



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



## Table of Contents

**04** | Background

**10** | Steps to LRFD Design (Foundations)

**24** | Resistance Factors

**28** | LRFD Design (Foundations) – Plans

**36** | Concerns, Next Steps and Websites

## **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 Martinez/The Washington Post via Getty Images

## Engineering is overcoming challenges

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

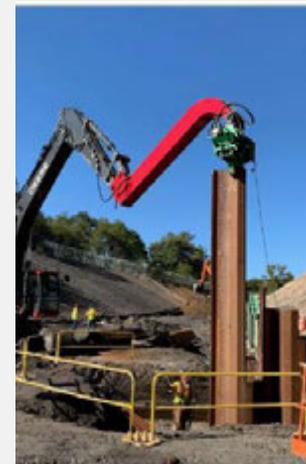
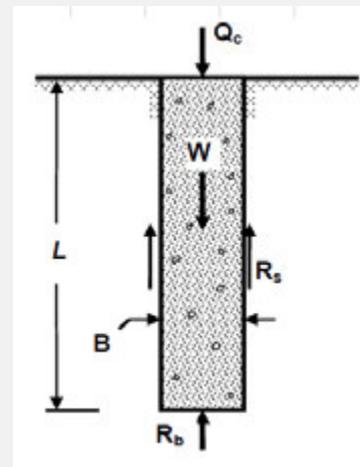
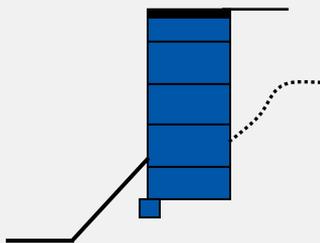
- Availability of labor and materials
- Budget of owners
- Traffic Control and regional coordination
  - Weather and accidents
  - Unforeseen geologic conditions
  - etc.
- Unbelievable growth of Texas metro areas



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

# Geotechnical Engineering

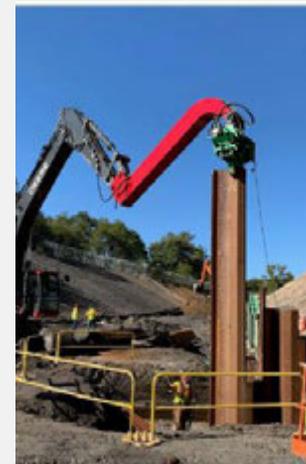
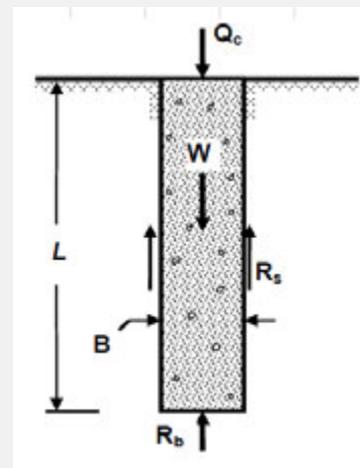
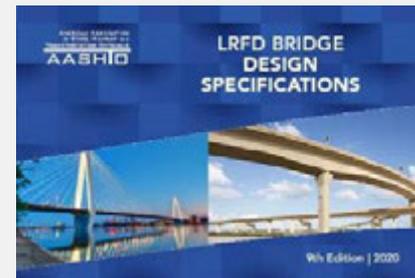
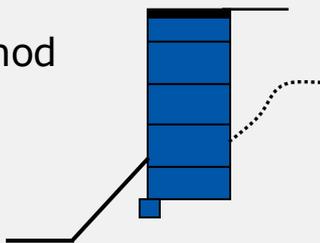
How do we design the best suitable TxDOT foundation?



# Geotechnical Engineering

## How do we design the best suitable TxDOT foundation?

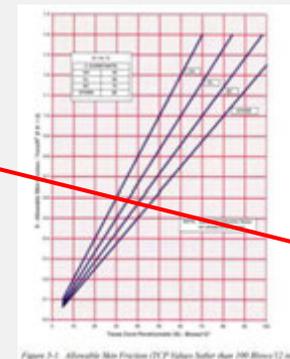
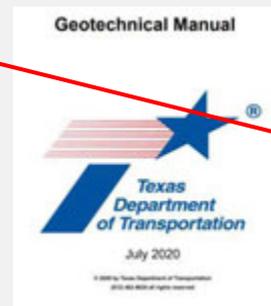
- Use available resources (Geotechnical Manual, AASHTO 9<sup>th</sup> Edition LRFD, *etc.*)
- Use best investigation/boring information, survey, H&H, bridge layout and loading
- Use critical thinking and engineering judgment for resistance and reactions to the loading
- Uncertainty (or FOS) through method 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 (Selected), Drilled Shaft, Round, Square  
 Analysis Options: TCP Only (Selected), 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 Type (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. 3/23)  
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	+ -
Bent: # 3	Axial	160 tons/shaft	Lateral	+ -

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 mon shafts, 300' spacing (max)

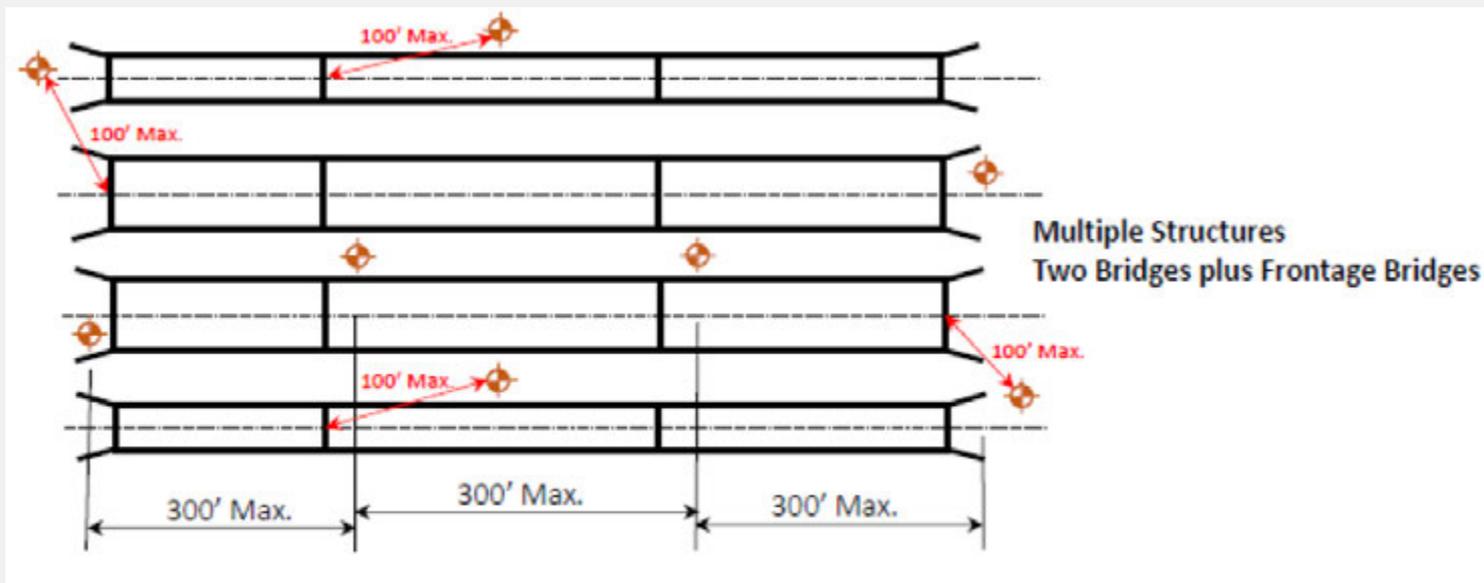
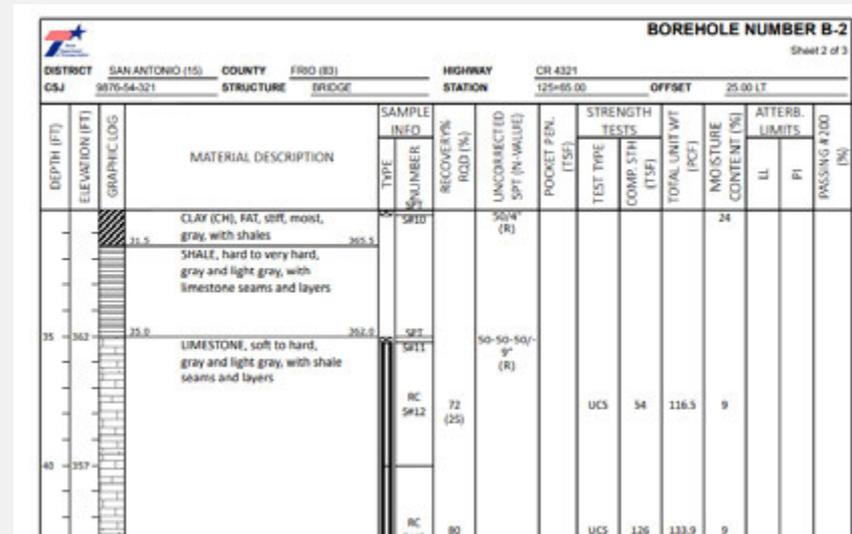
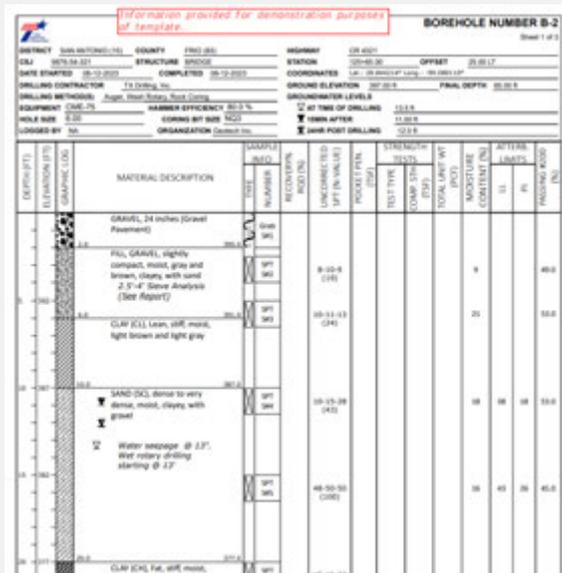


Figure 2-1. Minimum number of test holes for common types of structures

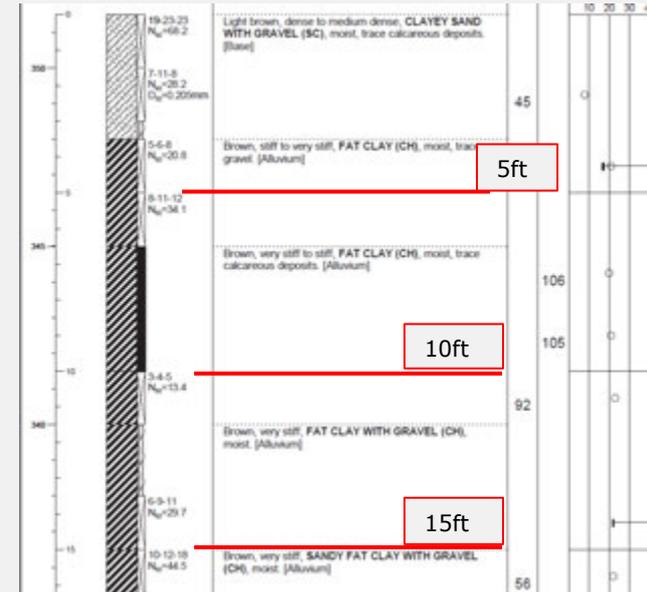
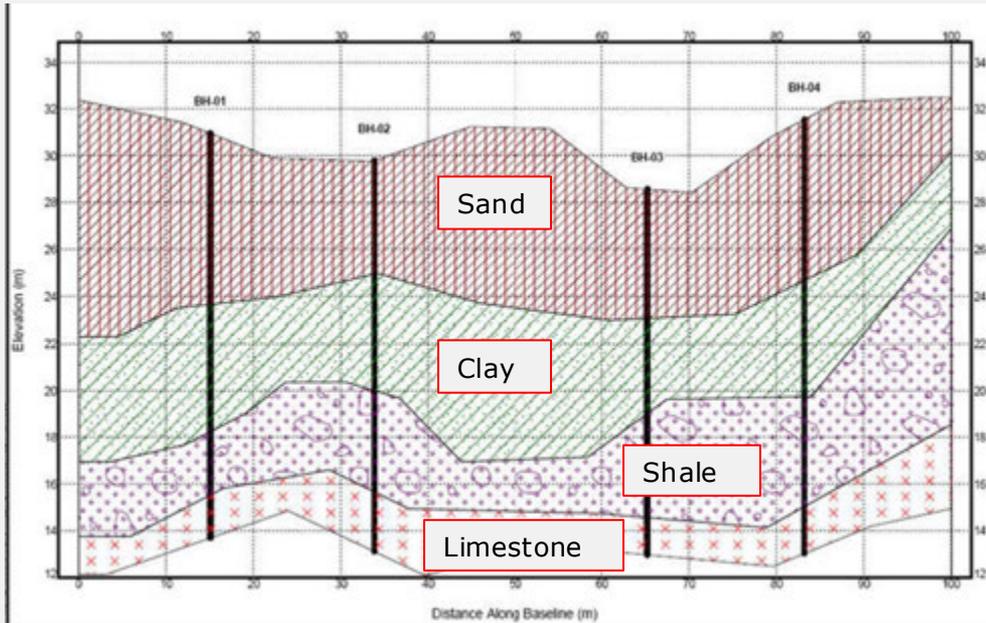
# Geotechnical Data Collection (Logs and Labs)

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



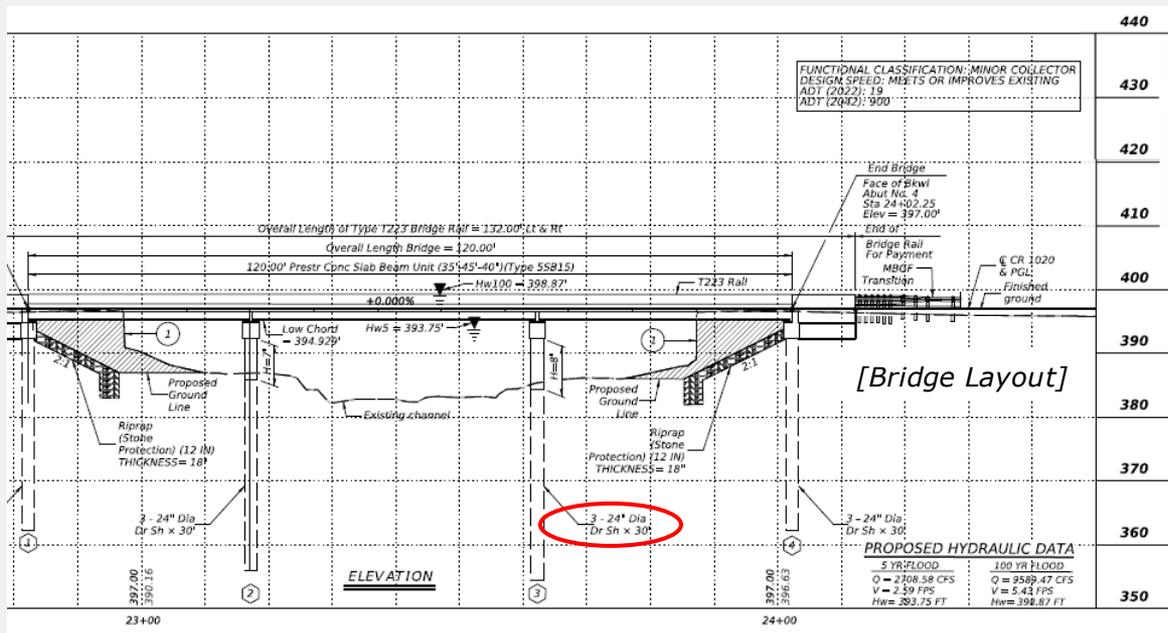
# Engineering Subsurface Units or 5ft (or smaller) Intervals

- Understand that either will arrive at accurate design

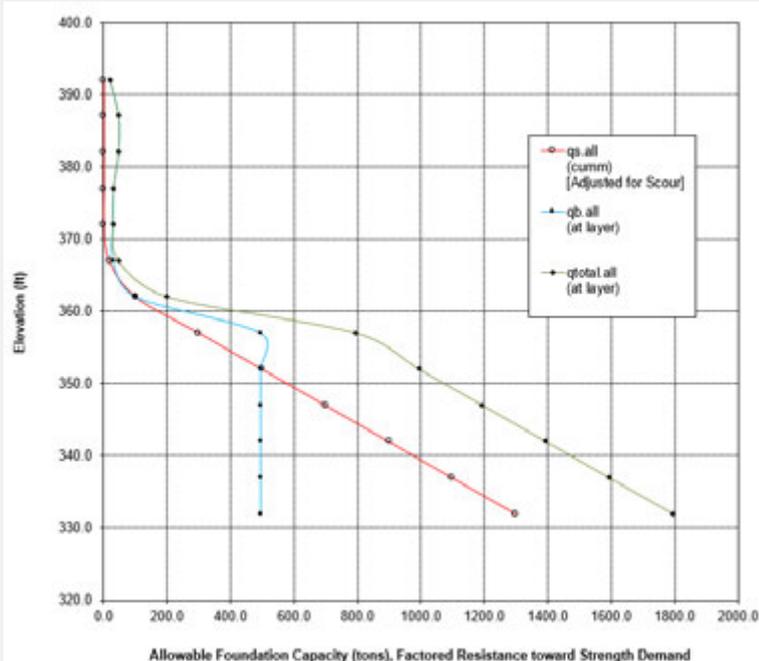


# Trial Length (used to check resistance)

- 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**

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

- $\eta$  = 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)

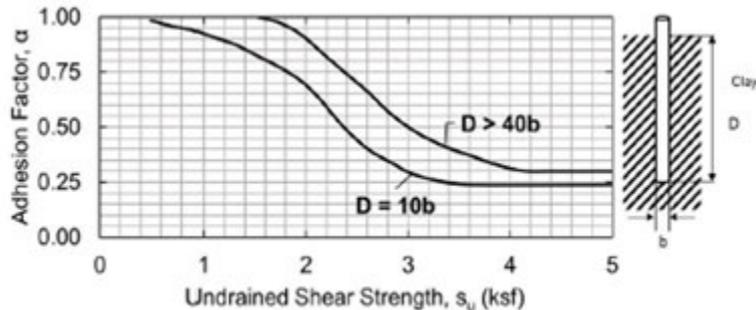


Figure 7-18 Adhesion factors for driven piles in clay (Tomlinson 1980).

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

- Nordlund (sands)..from  $\phi$

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

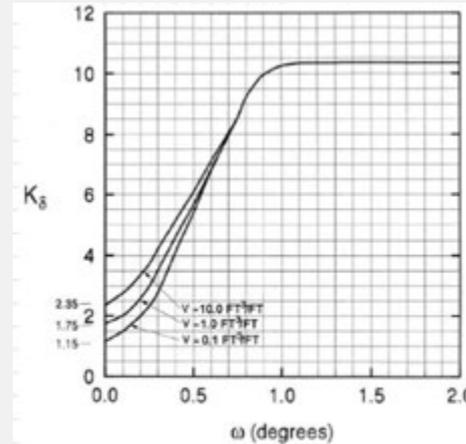


Figure 10.7.3.8.6f-3—Design Curve for Evaluating  $K_\delta$  for Piles where  $\phi = 35$  degrees (Hannigan et al., 2006 after Nordlund, 1979)

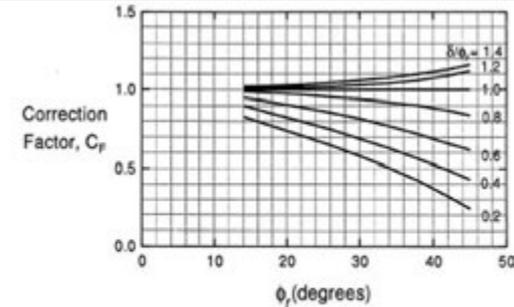


Figure 10.7.3.8.6f-5—Correction Factor for  $K_\delta$  where  $\delta = \phi$  (Hannigan et al., 2006 after Nordlund, 1979)

## 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:

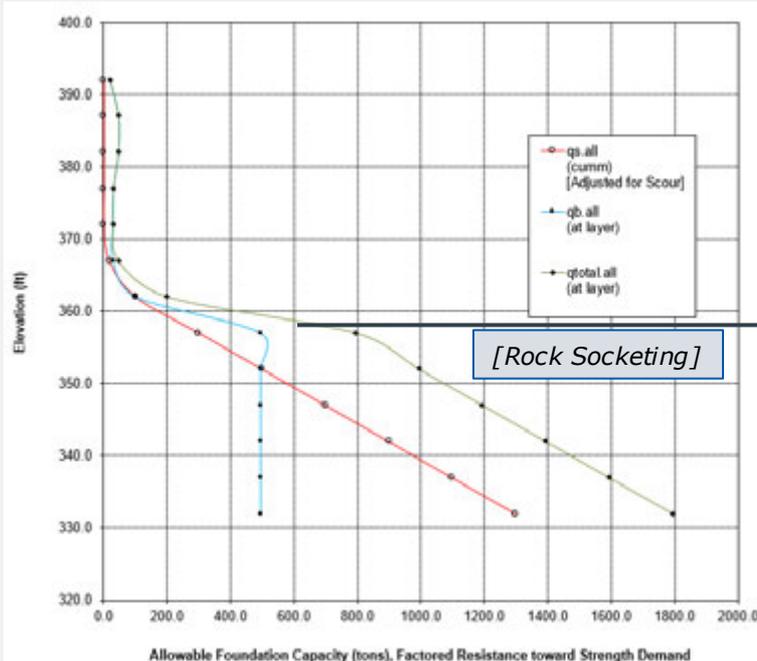
$$\beta = (1 - \sin \phi'_f) \left( \frac{\sigma'_p}{\sigma'_v} \right)^{\sin \phi'_f} \tan \phi'_f \quad (10.8.3.5.2b-2)$$

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*



*Slightly Weathered  
(Indiana Core)*

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



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

# Rock, jointed and fractured – Factor Down Resistance



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

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

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:

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

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

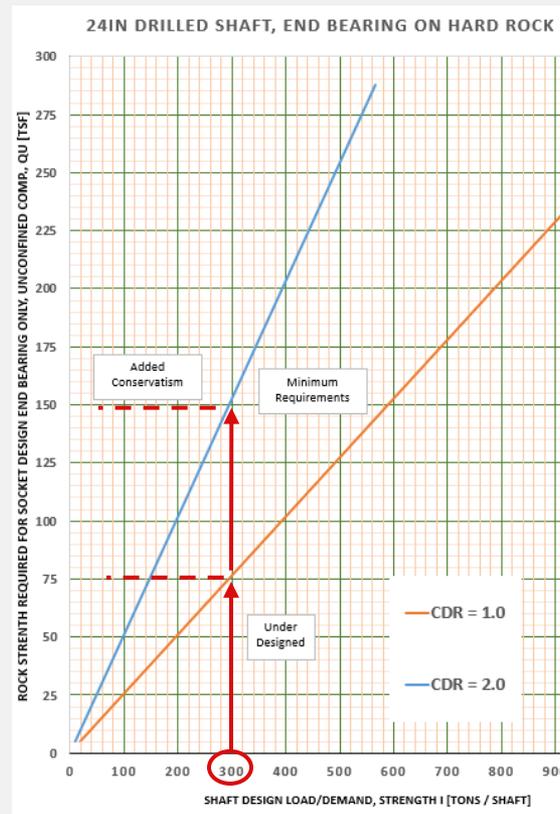
$$s = \exp\left(\frac{GSI - 100}{9}\right) \quad 10-26$$

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

## 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, $\phi_{\text{inst}}$	Side resistance in clay	$\alpha$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)
	Tip resistance in clay	Total Stress (Brown et al., 2010)
	Side resistance in sand	$\beta$ -method (Brown et al., 2010)
	Tip resistance in sand	Brown et al. (2010)
	Side resistance in cohesive IGMs	Brown et al. (2010)
	Tip resistance in cohesive IGMs	Brown et al. (2010)
	Side resistance in rock	Kulhawey et al. (2005) Brown et al. (2010)
	Side resistance in rock	Carter and Kulhawey (1988)
	Tip resistance in rock	Canadian Geotechnical Society (1985) Pressuremeter Method (Canadian Geotechnical Society, 1985)

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	
Nominal Bearing Resistance of Single Pile—Static Analysis Methods, $\phi_{\text{stat}}$	$\alpha$ -method (Tomlinson, 1987; Skempton, 1951)	0.35
	$\beta$ -method (Esrig & Kirby, 1979; Skempton, 1951)	0.25
	$\lambda$ -method (Vijayvergiya & Focht, 1972; Skempton, 1951)	0.40
	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)

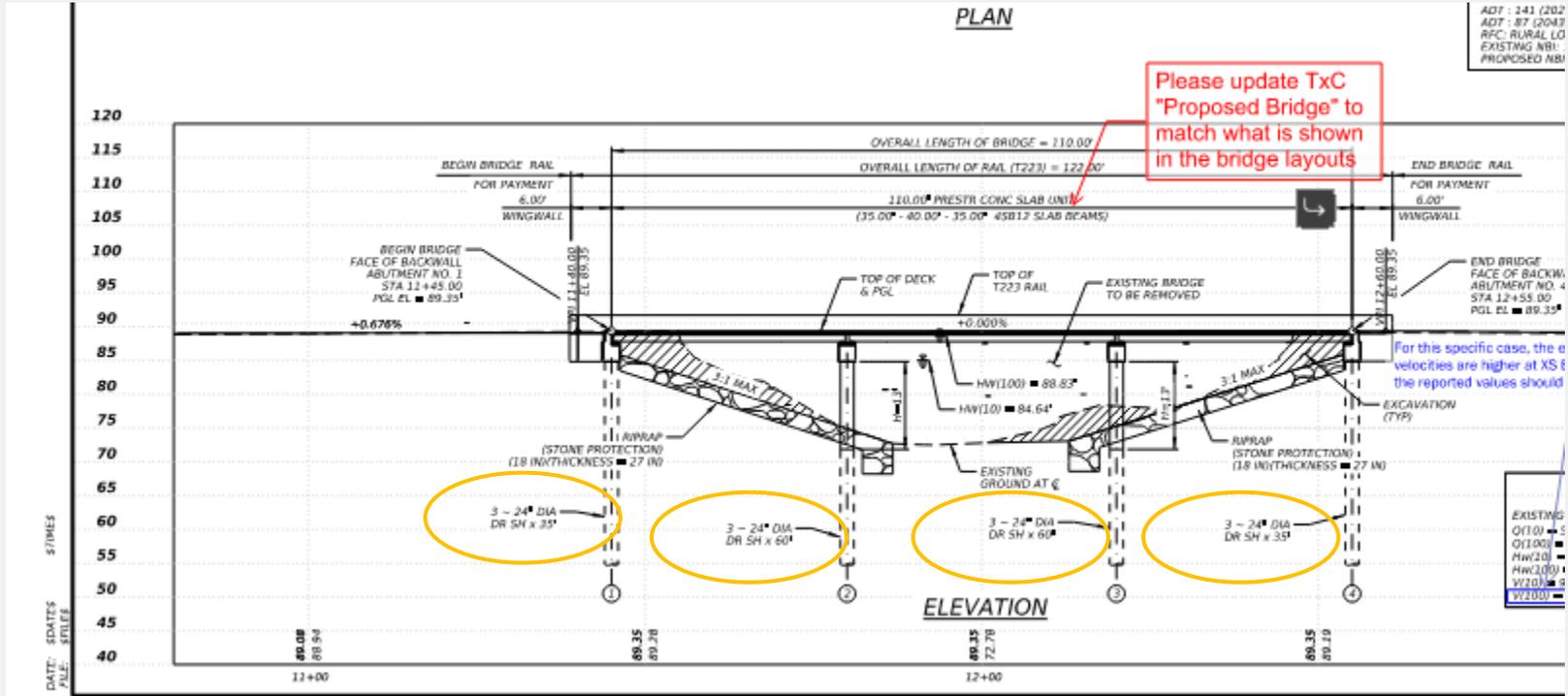


# LRFD Design (Foundations) – Plan Presentation & FDN



QA/QC

# 2025 PBLR – Submittal for Review- Bridge Layout





## 2025 PBLR Submittal – FDN Sheet

QA/QC

***(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>

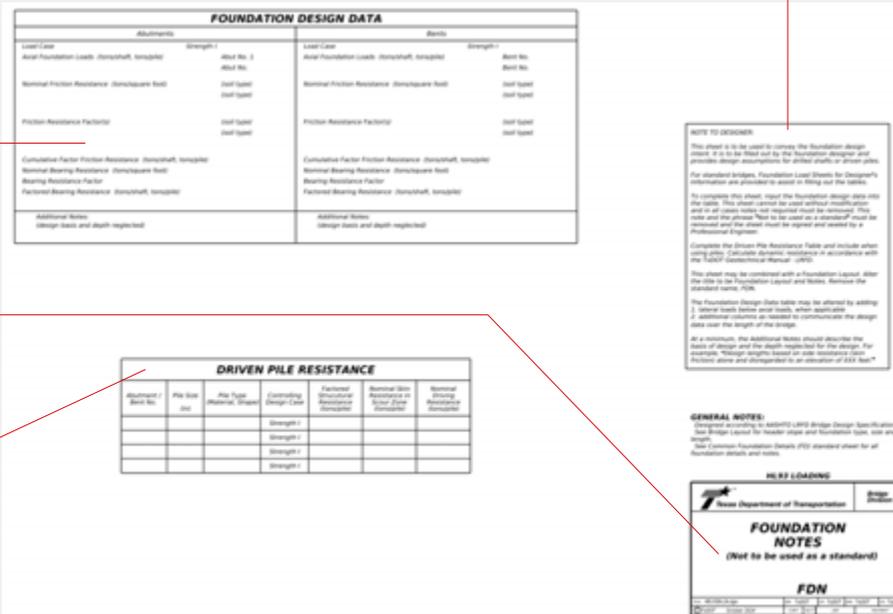
10-24	CSAB	Current Standard Abutment Backfill	 MS-CSAB-24.dgn
10-24	FD	Common Foundation Details	 MS-FD-24.dgn
10-24	FDN	Foundation Notes	 MS-FDN-24.dgn
10-24	MFRR(S)	Min Fracton & Bracing Ran (Steel Girders & Rmc)	 MS-MFRR(S)-24.dgn

Expand and Edit based on individual bridge design

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.

Note to Designer



The image shows a sample of a Foundation Design Data sheet and a Driven Pile Resistance table. The Foundation Design Data sheet is divided into two columns: Abutments and Bents. Each column contains fields for Level Code, Abut/Bent No., Nominal Friction Resistance, Friction Resistance Factor, Cumulative Factor Friction Resistance, Nominal Bearing Resistance, Bearing Resistance Factor, and Factored Bearing Resistance. There are also sections for Additional Notes and a Note to Designer. The Driven Pile Resistance table has columns for Abutment/Bent No., Pile Size, Pile Type, Controlling Design Case, Factored Structural Resistance, Nominal Skin Resistance in Scour Zone, and Nominal Driving Resistance.

Abutments		Bents	
Level Code	Design 1	Level Code	Design 1
Abut/Bent No.	Abut No. 1	Abut/Bent No.	Bent No. 1
Nominal Friction Resistance	100 ksf	Nominal Friction Resistance	100 ksf
Friction Resistance Factor	1.0	Friction Resistance Factor	1.0
Cumulative Factor Friction Resistance	100 ksf	Cumulative Factor Friction Resistance	100 ksf
Nominal Bearing Resistance	100 ksf	Nominal Bearing Resistance	100 ksf
Bearing Resistance Factor	1.0	Bearing Resistance Factor	1.0
Factored Bearing Resistance	100 ksf	Factored Bearing Resistance	100 ksf
Additional Notes	Design basis and depth neglected	Additional Notes	Design basis and depth neglected

Abutment / Bent No.	Pile Size (in)	Pile Type (Material, Shape)	Controlling Design Case	Factored Structural Resistance (kips)	Nominal Skin Resistance in Scour Zone (kips)	Nominal Driving Resistance (kips)
			Strength 1			
			Strength 1			
			Strength 1			
			Strength 1			

**NOTE TO DESIGNER:**  
This sheet is to be used to complete the Foundation Design Data sheet. It is to be filled out by the Foundation Designer and provides design assumptions for drilled shafts or driven piles. For standard bridges, Foundation Design Data for Designer's information and 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 and required must be reviewed. This note and the above Note to be used as a standard must be reviewed and the sheet must be signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer.  
Complete the Driven Pile Resistance Table and include when the table contains data, completed in accordance with the latest edition of Manual, LRFD.  
This sheet may be combined with a Foundation Layout after the data is in the Foundation Layout and Notes. Review the standard notes, PDS.  
The Foundation Design Data table may be altered by adding 1. lateral loads below soil level, when applicable 2. additional columns to include comprehensive design data over the length of the bridge.  
At a minimum, the Additional Notes should describe the basis of design and the depth required for the design. For example, "Design lengths based on code resistance ( $R_{ndr}$ ) - Section above and illustrated by an elevation of 0.00 feet."  
**GENERAL NOTES:**  
This sheet is to be used in accordance with the Texas Department of Transportation Bridge Design Specifications, the Bridge Layout for Header Stage and Foundation Data, and any other Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) standard sheet for all Texas bridges and vias.  
**HEAVY 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	Load Case	Strength I	
Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	81 Abut No. 1 87 Abut No. 4			Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	134 Bent No. 2 146 Bent No. 3	
Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	1.2 (clay)	Skin	Skin	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)	End	End	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 87 Abut No. 4	Axial Foundation Loads (tons)	134 Bent No. 2 146 Bent No. 3
Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	1.2 (clay) 3.8 (shale, IGM)	Nominal Friction Resistance (tons/square foot)	1.2 (clay) 3.8 (shale, IGM) 11.6 (limestone, intact)
Friction Resistance Factor(s)	0.45 (clay) 0.7 (shale, IGM)	Friction Resistance Factor(s)	0.45 (clay) 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 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.			

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

**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***

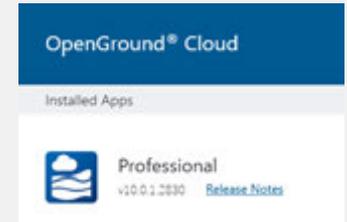


## Confidence of design results

- [**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***

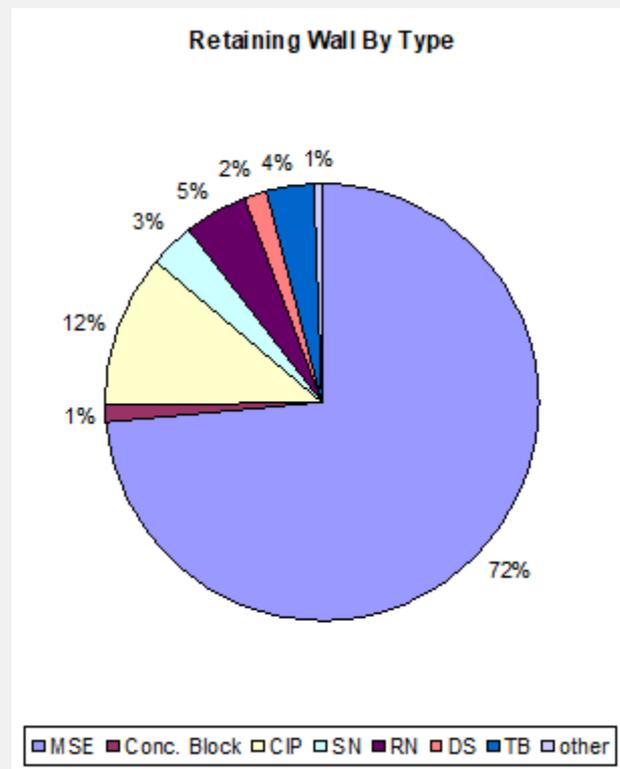


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## Texas DOT Retaining Walls

- 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 $\phi = 20^\circ$ C = 0 psf
Foundation Soil	$\phi = 20^\circ$ C = 0 psf
Select Backfill	Unit Weight = See Table 1 $\phi = 24^\circ$ C = 0 psf
Contract Stabilized Select Backfill	Unit Weight = 125 pcf $\phi = 43^\circ$ C = 0 psf

Limit stress in steel and concrete in accordance with with AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. The minimum length of earth reinforcement are 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/HT 1	MAX	MIN
Vertical Earth Load (EV)	$P_v$	1.35	1.00	
Active Nonuniform Earth Pressure (EN)	$P_a$	1.35	0.90	
Earth Surcharge (ES)	$P_s$	1.35	0.75	
Live Load Surcharge (LS)	$P_L$	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 of 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
Rotating	2.43
Pullout Resistance (Steel and Geosynthetic reinforcement)	0.90
Tensile Resistance (Steel strips reinforcement)	0.75
Tensile Resistance (Steel grid reinforcement)	0.63

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 (C/D) against sliding, limiting eccentricity, bearing, and internal stability. If C/D 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  $e \leq L/6$ . 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 (required) on the calculated earth reinforcement section remaining after 75 years. Pullout calculations may be based on non-eroded section. Consider strength degradation and apply reduction factor for geosynthetic reinforcement as per AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

**SHEET 2 OF 2**



Bridge  
Division  
Standard

## MECHANICALLY STABILIZED EARTH RETAINING WALL

### RW(MSE)

File: RW(MSE)25.dgn	DW: TxDOT	DM: TxDOT	DW: TxDOT	DR: TxDOT
TxDOT June 2025	CONT	SOCT	JOB	HIGHWAY
REVISIONS	DATE		COUNTY	SHEET NO.