



April 25, 2025

# **LRFD Foundation Design within Texas Roadway Projects**

**Coordination, Investigation, Calculation, and Plan Presentation**

**Edward Galbavy**

**TxDOT Bridge Division**

**Field Ops / Geotechnical Branch**

## TxDOT Bridge Geotech Branch

- Standards, Specifications, Contracts, Review, Recommendations, Research
- Bridge Foundation Design
- Retaining Wall Management & Design
- Slopes and Embankments
- Culverts and Scour
- Preliminary design, construction, monitoring, maintenance, and repair
- Drilling, Testing and incorp. into Statewide Geotechnical Digital Data Management



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## **BACKGROUND – Thinking Geotechnically**

## Engineering is overcoming challenges

Why do highway and interstate construction projects appear to last so long?



Construction widening the I-66 in Virginia. Gerald Martineau/The Washington Post via Getty Images

# Engineering is overcoming challenges

**Why do highway and interstate construction projects appear to last so long?**

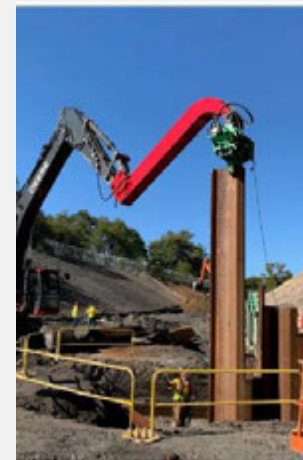
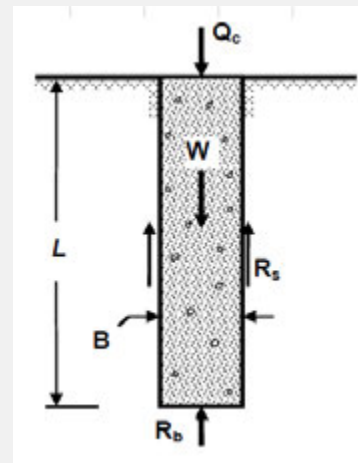
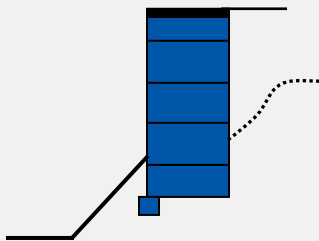
- Availability of labor and materials
- Budget of owners
- Traffic Control and regional coordination
  - Weather and accidents
  - Unforeseen geologic conditions
  - etc.
- Unbelievable growth of Texas metro areas



Construction widening the I-66 in Virginia. Gerald Martineau/The Washington Post via Getty Images

# Geotechnical Engineering

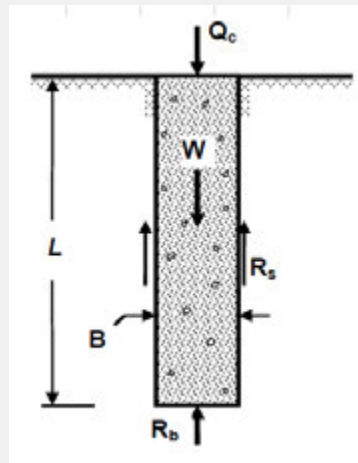
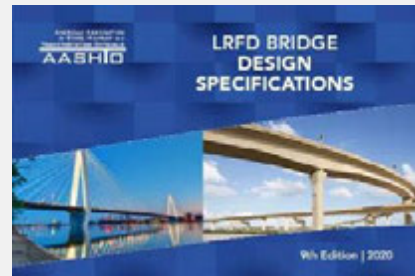
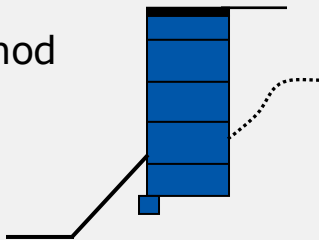
How do we design the best suitable TxDOT foundation?



# Geotechnical Engineering

How do we design the best suitable TxDOT foundation?

- Use available resources (Geotechnical Manual, AASHTO 9<sup>th</sup> Edition LRFD, *etc.*)
- Use best investigation/boring information, survey, H&H, bridge layout and loading
- Use critical thinking and engineering judgment for resistance and reactions to the loading
- Uncertainty (or FOS) through method resistance factors

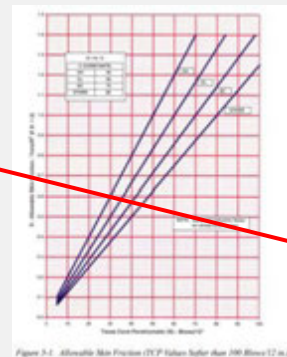
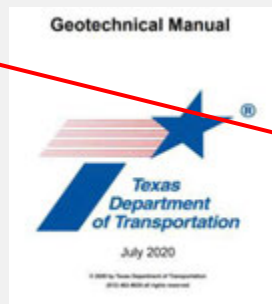




# Then and Now

How do we design the best suitable TxDOT foundation?

- TCP Investigations and Wincore Capacity no longer approved
- **Consultant community** have been designing to LRFD foundation specifications long before TxDOT implementation
- Seek out assistance from BRG-Geotech when reviewing projects and designs
- This presentation provides an overview of process, calculations, and deliverables expected



WinCore Program (C:\Program Files (x86)\TxDOT\WinCore\Examples\Galveston 2003 Drilling.CLG)

Options Print

Project Data

Hole Input Strata Input TCP Input TAT Input

County: Galveston

Highway No.: IH 45

Control - Section - Job: 000-1-117

District: Houston

Project Description:

Structure: Galveston Bay Causeway

Prepared:

Reviewed:

Input Units: SI (Metric) English

Output Units: SI (Metric) English

Foundation Design

Hole No.: 8

Top Hole Elev.: 0

Foundation Size (in): 36

Foundation Load (tons): 81

Disregard to (ft): -10

Friction Limit (tsf): 1.25

Friction Plots: Mohr Plots

Point Bearing: Capacity

Foundation Type: ☒ Piling ☐ Drilled Shaft

Geometry: ☒ Round ☐ Square


Analysis Options: ☒ TCP Only ☐ TAT Preferred ☐ Use Maximum ☐ Use Minimum ☐ Use TCP/TAT Average

Strata 10 density less than 100 pcf detected  
Strata 3 density less than 100 pcf detected  
Strata 8 density less than 100 pcf detected

Below Design Depth (ft)	Factor	TCP N Value	TCP Unit Friction (TSF)	Accum. Friction (T/F)
0 OTHER	80	0	0	0
6 CL	60	7	0.08	0
14 CL	60	17	0.2	0.65
21 OTHER	80	10	0.09	2.04

## **Steps to LRFD Design (Foundations) - Basics**

# TxDOT INTERNAL ONLY – Design Request Form (2627)



**INFORMATION SHEET FOR GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN**

Form 2627  
(Rev. 3/25)  
Page 1 of 4

County:  D/D:

CSJ:  Project:

NBI No.:  Roadway:

Feature Crossed:

Letting Date:  Target Date:  Ready-To-Let (RTL) Date:

Emergency Project Number:  Target Date of Emergency Repair:

Contact Name:  Date:  Phone Number:

[Contact/Help](#)

## Project Scope (Baseline)

[Remove Boring Request if not needed](#)

## Boring Request

### Project Information

- Geotechnical Design:

LRFD (2024 Geotech Manual) ☐ TCP (Legacy) ☐

[Remove Foundation Design/Evaluation if not needed](#)

## Foundation Design/Evaluation

### Foundation Design/Evaluation Information

Are the bridge layouts available? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If NO, please provide the date when they will be available:

- Foundation Preferred: Concrete Piling: ☐ Drilled Shaft: ☐  
Steel H Piling: ☐ Other: ☐ Please describe:

- Loading at the Foundations:  
(provide Strength I load case for LRFD design or Service I load for TCP legacy design)

Abutment 1	<input type="text"/>	Axial	<input type="text"/>	Lateral	<input type="text"/>
Abutment #	<input type="text"/>	Axial	<input type="text"/>	Lateral	<input type="text"/>
Bent: #	<input type="text"/>	Axial	<input type="text"/>	Lateral	<input type="text"/>
Bent: #	<input type="text"/>	Axial	<input type="text"/>	Lateral	<input type="text"/>

Complex nonstandard bridges require more extensive load analysis to be forwarded.

- Provide any settlement tolerance criteria, acceptable deflection at top of shaft/pile, structural constraints to loading and moment, etc. :

## TxDOT INTERNAL ONLY – Design Request Form (2627)

- Foundation Preferred: Concrete Piling: ☐ Drilled Shaft: ☒  
Steel H Piling: ☐ Other: ☐ Please describe: 24" Dia. DS for Abutments and Bents

- Loading at the Foundations:  
(provide Strength I load case for LRFD design or Service I load for TCP legacy design)

Abutment 1	Axial	110 tons/shaft	Lateral	
Abutment # 4	Axial	110 tons/shaft	Lateral	
Bent: # 2	Axial	156 tons/shaft	Lateral	<input type="button" value="+"/> <input type="button" value="-"/>
Bent: # 3	Axial	160 tons/shaft	Lateral	<input type="button" value="+"/> <input type="button" value="-"/>

Complex nonstandard bridges require more extensive load analysis to be forwarded.

- Provide any settlement tolerance criteria, acceptable deflection at top of shaft/pile, structural constraints to loading and moment, etc. :

Top of shaft settlement tolerance 1", Bent column height potential to up to 25 to 30ft, shear and moment will be provided separately for lateral analysis.

- Are there any unique circumstances that need to be addressed (utilities, existing foundations, railroad ROW, etc)

Existing foundation due to bridge replacement.

Has a scour evaluation been completed? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

*'HL93' in Loading would indicate to use the Foundation load sheets*

*Include thoughts on service level criteria, and potential non-standard loading conditions*

# Geotech Manual Framework

Chapter 5 – Foundation Design

Section 1 – Design Methodology

## Design Process

Typical design steps are as follows:

1. Establish design requirements for layout/geometry, loading, scour depths, tolerance to settlement (see recommendations above) and other service deformation/deflection
2. Determine depth of scour and hydraulic requirements of the structure in coordination with the hydraulic engineer
3. Conduct geotechnical investigation (see Chapters 2, 3, and 4)
4. Select most appropriate foundation type and shaft/pile diameter(s) in coordination with structure designer
5. Evaluate need for permanent casing at individual foundations
6. Calculate nominal (unfactored) resistance of single drilled shafts or static compressive resistance (for piles) as a function of depth
7. Apply resistance factors to nominal axial resistance for strength and extreme limit states. Driven piles require additional resistance factors to be used during dynamic analysis based on field method to be used for pile acceptance (e.g., Hammer Formulas, wave equation, high strain dynamic load testing, etc.)
8. Conduct more extensive, nonstandard design required if deemed from subsurface conditions, bridge geometry, lateral loading, or service level criteria:
  - a. Estimate downdrag potential and downdrag loads

## Info Needed:

- Prelim Bridge Layout, Loading
- H&H Report w/ Scour (if over water)
- Geotechnical Data Report
  - Boring Logs
  - In situ and lab testing
- Resistance methods based on material properties, disregard based on many 'factors' (scour, construction, anticipated soils, etc.)
- Coordination with structural on lateral, service level, potential nonstandard conditions..

## Investigation - Texas Geology

Foundations placed on earth, walls retaining earth

- State is very diverse
- Soils: Clays, Sands, Gravel, Muck, Fill, etc.
- Bedrock: Everything
  - Sedimentary (limestone/shale)
  - Igneous (granite/basalt)
  - Metamorphic (schist/gneiss)
- 254 Counties within 25 TxDOT Districts



## Investigations - Geotech Manual, Ch 2, Sec 1, Boring Spacing

- 2 min, 100' from center bent, 50' from any monoshfts, 300' spacing (max)

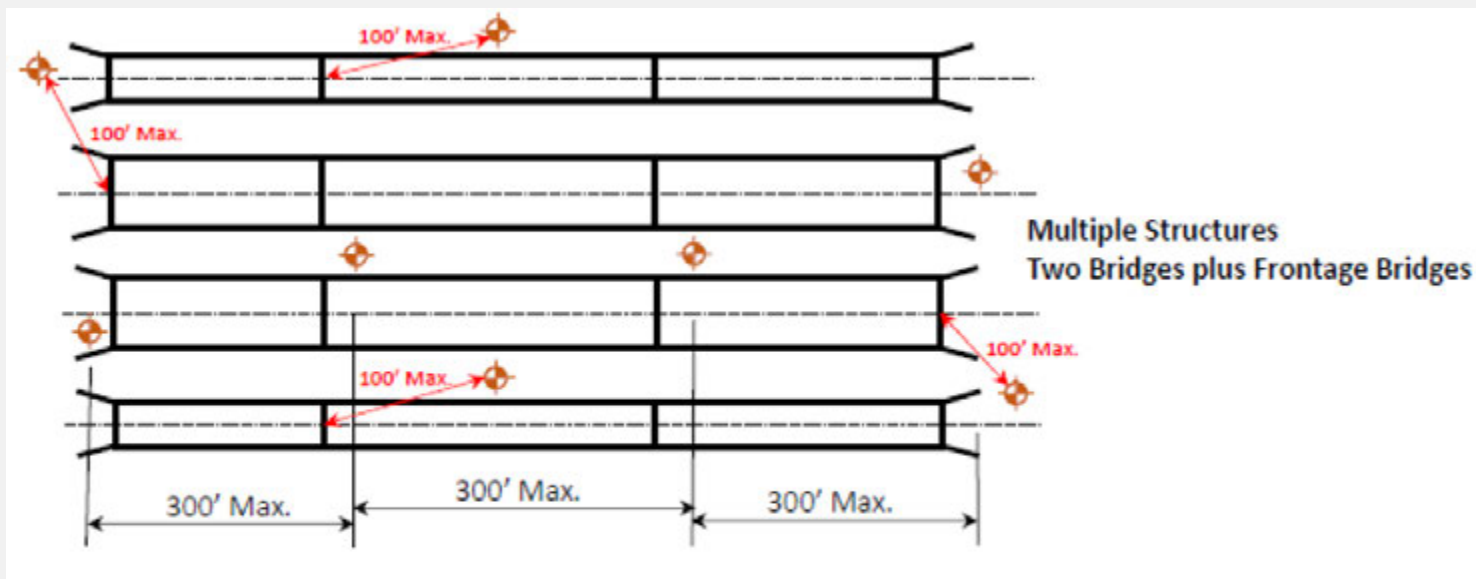
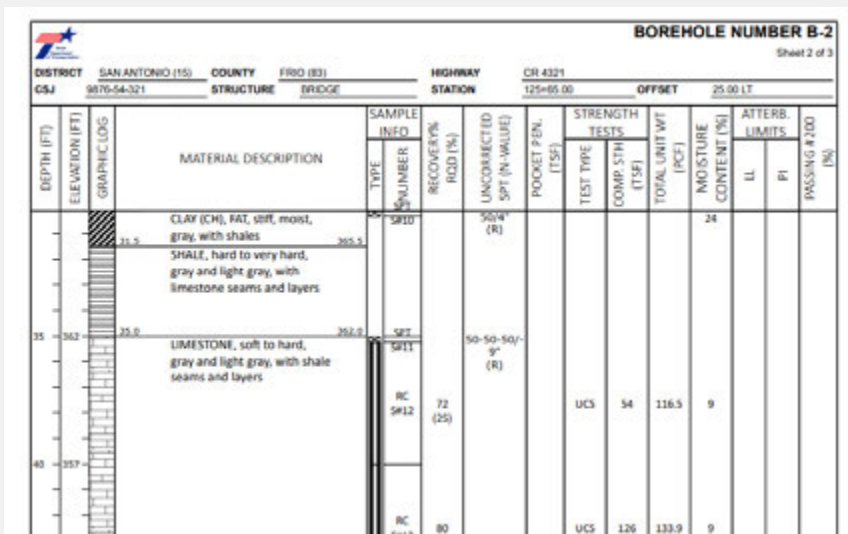


Figure 2-1. Minimum number of test holes for common types of structures

## Geotechnical Data Collection (Logs and Labs)

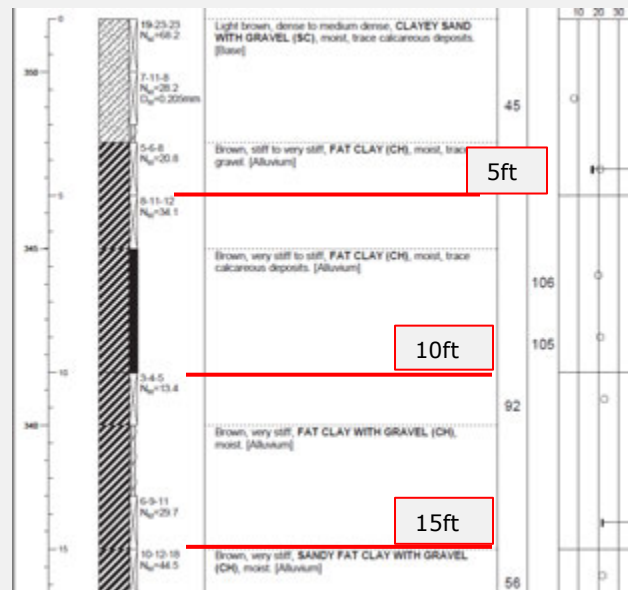
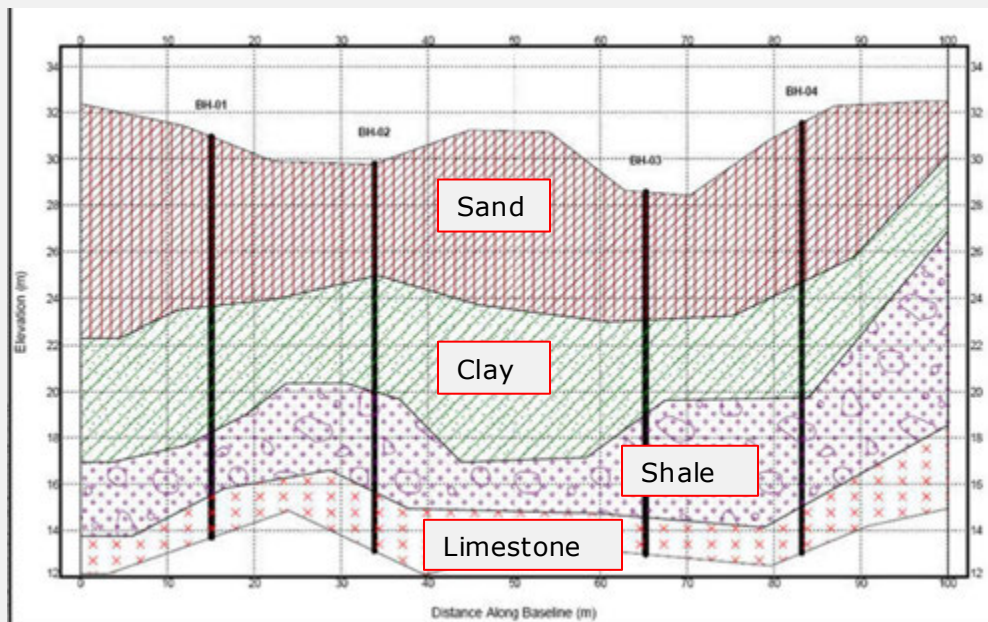
- Data Report and Log/Lab requirements in Manual and/or (past data webinar)
- <https://www.txdot.gov/business/resources/highway/bridge/webinar-presentations.html>





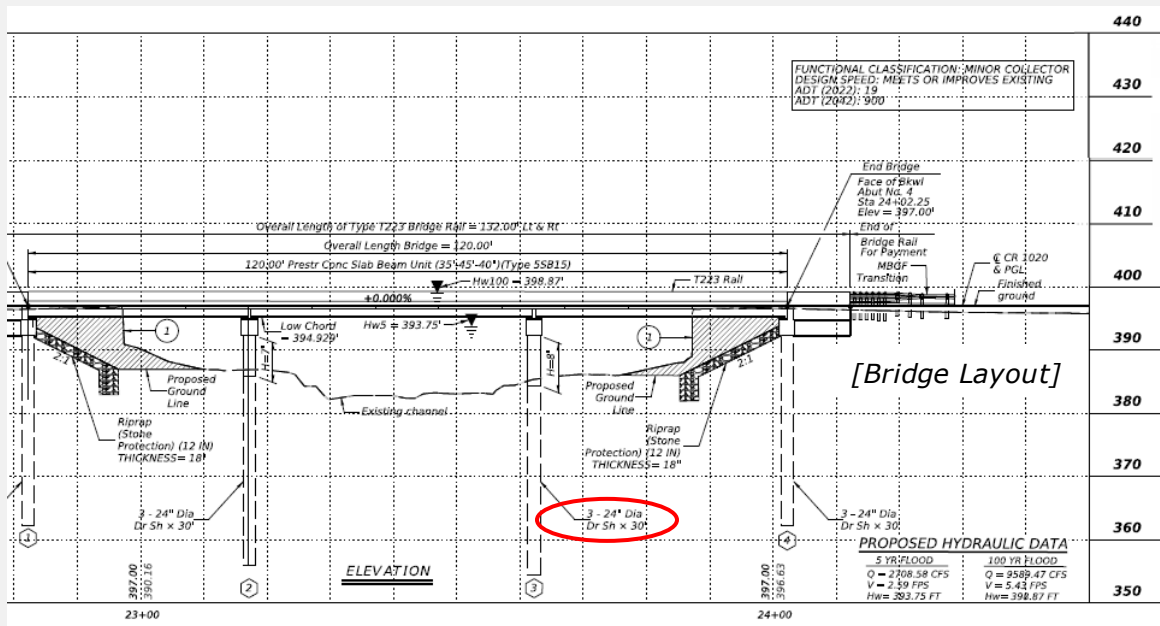
# Engineering Subsurface Units or 5ft (or smaller) Intervals

- Understand that either will arrive at accurate design

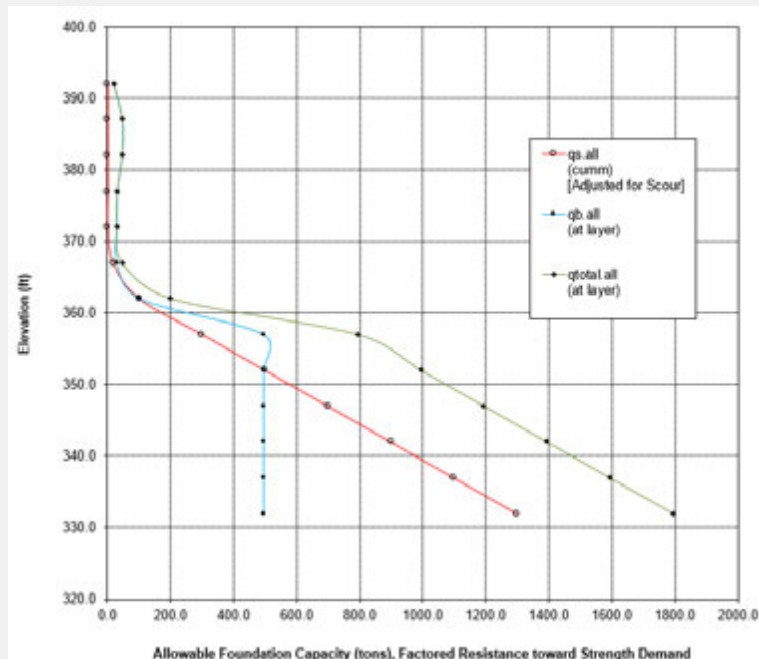


## Trial Length (used to check resistance)

- Disregard Depth & **Initial** Tip Elevations = Conservative
- Re-evaluate depths/elevations when optimizing



## Resistance w/ Depth (*example*)



Sand and Clay Methods

Shale/IGM Methods

Solid/intact Bedrock Methods

### LRFD Equation

$$\eta(\Sigma\gamma_{DL}DL + \Sigma\gamma_{LL}LL) \leq \phi R_n$$

- $\eta$  = Load modifier applied to all loads
- $\gamma_{DL}$  = Load factor applied to dead loads
- $\gamma_{LL}$  = Load factor applied to live loads
- DL = Dead load
- LL = Live load
- $\phi$  = Resistance factor
- $R_n$  = Nominal resistance of the element under consideration

## Soils – Driven Piles

- $\alpha$ -method (clays)..from  $S_u$

$$q_s = \alpha S_u \quad (10.7.3.8.6b-1)$$

where:

$S_u$  = undrained shear strength (ksf)  
 $\alpha$  = adhesion factor applied to  $S_u$  (dim)

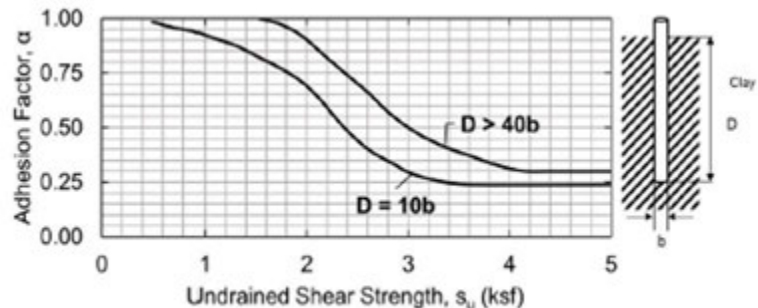


Figure 7-18 Adhesion factors for driven piles in clay (Tomlinson 1980).

$$R_R = \phi R_n = \phi_{stat} R_p + \phi_{stat} R_s \quad (10.7.3.8.6a-2)$$

Nordlund (sands)..from  $\phi$

$$q_s = K_\delta C_F \sigma'_v \frac{\sin(\delta + \omega)}{\cos \omega} \quad (10.7.3.8.6f-1)$$

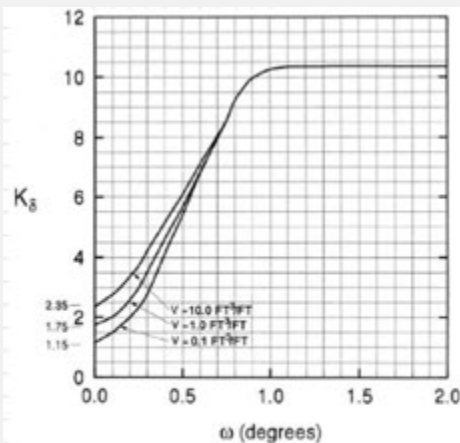


Figure 10.7.3.8.6f-3—Design Curve for Evaluating  $K_\delta$  for Piles where  $\phi = 35$  degrees (Hannigan et al., 2006 after Nordlund, 1979)

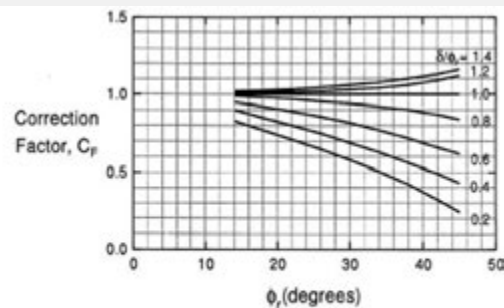


Figure 10.7.3.8.6f-5—Correction Factor for  $K_\delta$  where  $\delta = \phi$  (Hannigan et al., 2006 after Nordlund, 1979)

## Soils – Drilled Shafts

- $\alpha$ -method, total stress (clays)..from  $S_u$

$$q_s = \alpha S_u \quad (10.8.3.5.1b-1)$$

in which:

$$\alpha = 0.55 \text{ for } \frac{S_u}{P_a} \leq 1.5 \quad (10.8.3.5.1b-2)$$

$$q_p = N_c S_u \leq 80.0 \text{ ksf} \quad (10.8.3.5.1c-1)$$

in which:

$$N_c = 6 \left[ 1 + 0.2 \left( \frac{Z}{D} \right) \right] \leq 9 \quad (10.8.3.5.1c-2)$$

where:

$D$  = diameter of drilled shaft (ft)  
 $Z$  = penetration of shaft (ft)  
 $S_u$  = undrained shear strength (ksf)

$$R_R = \phi R_n = \phi_{qp} R_p + \phi_{qs} R_s \quad (10.8.3.5-1)$$

$\beta$ -method (sands)..from  $\phi$

$$q_s = \beta \sigma'_v \quad (10.8.3.5.2b-1)$$

in which:

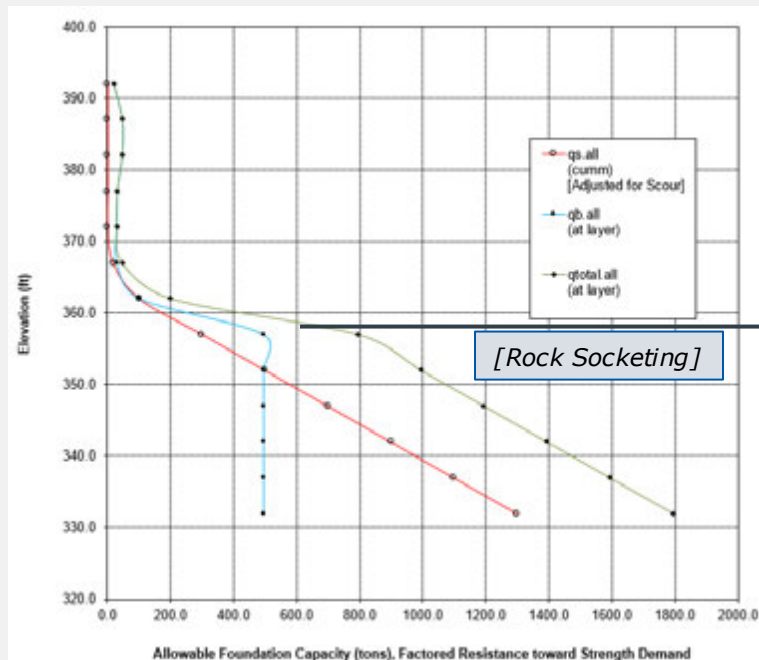
$$\beta = (1 - \sin \phi'_f) \left( \frac{\sigma'_p}{\sigma'_v} \right)^{\sin \phi'_f} \tan \phi'_f \quad (10.8.3.5.2b-2)$$

The correlation for effective soil friction angle for use in the above equations shall be taken as:

$$\phi'_f = 27.5 + 9.2 \log [(N_1)_{60}] \quad (10.8.3.5.2b-3)$$

$$\phi'_f = 0.9 * (27.5 + 9.2 \log [(N_1)_{60}])$$

## Resistance w/ Depth (*Rock Socketing, Shafts*)



Sand and Clay Methods

Shale/IGM Methods.. from SPT and/or  $q_u$

Solid/intact Bedrock Methods..from  $q_u$

For drilled shafts socketed into rock, unit side resistance,  $q_s$  in ksf, shall be taken as (Kulhawy et al., 2005):

$$\frac{q_s}{p_a} = C \sqrt{\frac{q_u}{p_a}} \quad (10.8.3.5.4b-1)$$

where:

- $p_a$  = atmospheric pressure taken as 2.12 ksf
- $C$  = regression coefficient taken as 1.0 for normal conditions
- $q_u$  = uniaxial compressive strength of rock (ksf)

$$q_p = 2.5q_u$$



## Solid and Intact Bedrock (Limestone)



*Vuggy and Porous*



*Moderately Weathered*

Combination of Rock Structure, surface quality/weathering, and discontinuities (joints, fractures, bedding), would trigger non-solid/intact resistance analysis



*Slightly Weathered (Indiana Core)*



*Non-Weathered, Fresh, Intact (Edwards Core)*

# Rock, jointed and fractured – Factor Down Resistance

**GEOLOGICAL STRENGTH INDEX FOR JOINTED ROCKS (Hoek and Marinos, 2000)**

From the lithology, structure and surface conditions of the discontinuities, estimate the average value of GSI. Do not try to be too precise. Quoting a range from 33 to 37 is more realistic than stating that GSI = 35. Note that the table does not apply to structurally controlled failures. Where weak planar structural planes are present in an unfavourable orientation with respect to the excavation face, these will dominate the rock mass behaviour. The shear strength of surfaces in rocks that are prone to deterioration as a result of changes in moisture content will be reduced if water is present. When working with rocks in the fair to very poor categories, a shift to the right may be made for wet conditions. Water pressure is dealt with by effective stress analysis.

STRUCTURE	DECREASING SURFACE QUALITY	VERY GOOD Very good, fresh unweathered surfaces	GOOD Rough, slightly weathered, iron stained surfaces	FAIR Smooth, moderately weathered and altered surfaces	POOR Slickensided, highly weathered surfaces with compact coatings or flings or angular fragments	VERY POOR Slickensided, highly weathered surfaces with soft clay coatings or flings
INTACT OR MASSIVE - intact rock specimens or massive in situ rock with few widely spaced discontinuities		80	70	60	50	40
BLOCKY - well interlocked undisturbed rock mass consisting of cubical blocks formed by three intersecting discontinuity sets		70	60	50	40	30
VERY BLOCKY - interlocked, partially disturbed mass with multi-faceted angular blocks formed by 4 or more joint sets		60	50	40	30	20
BLOCKY/DISTURBED/SEAMY - folded with angular blocks formed by many intersecting discontinuity sets. Persistence of bedding planes or schistosity		50	40	30	20	10
DISINTEGRATED - poorly interlocked, heavily broken rock mass with mixture of angular and rounded rock pieces		40	30	20	10	0
LAMINATED/SEALED - Lack of blockiness due to close spacing of weak schistosity or shear planes		30	20	10	0	0

Figure 10.4.6.4-1—Determination of GSI for Jointed Rock Mass (Hoek and Marinos, 2000)

## Jointed and Fractured Bedrock Methods ..from $q_u$ , RQD, GSI, 'core' inspection

$$\frac{q_s}{p_a} = 0.65 \alpha_E \sqrt{\frac{q_u}{p_a}} \quad (10.8.3.5.4b-2)$$

The joint modification factor,  $\alpha_E$  is given in Table 10.8.3.5.4b-1 based on RQD and visual inspection of joint surfaces.

Table 10.8.3.5.4b-1—Estimation of  $\alpha_E$  (O'Neill and Reese, 1999)

RQD (%)	Joint Modification Factor, $\alpha_E$	
	Closed Joints	Open or Gouge-Filled Joints
100	1.00	0.85
70	0.85	0.55
50	0.60	0.55
30	0.50	0.50
20	0.45	0.45

$$q_p = A + q_u \left[ m_b \left( \frac{A}{q_u} \right) + s \right]^n \quad (10.8.3.5.4c-2)$$

In which:

$$A = \sigma'_{vb} + q_u \left[ m_b \left( \frac{\sigma'_{vb}}{q_u} \right) + s \right]^n \quad (10.8.3.5.4c-3)$$

$$\frac{m_b}{m_i} = \exp \left( \frac{GSI - 100}{28} \right) \quad 10-25$$

$$s = \exp \left( \frac{GSI - 100}{9} \right) \quad 10-26$$

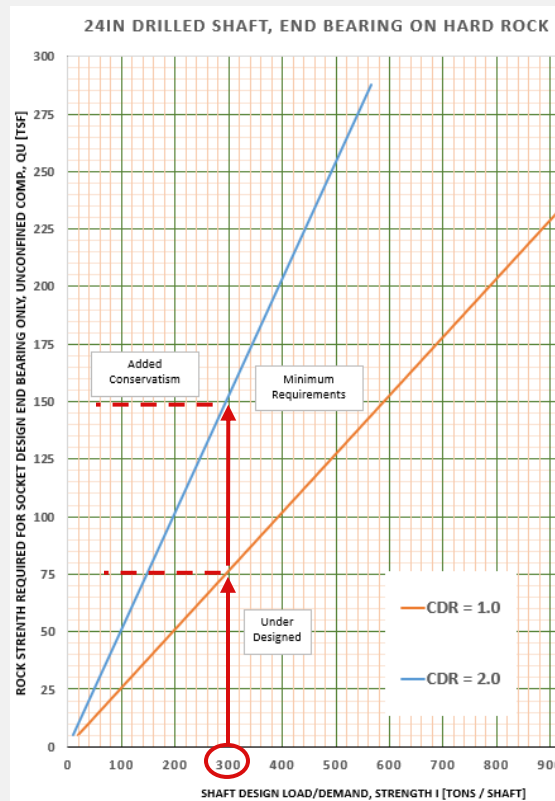
$$a = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} \left( e^{\frac{GSI - 100}{15}} - e^{\frac{GSI - 100}{30}} \right) \quad 10-27$$



## Rock Socketing Allows for Easier Decision Making

- Granted, hard/intact bedrock is logged
- Using *min* 24in shaft
- Min 2 x Dia. Embedded into rock
- Total Shaft Length 10ft or greater
- Reliable Rock Strength Results

End bearing only capacity &  
9<sup>th</sup> Ed. resistance factor (0.5)



## **LRFD Design (Foundations) – Resistance Factors**

# Resistance Factors

- Use default AASHTO 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. LRFD

10-50 AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS, NINTH EDITION, 2020

Table 10.5.5.2.4-1—Resistance Factors for Geotechnical Resistance of Drilled Shafts

Method/Soil/Condition			Resistance Factor
Nominal Axial Compressive Resistance of Single-Drilled Shafts, $\phi_{\text{shaft}}$	Side resistance in clay	$\alpha$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)	0.45
	Tip resistance in clay	Total Stress (Brown et al., 2010)	0.40
	Side resistance in sand	$\beta$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)	0.55
	Tip resistance in sand	Brown et al. (2010)	0.50
	Side resistance in cohesive IGMs	Brown et al. (2010)	0.60
	Tip resistance in cohesive IGMs	Brown et al. (2010)	0.55
	Side resistance in rock	Kulhawey et al. (2005) Brown et al. (2010)	0.55
	Side resistance in rock	Carter and Kulhawey (1988)	0.50
	Tip resistance in rock	Canadian Geotechnical Society (1985) Pressuremeter Method (Canadian Geotechnical Society 1985)	0.50

Table 10.5.5.2.3-1—Resistance Factors for Driven Piles

Condition/Resistance Determination Method		Resistance Factor
Nominal Bearing Resistance of Single Pile—Dynamic Analysis and Static Load Test Methods, $\phi_{\text{dyn}}$	Driving criteria established by successful static load test of at least one pile per site condition and dynamic testing* of at least two piles per site condition, but no less than 2% of the production piles	0.80
	Driving criteria established by successful static load test of at least one pile per site condition without dynamic testing	0.75
	Driving criteria established by dynamic testing* conducted on 100% of production piles	0.75
	Driving criteria established by dynamic testing*, quality control by dynamic testing* of at least two piles per site condition, but no less than 2% of the production piles	0.65
	Wave equation analysis, without pile dynamic measurements or load test but with field confirmation of hammer performance	0.50
	FHWA-modified Gates dynamic pile formula (End of Drive condition only)	0.40
	Engineering News (as defined in Article 10.7.3.8.5) dynamic pile formula (End of Drive condition only)	0.10
	Side Resistance and End Bearing: Clay and Mixed Soils $\alpha$ -method (Tomlinson, 1987; Skempton, 1951) $\beta$ -method (Esrig & Kirby, 1979; Skempton, 1951) $\lambda$ -method (Vijayvergiya & Focht, 1972; Skempton, 1951)	0.35 0.25 0.40
Nominal Bearing Resistance of Single Pile—Static Analysis Methods, $\phi_{\text{stat}}$	Side Resistance and End Bearing: Sand Nordlund/Thurman Method (Hannigan et al., 2005) SPT-method (Meyerhof)	0.45 0.30

## Resistance Factors (Upcoming)

- Future AASHTO code will force a **variable resistance factor** based on COV
- GEC No. 5 proposes limiting COV (<0.3)
- Incorporation of tools with past and current data set based on stratigraphic layers
- Managing geotechnical digital data

$$COV_{d-meas} = \frac{\sigma_{d-meas}}{\bar{y}_d} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_d} (y_i - \bar{y}_d)^2}{n_d - 1}}}{\bar{y}_d}$$

$$COV_{d-model} = \frac{\sigma_{d-model}}{\bar{y}_d} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n_d} \sum_{i=1}^{n_d} (y_i - \bar{y}_d)^2}}{\bar{y}_d}$$

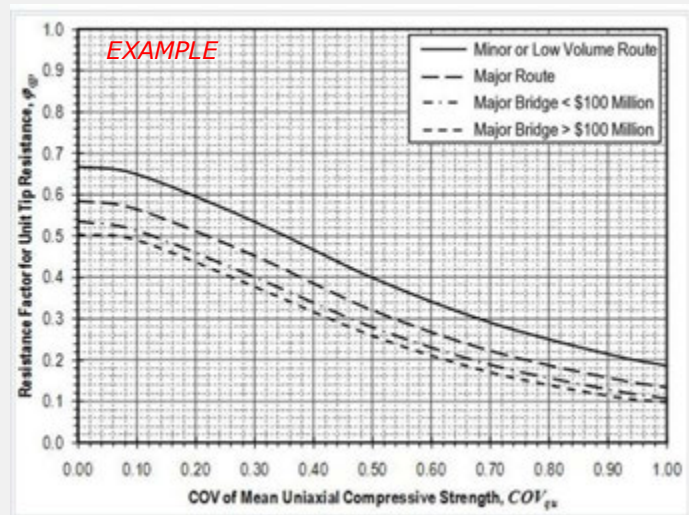
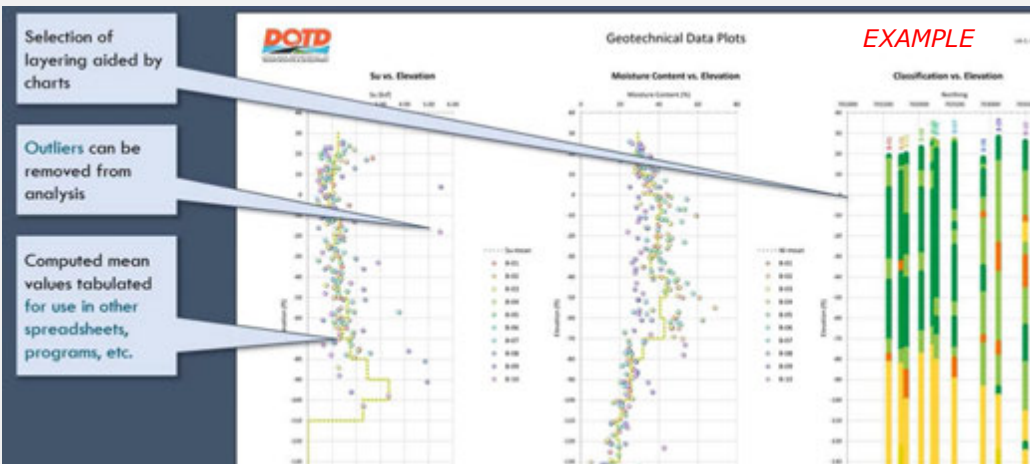
$$COV_{d-total} = \frac{\sigma_{d-total}}{\bar{y}_d} = \frac{\sqrt{\sigma_{d-meas}^2 + \sigma_{d-model}^2}}{\bar{y}_d}$$

From FHWA NHI-16-072 (GEC No. 5)

## Variable Resistance Factors

- GEC No. 5 proposes limiting COV (<0.3)
- COV ~ Amount of data and variability
- Managing geotechnical digital data

c/o LADOT



c/o MODOT

$$q_p = 2.5q_u$$

- $q_u$  = mean uniaxial compressive strength
- $q_p$  = nominal until tip resistance
- Factored (allowable) =  $\phi * q_p$

## **LRFD Design (Foundations) – Plan Presentation & FDN**

- Bridge Layout (sizes and lengths)
  - Layout notes, casing, etc.
- Boring Sheets
- Foundation Layout (*optional*)
- FD (standard) or Foundation Detail (if non-standard)
- Foundation Notes Sheet (FDN)



See Bridge Layout for drilled shaft lengths and test hole data.  
Designed according to AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.  
See Common Foundation Details (FD) standard sheets for  
foundation details and notes.  
See Foundation Notes sheet for more information on data used for  
foundation design.

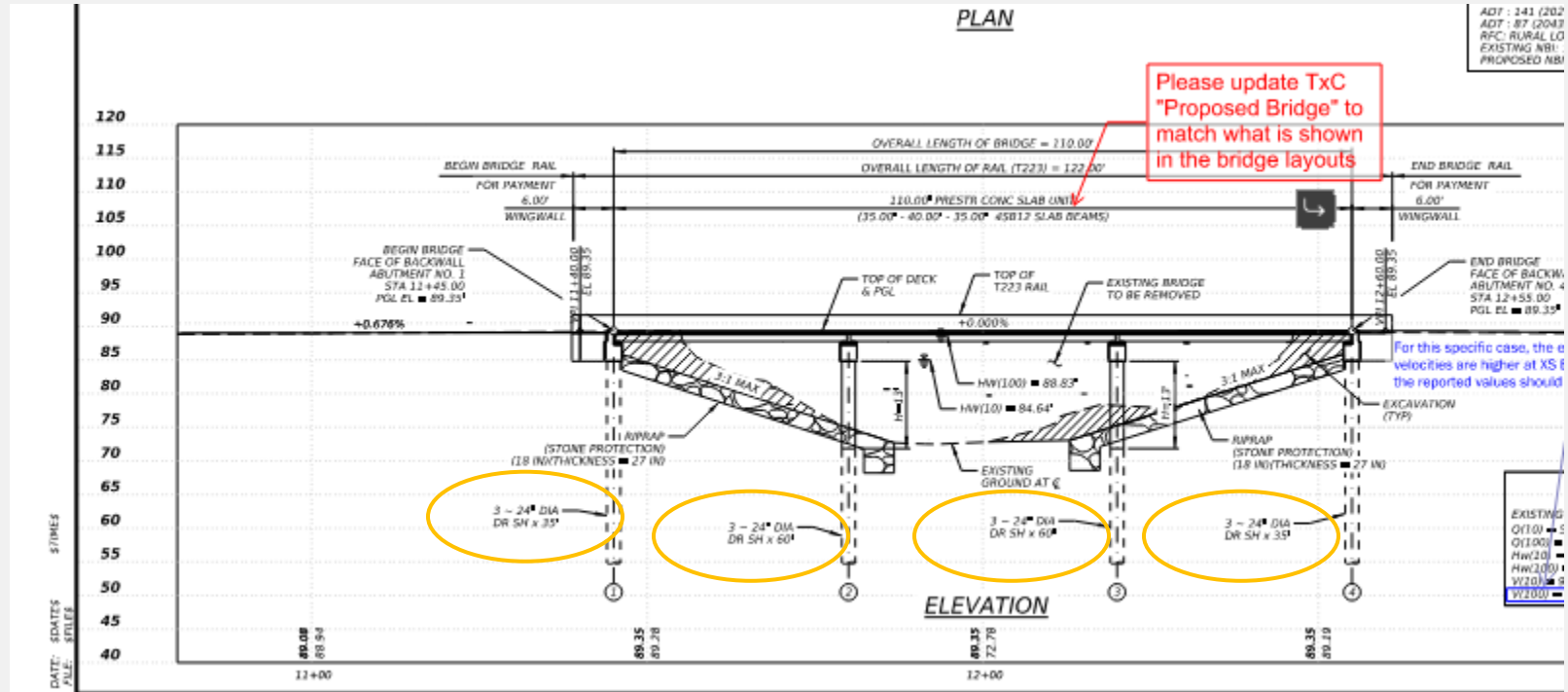


[Foundation Layout  
or Foundation Note Sheet]

FOUNDATION DESIGN DATA			
Abutments		Bents	
Load Case	= Strength I	Load Case	= Strength I
Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	= 81 Abut No. 1	Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	= 134 Bent No. 2
	= 87 Abut No. 4		= 146 Bent No. 3
Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	= 1.2 (clay)	Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	= 1.2 (clay)
	= 3.8 (shale, IGM)		= 3.8 (shale, IGM)
			11.6 (limestone, intact)
Friction Resistance Factor(s)	= 0.45 (clay)	Friction Resistance Factor(s)	= 0.45 (clay)
	= 0.7 (shale, IGM)		= 0.7 (shale, IGM)
			0.55 (limestone, intact)
Cumulative Factored Friction Resistance (tons/shaft)	99	Cumulative Factored Friction Resistance (tons/shaft)	299
Nominal Bearing Resistance (tons/square foot)	= 46	Nominal Bearing Resistance (tons/square foot)	= 315
Bearing Resistance Factor	= 0.7	Bearing Resistance Factor	= 0.5
Factored Bearing Resistance (tons/shaft)	= 101	Factored Bearing Resistance (tons/shaft)	= 495
<b>Additional Notes:</b> Design lengths based on skin friction or side resistance alone, and disregarding elevation to 383 feet.		<b>Additional Notes:</b> Design lengths based on skin friction or side resistance alone, and disregarding elevation to 372 feet.	

QA/QC

# 2025 PBLR – Submittal for Review- Bridge Layout





## QA/QC

33

QA/QC

## 2025 PBLR Submittal – FDN Sheet





***(request this if not included)***

***Should be produced while designing  
foundations***

# Foundation Notes Sheet

- QA/QC of LRFD Foundation Design
- Insight into design assumptions
- Stays with plans for future capacity evaluations

 <https://www.dot.state.tx.us/insdtdot/orgchart/cmd/cserve/standard/bridge-e.htm>

10-24	CSAB	Carrier Stabilized Abutment Backfill	 <a href="#">MS-CSAB-24.dgn</a>
10-24	FD	Common Foundation Details	 <a href="#">MS-FD-24.dgn</a>
10-24	FDN	Foundation Notes	 <a href="#">MS-FDN-24.dgn</a>
10-24	MFRR(S)	Min Friction & Bearing Rat (Steel Girders & Rmc)	 <a href="#">MS-MFRR(S)-24.dgn</a>

Note to Designer

Expand and Edit based on individual bridge design

FOUNDATION DESIGN DATA					
Abutments			Bents		
Load Case	Strength 1	Abut No. 1	Load Case	Strength 1	Bent No.
Allow Foundation Loads (lb/sqft, kips/ft)		Abut No.	Allow Foundation Loads (lb/sqft, kips/ft)		Bent No.
Nominal Friction Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)	soil type		Nominal Friction Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)	soil type	
Friction Resistance Factor	soil type		Friction Resistance Factor	soil type	
Cumulative Factor Friction Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)			Cumulative Factor Friction Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)		
Nominal Bearing Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)			Nominal Bearing Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)		
Bearing Resistance Factor			Bearing Resistance Factor		
Factored Bearing Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)			Factored Bearing Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)		
Additional Notes (design basis and depth neglected)			Additional Notes (design basis and depth neglected)		

Single FDN Sheet for each bridge


Only include if using Driven Pile Foundations [this additional info is for Inspector during dynamic installation] : Nominal Driving Resistance ( $R_{ndr}$ ), after static designed factored resistance (above) accounts for the scour zone, that would be in place during installation.

DRIVEN PILE RESISTANCE					
Abutment / Bent No.	Pile Size (in)	Pile Type (Material, Shape)	Controlling Design Case	Factored Structural Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)	Nominal Static Resistance (lb/sqft, kips/ft)
			Strength 1		
			Strength 2		
			Strength 3		
			Strength 4		

**NOTE TO DESIGNER:**  
This sheet is to be used to convey the foundation design intent. It is to be filled out by the foundation designer and provides design assumptions for drilled shafts or driven piles. The standard tables, Foundation Load Tables for Designers, information are provided to assist in filling out the tables.  
To complete this sheet, input the foundation design data into the table. This sheet cannot be used without modification and in all cases notes not required must be removed. This note and the above Note to be used as a standard must be removed and the sheet must be signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer.  
Complete the Driven Pile Resistance Table and include when using other allowable bearing resistance in accordance with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Manual.  
This sheet may be combined with a Foundation Layout. After the data is in the Foundation Layout and Notes, Remove the standard name, FDN.  
The Foundation Design Data table may be altered by setting 1. lateral loads before and after, when applicable 2. additional columns or rows to combine the design data over the length of the bridge.  
At a minimum, the Additional Notes should describe the basis of design and the depth neglected for the design. For example, "Design strength based on code resistance ( $R_{ndr}$ ) - Residual stress and displacement in operation of 100 kips".

**GENERAL NOTES:**  
1. Design and construct in accordance with design specifications.  
2. See Bridge Layout for header stage and foundation type, size and location.  
3. Refer to Foundation Design Data table for all foundation details and notes.

**HELP LOADING**

 **FOUNDATION NOTES**  
(Not to be used as a standard)

**FDN**

# Foundation Notes Sheet – Design Data - Shafts

Loading from Structural or Foundation Load Sheets (axial)

Unit side resistance (skin friction) layer by layer (nominal) & Resistance Factors

Factored (allowable) total side (skin) friction after accounting for scour and shaft size

End (base) resistance layer (nominal), Resistance Factor, and total (allowable)

Notes: To clarify disregard, scour assumptions, bedrock socketing layer, and other important design assumptions.

FOUNDATION DESIGN DATA					
Abutments			Bents		
Load Case	Strength I		Load Case	Strength I	
Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	81	Abut No. 1	Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	134	Bent No. 2
	87	Abut No. 4		146	Bent No. 3
Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	1.2	(clay)	Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	1.2	(clay)
	3.8	(shale, IGM)		3.8	(shale, IGM)
				11.6	(limestone, intact)
Friction Resistance Factor(s)	0.45	(clay)	Friction Resistance Factor(s)	0.45	(clay)
	0.7	(shale, IGM)		0.7	(shale, IGM)
				0.55	(limestone, intact)
Cumulative Factored Friction Resistance (tons/shaft)	99		Cumulative Factored Friction Resistance (tons/shaft)	299	
Nominal Bearing Resistance (tons/square foot)	46		Nominal Bearing Resistance (tons/square foot)	315	
Bearing Resistance Factor	0.7		Bearing Resistance Factor	0.5	
Factored Bearing Resistance (tons/shaft)	101		Factored Bearing Resistance (tons/shaft)	495	
Additional Notes: Design lengths based on side resistance (skin friction) alone, and disregarding to an elevation of 383 feet.			Additional Notes: Design lengths based on side resistance (skin friction) alone, and disregarding to an elevation of 372 feet.		

# Foundation Notes Sheet

- There will be different design assumptions

FOUNDATION DESIGN DATA					
Abutments			Bents		
Load Case	Strength I		Load Case	Strength I	
Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	81	Abut No. 1	Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	134	Bent No. 2
	87	Abut No. 4		146	Bent No. 3
Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	1.2	(clay)	Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	1.2	(clay)
	3.8	(shale, IGM)		3.8	(shale, IGM)
				11.6	(limestone, intact)
Friction Resistance Factor(s)	0.45	(clay)	Friction Resistance Factor(s)	0.45	(clay)
	0.7	(shale, IGM)		0.7	(shale, IGM)
				0.55	(limestone, intact)
Cumulative Factored Friction Resistance (tons/shaft)	99		Cumulative Factored Friction Resistance (tons/shaft)	299	
Nominal Bearing Resistance (tons/square foot)	46		Nominal Bearing Resistance (tons/square foot)	315	
Bearing Resistance Factor	0.7		Bearing Resistance Factor	0.5	
Factored Bearing Resistance (tons/shaft)	101		Factored Bearing Resistance (tons/shaft)	495	
Additional Notes: Design lengths based on side resistance (skin friction) alone, and disregarding to an elevation of 383 feet.			Additional Notes: Design lengths based on side resistance (skin friction) alone, and disregarding to an elevation of 372 feet.		

## Skin Friction Alone

[Bearing information can be omitted, as N/A, Or kept for information purposes]

FOUNDATION DESIGN DATA			
Abutments			Bents (N/A)
Load Case	Strength I		
Axial Foundation Loads (tons/shaft)	110	Abut No. 1	
	120	Abut No. 2	
Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	N/A	(clay, sand)	
	6.3	(limestone, weak/jointed)	
Friction Resistance Factor(s)	0.55	(limestone, weak/jointed)	
Cumulative Factor Friction Resistance (tons/shaft)	110		
Nominal Bearing Resistance (tons/square foot)	149		
Bearing Resistance Factor	0.5		
Factored Bearing Resistance (tons/shaft)	235		
Additional Notes: Design lengths based on end bearing alone, and disregarding to top of bedrock elevation 337 ft. Shaft will be drilled at least 2 diameters into fractured limestone.			

## End Bearing Alone – Single Span Bridge

[Size of shaft on bridge layout, abutments, or bents, designing To different bearing layers shall expand down the data table]

## **Concerns & Next Steps**

## Other Limit State Checks

*[When coordinating with structural, bridge design]*

- Top of Shaft Service Settlement – Load Displacement Curves
- Extreme Event: Seismic, Scour at Check Flood, vessel and vehicle collision
- Strength/Structural Resistance (of concrete)..axial
- Strength/Shear-Moment Load for deformation (of concrete)..**lateral**
- Strength-Service Pushover and fixity depth (or entire pile/shaft)..**lateral**
- Service/Shear-Moment Load for deflection at top..**lateral**

## Other Concerns / Checks

- Group effects, multi-pile footing analysis
- Uplift pressure (swelling soils), and uplift resistance in multi-pile footing
- Dragload, downdrag (negative skin friction) when embankment surcharge
- Constructability & Cost
- Corrosion & Integrity

***Confidence during construction***



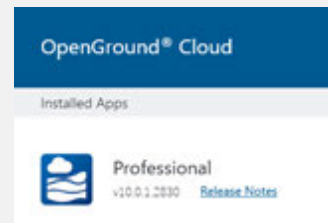


## Confidence of design results

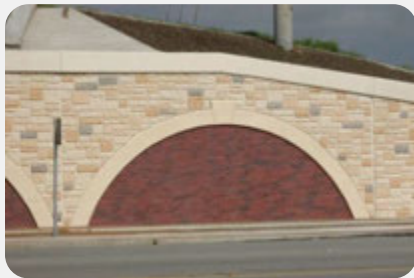
- [**Not Recommended for verification**] Comparison to capacity design with correlated SPT-to-TCP results
- [**BETTER**] Comparison to design with foundation programs (Ensoft SHAFT for shafts, Ensoft APILE for piles, **or similar program(s)**)
- [**BETTER**] Comparison to design with alternate material methods for resistance
- [**BEST**] Seek out BRG Geotechnical Assistance or Geotechnical Consultant

## Ongoing and Upcoming Research and Development

- RTI – Trust and Optimization of Hard Clay and Shale in LRFD Design Criteria
- Digital Data Collection and Databasing – following lead of other DOTs
  - Future AASHTO LRFD versions and variable resistance factors
- CPT and MWD for subsurface investigations
- Ancillary Structures Foundation Sheets in better compliance with LRFD and current investigation requirements
- Better and easier web and design tools for efficiency
- Lessons learned from design issues coming in now
- Geotech Manual and Standard Revisions



## Websites



- (BRIDGE Standards)
  - <https://www.dot.state.tx.us/insdtdot/orgchart/cmd/cserve/standard/bridge-e.htm>
- (DATA Drilling and Reporting)
  - <https://www.txdot.gov/business/resources/highway/bridge/webinar-presentations.html>
- (BRG Field Operations – Geotechnical)
  - <https://crossroads/divisions/brg/sections/field-operations-section.html>
- (2024 Geotechnical Manual – LRFD)
  - [https://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotonlinemanuals/txdotmanuals/geo/geo\\_lrfd.pdf](https://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotonlinemanuals/txdotmanuals/geo/geo_lrfd.pdf)

# **QUESTIONS?**

## **FOR ASSISTANCE**

***Please CONTACT:***

**Edward Galbavy, P.E.**

**Or any of the engineers w/in:**

***TxDOT Bridge Division -  
Geotechnical Branch***

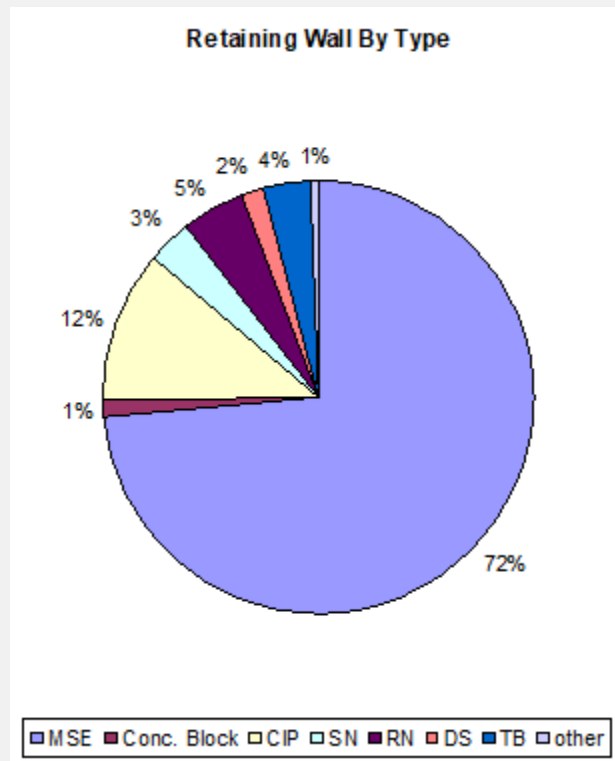


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## Texas DOT Retaining Walls

- By ft<sup>2</sup> of Exposed Wall..
- MSE (panel type) most dominant
- Pending formal inventory
- Temp. Special Shoring (mostly)
  - TEW
  - Soil Nail
  - Sheet Pile
  - Solider Pile w/ Lagging



# Retaining Wall Standard Revisions for LRFD

- Approved system vendors to submit new calculations to show compliance

**DESIGN CRITERIA NOTES:**  
 Design Full Parameters  
 Base design of retaining walls on the following design parameters unless stated elsewhere in the plans:

Assumed Soil	Unit Weight = 125 pcf $\phi = 30^\circ$ $C = 0$ psf
Foundation Soil	$\phi = 30^\circ$ $C = 0$ psf
Select Backfill	Unit Weight = Set (a) psf $\phi = 24^\circ$ $C = 0$ psf
Contract Stabilized Select Backfill	Unit Weight = 125 pcf $\phi = 45^\circ$ $C = 0$ psf

Limit stress in steel and concrete in accordance with with AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. The minimum length of earth reinforcement is as shown on the Mechanically Stabilized Earth Retaining Wall Design Data (RW(MSE)) standard.

**Load Parameters:**  
 Base design of retaining walls on the following load combinations and load factors in accordance with AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. All required checks should be complete as per the Strength Limit State.

LOAD TYPE	SYMBOL	STR/NOM/FT
Vertical Earth Load (EL)	$P_v$	1.05 1.00
Active Monoplane Earth Pressure (EM)	$P_a$	1.50 0.90
Earth Surcharge (ES)	$P_s$	1.20 0.75
Live Load Surcharge (LL)	$P_L$	1.75


**Stability Criteria:**  
 Stability criteria applies to both dry and drawdown analysis. Investigate MSE wall stability in accordance with AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications and the TxDOT Geotechnical Manual. Perform external stability checks at the Strength and Extreme Limit States. Perform internal stability including soil reinforcement pullout resistance, soil reinforcement tensile resistance, and face elements structural resistance at Strength and Extreme Limit States. Base design on the following resistance factors:

STABILITY MODE	RESISTANCE FACTOR
Sliding	2.00
Bearing	2.40
Pullout Resistance (Steel and Geosynthetic reinforcement)	0.90
Tensile Resistance (Steel strips reinforcement)	0.75
Tensile Resistance (Steel strip reinforcement)	0.60

Check maximum, minimum, and total extremes for the walls to identify critical loading. Neglect soil passive resistance from in front of the wall for sliding stability. Determine Capacity / Demand Ratio against sliding, limiting economy, bearing, and internal stability. If CDR is not greater than 1, revise the reinforcement length or other design parameters and repeat the process. Design the wall such that the base pressure resultant falls within the middle half of the retaining wall where  $e/B \leq 0.4$ . Determine pullout resistance from test data evaluated as per AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

**Construction Criteria:**  
 Design the earth reinforcement elements to have a minimum design life of 75 years, using current AASHTO corrosion rates. Perform stress calculations (rupture) on the calculated earth reinforcement section remaining after 75 years. Pullout calculations may be based on non-corroded section. Consider strength degradation and apply reduction factor for geosynthetic reinforcement as per AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

**SHEET 2 OF 2**



Texas Department of Transportation

Bridge Division  
Standard

## MECHANICALLY STABILIZED EARTH RETAINING WALL

### RW(MSE)

FILE: RW(MSE)25.dgn	DATE: TxDOT	BY: TxDOT	CHK: TxDOT
TxDOT	DATE: June 2025	CONT: SOCT	JOB: HIGHWAY
REVISIONS		DATE	COUNTY
		SHEET NO.	