

Development of a Continuous for Live Load Prefabricated Steel Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) Unit for Texas Bridges

**2024 Texas Steel Quality
Council Meeting**
November 12, 2024



TTI & CTIS Research Team:

Stefan Hurlebaus

Matthew Yarnold

John Mander

Petros Sideris

Kinsey Skillen

Jeffrey Weidner

Jiacai Guo

Joren Falcon

Gibran Cano

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Full-Scale Experimental Program
3. Computational Modeling
4. Parametric Study
5. Current Findings



1

INTRODUCTION

Project Goal & Objectives

Project Goal: Develop a bridge system where prefabricated steel ABC units perform continuous for live load.

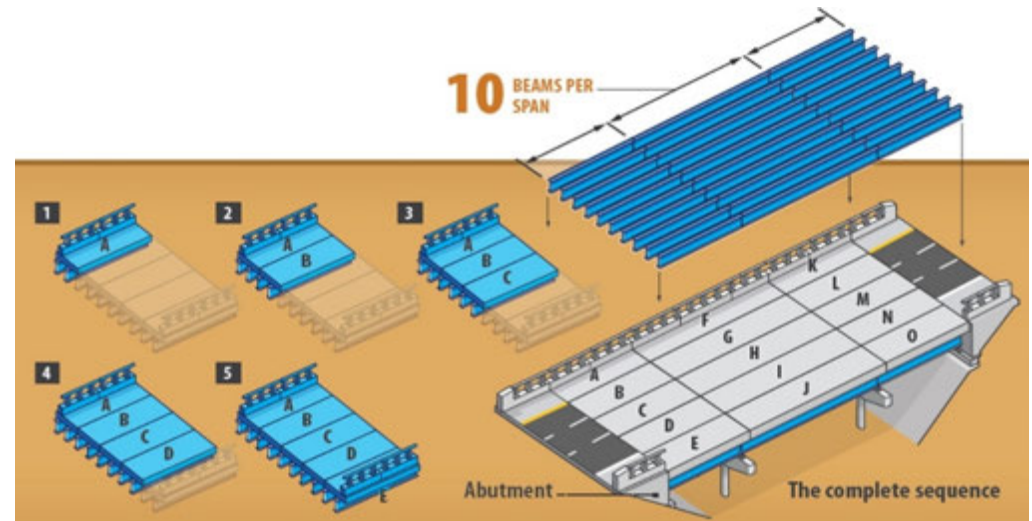
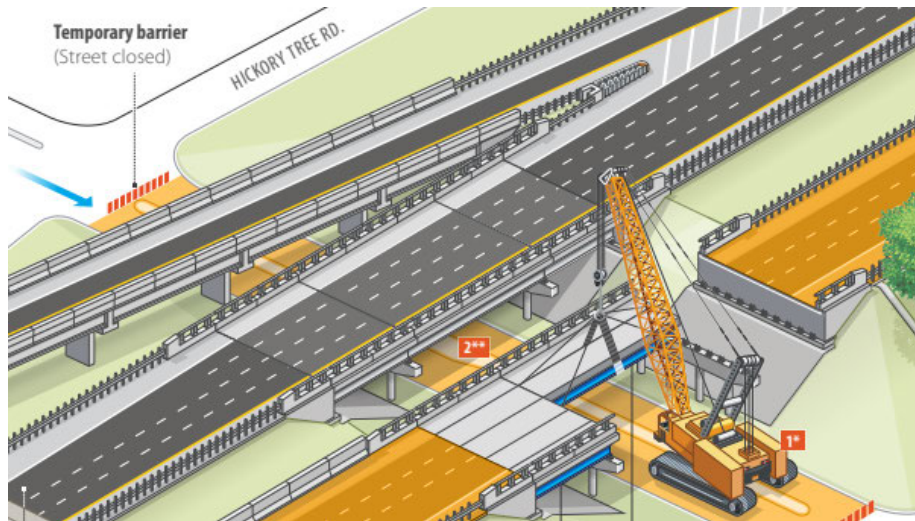
The objectives for this system are that it must be:

- Easily constructible
- Fast to assemble
- Durable long-term
- Safe
- Cost-effective

Research Background

IH 635 at Old Seagoville in Dallas, Texas

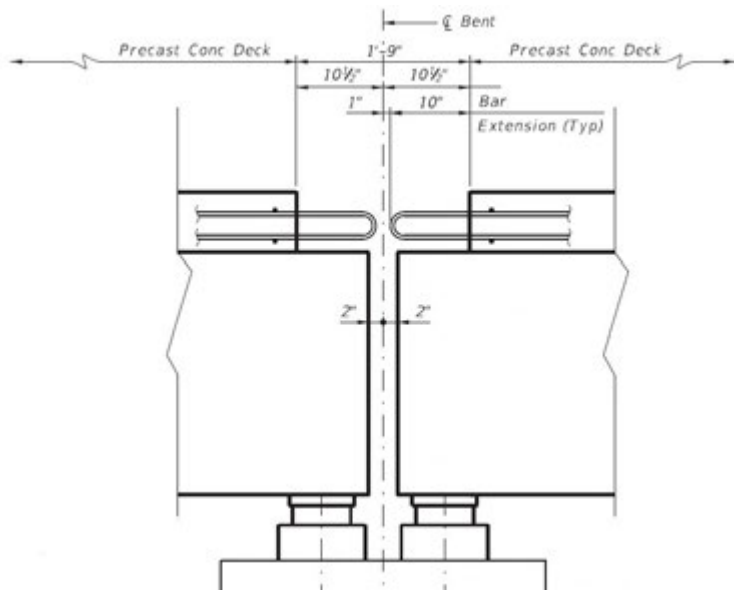
- Accelerated Bridge Construction



Research Background

IH 635 at Old Seagoville in Dallas, Texas

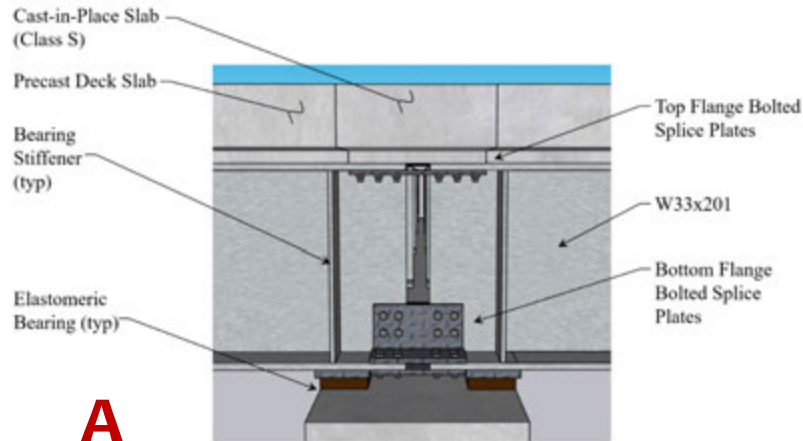
- Girder units simple span
- Continuous deck detail



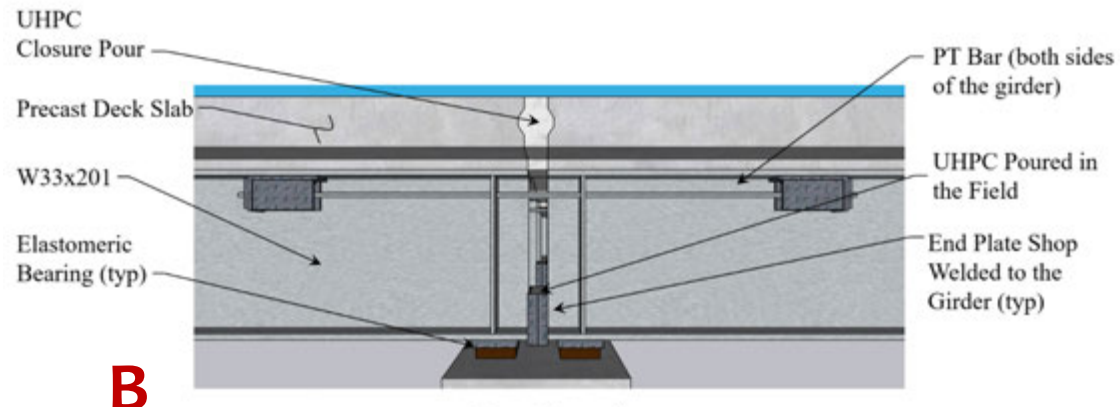
FULL-SCALE EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

1. Concept A
2. Concept B
3. Concept C
4. Concept D

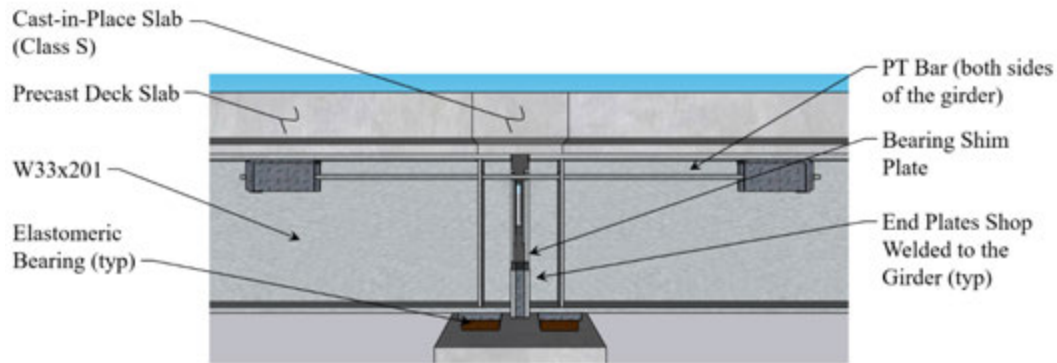
System Development



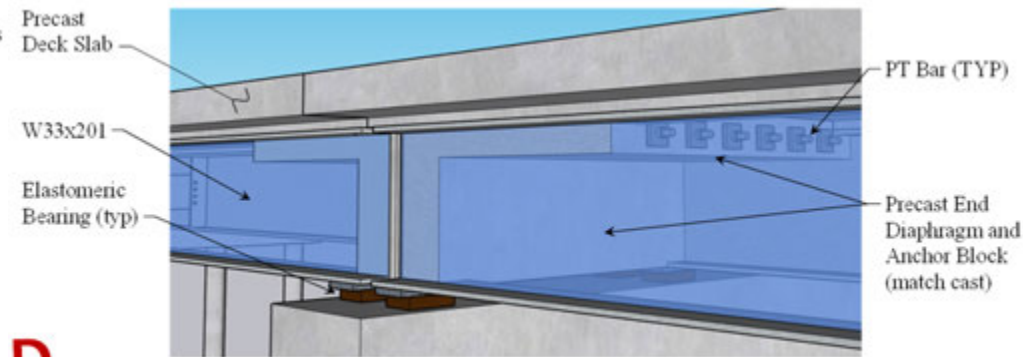
A
Bent Elevation



B
Bent Elevation



C
Bent Elevation

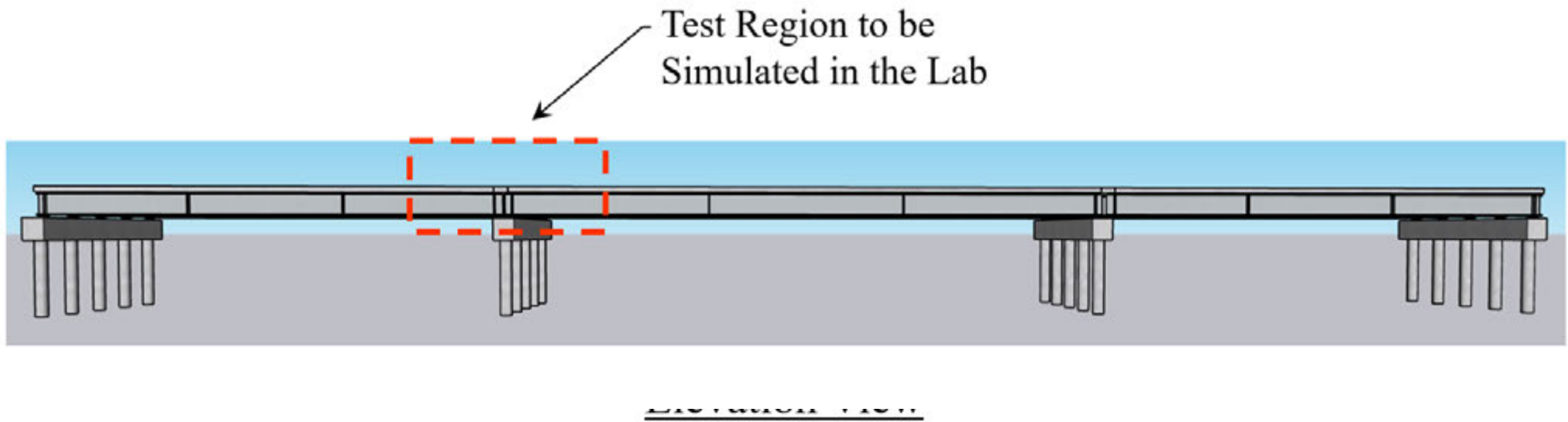


D
Bent Isometric View

Full-Scale Experimental Studies

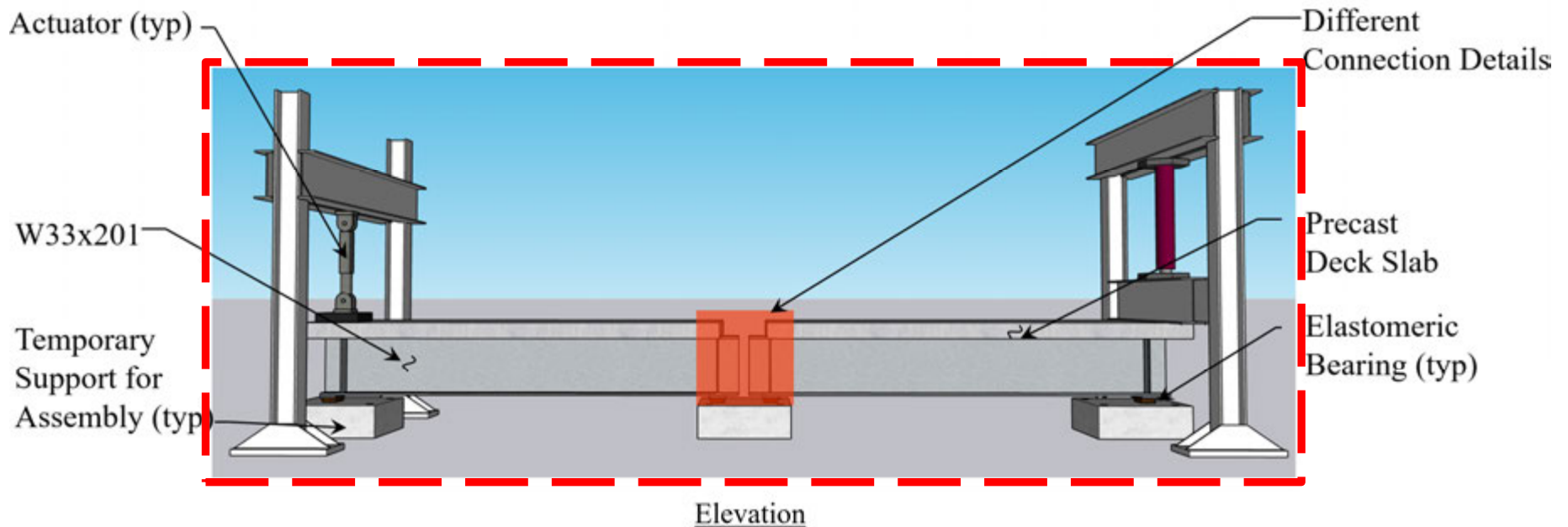
Approach

- Benchmark Bridge Design



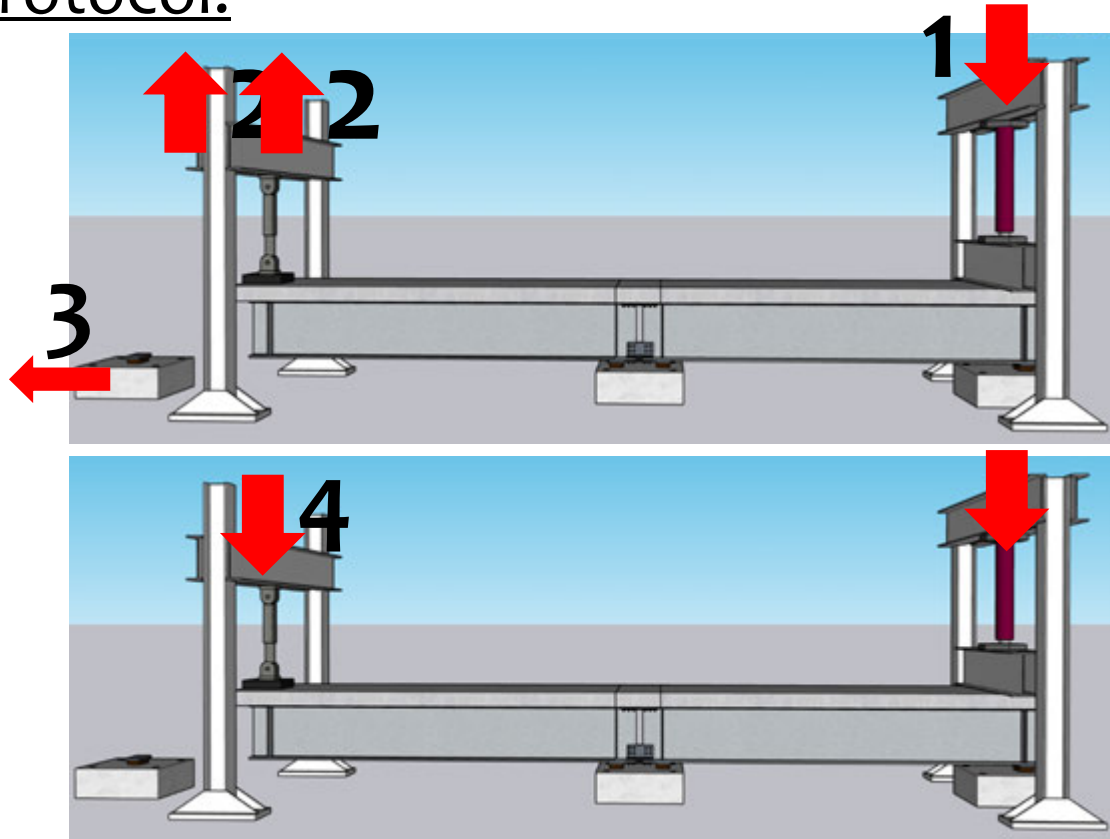
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Laboratory Testing Setup



Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept Test Protocol:

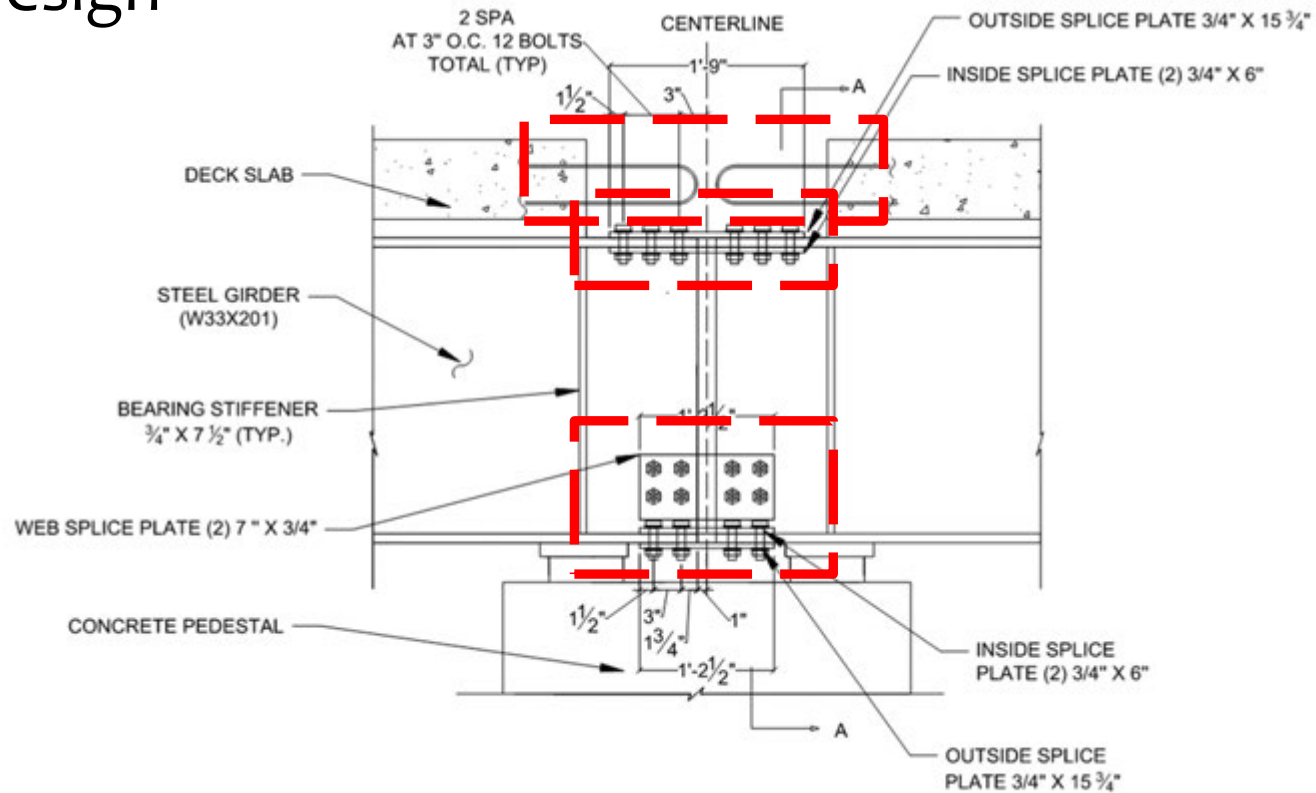


Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Loading (per Concept)

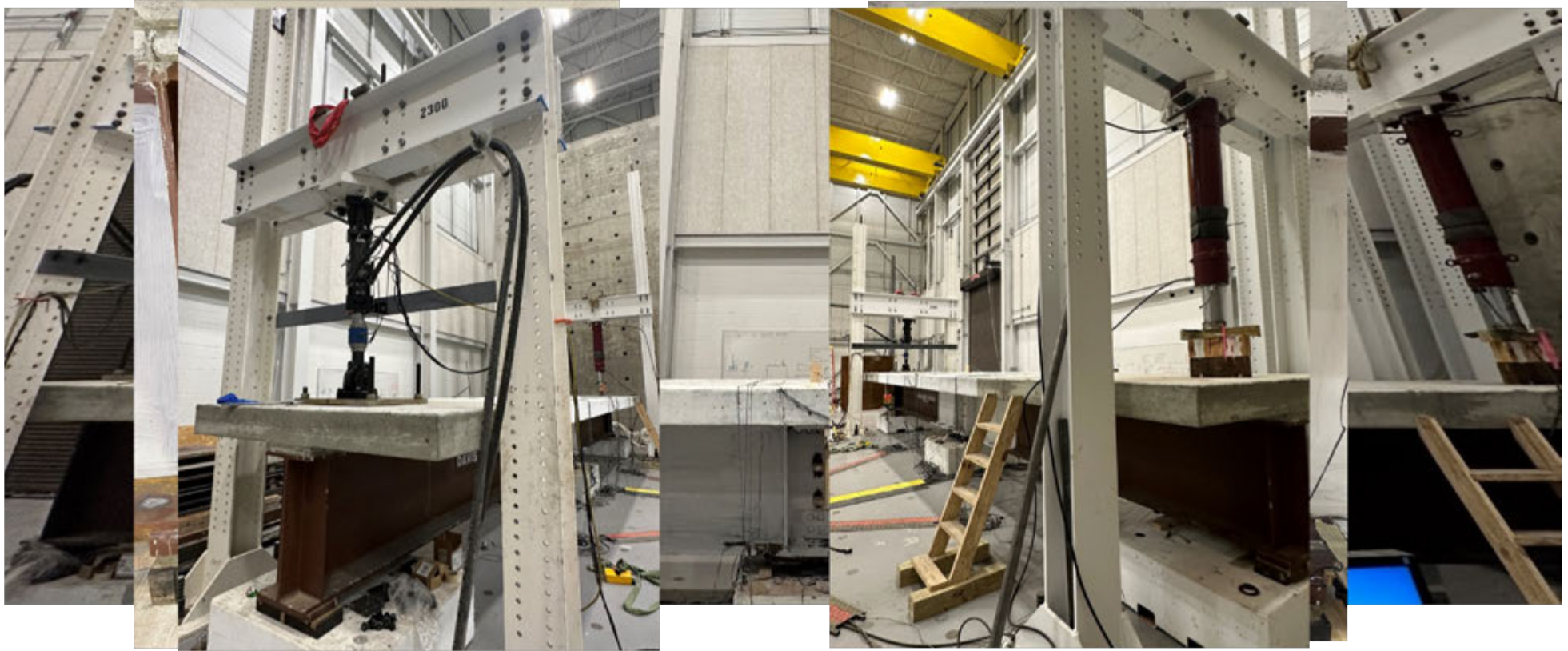
1. Static-level service loading - *Bending magnitude equivalent to HL-93 notional loading (28 kips from actuator)*
2. Dynamic level cyclic loading
3. Quasi-static ultimate strength testing

Concept A: Connection Design



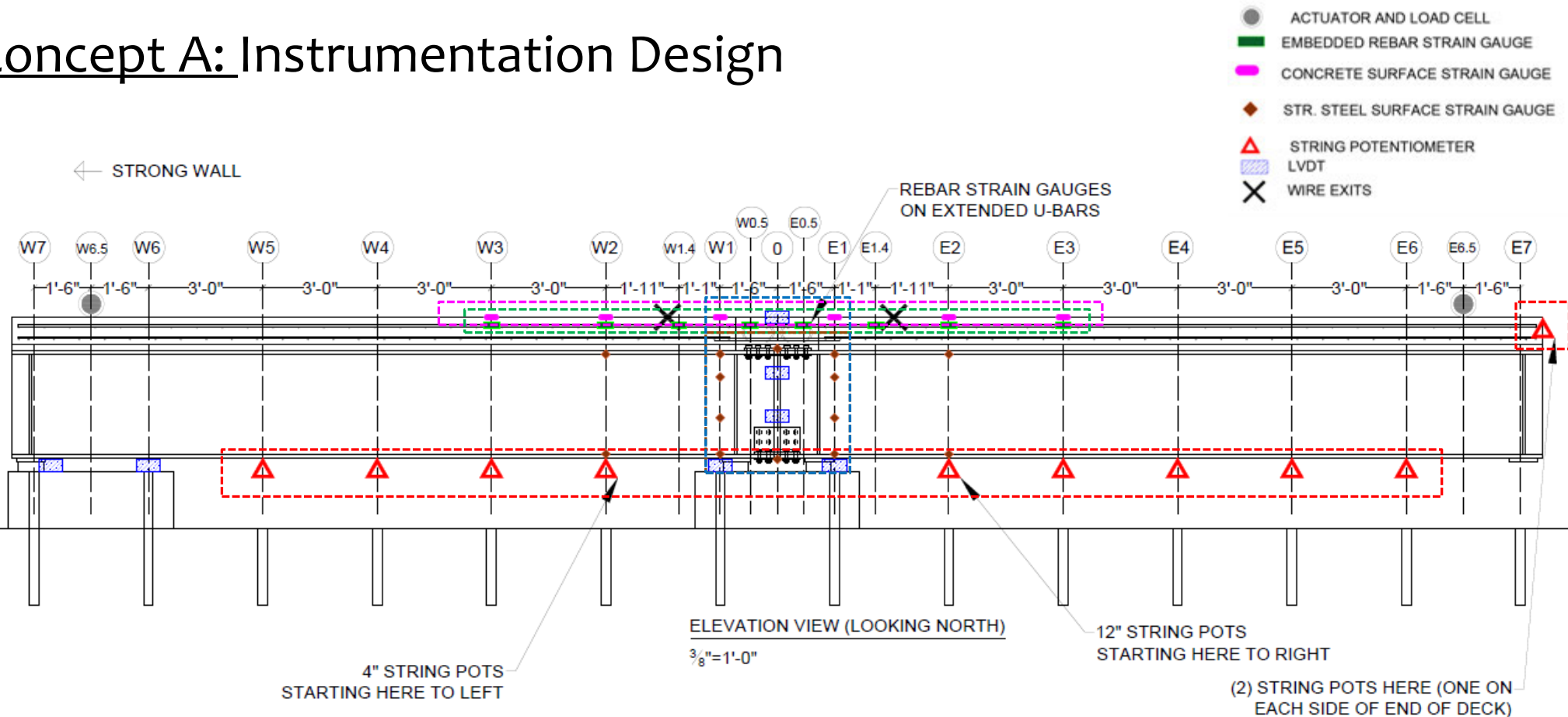
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept A: Testing Setup



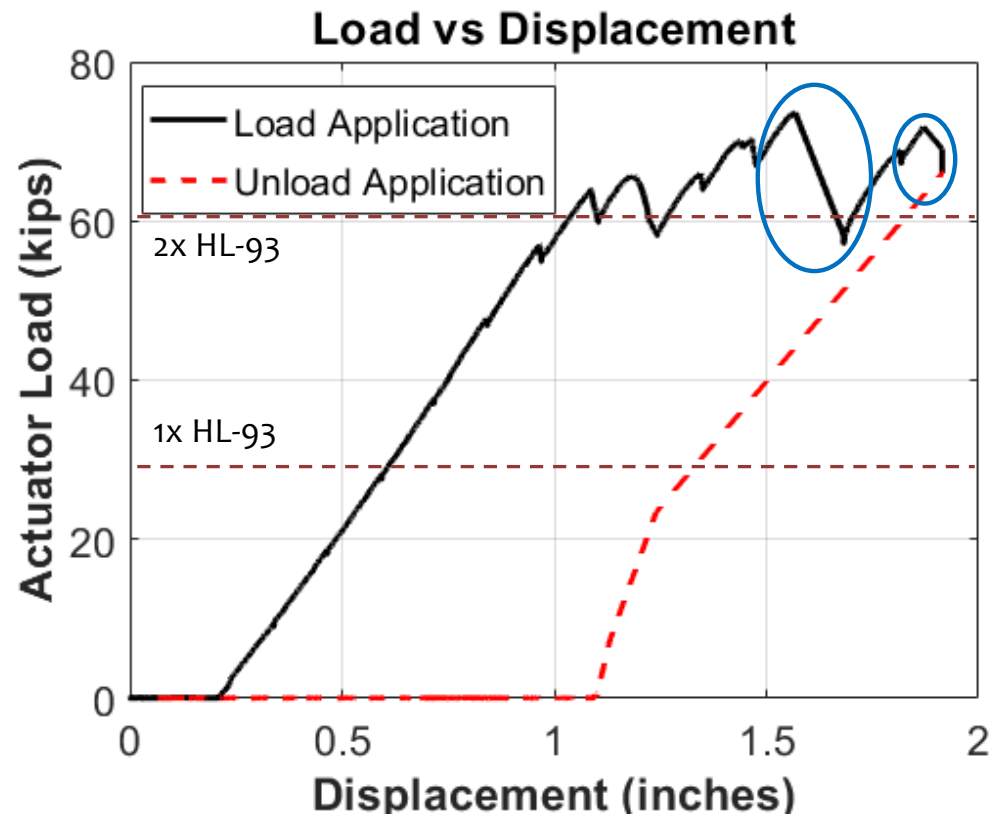
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept A: Instrumentation Design



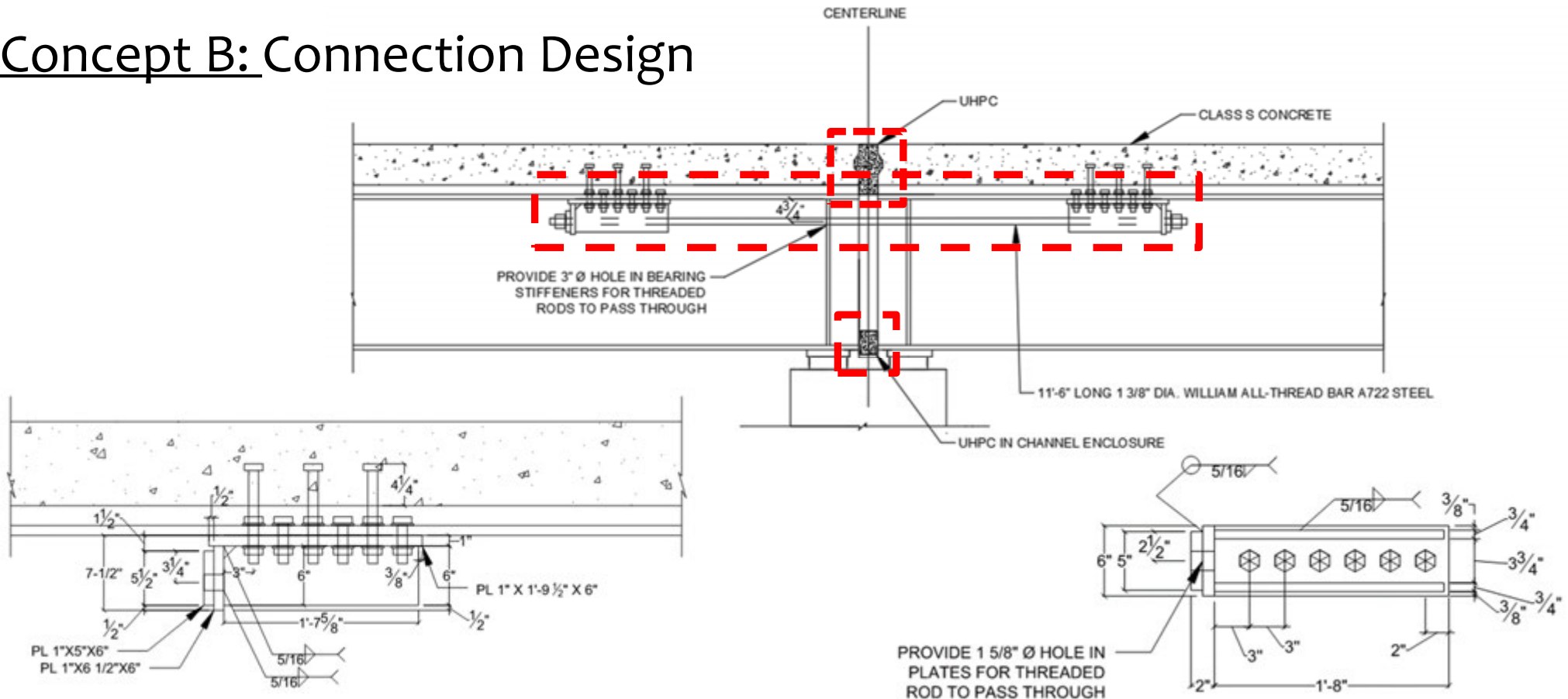
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept A: Ultimate Test



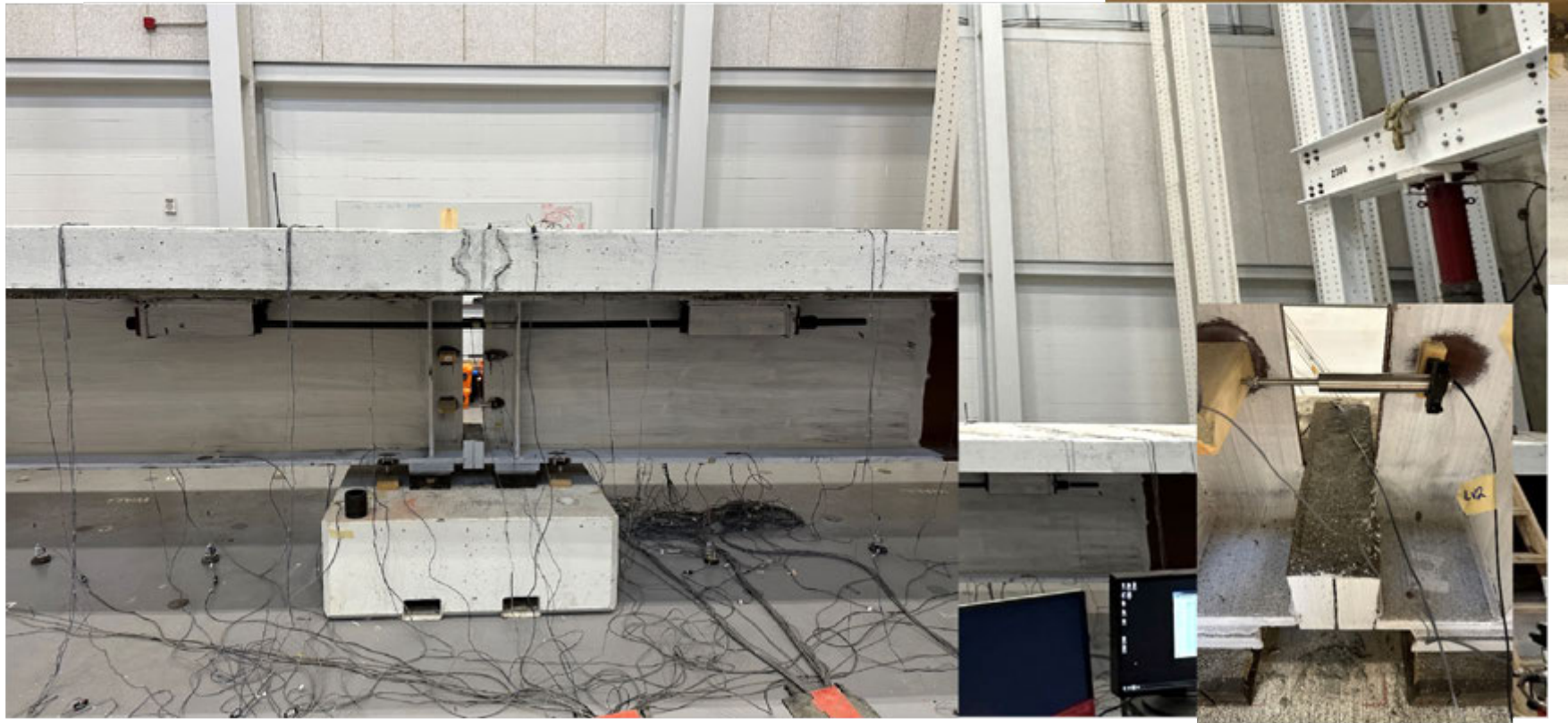
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept B: Connection Design



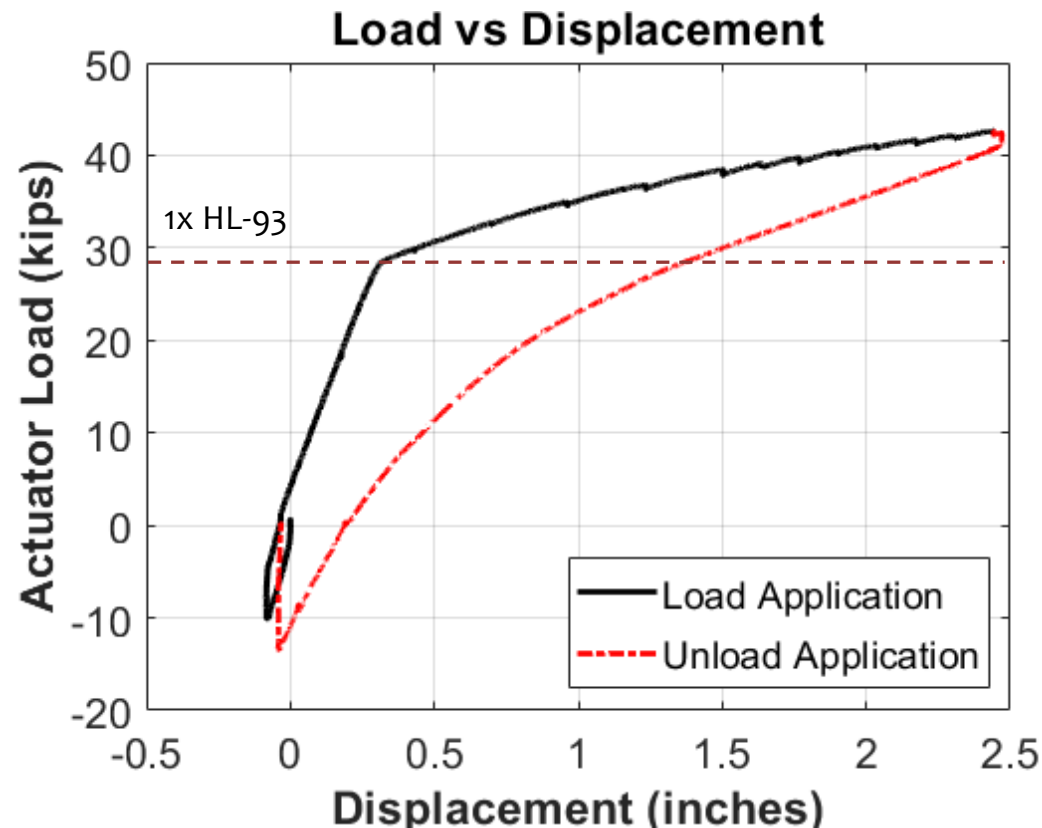
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept B: Test Setup



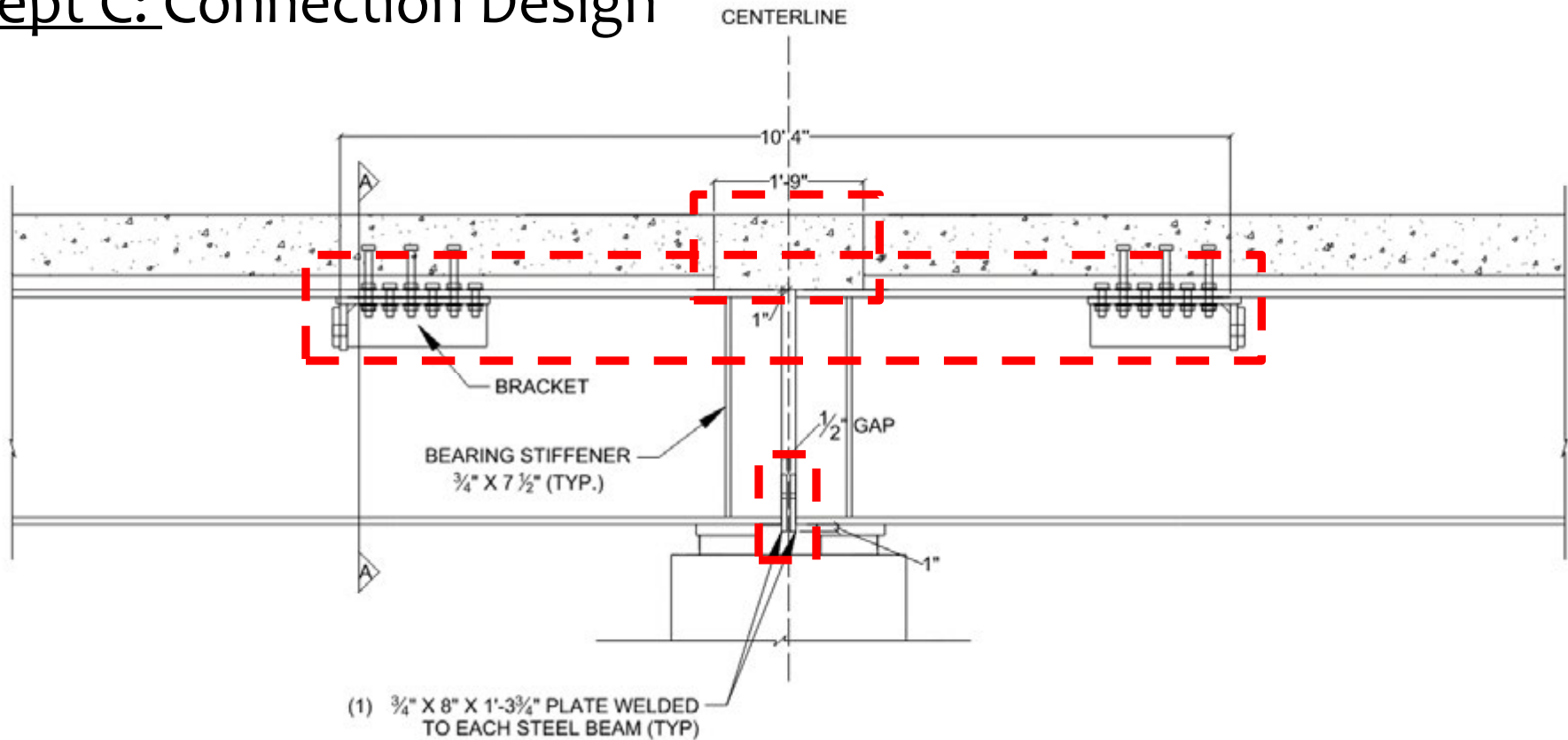
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept B: Ultimate Test



Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept C: Connection Design



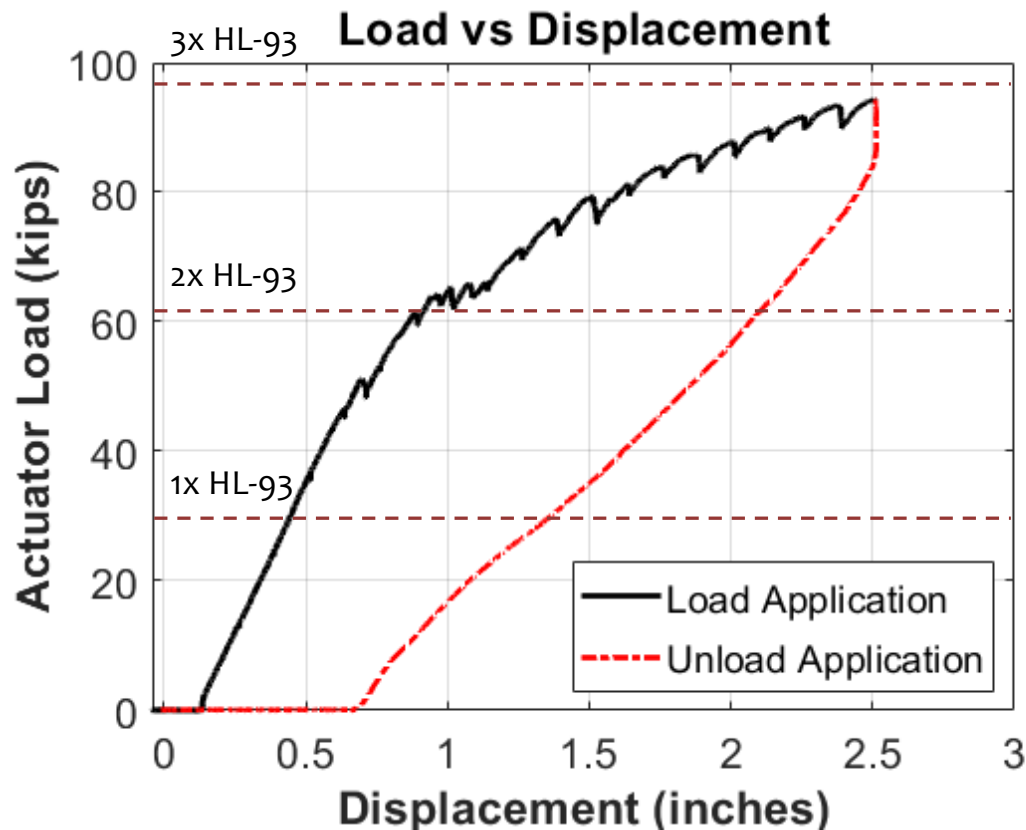
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept C: Test Setup



Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept C: Ultimate Test

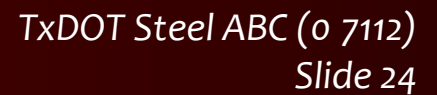


Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept A, B, C, and D: Cyclic Loading Tests

	Concept A	Concept B	Concept C	Concept D
Load Rate	1 Hz	1 Hz	1 Hz	0.25 Hz
Total cycles	430,000	125,000	514,800	154,800
Loading Range	+31kip to -13kip	+30kip to -15kip	+28kip to -10kip	+32kip to -10kip
Disp. Range	+0.4" to -0.15"	+0.4" to -0.15"	+0.3" to -0.1"	+0.5" to -0.1"

Concept D:



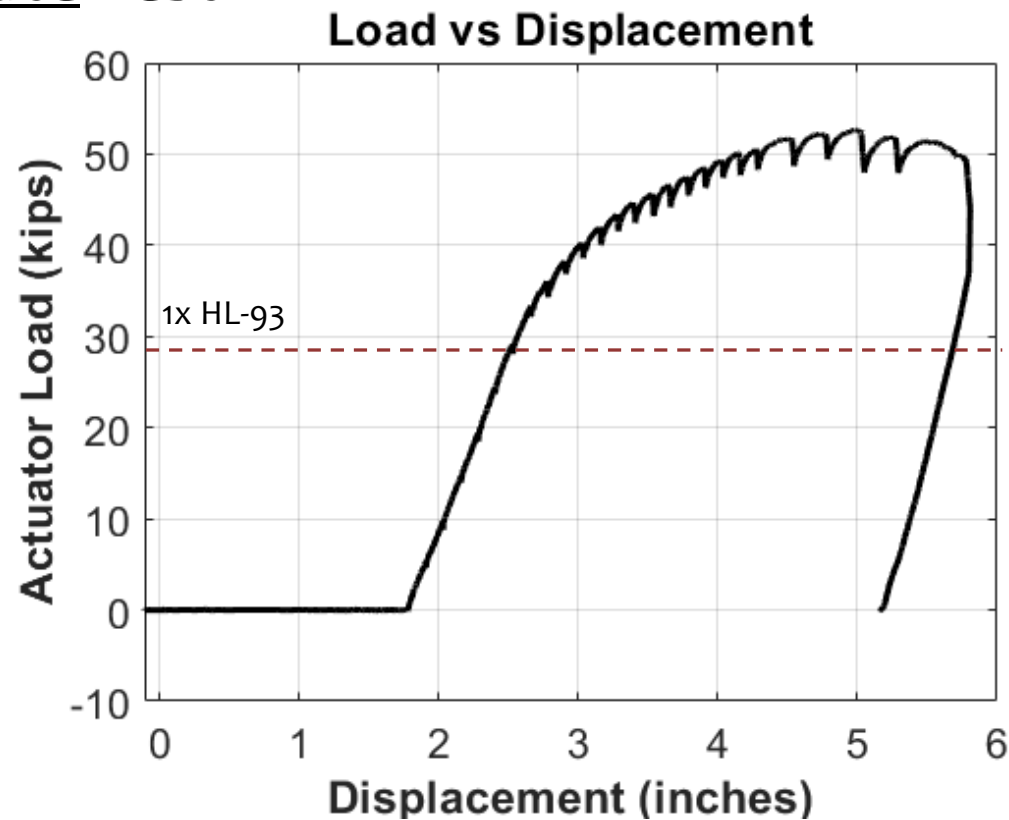
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept D: Experimental Setup



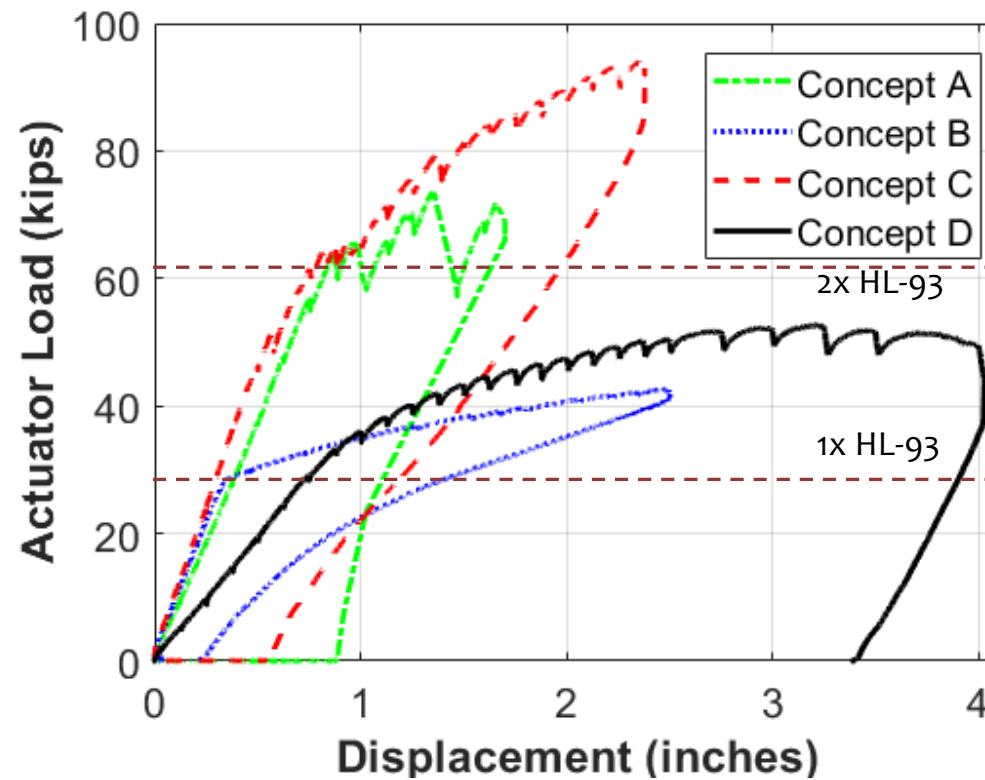
Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Concept D: Ultimate Test



Full-Scale Experimental Studies

Comparison:



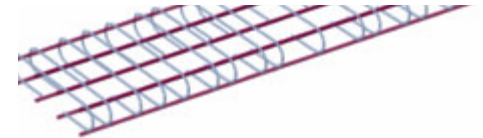
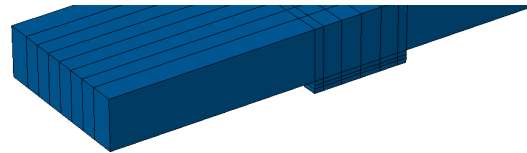
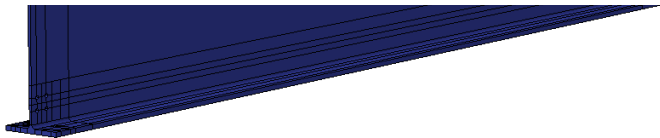
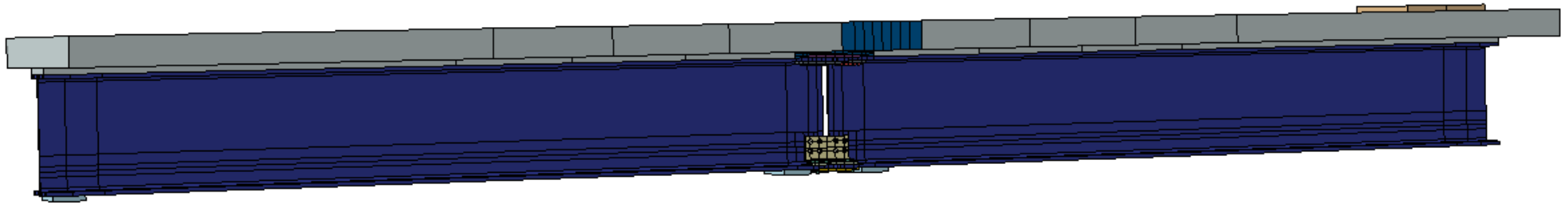
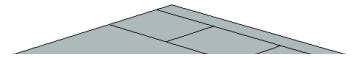
3

COMPUTATIONAL MODELING

1. Test Setup Model Description
2. Model Validation with Experimental Results

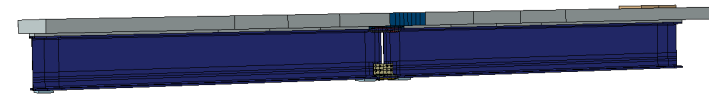
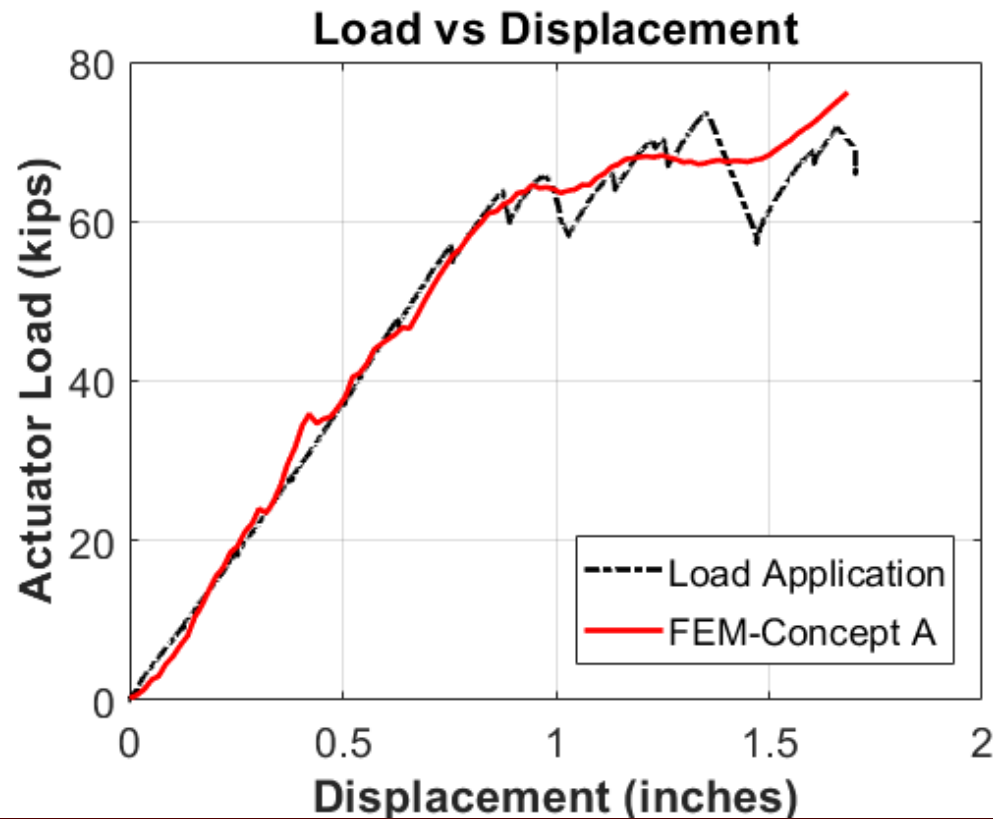
Computational Modeling

Concept A: Model description



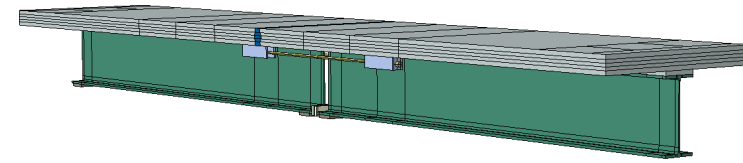
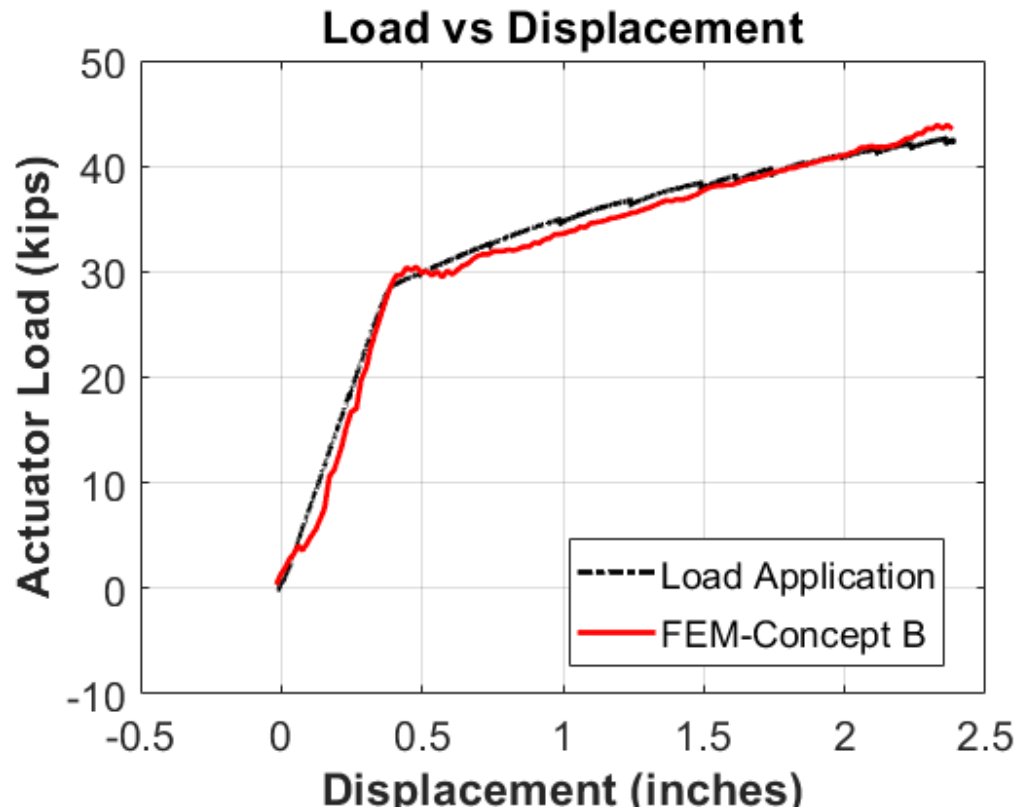
Computational Modeling

Concept A: Model validation with experimental results



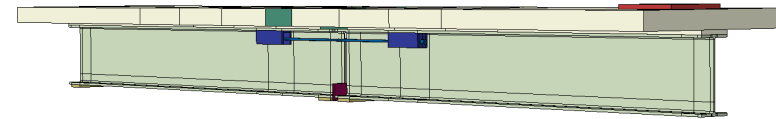
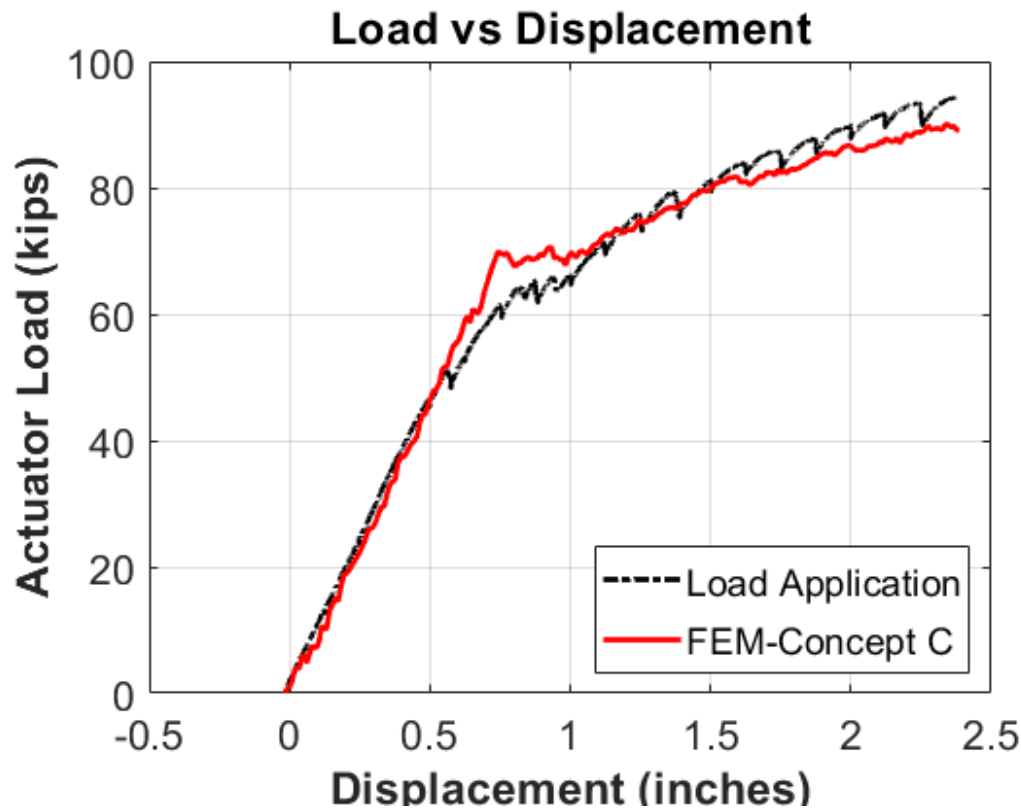
Computational Modeling

Concept B: Model validation with experimental results



Computational Modeling

Concept C: Model validation with experimental results



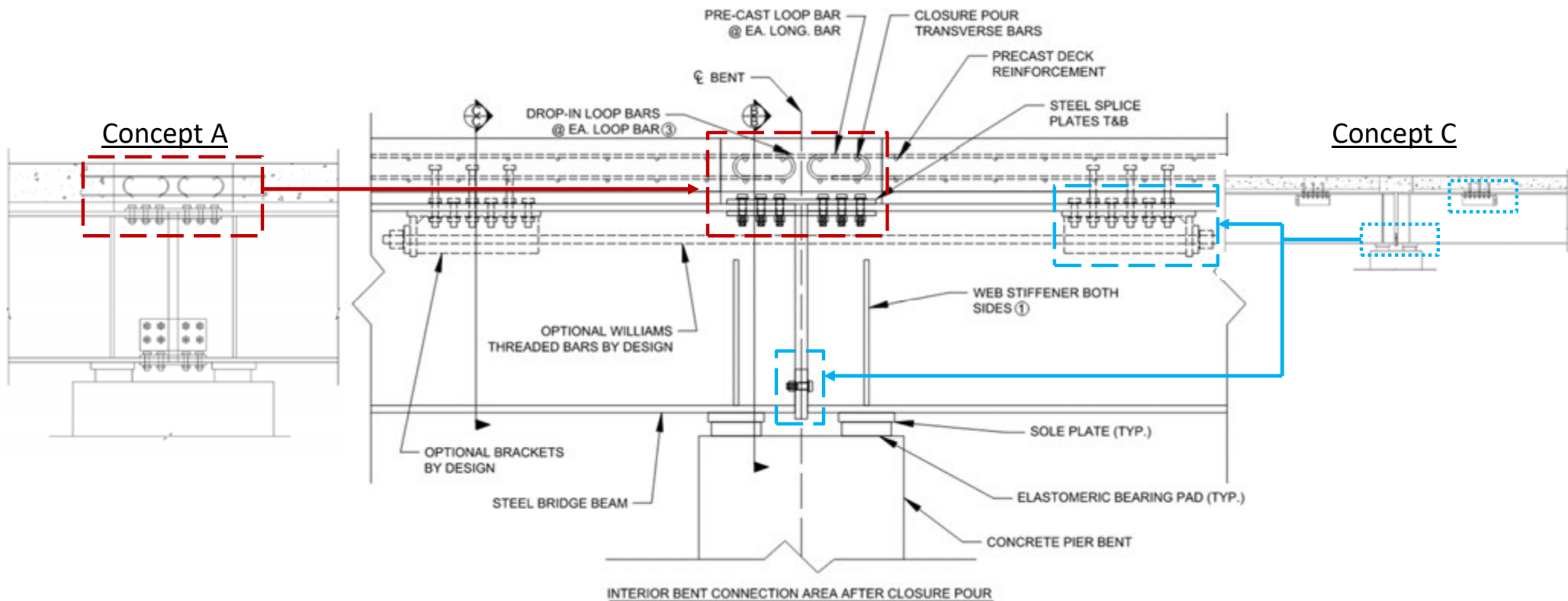


PARAMETRIC STUDY

Hybrid Concept Model (Post-Tensioning Optional)

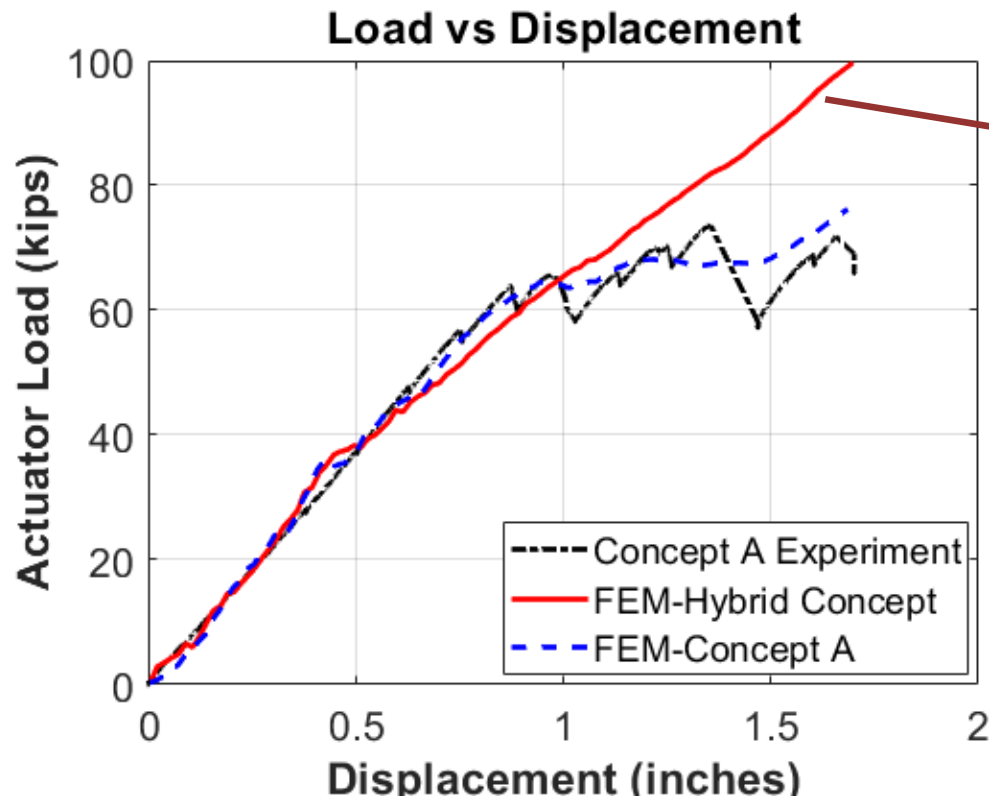
Computational Modeling Studies

Hybrid Concept (Post-Tensioning Optional)



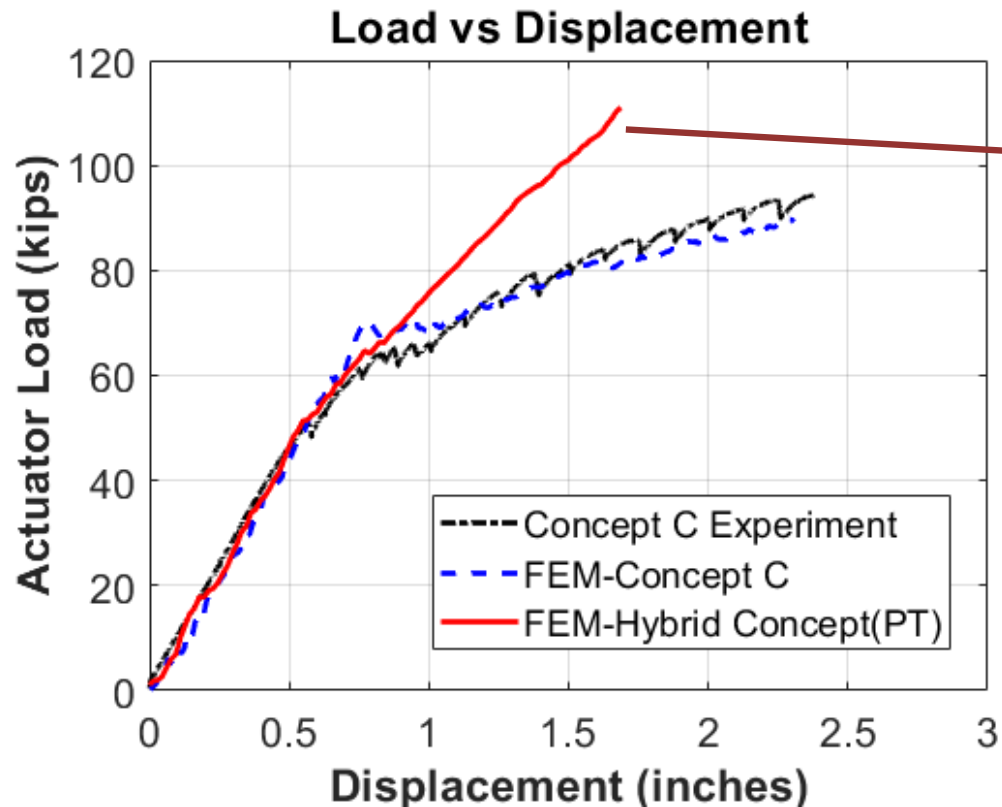
Computational Modeling Studies

Hybrid Concept : Model results comparison



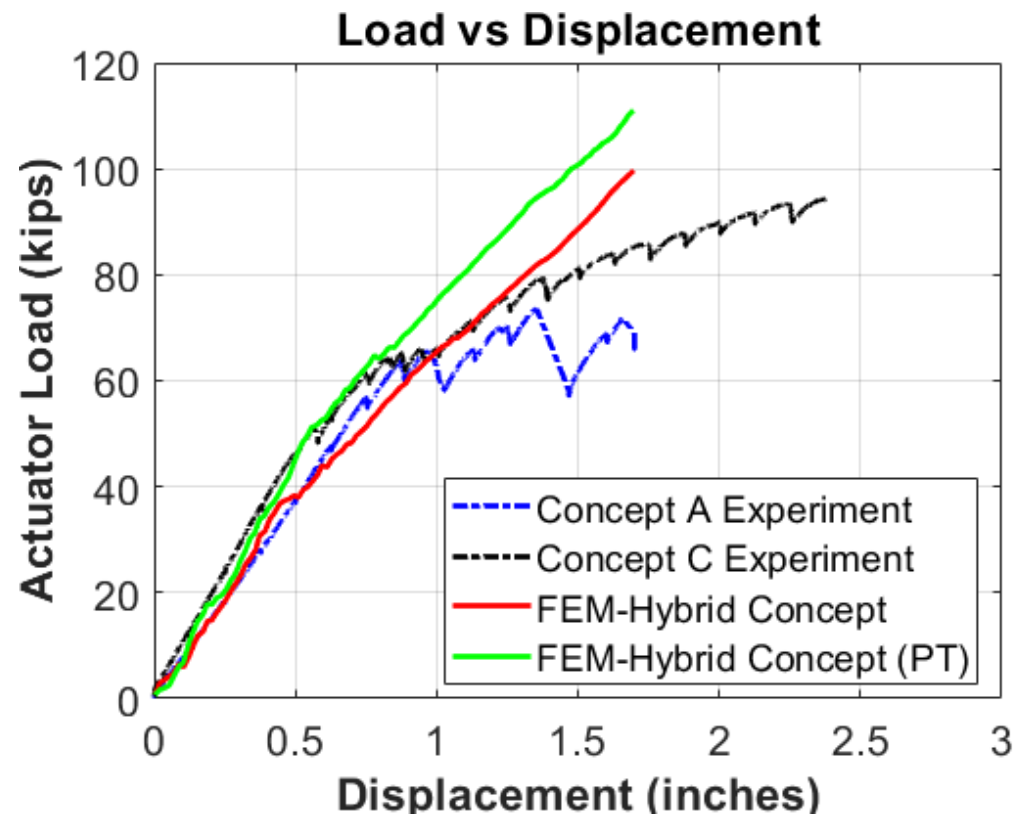
Computational Modeling Studies

Hybrid Concept (PT): Model results comparison



Computational Modeling Studies

Hybrid Concept : Model results comparison



5

CURRENT FINDINGS

Current Findings

- The SDCL prefabricated ABC unit is a unique technique for bridge construction to
 - easily assemble precast units
 - reduce the construction time
 - decrease the construction-related cost.
- Experimental service level behavior was performed better than anticipated.
- Ultimate strength of Concept A and Concept C are adequate, which were above 200% of the equivalence HL-93 notional loading.

Current Findings

- Validated FE models effectively simulated overall structural behavior, and captured more information on the specimen performance during the load application.
- Analytic study identified :
 - Failure mechanism
 - Elastic behavior
 - Cracked behavior
 - Post-yield behavior
 - Patterns of damage
- Parametric study was conducted to develop the Concept A & C hybrid system based on each concept FE model.