FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document contains answers to common questions, along with some tips and tricks that we have found useful and presented here as questions.

How do I know if the version I have of the Structures Manual is the most current?

Please check the Structures Manual Website regularly for any updates to the Manual. You should also regularly check the Structures Design Office Website for any Structures Design Bulletins or other important announcements. You can also sign up for the FDOT Contact Mailer to receive email notices about publications or training opportunities specific to your areas of interest.

How do I know what has changed in the 2011 Structures Manual?

Areas in the manual that have changed from the previous year are marked with a change bar (a bold line in the margin next to the modified text) and/or a revision history date **(Rev. 01/11)** beside the heading of the section in which the changes occured. (Note: If an item was deleted from the manual there will be no change bar associated with the modification. However, the change will be noted in the revision history for the secton.) The revision history date functions as a link to a revision history document, which gives a list of the sections in the Volume which have changed, followed by a brief description of the change. To compare the new content to previous versions, you may view the 2009 Structures Manual and/or older archived versions of the Structures Manual by visiting the Archived Publications page of the Structures Design Office Website.

I have Adobe Acrobat. Can I edit the pdf files of the Structures Manual?

Yes, you can. Feel free to add personal notes or add content from new Structures Design Bulletins directly into the pdf files that are downloaded to your computer. However, keep in mind that once modifications are made to the files, they are no longer considered an official document. The only accepted official version of the Structures Manual is the original document(s) that are provided with the download from the Structures Manual Website.

How can I get a link to open a new window?

If you'd like to keep your current document open and have a link open a new Adobe Reader window, just hold down the <Ctrl> button when clicking on a link.

How can I get back to the section I was reading previously after I've clicked on a link?

Adobe Acrobat provides both "previous view" and "next view" buttons

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Once these buttons are activated, you can use them to help navigate through the Manual. You may also return to the beginning of the Structures Manual at any point by clicking on the "Structures Manual Home" link at the bottom left of the page.

What's the best way to find a specific topic or section in the Structures Manual?

Each Volume's pdf has Bookmarks and/or a Table of Contents. In the Table of Contents the section numbers actually function as a link to the section if you click on them. However, the easiest way to navigate within a given Volume is by expanding the Bookmarks provided to the left of the page. If the Bookmark tab is not already open when the Structures Manual pdf opens, you can activate it by clicking View>Navigation Panels>Bookmarks.

I don't see my question addressed in this FAQ. Who can I contact with my questions?

Please see Section I.8 of the Structures Manual Introduction for contact information.