Phase II: Field Load Testing of Shallow Foundations in Florida Limestone, FDOT BDV31-977-124

Project Managers:

Rodrigo Herrera, P.E.

David Horhota, Ph.D., P.E.

Florida Department of Transportation

Investigators:

Michael McVay, Ph.D. (Former PI)

Scott Wasman, Ph.D. (PI)

Khiem Tran, Ph.D. (Co-PI)

Michael Rodgers, Ph.D., P.E. (Co-PI)

Kunyu Yang, Ph.D. Student

University of Florida Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering



UF FLORIDA

August 2021

Presentation Outline

- Project Background
- Project Objectives
- Overview of Miami Limestone (2 Load Tests)
 - Bi-linear Strength Envelope and Bearing Capacity Equations
 - Stress-strain Relationship
- Load Test 1: Cemex Site (Miami)
 - Site Investigation
 - Micro-piles Installation and Load Test
 - Load Test Results: Bearing Capacity
 - Load Test Results: Settlements
- Load Test 2: SR 84 Site (Davie, FL: Rock over Sand)
 - Site Investigation
 - Drilled Shaft Installation and Load Test
 - Load Test Results: Bearing Capacity
 - Load Test Results: Settlements
- Planned Load Test 3: Bell Florida (Ocala Limestone) in Gilchrist County
- Current Findings
- Timeline and Acknowledgements



Project Background

Phase I (FDOT BDV31-977-51):

- Investigated the **strength envelope** of several Florida limestone formations near the ground surface – function of dry unit weight of rock and formation (Carbonate)
- Developed Bearing Capacity Equation, function of rock strength (homogeneous) and moduli (layered: rock over sand)
 Phase II (FDOT BDV31-977-124):
- 3 full scale field shallow foundation load tests conducted to validate the Bearing Capacity Equation and predict the load-settlement response at different rock formations and layering (Hand Solution and Numerical Method)

Phase III (Planned):

• Implement the Bearing Capacity Equation and the loadsettlement model in **FB-Multipier** for shallow foundation design in Florida



Phase II Research Objectives

- I. Conduct load test (900 tons) on shallow foundations at three sites having different Florida Limestone formations and layerings (Deliverables 2 to 4) and Validate the New Bearing Capacity Equations derived in FDOT research project BDV31-977-51.
 - Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Homogeneous Miami Limestone.
 - Load Test 2: SR-84 Site, Miami Limestone overlying Medium-Dense Sand Layer.
 - Planned Load Test 3: Bell Site, Ocala Limestone.
- II. Measure and Predict Load versus Settlement for shallow foundation on homogeneous & heterogeneous (rock over sand) Florida Limestone (Deliverable 6 to 7).
 - Heterogeneous Single Layer: Fenton & Griffiths Method (2002)
 - Heterogeneous Two Layer (Rock over sand): Burmister Method (1958)
- III. For I & II -Assess rock strength, Young's modulus (Secant E_{secant}) and rock unit weight from laboratory tests (q_u , q_{dt} and triaxial tests, Deliverable 1) and in-situ methods – a newer seismic method (Deliverable 5)



Overview of Miami Limestone – Poisson Ratio, Lateral Stress

- Low or Negative Poisson's Ratio was found for most dry density rock samples in triaxial tests,
- Due to low Poisson's Ratio, Low Confining Stress ($\Delta \sigma_3$) was observed from FEM and Associated Stress Path for Miami Limestone.
- Boussinesq Solution: Settlement Average Point at 3R/2, assume a working bearing pressure $\Delta q_s = 30 \text{ tsf}$, $\Delta \sigma_3 \approx 0.025 \times 30 \times 13.89 = 10.4 \text{ psi}$





Overview: Strength Envelope and Bearing Capacity

Bi-linear Strength Envelope and Bearing Capacity Equations



 $Q_{u2} = n * [c * N'_{c} + p_{p} * N_{\gamma}] + q * N_{q}$

Florida Bearing Capacity Equations

Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Miami Site Investigation

25°46'59.0"N 80°26'25.6"W

7



Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Site Investigation

8



Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Site Investigation

Count the rubble portion as uncoreable material, New REC: 72%

Borings	Core Runs	REC, %	RQD, %	New REC, %
	Run 1	100	36	60
	Run 2	100	60	78
	Run 3	95	20	48
RC-1	Run 4	100	60	94
	Run 5	100	11	47
	Run 6	100	47	71
	Mean	99	39	66
	Run 1	95	73	95
	Run 2	96	77	96
	Run 3	100	55	94
RC-2	Run 4	97	13	32
	Run 5	100	10	86
	Run 6	100	40	63
	Mean	98	44	78
Site Mean		99	42	72





UNIVERSITY of

Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Site Investigation



Strength ($q_u \& q_{dt}$) versus Depth for Cemex Site ($q_{dt} = 0.7 \times qt$, Perras, M. A., etc., 2014)

Bi-linear Strength Envelope for Cemex Site, with adjusted-REC = 72%



Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Micro-piles Installation (H2R) and Load Test



12

Drill with Polymer Mud System – Tight Holes



Mix with ASTM C494 Type D Retarder admixture and ASTM C494 Type F Superplasticizer admixture



ASTM C845 Type K cement

Compressive Strength of Cement Specimens

Sample ID	Break Type	Set Time, Days	Compressive Strength, psi
1st	III	21	4497.3
2nd	ш	14	2911.2
3rd	II	14	6731.4
4th	I	15	6166.4
5th	I	14	4483.1
6th	I	7	6219.2
7th	III	8	3687.8
8th	п	7	5590.5

6 in hole/2.25 in GR80 threaded rods = 2.67 Max q_u = 1463.3 psi



Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Micro-piles Installation and Load Test







Excavation for placement of footing: competent rock at 5 ft depth





Load Measurement:



Construction for load test: Anchor Installation, Hydraulic Jack & Load Cell, load test.

Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Load Test Results: Bearing Capacity



Measured and Predicted: Bearing Capacity for Cemex Site

Settlement Measurement: Tape with Total Station



Inclination of the Loading Jack and Load Cell, Load Test ends 2.74 in settlement at 650 kips

Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Load Test Results: Settlement

FEM – Plaxis 3D



15

Material Model, Strength and Stiffness Parameters of Different Layer

Layer	γ _{dt} , pcf	Material Model	c, psi	φ, °	μ	Young's Modulus, psi
1	97	Mohr- Coulomb	32	32.4	0.05	10,514
2, Left	90	Mohr- Coulomb	13.5	31.7	0.01	1,000 ~ 21,636
2, Right	97	Mohr- Coulomb	32	32.4	0.05	1,500 ~ 31,542
3	130	Mohr- Coulomb	103.5	32.5	0.2	50,000

Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Load Test Results: Settlement

FEM – Plaxis 3D – Nonlinear Solution

Stress State, Young's Modulus and Poisson's Ratio of Layer 2 in each Loading Stage

		Layer 2										
Loading	Loading Load,		Left: 90 pcf					Right: 97 pcf				
Step	tons	al' nei	σ3',	Elastic	Poisson's	σ1',	σ3',	Elastic	Poisson's			
		01, psi	psi	Modulus, psi	Ratio	psi	psi	Modulus, psi	Ratio			
1	0	2.90	2.47	1000	0.01	2.56	2.17	1500	0.05			
2	50	19.71	-0.31	1000	0.01	24.74	-0.40	1500	0.05			
3	150	71.89	7.26	6500	0.01	105.87	-1.53	9000	0.05			
4	225	117.16	21.34	21636	0.01	190.24	22.31	31542	0.05			
5	325	195.78	45.79	6500	0.01	263.81	44.55	9000	0.05			



1

1.5

112914 psi

49232 psi

2

2.5

Stress-Strain Curve of Unconfined Compression Test

Secant Moduli vary factor of 3 to 6 between initial loading, failure and yielding.



Measured and FEM: Load-Settlement Response

1400

1200

200

39638 psi

0.5

Estimated Settlement from Hand Solution – Assume Bilinear Stress vs. Strain

It's recommended that the stress-strain relationship of unconfined compression test and lower confining triaxial test (i.e., 50 psi) be used to characterize the stress-strain relationship for rock mass (function of dry unit weight) and characterized as Bilinear.



Estimation of Secant Young's Modulus from Stress-Strain Relationship

For Cemex Site (105 pcf, Homogeneous Miami Limestone): Compute Bearing Capacity = 352 psi Using dry unit weight Bilinear Stress vs Strain, and BC: finding the vertical strain = 3.17%Secant Young's Modulus, $E_{secant} = 11104$ psi

values over the region of influence

$$E_g = \exp\{\frac{1}{W_f H} \sum \ln E(x, y)\}$$

where,
W_f = footing width
H = overall depth of soil layer

Geometric Mean Modulus

Where, μ = Poisson's Ratio $\Delta q_s = Bearing Pressure$

Influence of Heterogeneity on Differential Settlement

Mass Modulus of Heterogenous Rock

- Strength, Dry Density and Modulii of Florida Limestone is lognormally distributed which may be characterized with Mean, Median and Geometric mean;
- Instead of the mean value, Fenton & Griffiths (2002) suggest the **Geometric mean** modulus be used for the heterogenous mass modulus when estimating the footings mean settlement;
- For heterogeneous case of rock over sand with localized failure (right punching shear), median in the footprint is suggested

²²Load Test 1: Cemex Site, Load Test Results: Predicted Hand Settlement

Probability Measure of a Single-Footing Deformation, Fenton & Griffiths Method (2002) – Hand & Linear Solution

Measured and Fenton & Griffiths method: Load-Settlement Response

Footing & Drilled Shaft Location

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, Site Investigation (PSI)

Similar to Cemex Site, the rubble portion was ignored and the Recovery was adjusted: 78% for Miami Limestone & 70% for Fort Thompson Limestone

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, Site Investigation

Strength Assessment and Spatial Variability Evaluation

Unconfined Compression Strength, psi For Miami Limestone layer (3' to 13'), CV = 1.06, Correlation Length: 3 ft 500 1000 1500 0 0 # of tests: 19 . . SR 84 Site 10 Water Table: 3 ft 20 Depth, ft Ground Surface Sand Depth: 3 ft Footing 40 Punching Failure Surface Limestone (Miami Limestone) ۰ . Depth: 13 ft 50 . 60 (Medium-dense) Sand $N_{60} = 14$ **Direct Tension Strength, psi** Depth: 33 ft 100 200 300 0 0 **# of tests: 51** 10 20 Depth, ft Limestone (Fort Thompson 30 Limestone) 40 50 Depth: 58 ft 60

> Strength ($q_u \& q_{dt}$) versus Depth for SR 84 Site ($q_{dt} = 0.7 \times qt$, Perras, M. A., etc., 2014)

2000

•

•

• B1

• B2

• B3

400

• B1 • B2

• B3

Subsurface layering based on rock coring and SPT

Strength Envelope

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, Site Investigation

Strength Envelope for Miami Limestone at SR 84 Site

Strength Envelope for Fort Thompson Limestone at SR 84 Site

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site Properties & Seismic Shear

 \mathbf{N}

rooting i		. D-J		
Dry Unit W	Veight Sun	nmary		
Boring Number	B-1	B-2	B-3	0
Count	13	10	10	E .
Median, pcf	127 🔇	114	110	J spice
Mean, pcf	126	122	118	× 8.
Geomean, pcf	125	121	117	
Std, pcf	15	15	16	10
Recovery (neglecting rubble portion), %	78	75	82	y-ax
Competent Fort Thompson Limestone to provide reaction (33 to 55 ft depth)	No	Yes	Yes	

Footing Location · R_3

Using the Bearing Capacity equations with strength from B-3 (unit weight 110 pcf) $Q_u = 335$ psi, a 5' x 6' rectangular footing was selected

Distribution of Density, Shear Modulus, and the Young's Modulus for the SR-84 Site (Deliverable 5)

28

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, Drilled Shaft Installation and Load Test

It was decided to use the drilled shaft to provide the reaction force based on the budget, time and available quotes

Schematic of Load Test at SR-84 Site

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, West Shaft (R.W. Harris)

Steel Rebar Cage

Drilling Setup

Drilling

Placement for Rebar Cage

Concrete Pumping

Overflow

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, East Shaft (R.W. Harris)

Drilling

Bailing Bucket to stable the hole

Alignment with West Shaft

Picture of East Shaft after two days

Droportios	Fact Shaft	West Shaft	Range Specified in FDOT		
Fioperties	East Shart	west Shan	Specification: 455-15.8.1 (65°F)		
Density, pcf	66~67	66~67	64 ~ 73		
Viscosity, Seconds	34 ~ 36	$32 \sim 40$	$30 \sim 40$		
pН	9	9	8~11		
Sand Content	2%	1%	<u>≤4%</u>		

Measured Properties of the Bentonite Slurry for the East and West Shaft

Measured Compressive Strength of Concrete Specimens for East and West Shaft

Deve	Compressive	Compressive		
Days	Strength (East), psi	Strength (West), psi		
14	9107.85	7821.9		
21	8973.31	9061.28		
28	9926.22	9625.19		

Measured Slump of Concrete for East and West Shaft (same)

Properties	Measured	Range specified in 346
Slump, in	9~10	$7 \sim 10$

Fasting Setting Concrete for footing placement

Installation of Girders

Measuring System

Hydraulic Jack and Load Cell Setup

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, Load Test Results 5' x 6' Footing

A rock over sand reduction factor, $N_R = 1.195$ was obtained based on the geometry (rock thickness) and elastic modulus ratio of layers

$$\begin{split} Q_u &= \min \left(Q_{u1}, Q_{u2} \right) * \xi \ / \ N_R = 24.1 \ tsf \\ N_R &= Rock \ thickness \ reduction \ factor \\ N_R &= 0.86 * R^{-0.25} \ if \ R < 0.3 \\ N_R &= 1.2 - 0.1 R \ if \ R \ge 0.3 \\ R &= 0.093 T^2 \ (E_{soil} \ / \ E_{rock}), \ limit \ R \ to \ 2.0 \\ T &= Rock \ thickness \ in \ feet \ \{if \ T \ is \ in \ m, \ then \ R = T^2 \ (E_{soil} \ / \ E_{rock} \)\} \\ E_{soil} \ / \ E_{rock} \ (1,087/38,000) = Modulus \ ratio \ of \ soil \ and \ rock \ layers \end{split}$$

Load Test 2: SR84 – Rock over Sand - Estimating Sand Secant Modulus

33

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, Load Test Results: Settlement

FEM – Plaxis 3D - Nonlinear Solution

34

Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, 3D FEM Results

Estimated Settlement -Hand Solution at Bearing Capacity

Stress-Strain Relationship – Validation

For SR 84 load test: Florida Bearing Capacity equations - $Q_u = 335$ psi, From Stress vs. Strain curve, Strain = 0.89%, Secant Modulus, $E_{secant} = 37,807$ psi

Modified (vertical failure) - Meyerhof Method (1968) estimate of bearing capacity (independent of sand modulus) of rock layer for layered system

Note, there is **no** N_R - considers the ratio of secant modulus of rock to soil **Error may exceed 40% versus Florida Bearing Capacity equations**

$$Qu = 2c(B+L)D + (2sB+L-B)p_p sin\delta$$
 = 335 psi

Where,

s = 1.3, shape factor governing the passive earth pressure $\delta \approx 2\phi/3$

³⁷Load Test 2: SR 84 Site, Estimated Settlement at Rock Punching Failure

Burmister Solution (1958) – settlement for layered solution – Hand & Linear Solution

 E_2 = Upper layer elastic modulus = 38,000 psi E_1 = Lower layer elastic modulus = 1,087 psi r = radius of footing = 2.5 ft h = thickness of upper layer = 10 ft F = Deflection Factor = 0.11 P = bearing pressure = 23.5 tsf

To predict the settlement at Punching Shear Failure occurs $D = \frac{1.18 \times Pr}{E_1} \times F = 1.14 \text{ in}$

Using Secant Modulus – At Punching Failure FEM: 0.98 in vs. Burmister's Method: 1.14 in

Measured Qu = 326 psi bearing pressure with 1.125 in of settlement at SR-84 Site.

Comparison of Bearing Pressure with near bridge pier spread footings – SR-84 Site

		I	Footing (Geometry	Dealy	Rock St	trength	-	Nominal
Locations	Design Method	B', ft	L', ft	D _f , ft	Thickness, ft	γ at Df, pcf	c, psf	φ _f , °	Bearing Pressure, ksf
Load Test at SR-84	FL Bearing Capacity Equations	5	6	3	10	110	6336	35.4	48
Pier 4 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	17.49	21.5	8	6	130	0	32	36.4
Pier 5 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	16.7	23	8	9	130	0	32	37.8
Pier 6 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	17.8	23.51	8	6	130	0	32	34.6
		Piles	used for	Pier 7 and Pier	8				
Pier 9 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	16.8	25.3	9	9	130	0	32	45.4
Pier 10 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	15.6	25.8	8	12	130	0	32	57.5
Pier 11 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	18.8	24.1	8	8	130	0	32	35.8
Pier 12 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	19.6	20.4	10	10	130	0	32	50.3
Pier 13 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	17.48	24.66	8	11	130	0	32	43.2
Pier 14 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	19.6	22.8	8	9	130	0	32	40.7
Pier 15 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	19.3	24.7	8	12	130	0	32	44.6
Pier 16 Spread Footing	AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design	17.4	23.3	8	11	130	0	32	45.2

39

Load Testing of Shallow Foundation on Ocala Formation (limited prior triaxial strength data):

- Rock coring and strength test will be performed to size the footing and drilled shaft
- MWD and Seismic Shear Test will be conducted to aid the site characterization (function of dry unit weight)
- Measure and predict the bearing capacity and loadsettlement response

Geologic Map of Bell, USGS

- The Florida Bearing capacity equations show good agreement with the load tests for heterogeneous single and 2 layer (rock over sand) for Miami Limestone, the geomean or median are recommended to characterize the rock dry unit weight. Only use the modified Meyerhof Solution (1968) punching shear capacity of rock for two-layered as a rough estimation when no modulii of rock and sand.
- For footing settlement, the bi-linear stress-strain relationship and secant modulus provides a good estimate.
 Fenton & Griffiths Method (2002) provides a good estimate of mean and differential settlement for single layer of rock; Burmister's solution (1958) with Bowles (1996) estimate of sand modulus provides a good estimate of two-layer settlement.
- The **seismic shear tests** (Deliverable 5) shows great promise in characterizing the rock dry density accurately near the ground surface.
- Further FEM analysis of layered system with a **high CV (1.0)** will be performed to evaluate the differential settlement for a **two-layer systems** (rock over sand).

Timeline

Deliverable # / Description as provided in the scope	Completion
(included associated task #)	Date
1.) Load Test 1 Site Investigation	1/2020
2.) Shallow Foundation – Load Test 1	10/2020
3.) Shallow Foundation – Load Test 2	5/2021
4.) Shallow Foundation – Load Test 3	10/2021
5.) Seismic Field Testing to develop Mass Properties of rock	10/2021
6a.) Draft final (Task 6)	11/2021
6b.) Closeout teleconference (Task 6)	12/2021
7.) Final report (Tasks 7)	12/2021

41

Acknowledgements

The researchers would like to thank:

- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project managers: Rodrigo Herrera, David Horhota.
- District 6 Engineers: Matthew Gisondi, Adrian Viala, etc.
- State Material Office (SMO) folks: William Greenwood, Kyle Sheppard, Todd Britton, Bruce Swidarski, Travis Stevens, etc.
- H2R Drilling Crew for micro-piles installation
- R.W. Harris Drilling Crew for drilled shaft installation
- Terracon and PSI Rock Coring Crew
- Powell Family Structures & Materials Laboratory: Scott Powell, Caitanya Jivan (CJ) Bhakti
- Weil Hall Structure Lab: Dr. Taylor Rawlinson

The Research would not be completed without everyone's help!

Thank You!

Q & A

