

# Innovative Structural Research & Demonstration Project implementation by the Florida DOT



GFRP rebar for deck & substructure of Halls River Bridge (2017-19)



GFRP Secant-Pile Shaft cages for A1A-Flagler Beach seawall (2019)



UHPC-PC H-Pile for CR-339 demonstration (2020)



CFRP-PC FSB's US-1/Cow Key span replacements (2020)

Prepared By: Will Potter & Steven Nolan  
*FDOT State Structures Design Office*

# ABSTRACT & SPEAKERS

## Summary:

Florida DOT is privileged to have its own Structures Research Center (SRC) to assist in-house engineers, or contracted universities, and occasionally commercial producers with full scale structural element testing for applied research and demonstration purposes. Due to limited resources these activities are focused on mission critical activities often associated with innovative structural materials or systems.

Independent but cognizant of these activities, the Structures Design Office oversees a Design Innovation initiative which develops and monitors design guidance and demonstration projects for deployment of innovative structural materials and systems. This presentation will highlight some of the recent applied research coordinated by the SRC, outline the FDOT's innovative structural material implementation, and highlight some of the early demonstration projects.

**Speakers:** FDOT State Structures Design Office (Tallahassee)

*Will Potter, P.E.: Assistant State Structures Design & Manager of Structures Research Center*

*Steven Nolan, P.E.: Senior Structures Design Engineer*





# Innovative Structural Research at FDOT

## Florida's History with Innovation and Research



William E. Dean. In background is the Sebastian Inlet Bridge for which Dean received a special PCI Award in 1964.

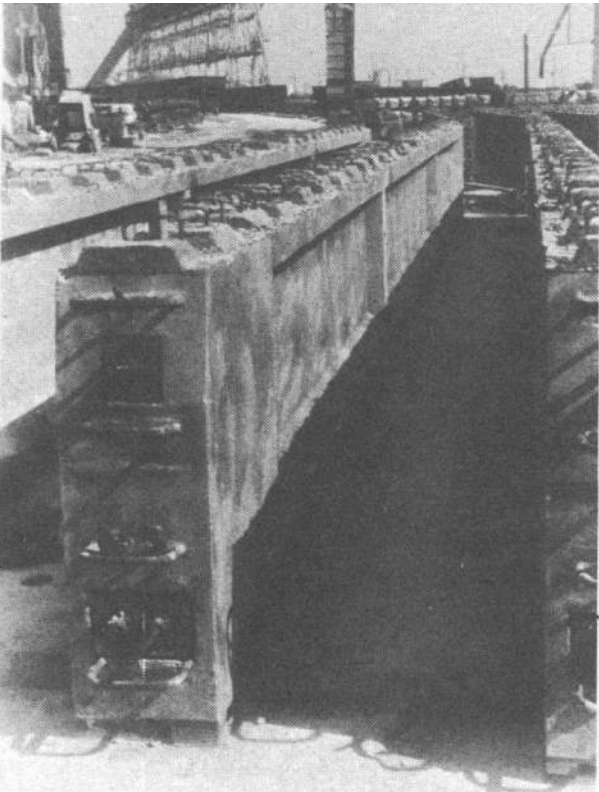


Fig. 26. Typical Tampa Bay beam

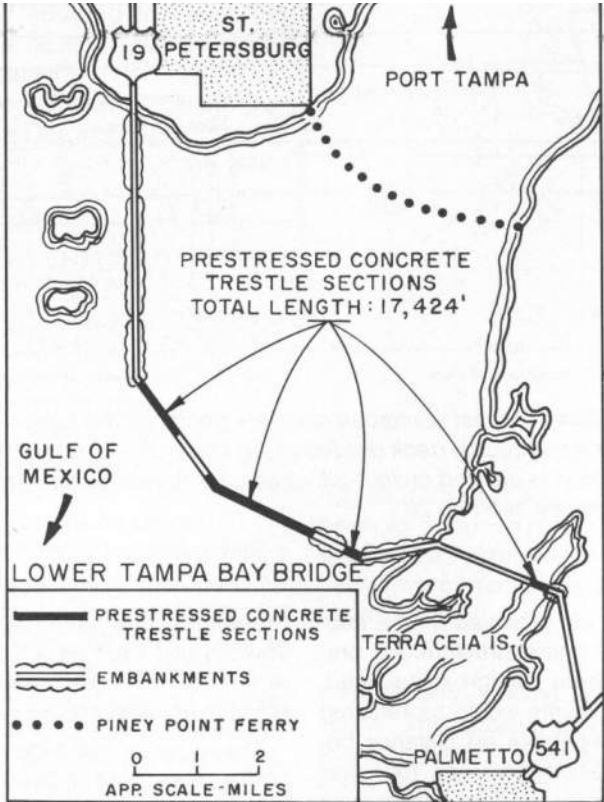


Fig. 21. Location map of Lower Tampa Bay Bridge

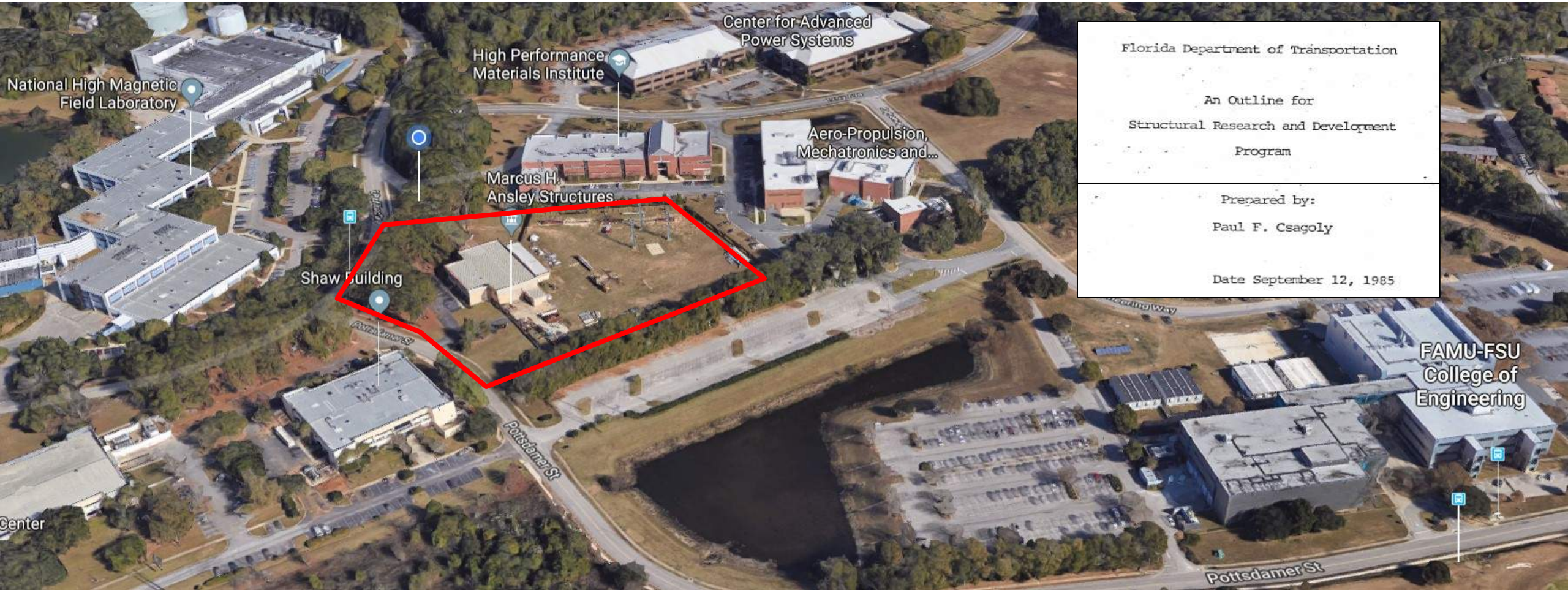


Fig. 25. Demonstration test of 100-ft (30.5 m) long prestressed channel slab at R. H. Wright & Son, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.





# Marcus H. Ansley FDOT Structures Research Center





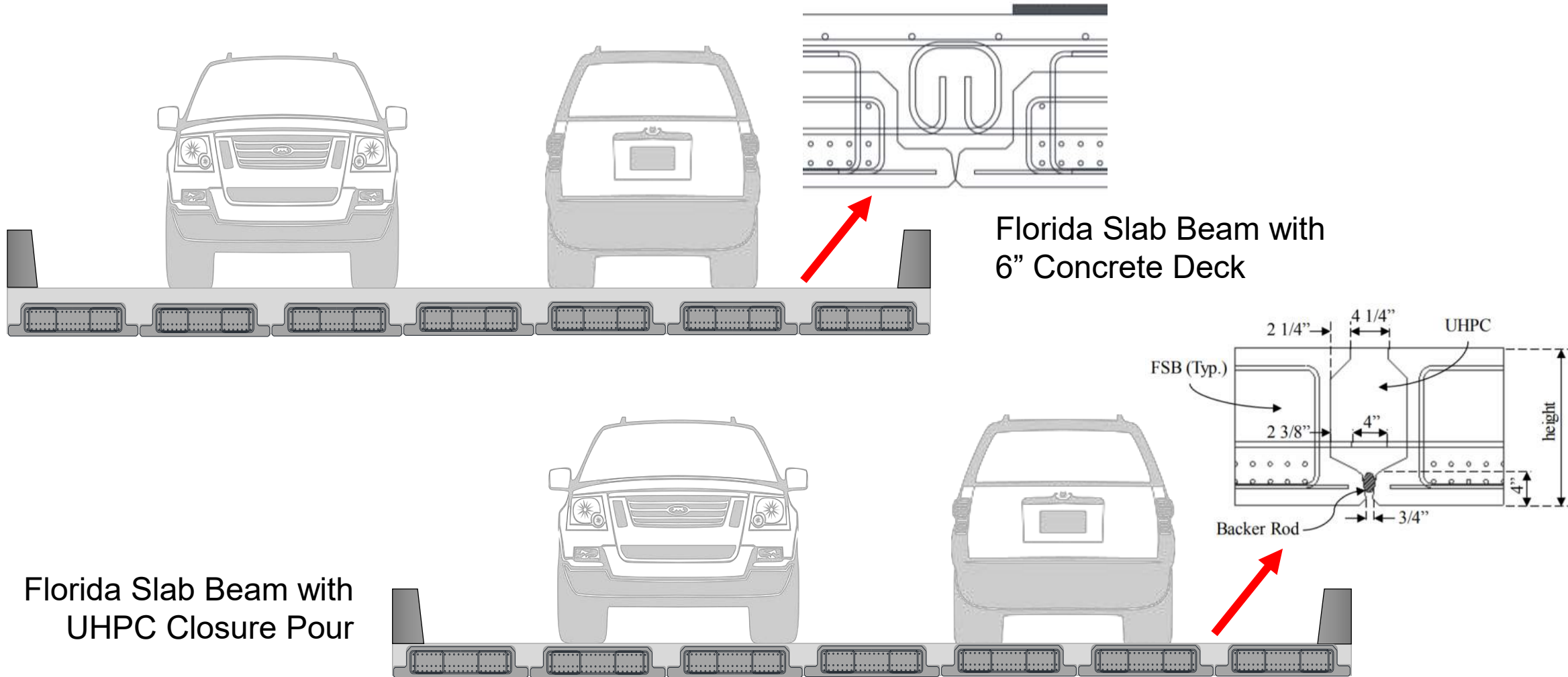
# Structures Research Center Capabilities



- 11 Full Time Staff
  - 4 Engineers, 6 Technicians and 1 Admin Assistant

- 110-ft x 50-ft Strong Floor
- Outdoor Pendulum Facility
- Bridge Load Testing Program

# Ultra-High-Performance Concrete (UHPC)



Florida Slab Beam with 6" Concrete Deck

Florida Slab Beam with UHPC Closure Pour



# Florida Slab Beam w/ UHPC Joints



Strength Testing to Evaluate Overall Joint Integrity



# Hybrid Prestressed Concrete Girder with UHPC

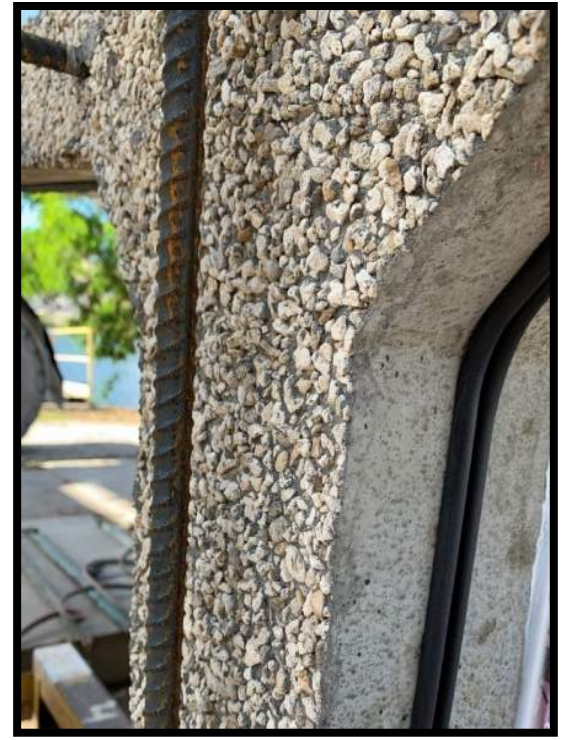
## Objective

- Evaluate the effectiveness of UHPC to contribute to the structural performance of prestressed girders
- Reduce or eliminate visible end-region cracking



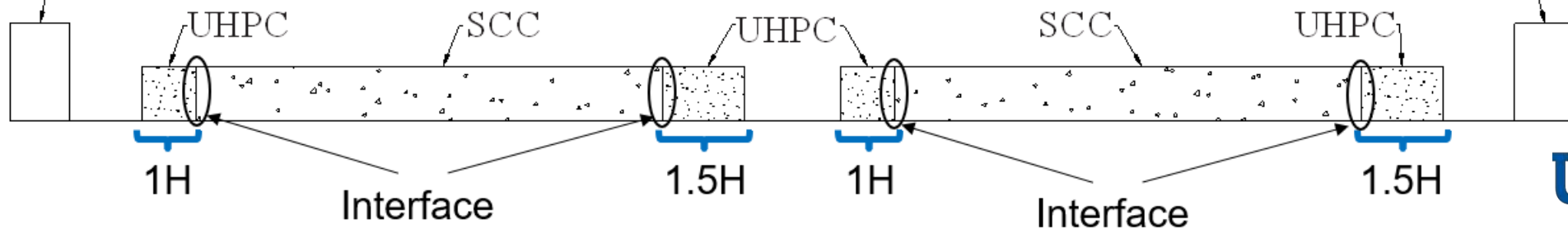


# Hybrid Prestressed Concrete Girder with UHPC



Pulling end

Anchor end







DURA-STRESS  
Inc.

# UHPC Industry Collaboration



- Collaborate with Florida Precaster's to evaluate and test all UHPC Piling and Beam Concepts
- Florida is fortunate to have 2 Precaster's that have UHPC mixes and willing to contribute to the state of knowledge

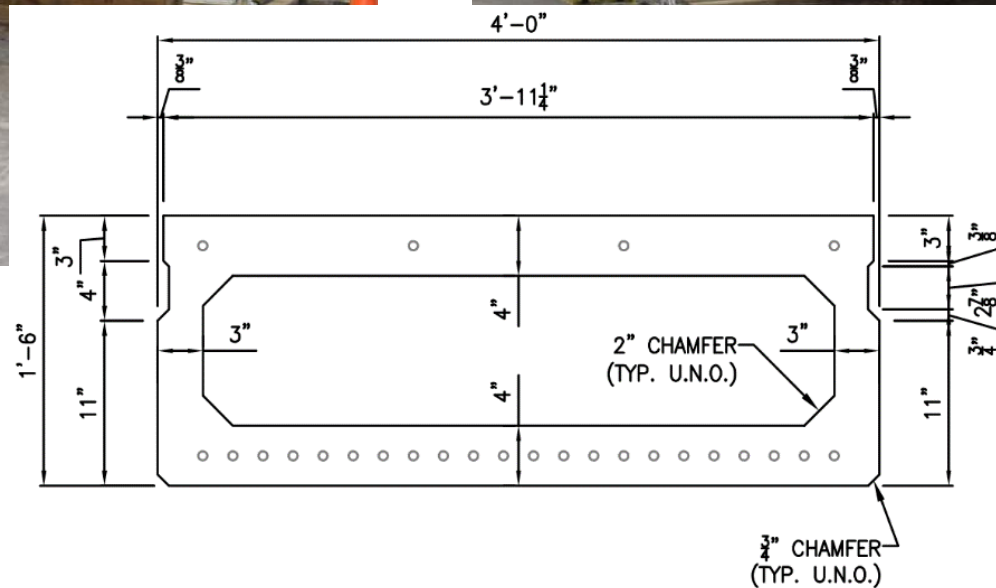
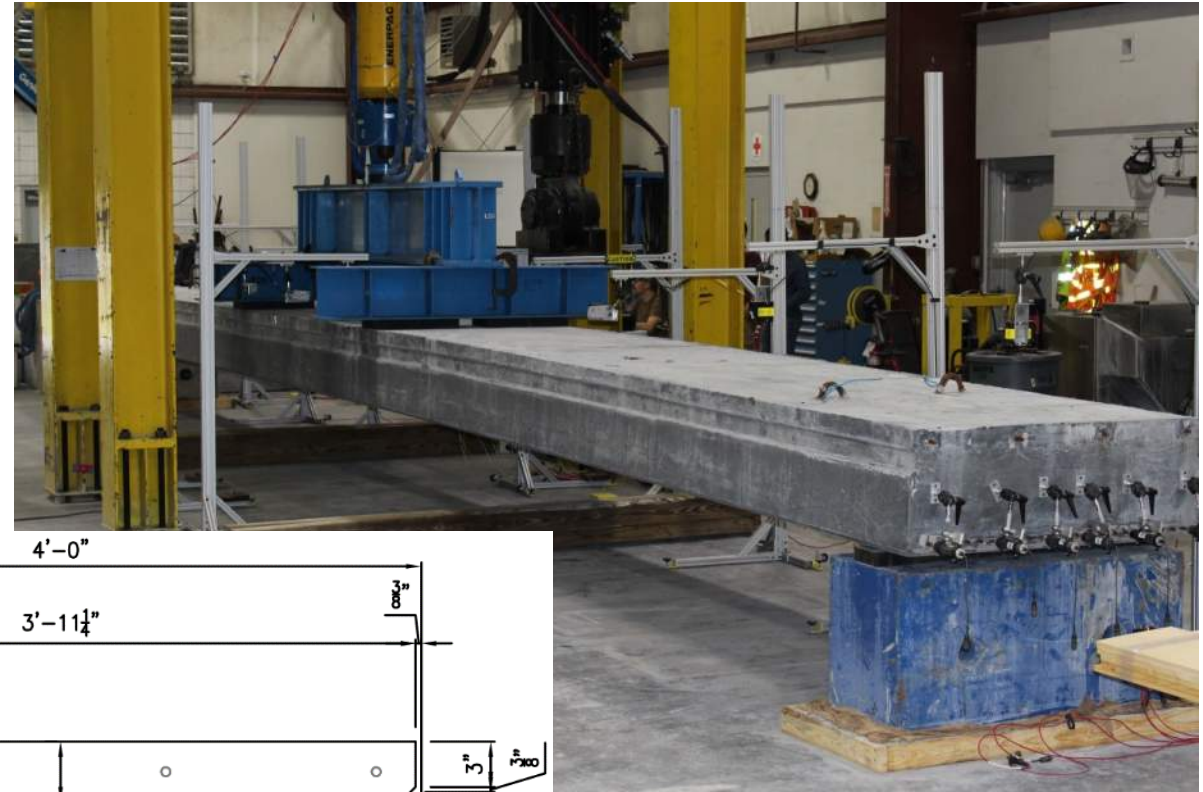
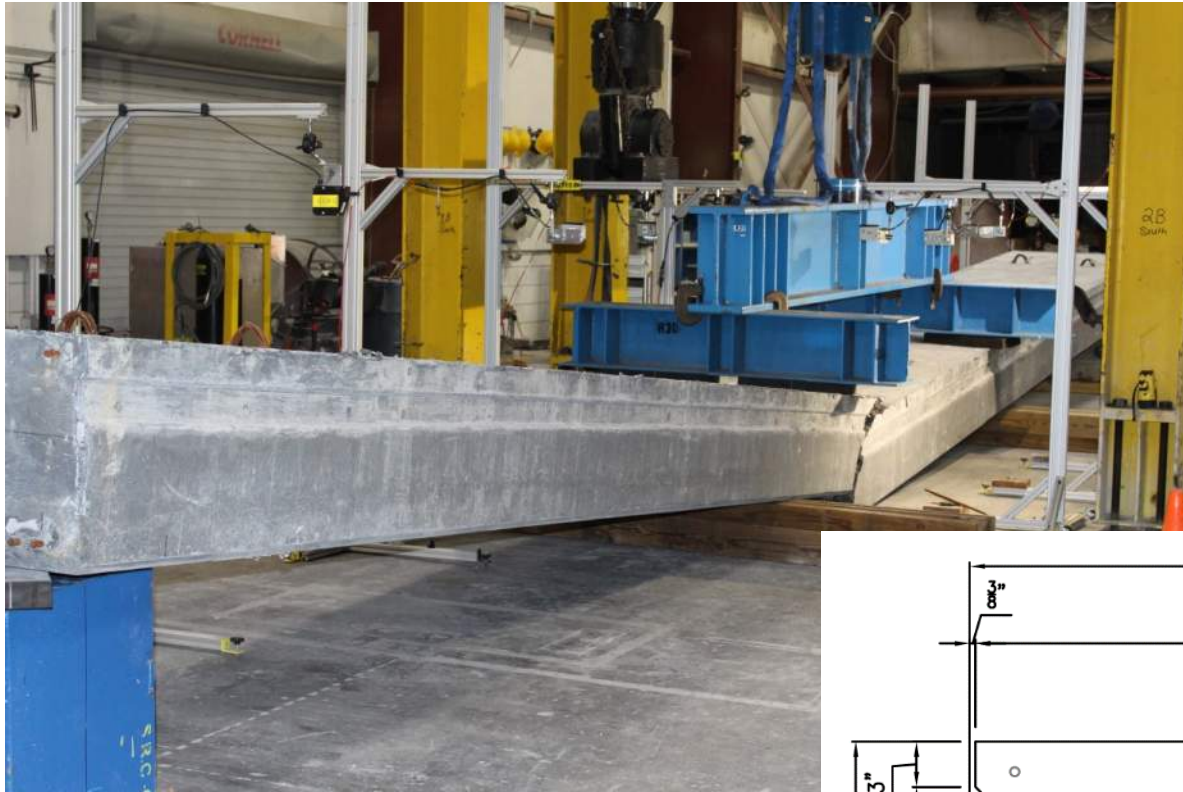




# UHPC Industry Collaboration



# UHPC Box Beam





# Corrosion Resistant/Free Prestressed Piling



## Carbon Fiber and High-Strength Stainless Steel Prestressed Piling

- Constructability
- Strength and Behavior Evaluation
  - Flexure
  - Shear
  - Transfer/Development Length
- Drivability
- Implementation
  - Standard Plans (455 series)

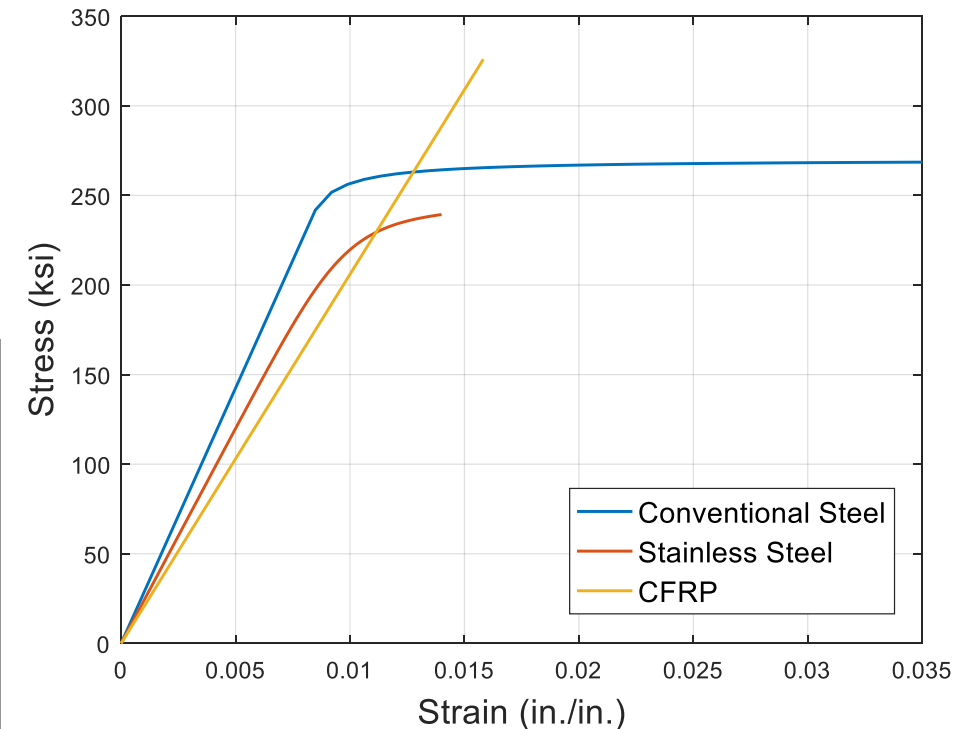


# Corrosion Resistant/Free Prestressed Piling

	Duplex 2205 Alloy	ASTM A416 PC Strand	CFRP
Diameters (in)	0.375 to 0.7*	0.375 to 0.7	0.375 to 0.7**
Tensile Strength (ksi)	240	250, 270, 300+	300+
Elongation @ UTS	≥ 1.4% (1.4-2.0)	≥ 3.5% (5.0-7.0)	≥ 1.2%
Relaxation	< 2.5%	< 2.5%	< 6.0%
Elastic Modulus (ksi)	24,500	28,500	≥ 17,000

## Standard Plans

455-101	Square CFRP and SS Prestressed Concrete Piles - Typical Details and Notes	22600	SPI	
455-102	Square CFRP and SS Prestressed Concrete Pile Splices	22601		
455-112	12" Square CFRP and SS Prestressed Concrete Pile	22612		
455-114	14" Square CFRP and SS Prestressed Concrete Pile	22614		
455-118	18" Square CFRP and SS Prestressed Concrete Pile	22618		
455-124	24" Square CFRP and SS Prestressed Concrete Pile	22624		
455-130	30" Square CFRP and SS Prestressed Concrete Pile	22630		
455-154	54" Precast/Post-Tensioned CFRP and SS Concrete Cylinder Pile	22654	SPI	
455-160	60" Prestressed CFRP and SS Concrete Cylinder Pile	22660	SPI	
455-400	Precast Concrete Sheet Pile (Conventional)		SPI	
455-440	Precast Concrete Sheet Pile (CFRP/GFRP and HSSS/GFRP)		SPI	





# High-Strength Stainless Steel Prestressing - Flexural Applications -



Duplex 2205



# High-Strength Stainless Steel Prestressing - Flexural Applications -

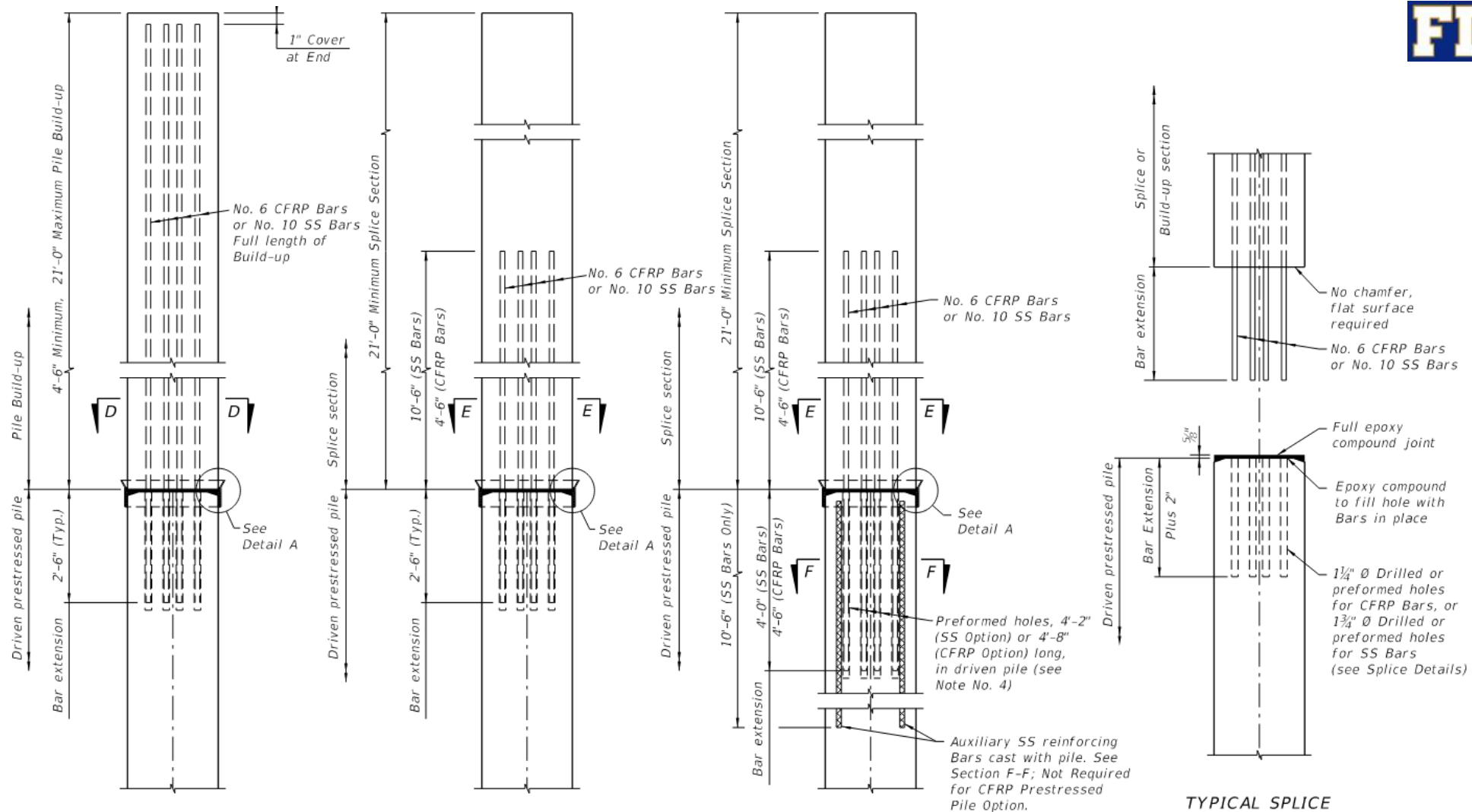




# High-Strength Stainless Steel Prestressing - Flexural Applications -



# FRP Pile Splices (Unforeseen/Preplanned)



**NONDRIVABLE UNFORESEEN REINFORCED PRECAST PILE BUILD-UP DETAIL**

**DRIVABLE UNFORESEEN PRESTRESSED PRECAST PILE SPLICE DETAIL**

**DRIVABLE PREPLANNED PRESTRESSED PRECAST PILE SPLICE DETAIL**

**TYPICAL SPLICE BEFORE BONDING**



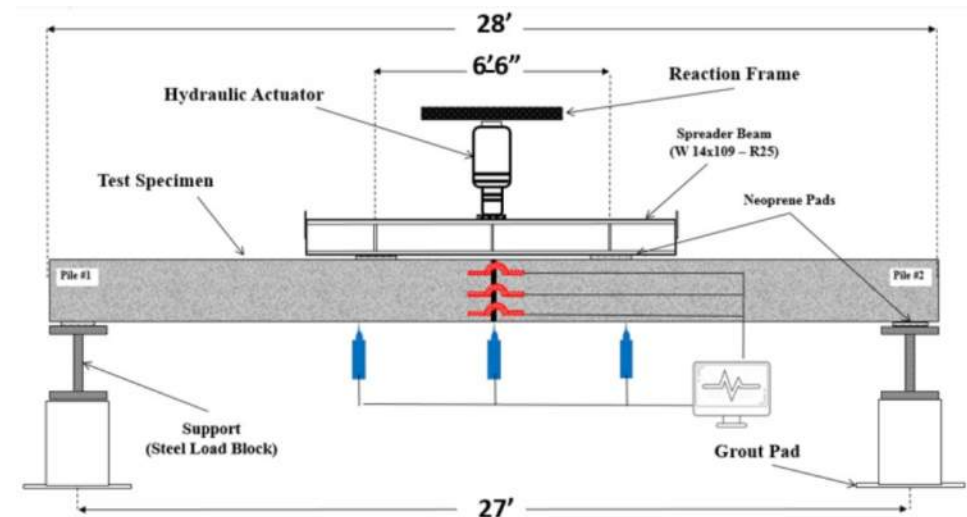
# FRP Pile Splices (Unforeseen/Preplanned)



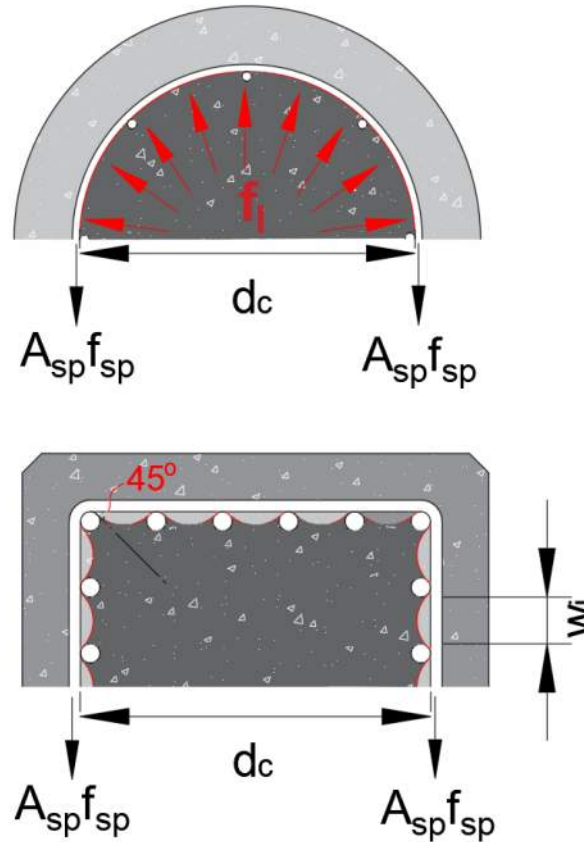
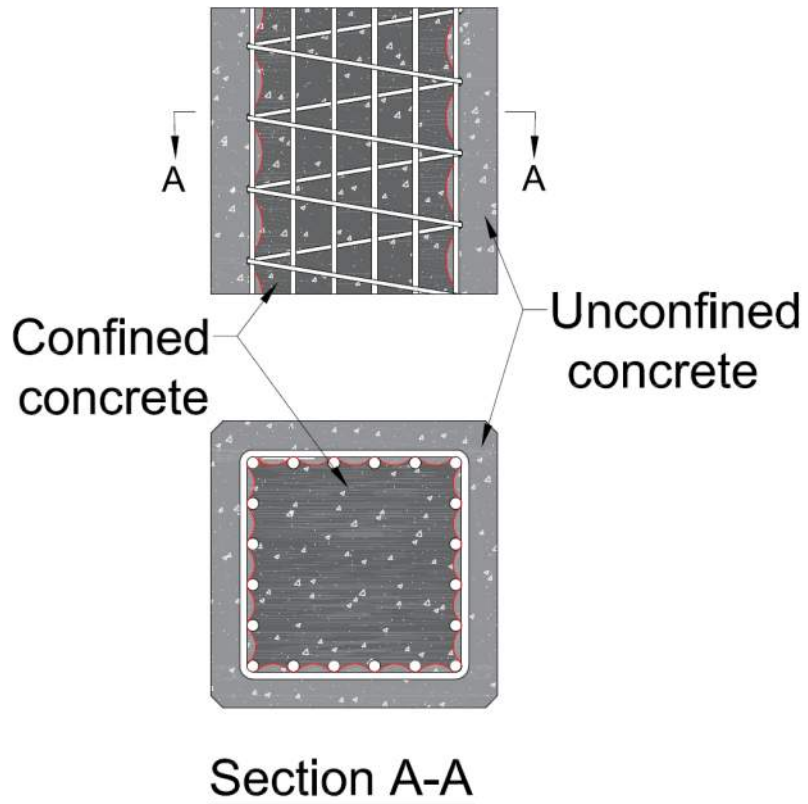
Testing based on comparison with conventional splices

Variables included:

- Splice dowel material (CFRP/GFRP/Steel)
- Splice length/method
  - Unforeseen or Preplanned
- Strand material

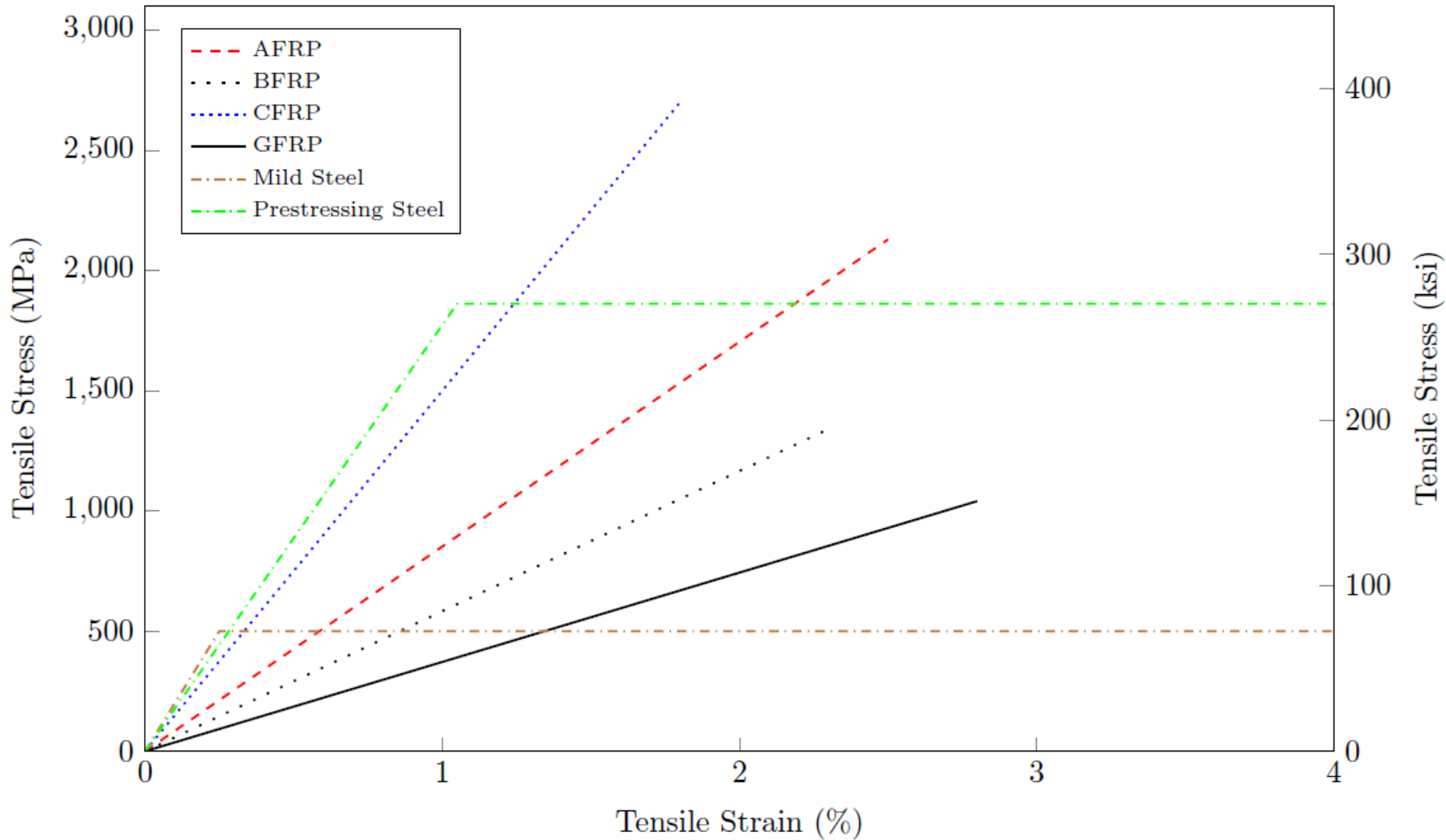


# GFRP Spirals in Prestressed Piling

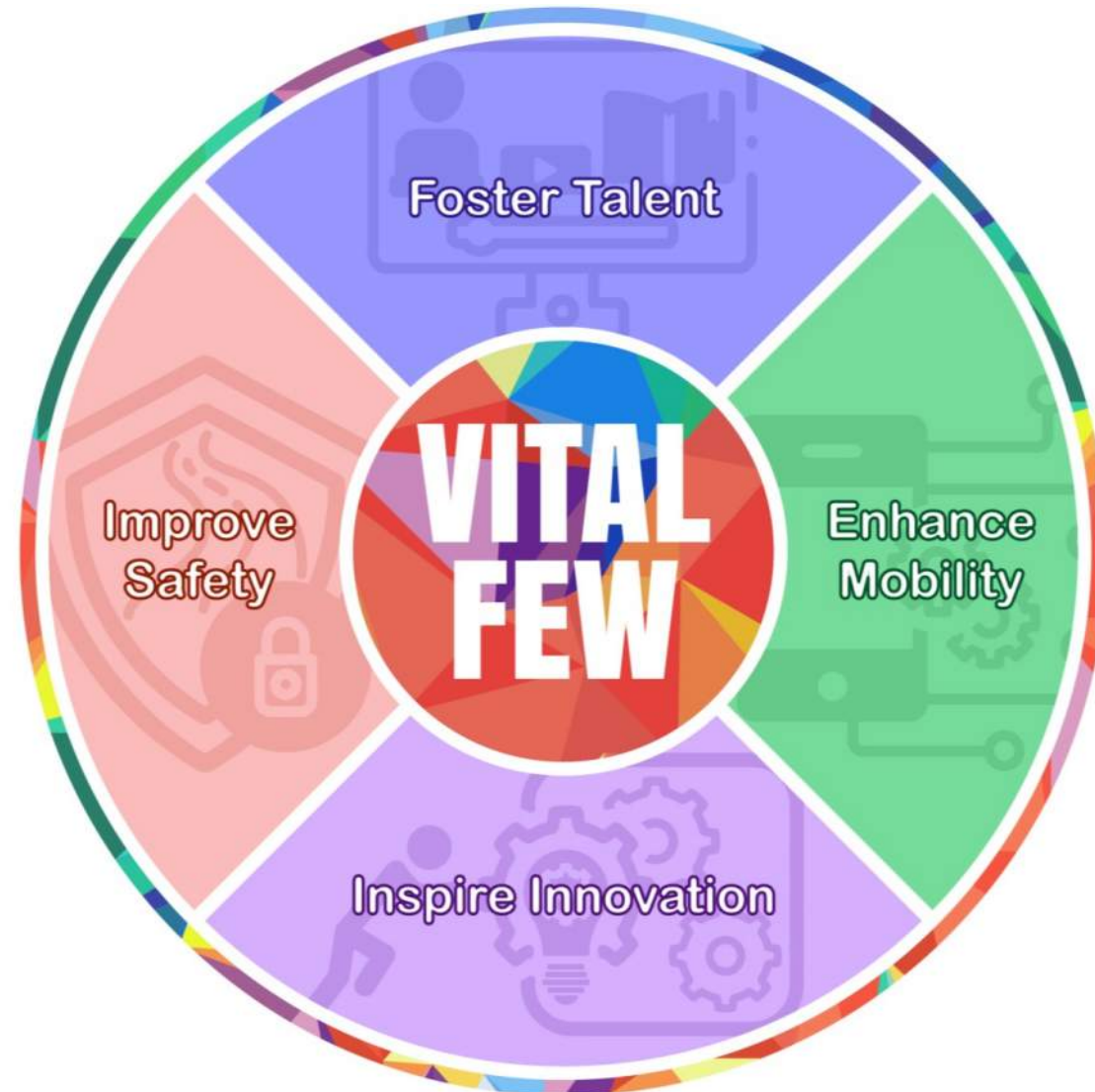




# GFRP Spirals in Prestressed Piling



# Agency Initiatives





# Innovative Structural Materials Implementation



- **Why**
- **What**
- **How**

# Why? Bridge Durability & Structural Advancement

- **Durability** needs – low-maintenance, extended service-life, cost-effective solutions, reducing work zones.
- **Structural** needs – Inspectable, repairable, robust, extended span lengths (light-weighting and/or high-strength & high-endurance):



- HSSS-Prestressed Concrete (*2205 Duplex SS*)
- CFRP-Prestressed Concrete (*Carbon strands*)
- FRP-Reinforced Concrete (*Glass & Basalt*)
- Ultra-High Performance Concrete (*UHPC*)
- Light-weight Concrete or FRP (*Longer spans and/or less shipping cost*)

**Highly  
Corrosion-  
Resistant  
(HCR)**

**Structural  
Advancement**

## WORK ZONES



Work zone fatalities make up approximately two percent of overall fatalities and two percent of serious injuries in Florida. Specifically, work zone crashes represented 385 fatalities and 2,414 serious injuries from 2015 to 2019, with the number trending upward over time. Work zone crashes compound the situation because of the risk they create to roadside workers who were present in the work zone in 35 percent of the fatal crashes and 44 percent of serious injury crashes. These crashes also can create tremendous disruption to roadways until they are cleared. Solutions include targeted enforcement in work zones, implementation of smart work zone applications, and efforts to educate drivers about work zone safety.

42

**FLORIDA**  
Strategic Highway Safety Plan

**BUILDING FOR ETERNITY**

THE HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY  
OF ROMAN CONCRETE ENGINEERING  
IN THE



By  
C. E. BRADSHAW, B. E. PHILLIPS, M. D. JACKSON AND T. P. OGDON  
With contributions by  
L. BOYD, S. COLLIER, E. OGDON, E. GORRILL, C. E. THORNTON AND G. MORA  
Edited by  
J. B. OGDON

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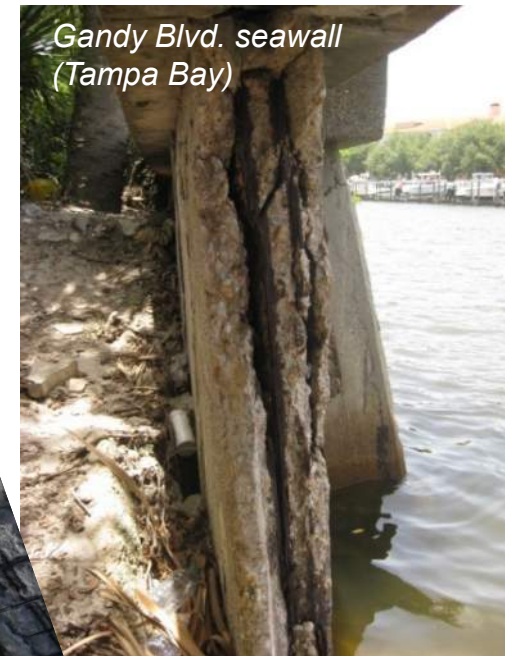


# Why use HCR materials for Bridges & Structures

- Florida maintains more than 150 million sq.ft. of bridge area (7044 FDOT bridges<sup>2</sup>);
- Florida has more than 4,000 miles seawall-bulkheads<sup>3</sup>.

WebTable 3. Shoreline hardening and population statistics by state (1)

	Hard sheltered shore (km)	Sheltered shore (km)	Hard sheltered shore (%)	Hard open shore (km)	Open shore (km)	Hard open shore (km)	Hard shore (km)	Total shore (km)	Hard shore (%)
<b>Atlantic</b>									
Connecticut	477	1907	25	0	0	11	477	1907	25
Delaware	287	2163	13	5	45	11	292	2208	13
DC	29	54	53	0	0	0	29	54	53
<b>Florida</b>	<b>2694</b>	<b>11 365</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2752</b>	<b>11 992</b>	<b>23</b>
Georgia	92	6340	1	14	158	9	106	6498	2
<b>Gulf</b>									
Alabama							356	2606	14
<b>Florida</b>							<b>4427</b>	<b>26 383</b>	<b>17</b>



# Why use HCR materials for Bridges & Structures

- Failure of structures exposed to aggressive environments is often corrosion of the steel reinforcement;
- Chlorides from air-borne salt or seawater penetrate concrete and reach steel rebar:
  - ✓ via concrete porosity
  - ✓ via cracks
- Corrosion is also accelerated by carbonation of concrete that lowers the pH;
- + FRP has low electro-magnetic interference (for electronic tolling)
- + FRP has low electrical conductivity (eliminates stray current corrosion)
- + FRP, SS & UHPC have lower ownership costs.





# Why use HCR materials for Bridges & Structures

## Age of Bridges (1)

Source (1): [2020 FDOT Bridge Maintenance Annual Report](#)

While the industry is now designing bridges to last for 75 years, most bridges built in the past were designed for a service life of 50 years. Looking at bridge age is the most common and simplest method of forecasting long-term budget requirements. This might lead one to conclude that bridges constructed before 1960 are at the end of the service life. Fortunately, advances in material science, design practices, and construction methods, along with a generally favorable climate, inspection and maintenance practices have contributed in many bridges functioning well past their original design life, despite the tremendous growth in traffic volume over the years. The strategy of bridge maintenance is to leverage these advances using an aggressive maintenance program to extend the useful life of the bridges, thereby minimizing the need to replace a large number of bridges within a short time period (see Table 1).

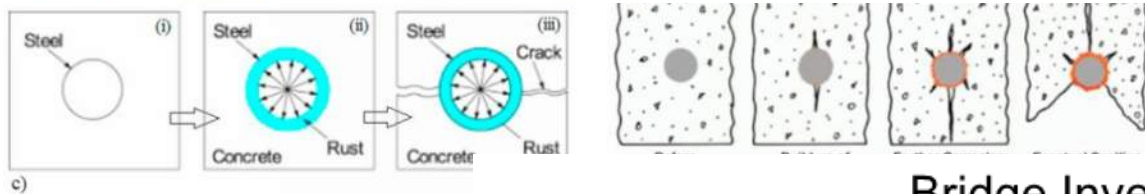


Figure 1. a) Components for corrosion; b) Electro-chemical cracks as corrosion progresses; c) Cracks due to

Figure 1 from:  
*Corrosion Mechanism in Reinforced Concrete* (from Maia & Alves, 2017)



## Bridge Inventory — 2019 Annual Report (2)

Source (2) [https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/maintenance/str/bi/florida\\_bridge\\_inventory\\_2019\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/maintenance/str/bi/florida_bridge_inventory_2019_annual_report.pdf)

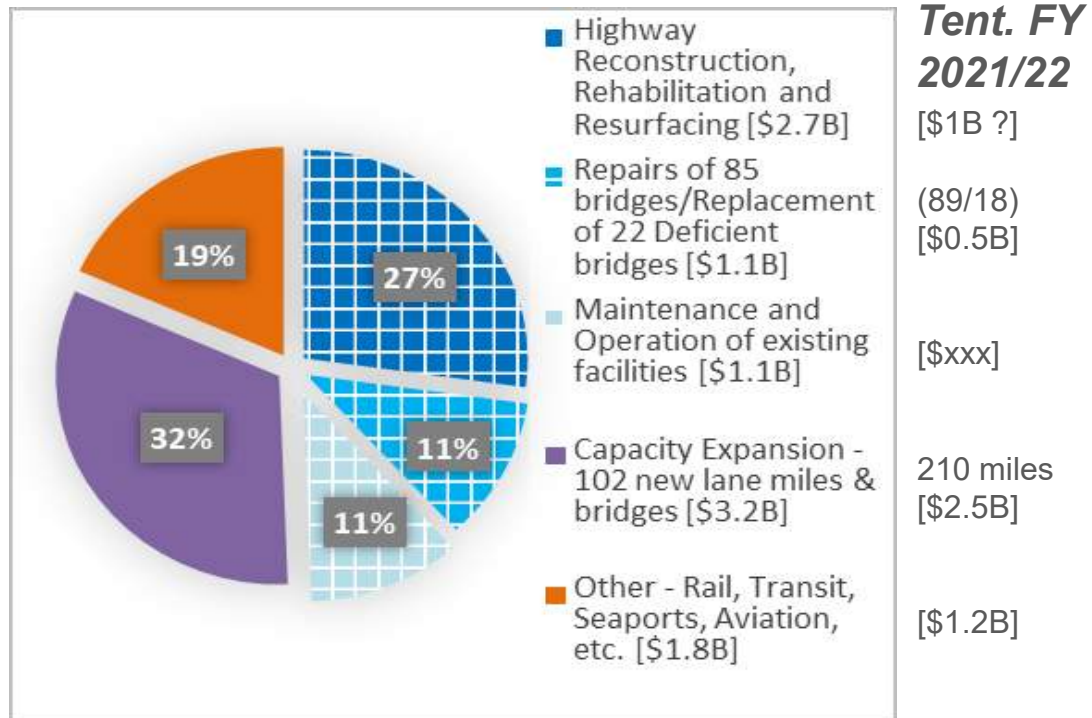
## Conclusion

Florida's bridges are generally in good condition, with those maintained by the FDOT in better condition than those maintained by local governments or others. The most serious threat to bridges in Florida is the corrosion of steel reinforced concrete substructures in coastal regions. Much has been learned in recent years about corrosion in marine environments, affecting material specifications and design practices that helps new bridges built today. However, the older bridges in the coastal regions are beginning to require careful evaluation and extensive corrective actions. On-going re-

# Why use HCR materials for Bridges & Structures

## Florida DOT Transportation Budget FY 2019/2020

- ~50% for combined Maintenance, Operations, Repair, Rehabilitation and Deficient Bridge Replacement (*hatched areas*).



**Tent. FY 2021/22**

[\$1B ?]

(89/18)

[\$0.5B]

[\$xxx]

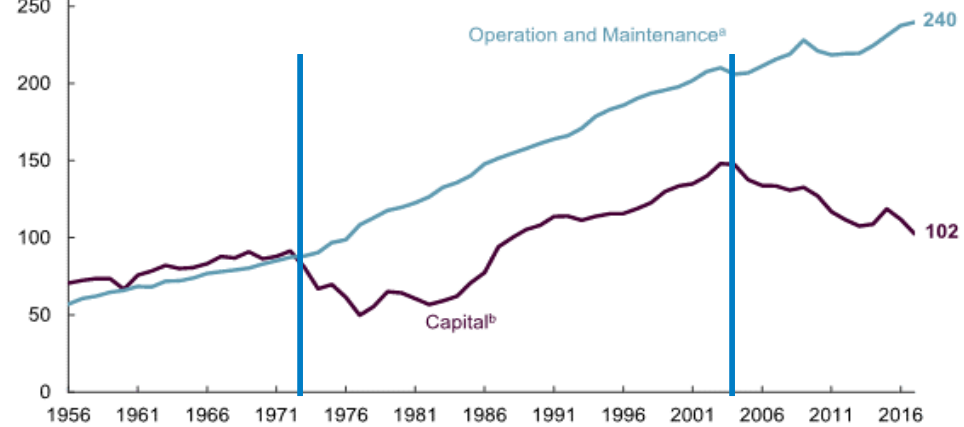
210 miles

[\$2.5B]

[\$1.2B]

Billions of 2017 Dollars

## US Public Spending on Transportation and Water Infrastructure 1959 to 2017 - State and Local Funding only (CBO 2018)



**2021 REPORT CARD**  
FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE  
**ASCE**

*“Reduce the life cycle cost of infrastructure by 50% by 2025 and foster the optimization of infrastructure investments for society”*



[www.ASCEgrandchallenge.com](http://www.ASCEgrandchallenge.com)



# What? Bridge Durability & Structural Advancement



Florida Department of  
**TRANSPORTATION**

Safety, Innovation, Mobility, Attract, Retain & Train

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## Office of Design

Office of Design / Design Innovation  
**Design Innovation**

Office of Design  
Florida's Transportation Engineers

### Non-Corrosive

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) continually strives to enhance all areas of its operations. In support of these efforts, the department recently moved into a bold new era for innovative ideas, research and accelerated implementation. Success will depend on our ability to carefully evaluate or implement the products and services provided to the users of Florida's transportation system. Our goal is to utilize newly developed technology or employ creative thinking to generate greater value for every transportation dollar invested.

After researching and evaluating many innovative ideas, the Central Office has developed a list of concepts, products and services that may be the best solution to the project's needs or design challenges. Some items on the list are completely developed, and only need tailoring to your project. We encourage you to propose one or more of these innovations for project specific solutions with confidence of approval by the Districts. Other items are not fully detailed and will require coordination with and approval by the District's Design Office. Many of these innovations have been successfully implemented in other states and countries. Not all projects benefit from these innovations and the Department is not advocating the general use of new products or designs where an economical well proven solution exists and is the most appropriate solution for the situation.

### FDOT Transportation Innovation Challenge

### Highly Corrosion-Resistant

The Department invites you to share your thoughts on ways we can challenge ourselves to be innovative, efficient and exceptional at our [Invitation to Innovation website](#)

## *“invitation-to-innovation”*

<https://www.fdot.gov/agencyresources/innovation/default.shtm>

## Structures Design Office

Curved Precast Spliced U-Girder Bridges

Fiber Reinforced Polymer Reinforcing

FRP Members and Structures

Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Integrated Bridge System

Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Wall

Prefabricated Bridge Elements and Systems

Segmental Block Walls

Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC)

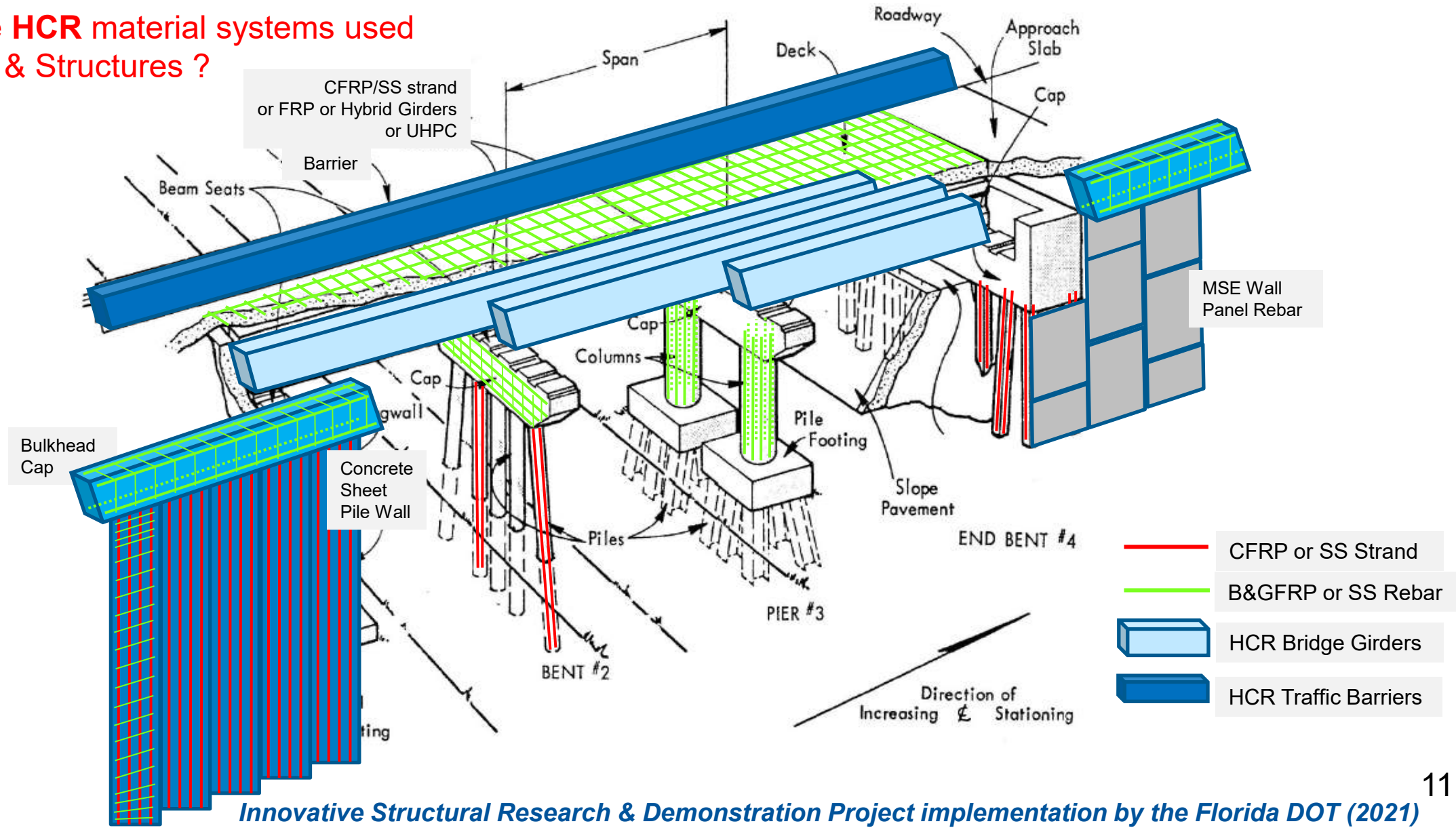
+ Stainless-Steel Prestressing Strand & Rebar



*Innovative Structural Research & Demonstration Project implementation by the Florida DOT (2021)*

# Bridge Durability & Structural Advancement

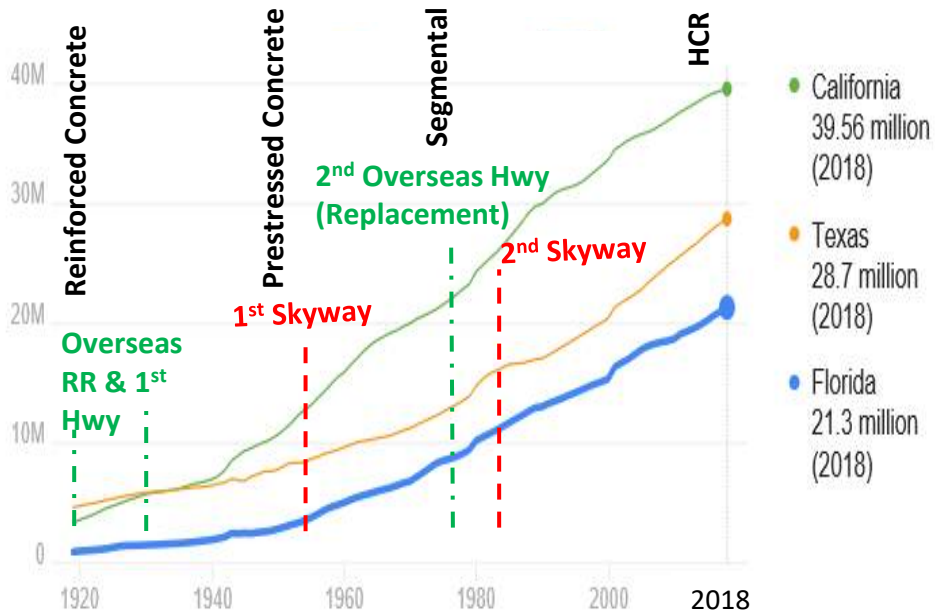
Where are **HCR** material systems used in Bridges & Structures ?



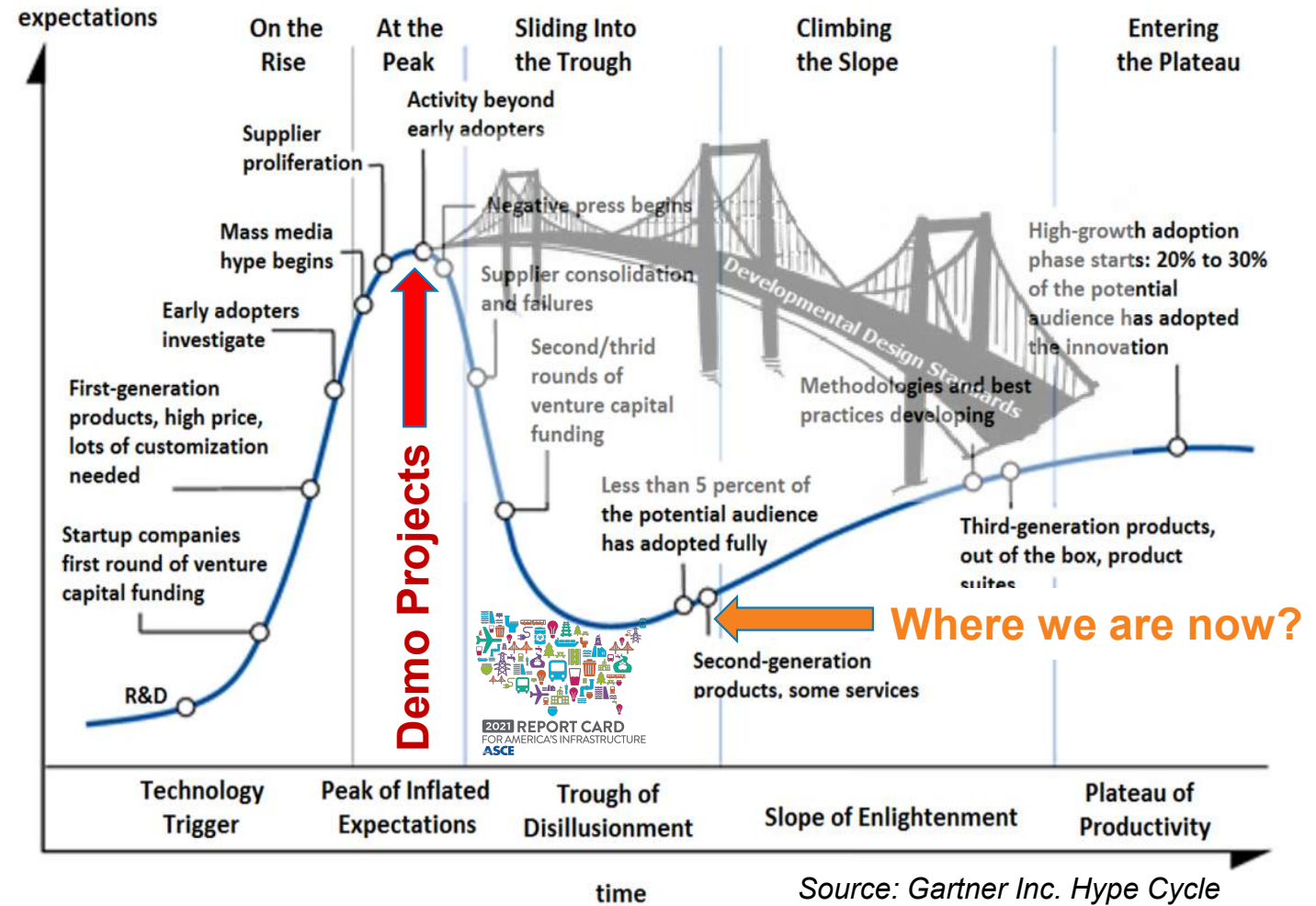


# How? Bridge Durability & Structural Advancement

- How do we bridge the gap between *innovation* and *institutional adoption* and keep up with our FTP needs?



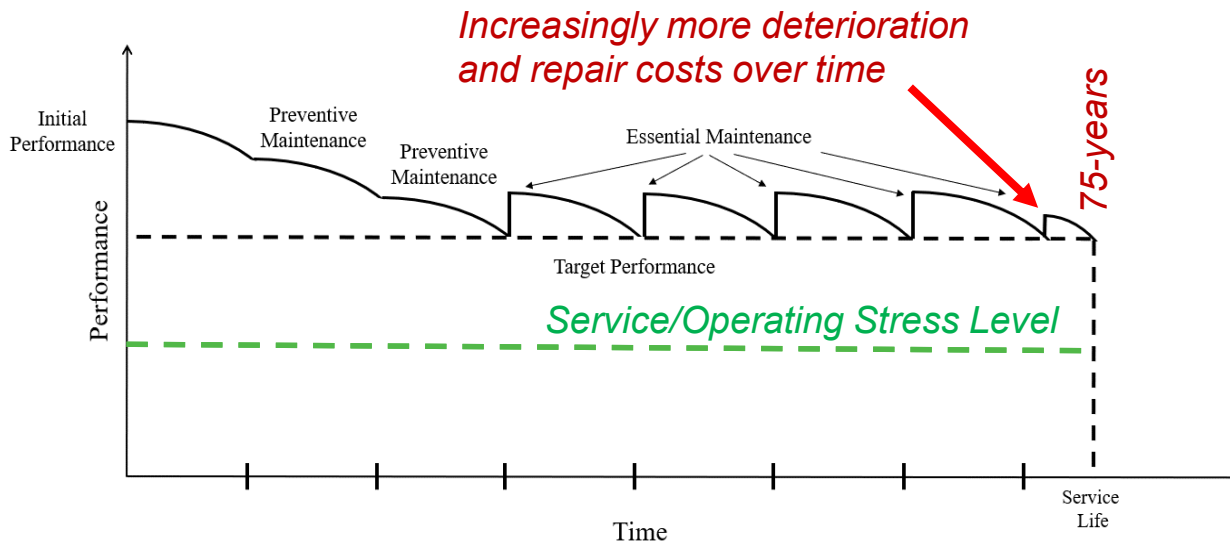
FLORIDA POPULATION GROWTH



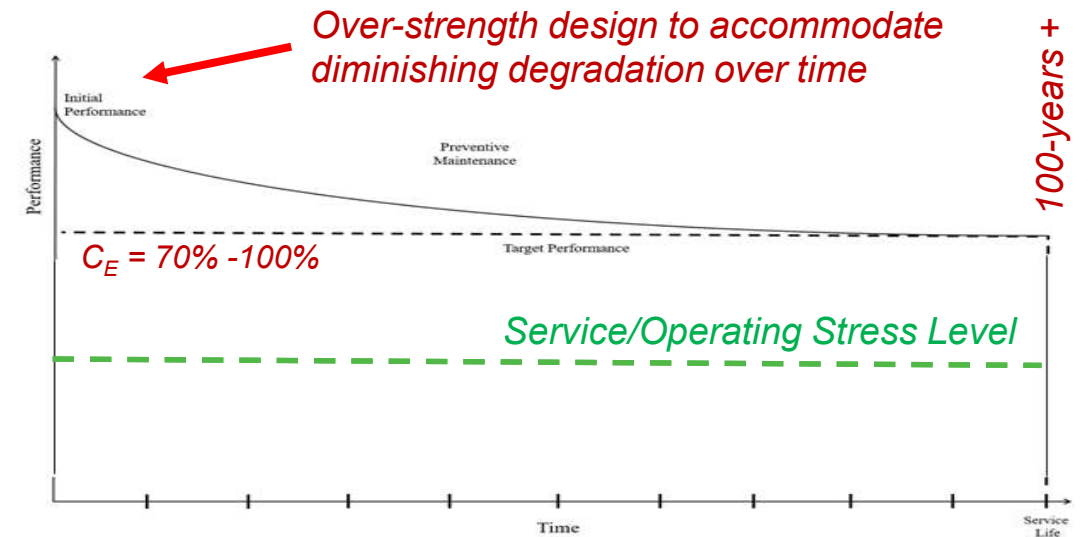
Where does HCR technology lay on this chart for FDOT Bridge & Structures?

# Cost Justification (Life-Cycle Cost & Assessment)

LCC & LCA can show the sustainable (economic and environmental) advantage of composite structures in the coastal environment:



**Current CS-RC/PC process**



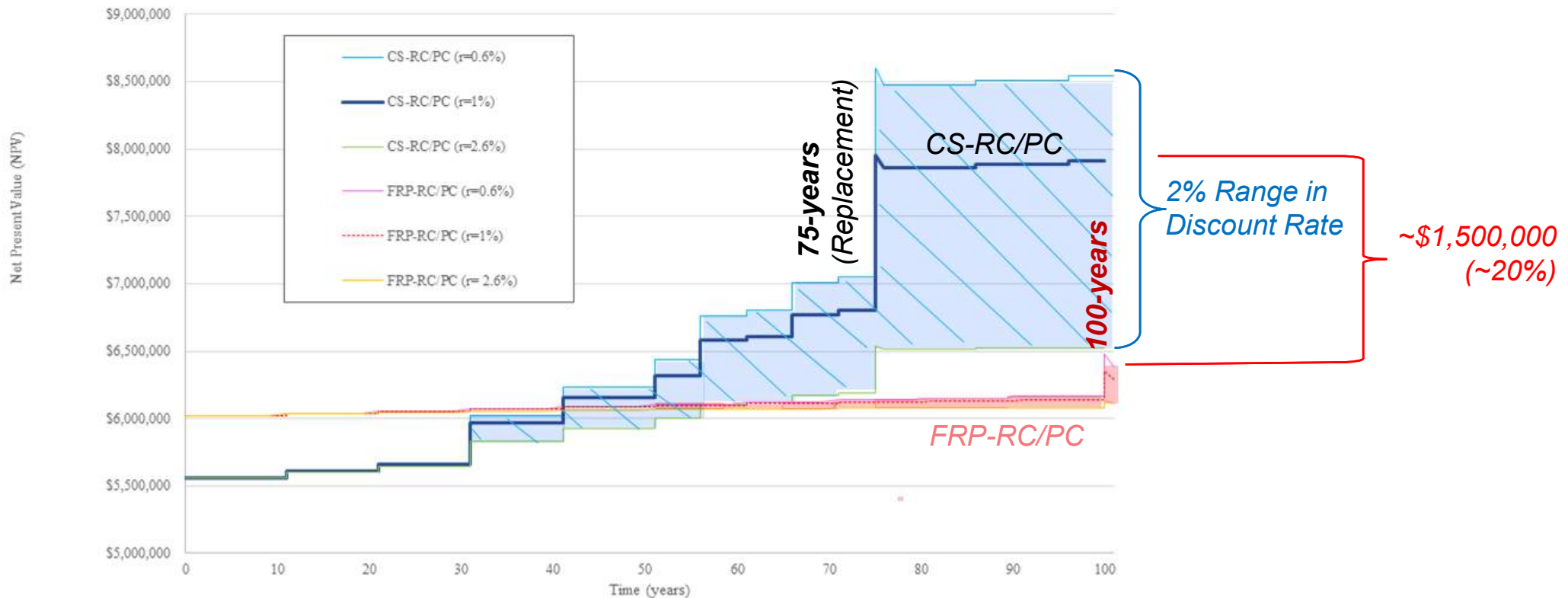
**HCR-RC/PC alternative**

*Charts: Cadenazzi, T., Dotelli, G., Rossini, M., Nolan, S., and A. Nanni. (2019). Cost and Environmental Analyses of Reinforcement Alternatives for a Concrete Bridge. Structure and Infrastructure Engineering.*



# Cost Justification (Life-Cycle Cost Analysis)

Life-Cycle Cost (LCC) analysis can show the sustainable (economic) advantage of FRP structures in the coastal environment:



Example LCC Comparison of Carbon Steel-RC/PC versus FRP-RC/PC bridge  
(adapted from Cadenazzi et al. 2019)

Innovative Structural Research & Demonstration Project implementation by the Florida DOT (2021)

# Implementing Technology for Longer-Lasting Bridges & Structures

**How do we encourage more Local Agency & District innovation participation?**

- 1. Schedule** is always a challenge – *seems its always “too early” or “too late”.*
- 2. Construction** is not the ideal time to propose innovative material alternates, but often that is what industry must default too thru the CSI process – *engineering cost and schedule risk is passed on to the contractor.*
- 3. Implementation** at the beginning of the consultant’s Design Contract is too slow → *3-6 years before construction complete.*

→ Need a more **nimble** and **equitable** process!



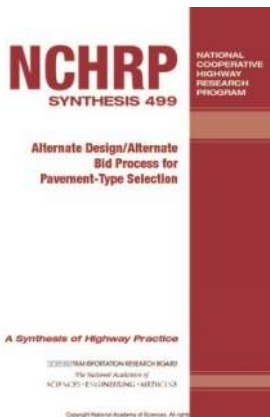


# Implementing Technology for Longer-Lasting Bridges & Structures



## What could a more nimble and equitable process look like?

- **Nimble** – *encourage alternate designs post-BDR & during procurement of contractor.*
- **Equitable** – (1) *Pay for the design of recognized innovative alternates upfront (**Design-Innovation**) in addition to conventional design (~ADAB) = “Low-Bid” (A);*  
– (2) *Bid alternates recognize the life-cycle cost benefits = “Best Value Bid” (A+D)*
- **Incentivize** – *For “Cost Savings Initiatives” (CSI ~VE) proposals using select higher-performing materials (eg. **Design-Innovation**) → Give up DOT portion of savings – no sharing.*
- **Empower other Stakeholders** – *cost adjustment and schedule extensions until institutionalized.*



# Implementing Technology for Longer-Lasting Bridges & Structures



## **Negative effects** of a more nimble and equitable process?

- **Nimble** – *mistakes due to new procedures & doing more with the same or less?*
- **Equitable** – *cost & time increase for design and/or construction.*
- **Incentives** – *less cost sharing with the Department.*
- **Empowering other Stakeholders** – *loss of owner control.*



# Implementing Technology for Longer-Lasting Bridges & Structures



## **Positive outcomes** of a more nimble and equitable process?

- **Nimble** – *more responsive to innovation and scalable deployment, – can bring new business to the State if the market is seen as more open than other places.*
- **Equitable** – *all solutions are evaluated based on value.*
- **Incentives** – *makes the DOT look more progressive to industry & public & can develop new industries!*
- **Empowering other Stakeholders** – *more buy-in or “ownership” of the implementation challenges by others.*

# Project Fast-Facts

Structures Design - Transportation Innovation  
Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP)  
Reinforcing Bars and Strands

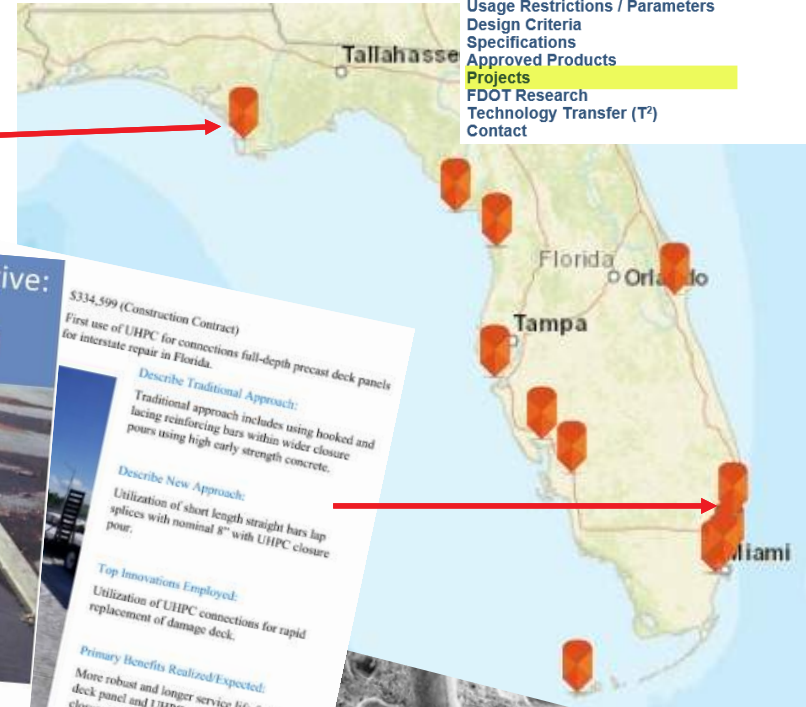
Overview  
Usage Restrictions / Parameters  
Design Criteria  
Specifications  
Standards  
Producer Quality Control Program  
Projects  
Technology Transfer (T<sup>2</sup>)  
FDOT Research  
Contact

Structures Design - Transportation Innovation  
Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC)

Overview  
Usage Restrictions / Parameters  
Design Criteria  
Specifications  
Approved Products  
Projects  
FDOT Research  
Technology Transfer (T<sup>2</sup>)  
Contact

## Fast-Facts:

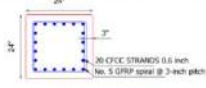
<https://www.fdot.gov/structures/innovation/FRP.shtm#link9>



### FDOT Transportation Innovation Initiative: FRP – Design Innovation



180 linear feet of precast pile for a lump sum cost of \$28,904.00 + Tax.  
Cost of driving piles by contractor and FRP reinforcement unknown.



non-pressured GFRP reinforcement with GFRP stirrups. One GFRP stirrup.

wood with GFRP bars.

FRP Pile Driving: 3/2/2017 – 3/3/2017

### Fast Facts:

Glass  
Fiber Reinforced  
Polymer  
&  
Carbon  
Fiber  
Reinforced  
Polymer



**Project Location:** FDOT District Three  
Bay County  
Lynn Haven, Florida  
**Agency:** Florida Department of Transportation  
**URL:** <http://www.fdot.gov/structures/innovation/FRP.shtm>  
**Project Name:** Arthur Drive over Lynn Haven Bayou  
Bridge No.: 464143  
FPID: 430463-1  
**Project Description:** Field testing of GFRP and CFRP reinforced concrete piles.

**Project Purpose & Need:** Three FRP reinforced precast concrete demonstration piles were manufactured and driven to test performance. One pile was prestressed with CFRP tendons, and two piles were non-pressured with GFRP bars.

### FDOT Transportation Innovation Initiative: UHPC – Design Innovation



Fast  
Facts:  
Ultra-High  
Performance  
Concrete



**Project Location:** FDOT District Five  
Brevard County, Florida  
**Agency:** Florida Department of Transportation  
**URL:** <http://www.fdot.gov/structures/innovation/UHPC.shtm>  
**Project Name:** I-95 NB over CR 5A  
Bridge No. 700156  
FPID: 438321-1  
**Project Description:** Partial Deck Replacement using full depth precast deck panels with UHPC joints.

**Project Purpose & Need:** Bridge Inspection Reports identified deterioration, of deck sections using partial depth precast panels. Work activities included removal of the existing deck concrete and panels, installation of a new full depth precast panels and connections with straight splice bars and UHPC joint fill.

5334,599 (Construction Contract)  
First use of UHPC for connections full-depth precast deck panels for interstate repair in Florida.

**Describe Traditional Approach:**  
Traditional approach includes using hooked and lacing reinforcing bars within wider closure pours using high early strength concrete.

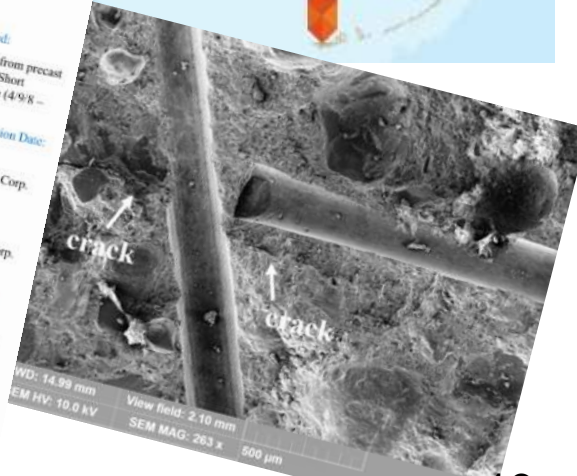
**Describe New Approach:**  
Utilization of short length straight bars lap splices with nominal 8" with UHPC closure pour.

**Top Innovations Employed:**  
Utilization of UHPC connections for rapid replacement of damage deck.

**Primary Benefits Realized/Expected:**  
More robust and longer service life from precast panel and UHPC connections. Short closure time for interstate bridge lane (4:9:8 – 4:12:18).

**Project Start Date-Substantial Completion Date:**  
10/9/2017 – 4/19/2018

**Inspection:**  
Kisinger Campo and Associates Corp.  
Oceancon Consulting, LLC.  
Target Engineering  
Patrick D. Mulhearn, P.E.  
Kisinger Campo and Associates Corp.  
Richard Clements  
FDOT Brevard Operations  
[Richard.Clements@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Richard.Clements@dot.state.fl.us)  
Chase C. Knight, Ph.D.  
FDOT Composite Materials Specialist  
[Chase.Knight@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Chase.Knight@dot.state.fl.us)





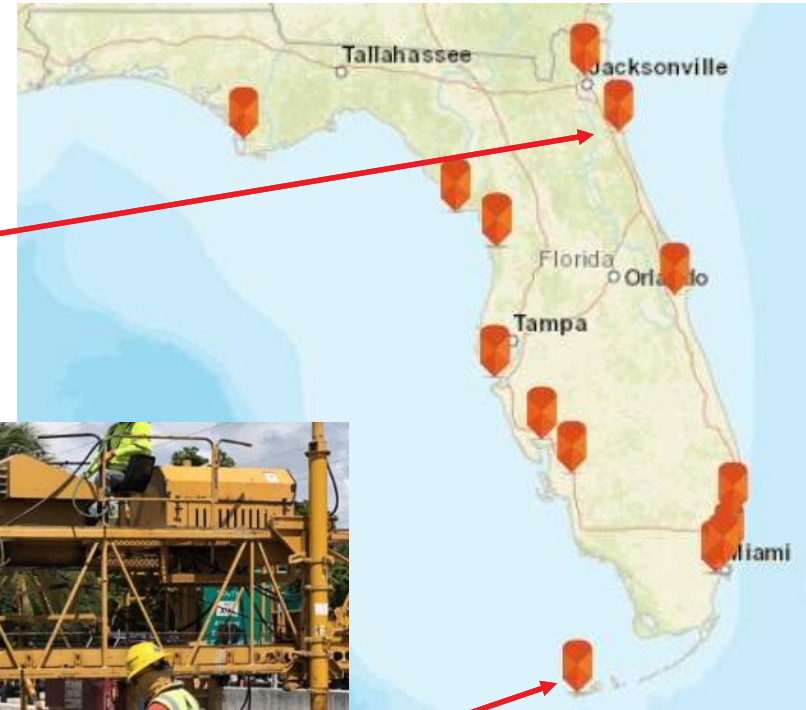
# Project Fast-Facts

Structures Design - Transportation Innovation  
Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP)  
Reinforcing Bars and Strands

- Overview
- Usage Restrictions / Parameters
- Design Criteria
- Specifications
- Standards
- Producer Quality Control Program
- Projects**
- Technology Transfer (T<sup>2</sup>)
- FDOT Research
- Contact

## Fast-Facts:

<https://www.fdot.gov/structures/innovation/FRP.shtm#link9>



GFRP Secant-Pile Shaft cages for A1A-Flagler Beach seawall (2019)



CFRP-PC FSB's US-1/Cow Key: 3 full span replacements (2020)





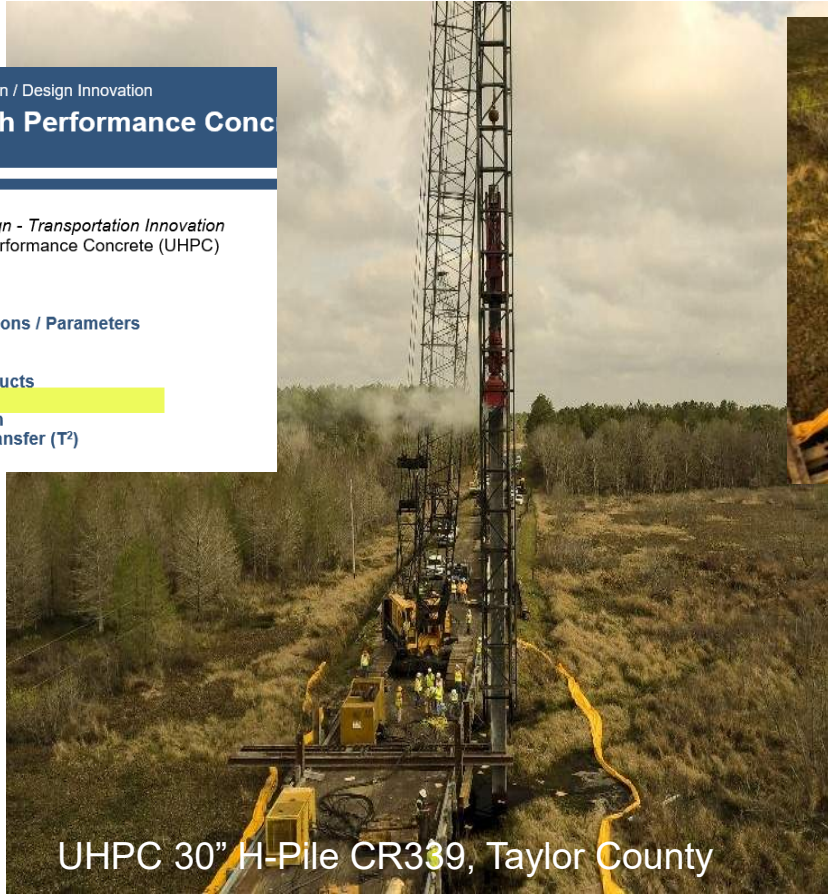
# Project Fast-Facts

Fast-Facts: <https://www.fdot.gov/structures/innovation/FRP.shtm#link9>

Structures Design / Design Innovation  
**Ultra-High Performance Conc**

Structures Design - Transportation Innovation  
 Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC)

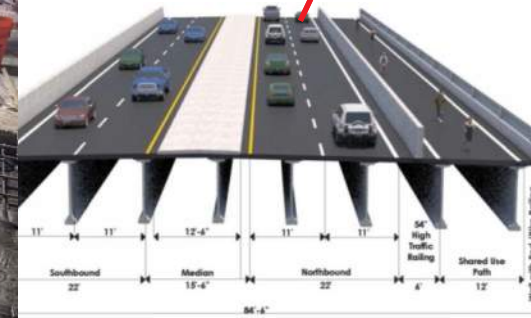
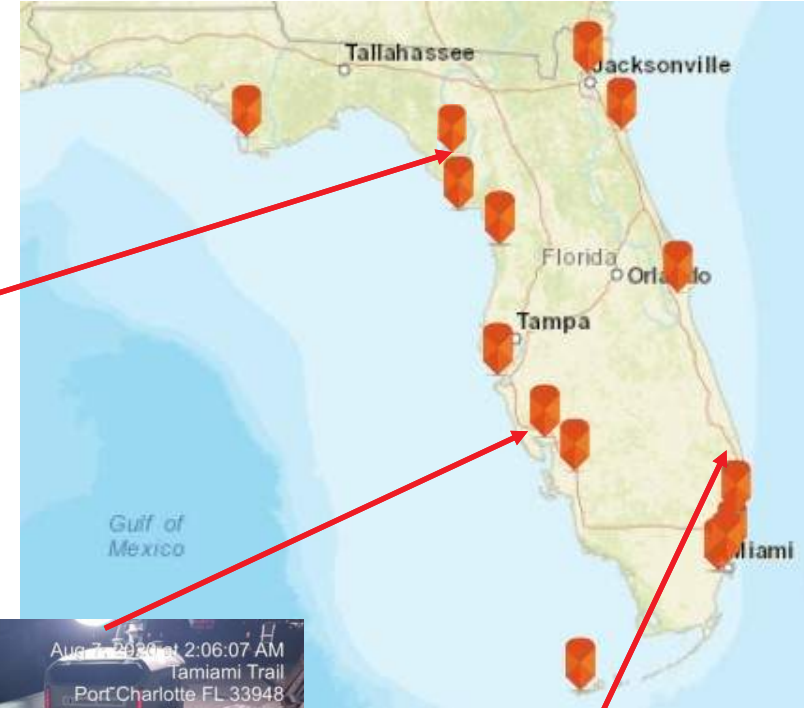
- Overview
- Usage Restrictions / Parameters
- Design Criteria
- Specifications
- Approved Products
- Projects**
- FDOT Research
- Technology Transfer (T<sup>2</sup>)
- Contact



UHPC 30" H-Pile CR339, Taylor County



UHPC Link Slab, US41 over Sunset Waterway (2020)



*250' simple span pending?*





# Questions



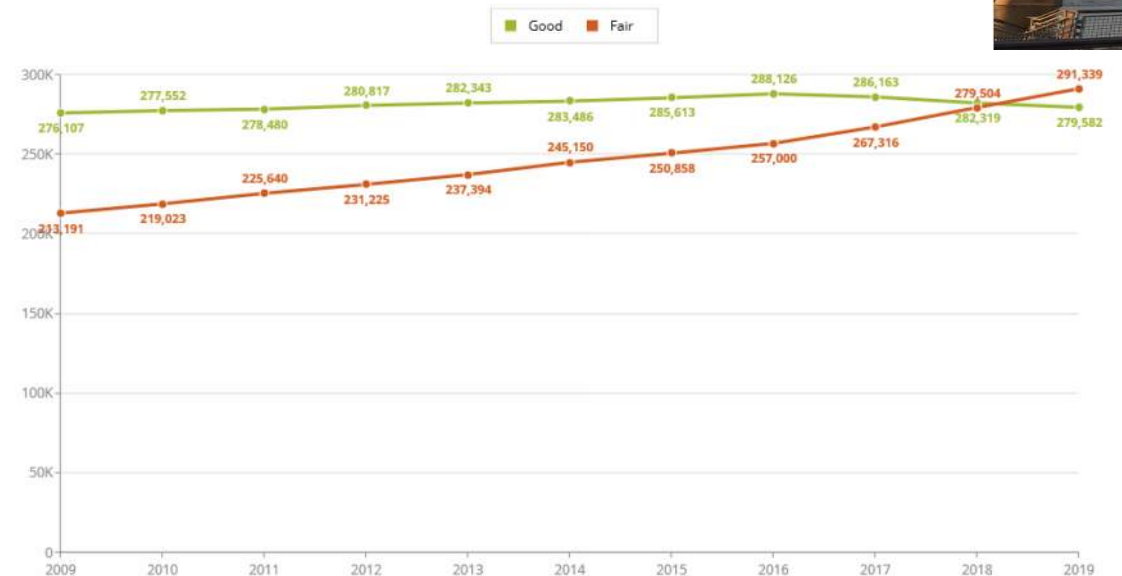
**2021** REPORT CARD  
FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE  
**ASCE**

The Grades are in:

- **C-** (Infrastructure)

**Missouri:**  
24,494 bridges, 8.8%  
of which were  
structurally deficient  
in 2019

Bridge Conditions by Year



Bridges

