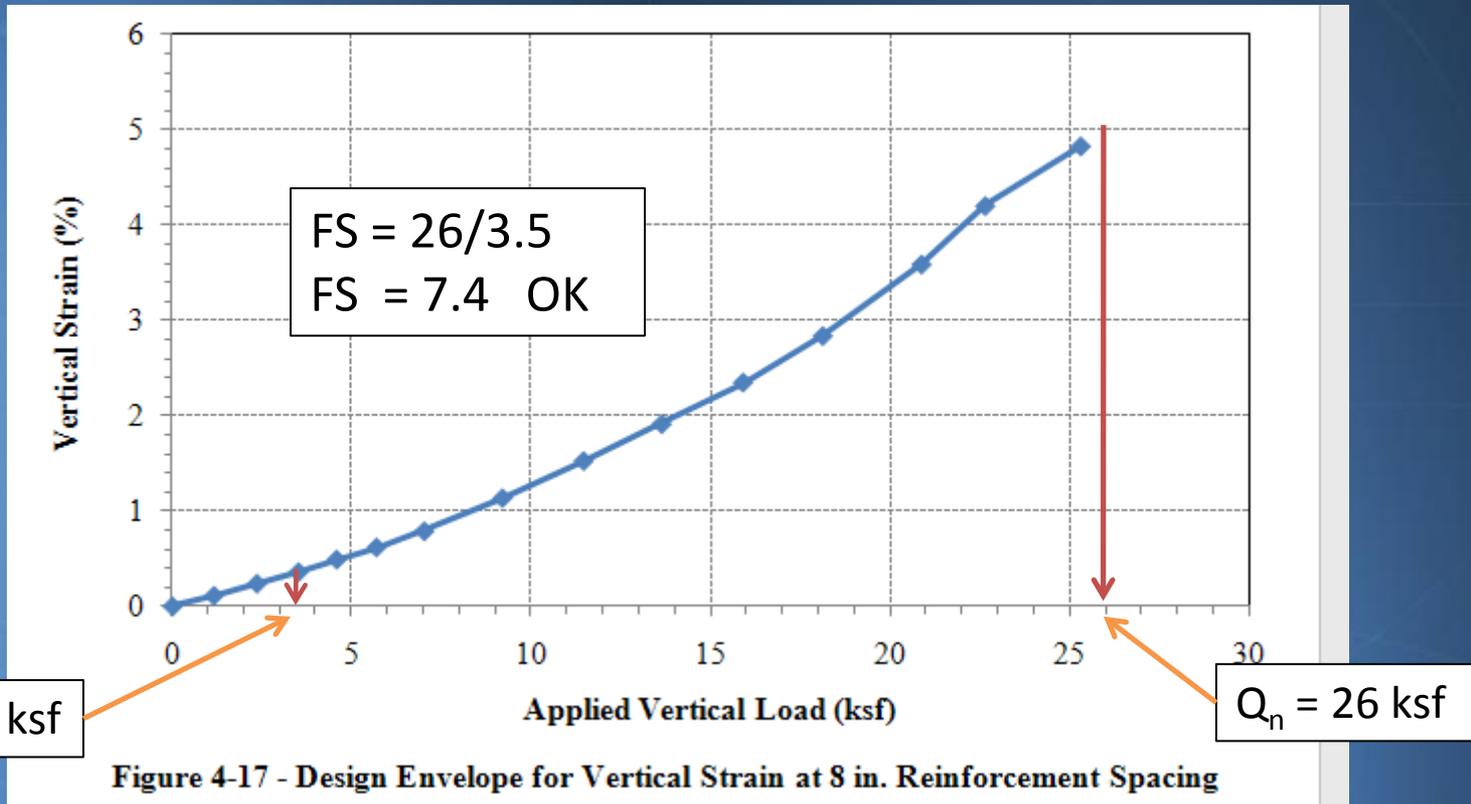
- Empirical Method
  - Use results from performance test
    - $q_{ult,emp}$  = Stress at 5% vertical strain
  - Check that applied load ( $V_{applied} = q_b + q_{LL}$ ) is less than allowable load ( $V_{allow,emp}$ )

$$V_{allow,emp} = \frac{q_{ult,emp}}{FS_{capacity}} = \frac{q_{ult,emp}}{3.5}$$



## Design Example

# Ultimate Capacity *Continued*





# Ultimate Capacity *Continued*

- Analytical Method

- Function of:

- Confining stress ( $\sigma_c$ )
- Reinforcement spacing ( $S_v$ )
- Ultimate reinforcement strength ( $T_f$ )
- Maximum aggregate size ( $d_{max}$ )
- Aggregate friction angle ( $\phi$ )

- Check that applied load ( $V_{applied} = q_b + q_{LL}$ ) is less than allowable load ( $V_{allow,an}$ )

$$q_{ult,an} = \left[ 0.7 \frac{S_v}{6d_{max}} \frac{T_f}{S_v} \right] K_p$$

$$V_{allow,an} = \frac{q_{ult,an}}{FS_{capacity}} = \frac{q_{ult,an}}{3.5}$$



# Vertical Deformation

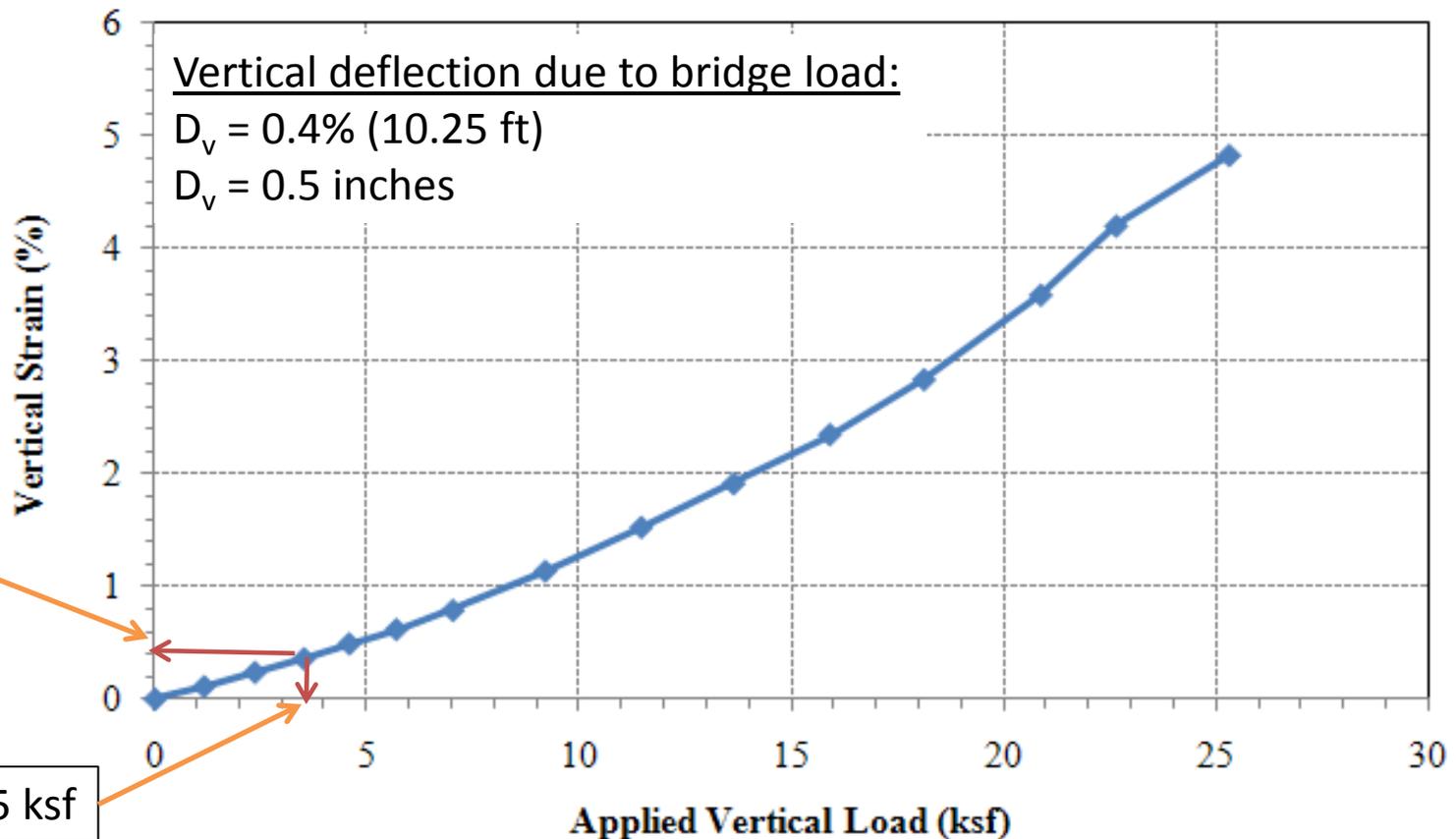
- Use results from performance test
- Find corresponding vertical strain ( $\epsilon_v$ ) for applied dead load ( $q_b$ )
- Multiply by the height to estimate vertical deformation ( $D_v$ ) within GRS abutment

$$D_v = \epsilon_v H$$



## Design Example

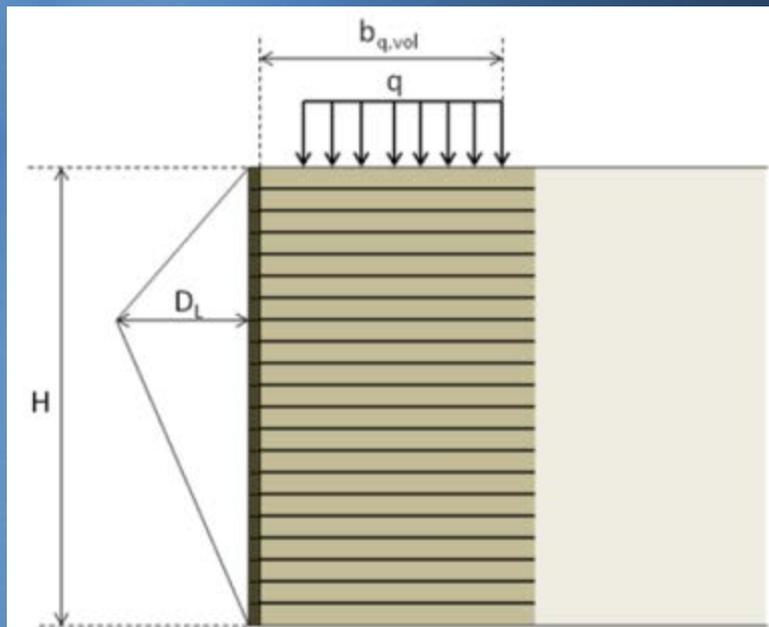
# Vertical Deformation *Continued*





# Lateral Deformation

- Estimate from vertical deformation
- Based on concept of zero volume change



$$\Delta V_{top} = b_{q,vol} L D_v = \Delta V_{face} = \frac{1}{2} H L D_L$$

$$D_L = \frac{2b_{q,vol} D_v}{H}$$

$$\varepsilon_L = \frac{D_L}{b_{q,vol}} = \frac{2D_v}{H} = 2\varepsilon_v$$





# Required Reinforcement Strength

- Use analytical equation

- Function of:

- Lateral stress ( $\sigma_h$ )

- Measured beneath the centerline of the bridge load

- Reinforcement spacing ( $S_v$ )

- Maximum aggregate size ( $d_{max}$ )

- Aggregate friction angle ( $\phi$ )

$$T_{req} = \left[ \frac{\sigma_h}{\frac{S_v}{0.7^{\phi d_{max}}}} \right] S_v$$



# Required Reinforcement Strength

## *Continued*

- The required reinforcement strength must satisfy two criteria:
  - 1) It must be less than the allowable reinforcement strength ( $T_{allow}$ )

$$T_{allow} = \frac{T_f}{FS_{reinf}} = \frac{T_f}{3.5}$$

- 2) It must be less than the strength at 2% reinforcement strain ( $T_{@ \epsilon=2\%}$ )

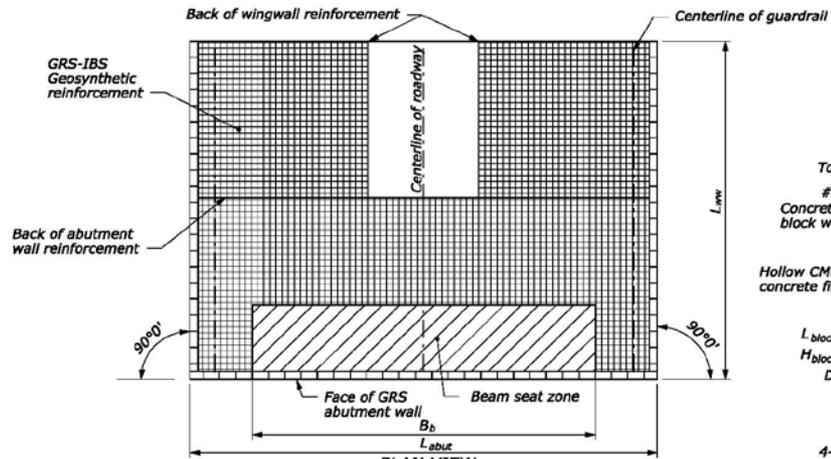


# Standard Plans

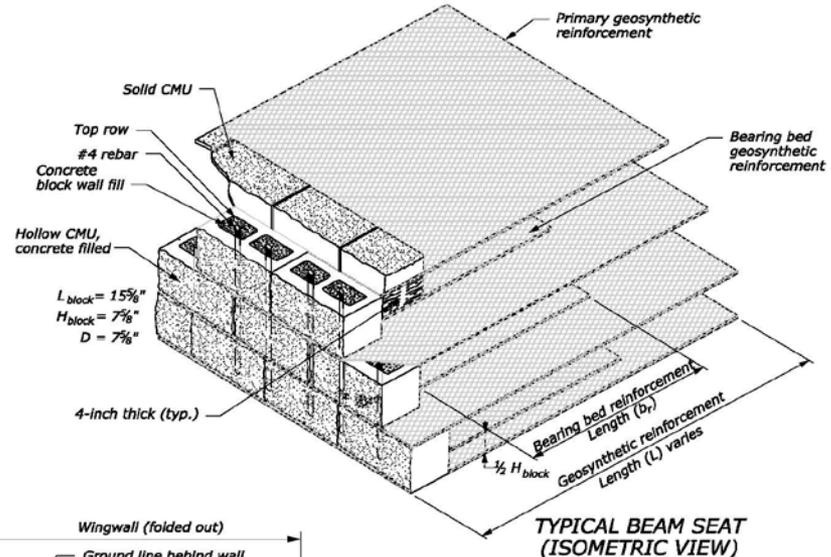




STATE	PROJECT	SHEET NUMBER
	FHWA GRS-IBS	C



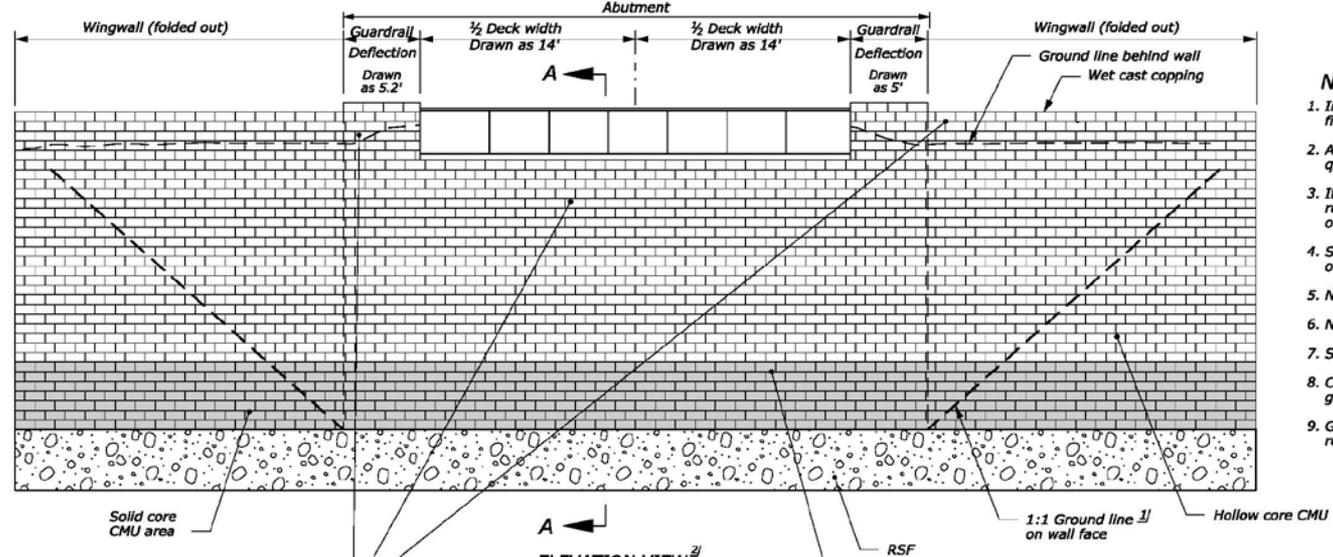
PLAN VIEW  
GRS-IBS ABUTMENT  
Facing Block Schedule  
SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



TYPICAL BEAM SEAT  
(ISOMETRIC VIEW)

**NOTE:**

1. Insert #4 rebars into the top 3 rows of CMU's and corner CMU's and fill with concrete.
2. Adjust length and angle of wingwalls for site specific conditions and quantities in Sheet B accordingly.
3. If RSF is not used beneath the wingwalls, then additional independent retaining wall calculations should be performed to determine the stability of the wingwalls.
4. Superelevation of the roadway is assumed to have a crest at the centerline of the roadway, which corresponds to the maximum design clear space (d).
5. No skew angle of the bridge to the stream channel is assumed.
6. No angular distortion between abutments is assumed.
7. Solid core CMU's placed up to the riprap height (5 feet typ.).
8. CMU blocks are staggered, including corners, so there are no vertical joints greater than 1 CMU block height.
9. Guardrail type and location to be designed by others in accordance with required safety standards.



ELEVATION VIEW  $\frac{1}{2}$   
GRS-IBS ABUTMENT  
Facing Block Schedule  
SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

**FOOTNOTE:**

- $\frac{1}{2}$  Bench wingwall as necessary.
- $\frac{1}{2}$  Wingwalls folded out for elevation view.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION

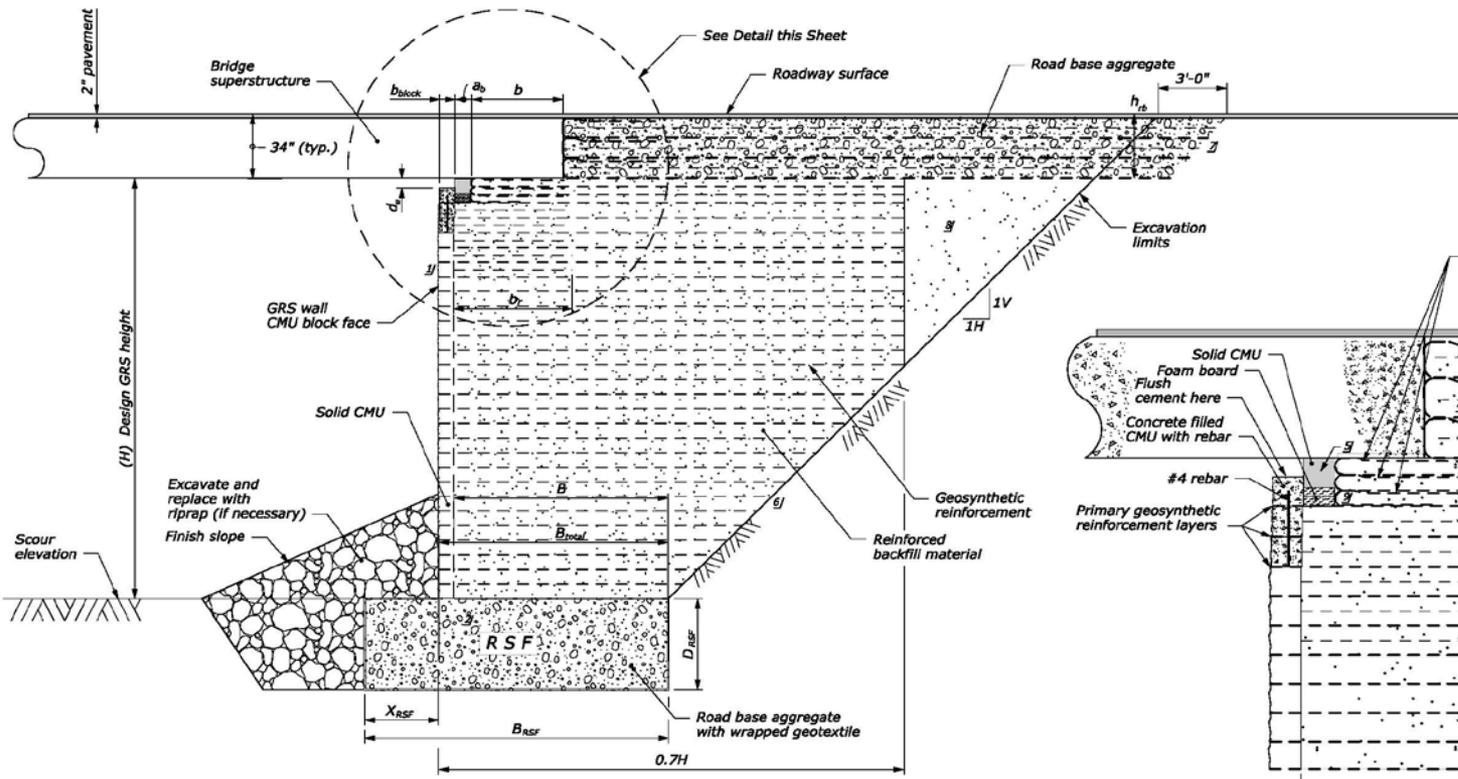
**GRS-IBS**

**PLAN AND ELEVATION**

**FACING BLOCK SCHEDULE**

NO.	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	NO.	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	DESIGNED BY	DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	SCALE	PROJECT TEAM LEADER	BRIDGE DRAWING	DATE	DRAWING NO.
03/25/11			Rev. 0	04/04/11			Rev. 1	FHWA	C. TUTTLE	R. BARROWS, B. COLLINS, M. DODSON, M. ELIAS, A. ALZAMORA, J. NICKS	AS SHOWN	M. ADAMS	3 of 4	04/2011	

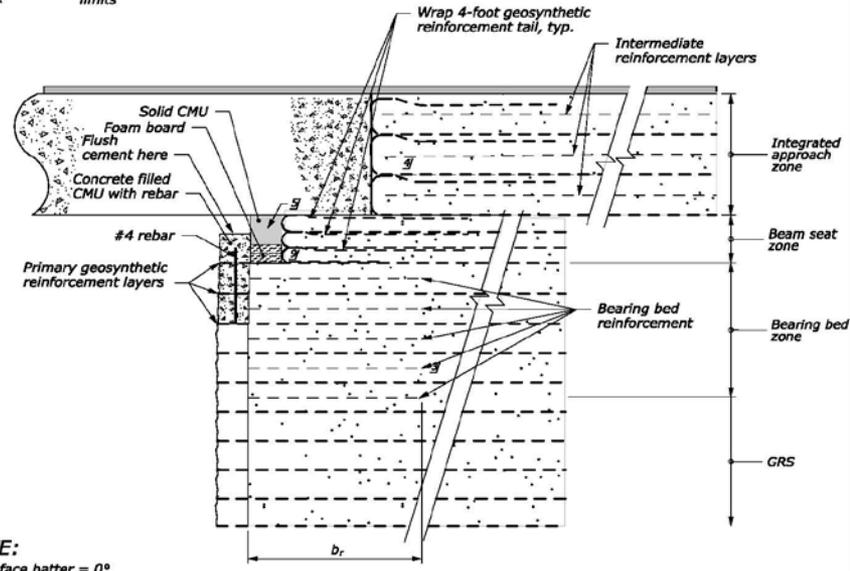
NO.	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	NO.	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	DESIGNED BY	DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	SCALE	PROJECT TEAM LEADER	BRIDGE DRAWING	DATE	DRAWING NO.
03/25/11			Rev. 0	04/04/11			Rev. 1	FHWA	C. TUTTLE	R. BARROWS, B. COLLINS, M. DODSON, M. ELIAS, A. ALZAMORA, J. NICKS	AS SHOWN	M. ADAMS	3 of 4	04/2011	



**SECTION A-A**  
 Vertical Scale:  $\frac{3}{16}'' = 1'-0''$   
 Horizontal Scale: NTS

- LEGEND:**
- Reinforced backfill material
  - Road base aggregate
  - Pavement
  - Riprap
  - Hollow concrete masonry unit (CMU)
  - Colored solid concrete masonry unit (CMU)
  - Concrete filled concrete masonry unit (CMU)

- NOTE:**
1. Insert #4 rebars in to the top 3 rows of CMU's and corner CMU's and fill with concrete.
  2. Strike CMU concrete fill flush with top of CMU's under bridge girders slope to drain.
  3. On the top row of CMU's create a mortar capping approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick.
  4. Typical sections represent a wall height (H) equal to 18.21-feet.



**DETAIL**  
 (Beam seat and integrated approach Detail)  
 Vertical Scale:  $\frac{3}{8}'' = 1'-0''$   
 Horizontal Scale: NTS

- FOOTNOTE:**
- 1/ Vertical wall face batter = 0°.
  - 2/ Solid CMU's behind riprap.
  - 3/ Minimum of 5 layers of bearing bed reinforcement.
  - 4/ Primary wrap reinforcement vertical spacing for the integrated approach is a maximum of 12-inches.
  - 5/ Full height block is typical in front of bearing seat but a half height block and a special foam board thickness may be required in some applications.
  - 6/ Short term back slope ratio per OSHA Safety Regulations (29CFR, Part 1926, Subpart P, excavation). Shoring may be required if the short term back slope will be open more than 30 days or if the required short term back slope ratio specified cannot be obtained.
  - 7/ Extend integration zone layers past cut slope.
  - 8/ Insure that high quality fill is placed in this area.
  - 9/ The first beam seat reinforcement layer length is a maximum of 6-feet with a conventional 4-foot tail.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION

**GRS-IBS  
 DETAILS**

NO.	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	NO.	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	DESIGNED BY	DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	SCALE	PROJECT TEAM LEADER	BRIDGE DRAWING	DATE	DRAWING NO.
	03/25/11		Rev. 0		04/04/11		Rev. 1	FHWA	C. TUTTLE	R. BARROWS, B. COLLINS, M. DODGSON, M. ELIAS, A. ALZAMORA, J. NICKS	AS SHOWN	M. ADAMS	4 of 4	04/2011	



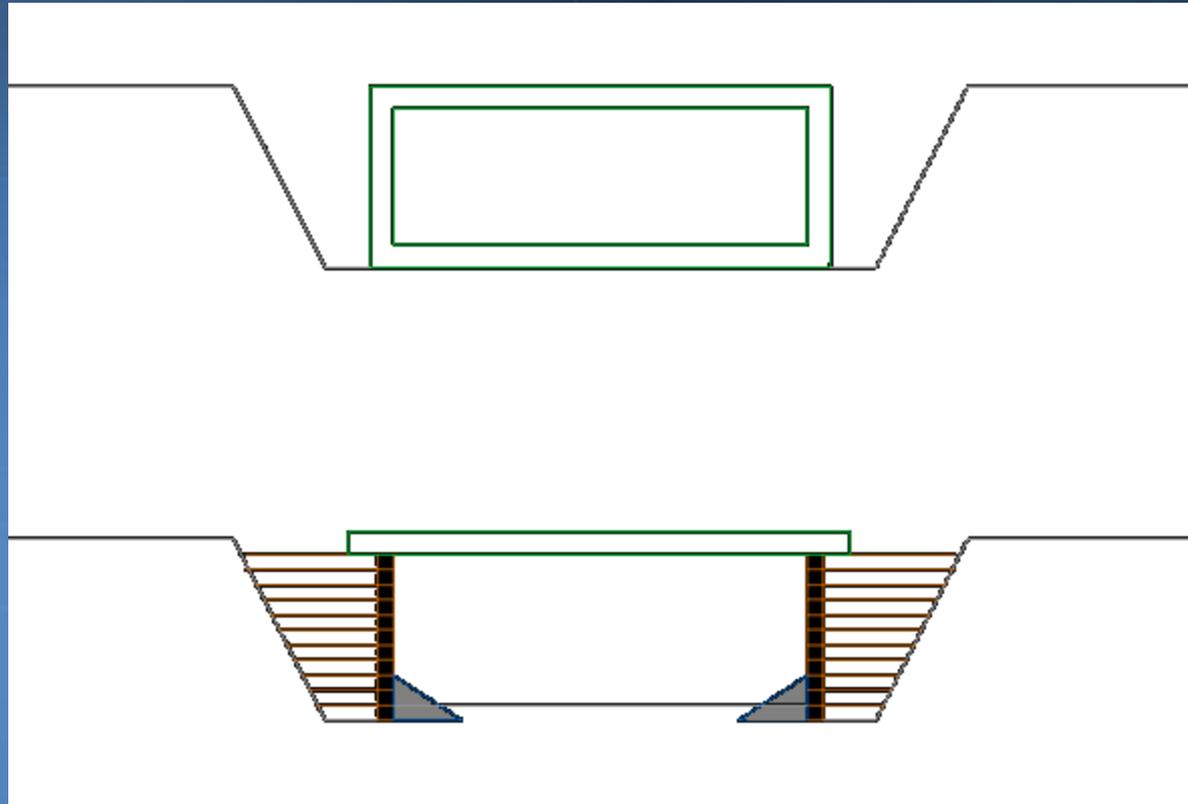
# User Perspective

## *Defiance County, Ohio*





# Some Design History



- Same excavation, less expensive materials, lighter weight components and less weather sensitive construction

Trying it out

05/02/2005



# Attractive and Flexible



**Construction Costs:  
80'x32'-\$266,000 - 2005**

**Open to Traffic:  
47 days**





**Construction Costs:  
28'x20'-\$68,000 - 2008**



Construction Costs  
28'x20'-\$88,000 - 200,000



**Construction Costs:  
32'x10'-\$51,000 - 2010**



201 Construction Costs:  
28'x20'-\$70,000 - 2010



Construction Costs:  
28'x20'-\$65,000 - 2010



201 Construction Costs:  
28'x32'-\$85,000 - 2010



200

Construction Costs:  
36'x20'-\$71,000 - 2010





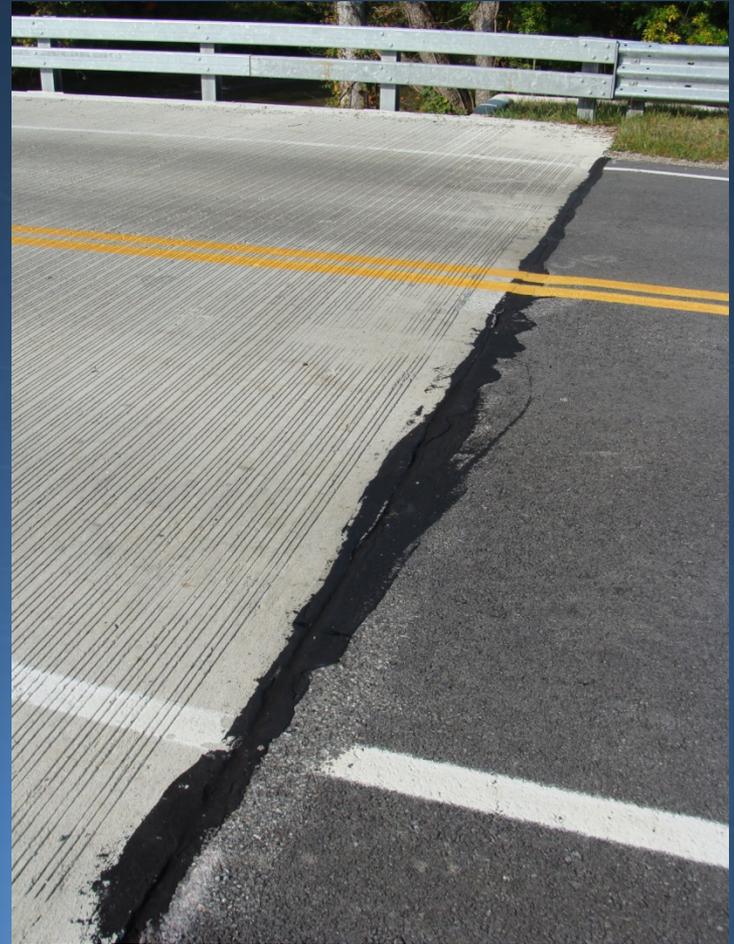


**Crane loading  
right against  
beam ends**











**Construction Cost:  
140'x40'-\$620,000 - 2009**



# User Perspective

## *St. Lawrence County, NY*



**CR 12 - 40'x33'- Material Cost \$160,000  
Construction costs \$240,000**



**CR 24 - 47'x33' - Material Cost \$110,500**



**CR 31 - 56'x33' - Material Cost \$165,000**



**CR 35 - 67'x33' - Material Cost \$180,500  
Construction Cost \$310,000**



**CR 38 - 63'x32' - Material Cost \$175,000**



# 2009 BRIDGE

CR12 o. Malterna Creek – 40'-6" Span

## 2010 Bridges

CR24 o. Leonard Brook – 47' Span

CR35 o. Trout Brook – 66'-8" Span

CR31 o. Brandy Brook – 55'-8" Span

CR38 o. Plum Brook – 63'-6" Span



# 2011 Bridges

CR60 o. Little River – 65'-8" Span

CR27 o. N. Br. Grasse River – 71'-8" Span

Fraser Road o. Oswegatchie River – 85' Span

CR25 o. Little River – 87'-8" Span

CR40 o. Hutchins Creek – 51'-2" Span

CR3 o. Chippewa Creek – 95' Span -

River Road o. Trout Brook – 89' +/- Span



# 2012 Bridges

CR47 o. Trout Brook (IBRD) – 110'-0" Span

CR20 o. Tanner Creek – 65'-0" Span Proposed



# Project cost and time examples

- CR27 o. N. Br. Grasse River – 71'-8" Span
  - Material Cost - \$238,256
  - Labor and Equip. Cost - \$82,508
  - Schedule – Closed May 16, 2011 – Open June 23, 2010
  
- CR40 o. Hutchins Creek – 51'-2" Span
  - Material Cost - \$197,156
  - Labor and Equip. Cost - \$55,206
  - Schedule – Closed June 6, 2011 – Open July 7, 2011



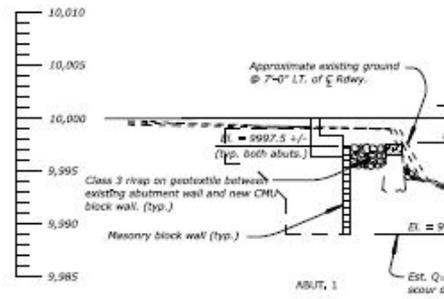
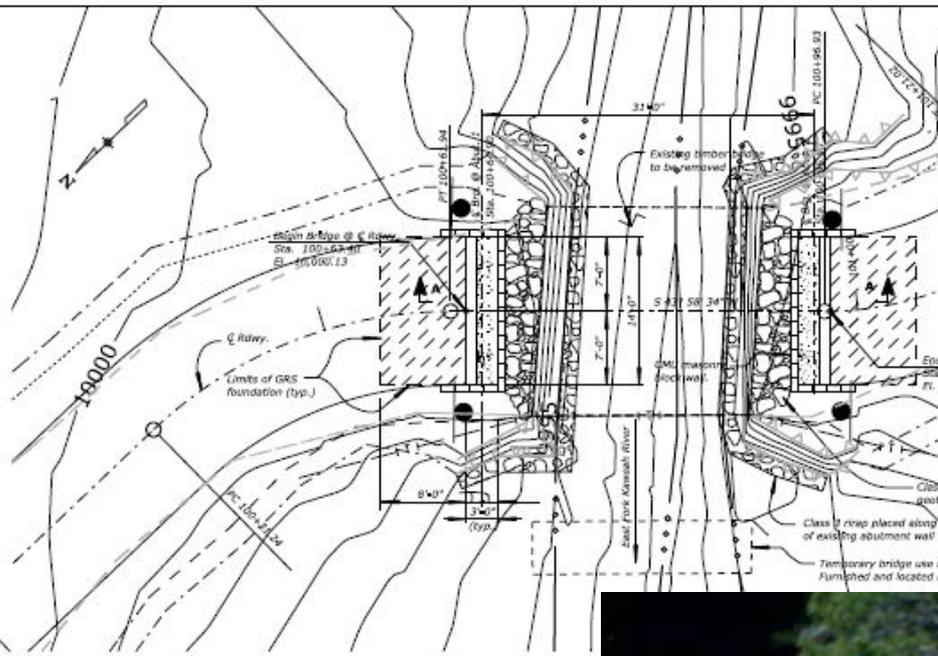
# Project cost and time examples

- CR3 o. Chippewa Creek – 95'-0" Span
  - Material Cost - \$275,319
  - Labor and Equip. Cost - \$97,791
  - Schedule – Closed August 8, 2011 – Open Sept. 20, 2010
  
- CR24 o. Leonard Brook – 47'-0" Span
  - Material Cost - \$158,470
  - Labor and Equip. Cost – \$73,652
  - Schedule – Closed June 1, 2010 – Open June 24, 2010



# User Perspective National Park Service

# Disney Bridge in Sequoia NP



NO.	DATE	BY	REVISIONS	NO.	DATE	BY	REVI



15-Sep-2011 10:09 PM  
 M:\Users\13148\p\13148\p\13148\CADD Files\DWG Files\13148\13148\13148.dwg



# Disney Bridge in Sequoia NP



# Strawberry Creek Great Basin National Park - NV





# User Perspective Huston Township, Pennsylvania



**Huston Township, Clearfield County**  
**Mount Pleasant Road Bridge**  
*Presented By G. Randy Albert, PE*  
*Municipal Services Supervisor, 2-0*

07/18/2011 15:21



07/18/2011 15:22



10/12/2011 10:25



10/14/2011 14:35



11/07/2011 16:06



11/07/2011 16:08



Cost Data

### Huston Township Actual Project Costs "Soup to Nuts"

Permitting:	\$5,273.75
Excavation Contractor (removal, disposal, excavation, backfilling)	\$12,364.00
Timber Superstructure	\$28,165.00
Concrete Blocks (including delivery)	\$3,696.15
Geotextile	\$2,850.00
Aggregate (2RC and AASTO 8)	\$8,807.40
Aggregate (Rip Rap)	\$4,509.00
Miscellaneous (filter bags, filter sock, concrete, coffer dam, tool rental, rebar, lumber, plastic, tools)	\$5,282.70
Bituminous Paving	\$15,429.84
Guide Rail (contracted out)	\$6,290.40
Township Labor	<u>\$ 9,225.67</u>
Total Cost	\$101,893.91



# Comparable Cost Data

## ***PENNDOT Box Culvert and Bridge Beam Projects***

**\$150,000**

District 2-0 Maintenance Force Project  
2011 Costs vary from \$95,000 to \$265,000  
District 2-0 is using \$185,000 for 2012 estimates

Actual Cost: \$133,000 (without paving costs)



Innovation

**Comparable  
Cost Data**

**Local Project Box Culvert (no paving costs)**

**\$194,000**

Locally bid and built with local forces

Actual project in Genesee Township, Potter County



**Contracted Design and Construction Box Culverts**

**\$500,000+**



Time Savings



Start to Finish  
**10 Days**

**Huston Township: 35 Days**  
*Actual abutment construction time: 6 days!*  
*Total time of road closure: 112 days*



02/27/2009 00:05



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration



# PROGRESS TOWARD 2012 EDC GRS IBD GOALS



# GRS IBS Implementation policy memos

## Florida DOT



FROM: Robert V. Robertson, P. E., State Structures De

COPIES: Brian Blanchard, David Sadler, David O'Hagar, Charles Boyd, Tom Andres, Sam Fallaha, Derr Jonathan Van Hook, Garry Roufa, Peter Lai, R, Chris Richter (FHWA), Jeffrey Ger (FHWA), E

SUBJECT: **Mandatory Evaluation of Suitability of Geosynthetic Abutments for Single Span Bridges**

### DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. Section 3.12 of the **January 2011 Structures Design Guideline**

##### 3.12.12 Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil (GRS) Walls and Abutments

- A. GRS abutments are a shallow foundation and retaining wall that significantly reduce the construction time and cost of single span foundations and/or other wall types that may be required.
- B. GRS walls and abutments, like MSE walls, are very adaptable to various conditions and can tolerate a greater degree of differential settlement than CIP walls. GRS walls, however, are also not appropriate for all sites.

#### 2. Section 3.13.2 of the **January 2011 Structures Design Guidelines** is expanded as follows:

P. GRS Walls and Abutments  
 Commentary: FHWA Publication No. [FHWA-HRT-11-026 "Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Integrated Bridge System Interim Implementation Guide"](#) (GRS Guide) contains background information and design steps for GRS walls and abutments. (Refer to this guide for Figures referenced below)

## Colorado DOT

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STAFF BRIDGE BRIDGE DESIGN MANUAL	Subsection: 7.4 Effective: May 15, 2011 Supersedes: New
GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCED SOIL (GRS) ABUTMENTS	
POLICY	COMMENTARY

### 7.4.1 GENERAL

**Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) or Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil (GRS) abutments are acceptable alternatives for deep foundations and are required by Item 5 in subsection 19.1.3B to be considered in the structure type selection report.**

See Figure 7.4-1 for an illustration of a GRS abutment. (C1)

- **Both single or continuous span bridges where competent foundation is near the surface**

- Both single or continuous span bridges where competent foundation is near the surface
- Single span bridges where foundation short-term settlement from sandy gravel can be calculated and compensated for by adjusting the girder seat elevation to meet vertical clearance requirement
- Single span bridges where

alternative to

To assure the clearance for bridge underpass meets the minimum requirement, avoid lengthy interaction processes between structural depths, roadway vertical profile, and hydraulic freeboard and anticipate allowable long-term settlement from geotechnical engineer, deep foundation is usually utilized. In general deep foundation is straight forward in design process than spread footing. Deep foundation such as caissons at pier for water crossing is more economic and easier than shallow

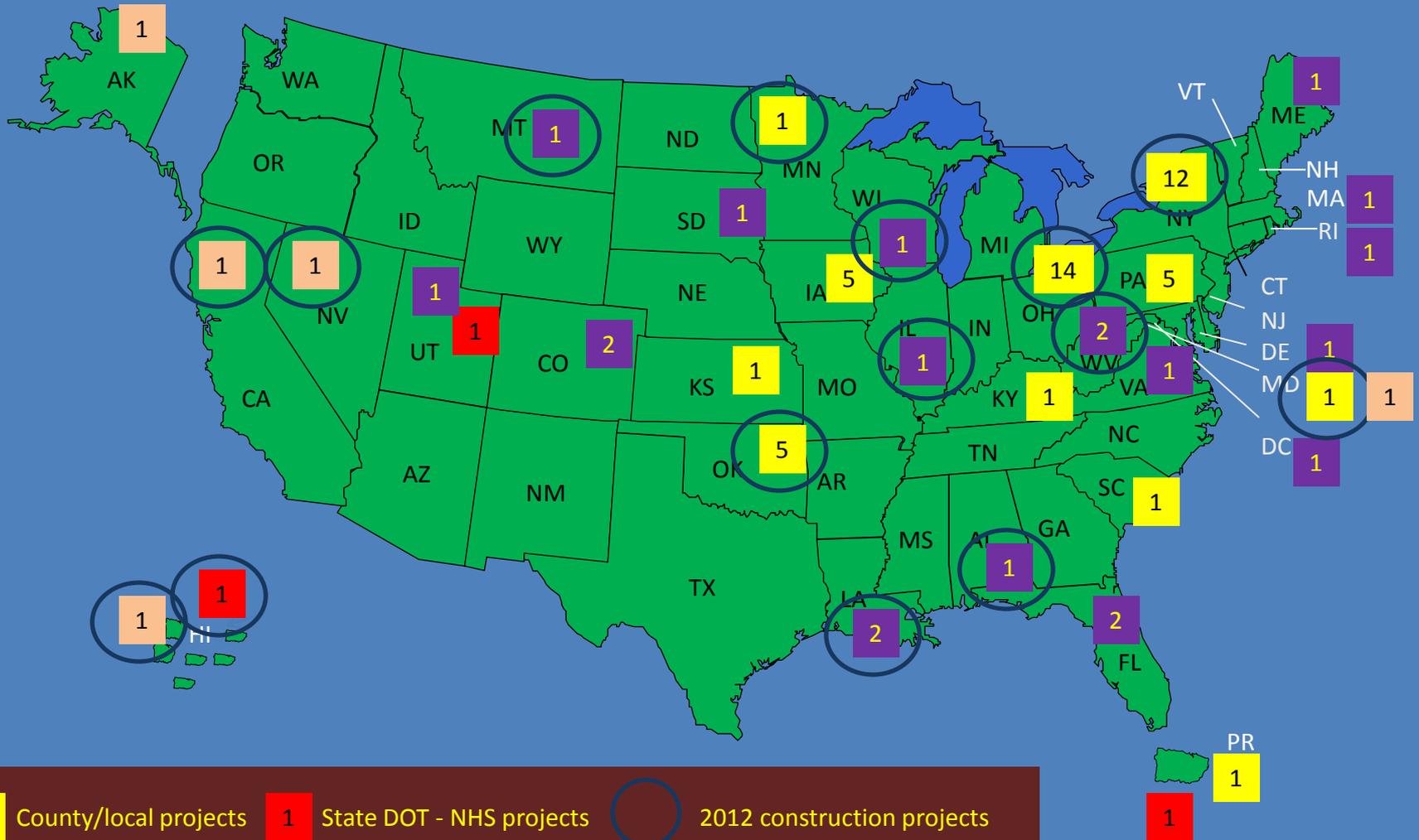


# Founders Meadows Bridge Over I-25 – Castle Rock, CO Constructed in 1999



# GRS IBS Progress Towards Goals

Total of 74 project in 31 states at some stage of design and construction





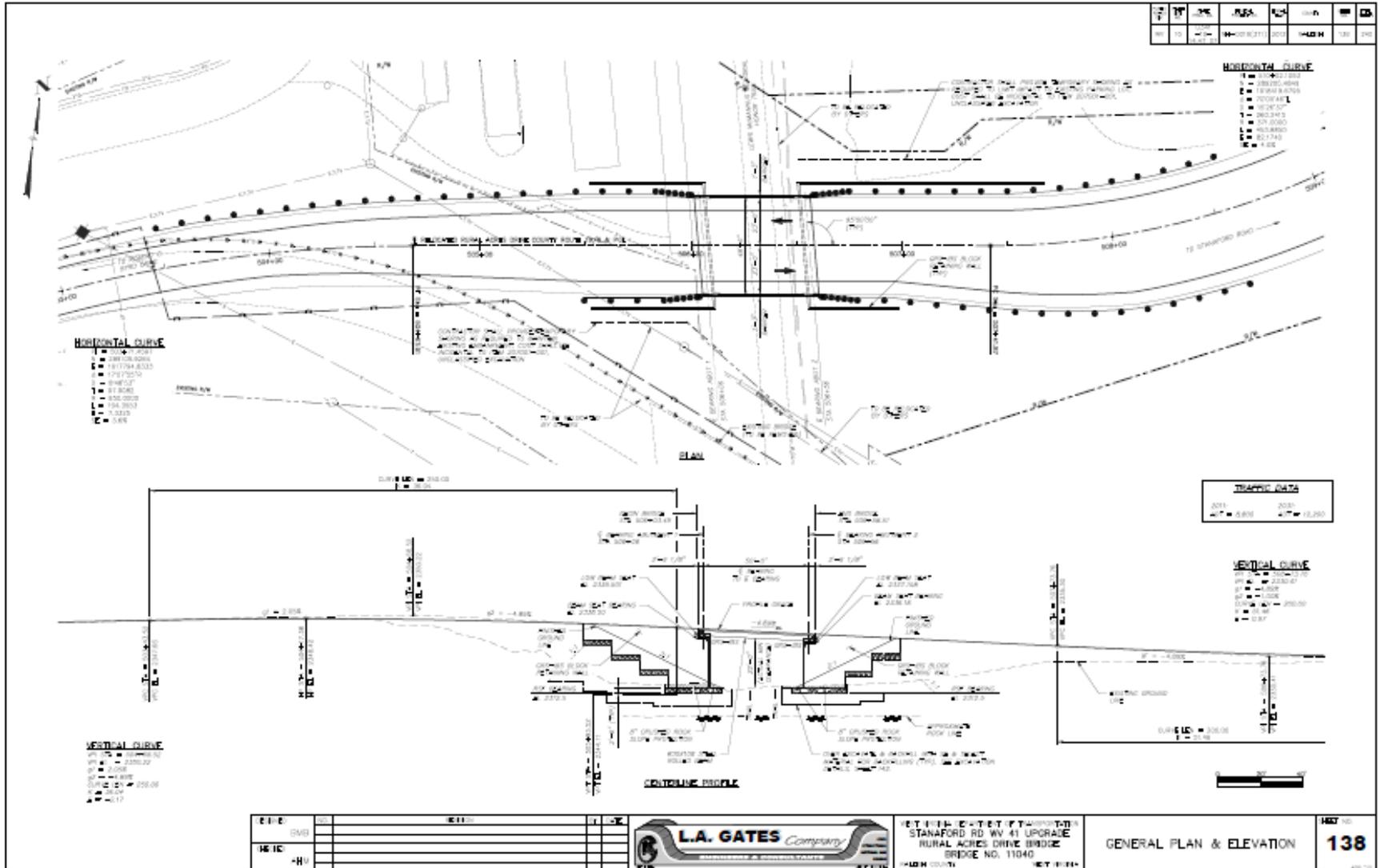
# IBRD Projects

- 2010 IBRD awards
  - 7 projects at \$1.85 million
- 2011 IBRD awards
  - 8 projects at \$2.00 million
  - Rhode Island received \$350,000
- 2 HFL projects



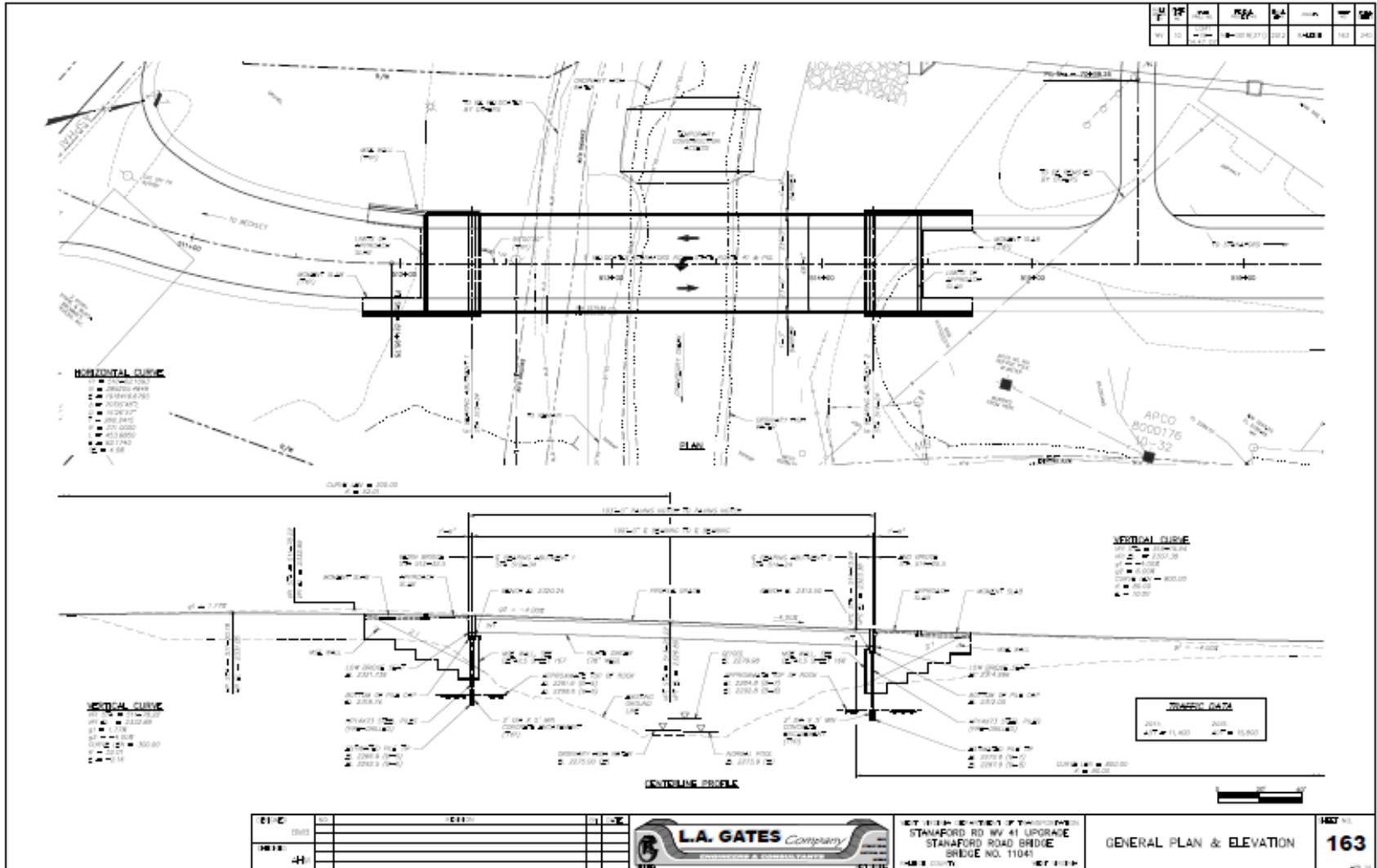


# West Virginia





# West Virginia



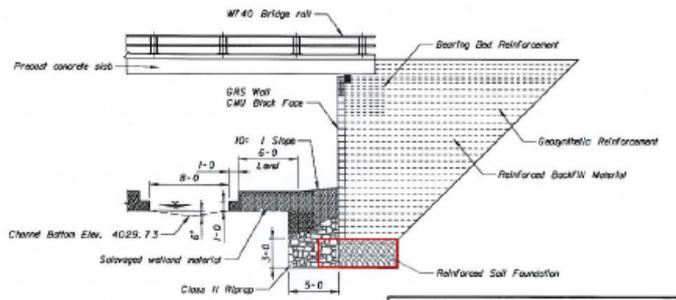
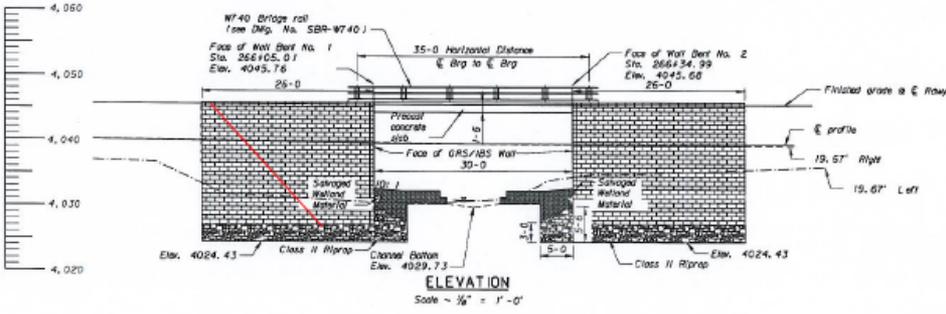
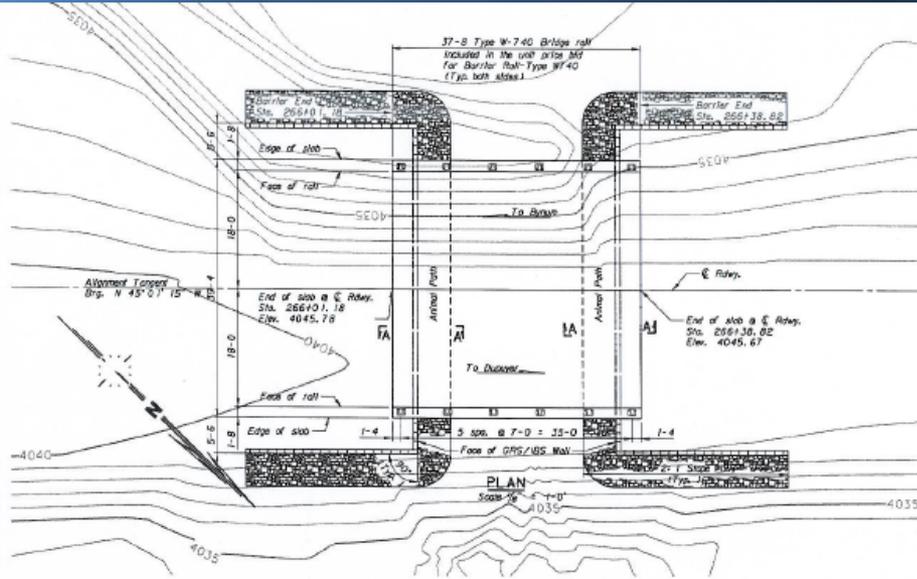


# Montana

STATE	PROJECT NUMBER	SHEET NO.
MONTANA	STPP 3-312165	52

### NOTES

- FINISHED GRADE:** Finished grade of bridge or centerline roadway to be same as the Profile Grade shown on Road Plans.
- CONCRETE:** Use Class 50 concrete.
- SPECIFICATIONS:** Montana Department of Transportation and the Working Transportation Commission Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, 2006 edition, and any amendments thereto, and the Special Provisions govern unless otherwise noted. This design was prepared in accordance with AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, TMRD section - 2004 with XXXI Intelle restiters.
- REINFORCING STEEL:** Use new deformed type reinforcing steel meeting the requirements of AASHTO M 31 Grade 60. Rebar (a) shall be provided with twisting and plastic new reinforcing steel to the same extent as for other Reinforcing Steel or Reinforcing Steel - Epoxy Coated.
- CASE-IN PLACE CONCRETE:** Unless otherwise approved or specified, use Class 50 for all substructure concrete and Class 50 for superstructure and barrier concrete.
- CONCRETE CONTRACTORS:** Use P.C.F. 3000 p.s.f. for Class 50 concrete. Use P.C.F. 4500 p.s.f. for Class 50 concrete.
- STRUCTURE RELOCATION:** Structure Excavation will be completed from the original ground line as it exists before construction begins.
- TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN AND SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS:** See Special Provisions - STANDARD.
- UTILITIES:** Call 1-800-424-5555 for utility locating or local law-enforcing agency prior to starting any construction activity that could disturb the utility.
- EXISTING STRUCTURES:** Remove the existing structure from Road Plans sheets and Special Provisions.
- STATE PLANE COORDINATES:** Stations shown on the bridge plans are state plane grid stations based on state plane coordinates (NAD83-1992). Dimensions shown on the bridge plans are horizontal ground distances and not state plane grid distances. The conversion scale factor (CSF) for this section is 0.9999999999999999. Horizontal ground distance x CSF = Grid Distance. Grid Distance/CSF = Distance to state.



**MDT** Montana Department of Transportation

**BRIDGE OVER SOUTH FORK DRY FORK MARIAS RIVER**

AT STA. 266+20.00

FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. STPP 3-312165

PONDERA COUNTY

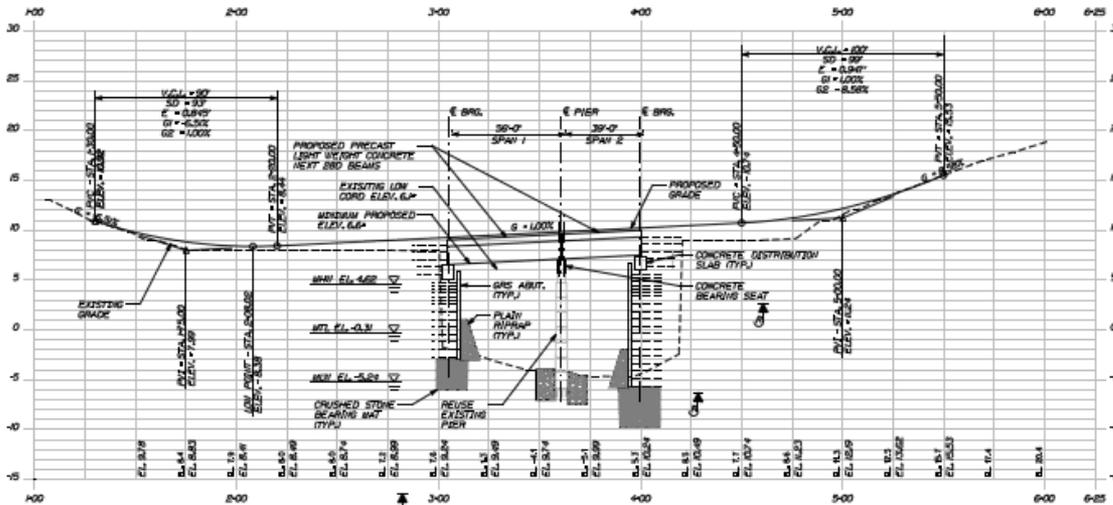
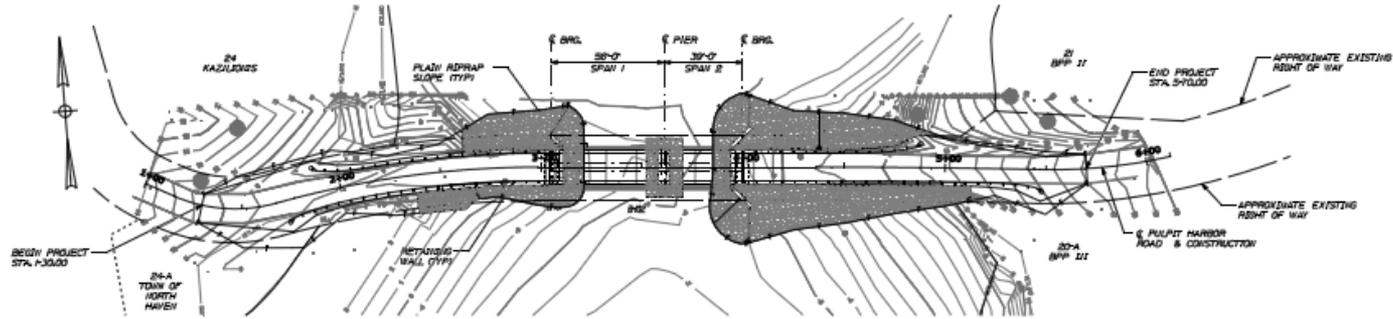
GENERAL LAYOUT

DESIGNED	10-19-78	D. C. W.
DRAWN	11-1-77	P. H. J.
CHECKED		
APPROVED		

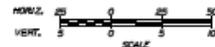
1,050' VC  
-5.9652 | +3.590K  
266+15.20  
EL. 4,035.50



# Maine



PROFILE



10/11/2022

10/11/2022

10/11/2022

10/11/2022

TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN, MAINE  
AC-24-1673400X  
PROJECT NO. 2022-001  
10/11/2022

NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION
1	10/11/2022	J.A. WOODRUFF	STRUCTURE
2	10/11/2022	J.A. WOODRUFF	PROFILES
3	10/11/2022	J.A. WOODRUFF	PLAN

BEACH BRIDGE  
OVER PULPIT HARBOR INLET  
NORTH HAVEN KNOX COUNTY  
PLAN / PROFILE

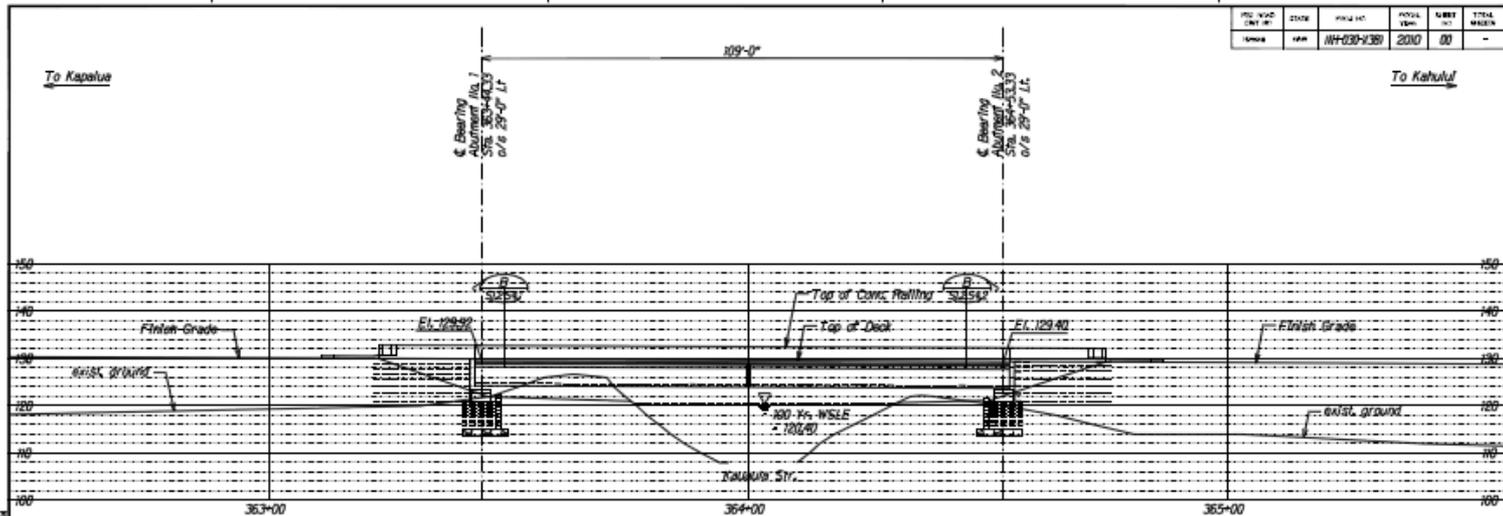
SHEET NUMBER  
1  
of 10

ALTERNATE B





# Hawaii



FILE NO. & SHEET NO.	STATE	PROJECT NO.	FOCUS YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
10000	HI	NH-030-V-381	2010	00	-

LONGITUDINAL SECTION AT  $\phi$  BRIDGE  
Scale 1"=10'-0"



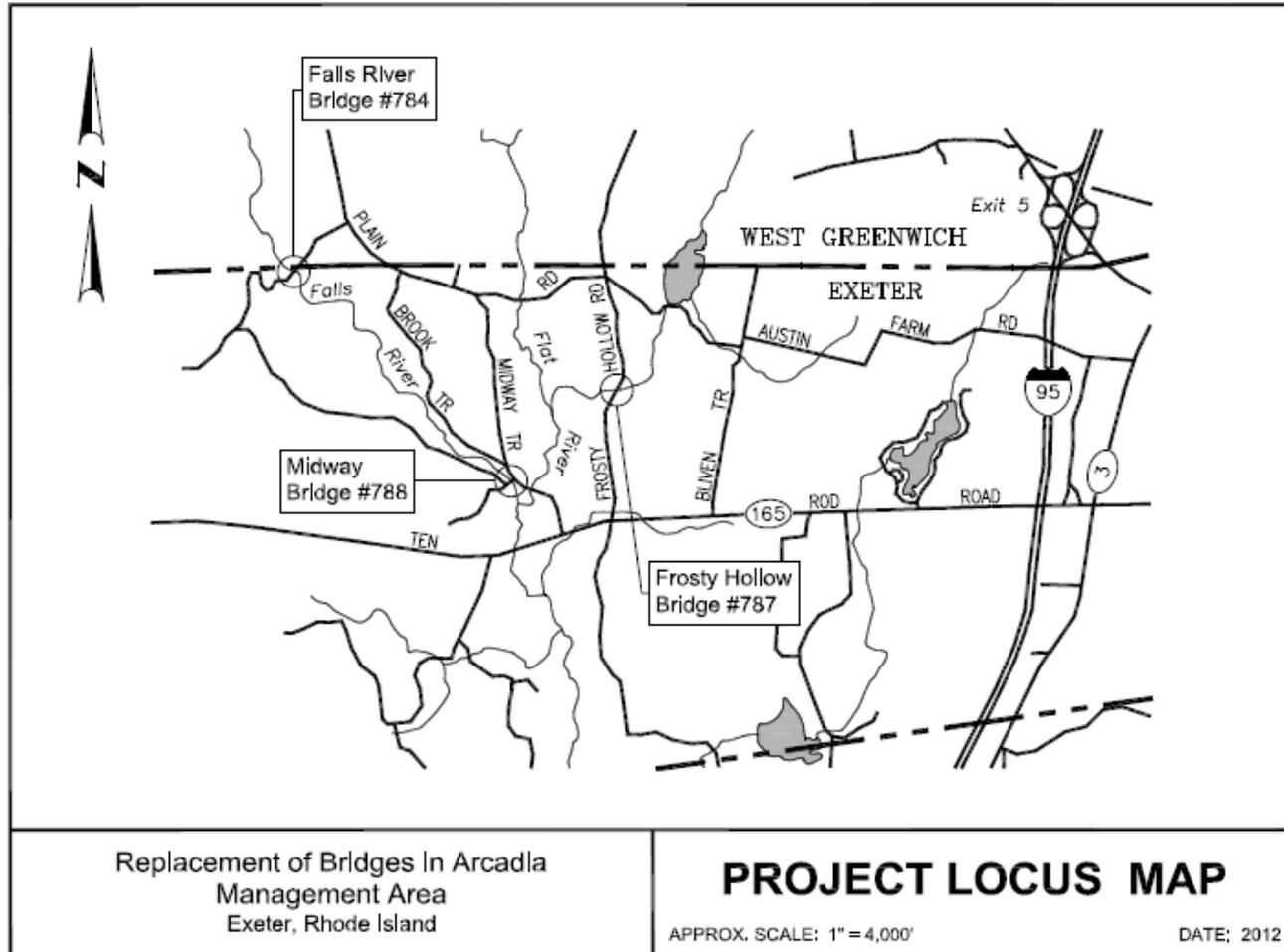
DATE	BY	CHECKED	APPROVED
08/22/2011	J. M. ...	J. M. ...	J. M. ...

**PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS**  
DATE: 08/01/2011

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
CONSTRUCTION DIVISION  
**LONGITUDINAL SECTION**  
HONOLULU HIGHWAY REIMBURSEMENT PHASE III:  
Lahaina Rd. to Hahaione Pl.  
Federal Aid Project No. NH-030-V-381  
Scale As Shown Date: Aug. 22, 2011  
19-BET No. 552 OF 552 SHEETS



# Rhode Island Project





# Midway Bridge





# Frosty Hollow Bridge



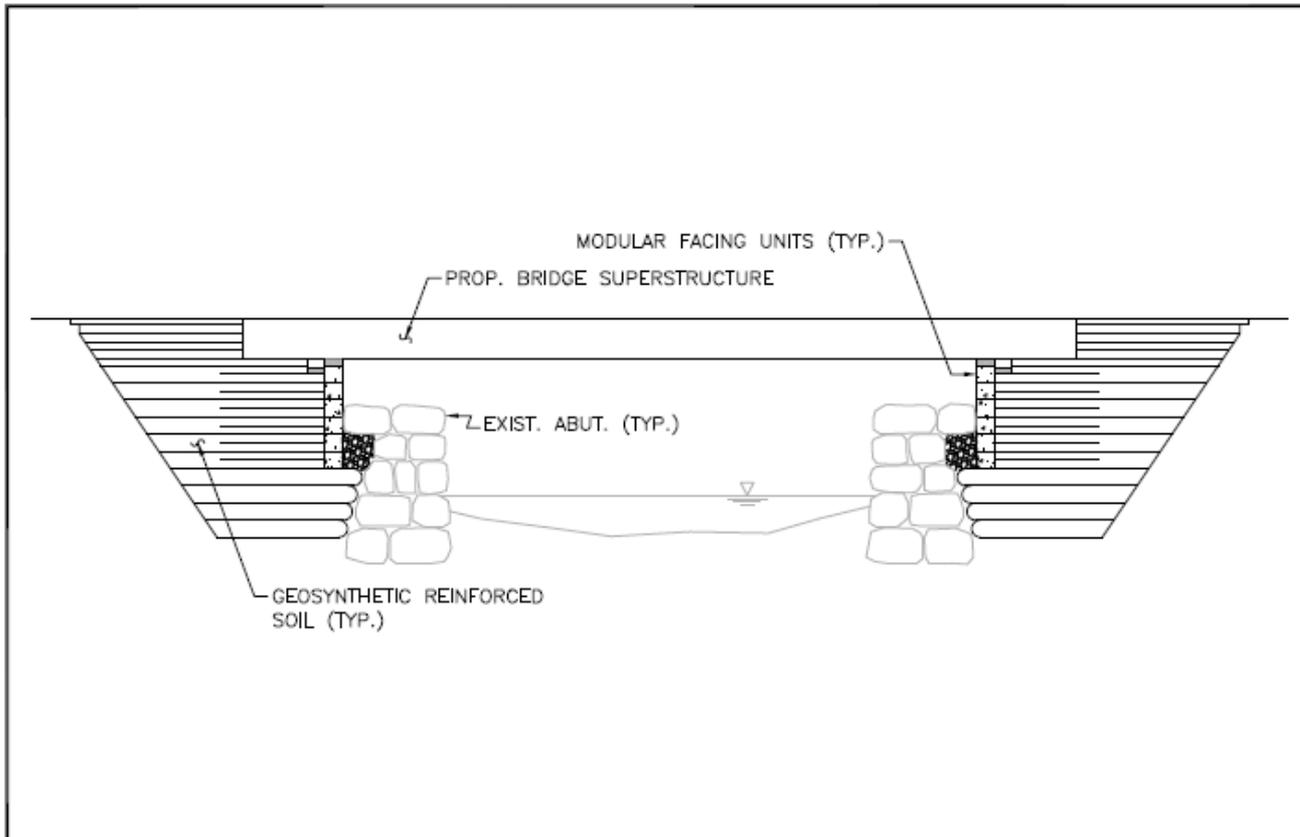


# Falls River Bridge





# Conceptual Longitudinal Section



Replacement of Bridges In Arcadia  
Management Area  
Exeter, Rhode Island

## CONCEPTUAL LONGITUDINAL SECTION

NOT TO SCALE

DATE: 2012



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

