



Connecting FRP Composites to ASCE's *Infrastructure Report Card* and *Future World Vision*

Joe Fox
FX Consulting, LLC
June 21, 2021



Outline of Today's Talk

Introduction

Defining an FRP Composite

Attributes & Benefits of Composites in Infrastructure Applications

Connecting FRP Composites to ASCE's Infrastructure Report Card

Connecting FRP Composites to ASCE's Future World Vision

Take-Home Message & Next Steps

Learning Objectives

- Define and identify a Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composite
- Understand the benefits that FRP composites have to offer for construction and repair of infrastructure
- Become familiar with standards, specifications and costs of FRP composites
- Learn about specific case studies which demonstrate how FRP composites are being used today to improve our nation's infrastructure
- Learn about how FRP composites can provide solutions for ASCE's vision for cities of the future

You will receive one PDH credit for listening today.

Take-Home Message

There is an extremely good fit
between FRP composites
and our nation's infrastructure needs,
today and in the future.

My Background

- PhD chemist with 40 years' experience in the specialty chemicals & materials industries
- A member of the American Composite Manufacturers Association (ACMA) and the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI)
- A member of ASCE since October 2019













Why Am I Here?

- ACMA sees a huge fit between FRP composites and our nation's Infrastructure needs
 - Infrastructure Fly-In's to Capitol Hill



- ACMA uses ASCE's Infrastructure Report Card to illustrate the fit



 Aviation D+	 Inland Waterways D+	 Schools D+
 Bridges C	 Levees D	 Solid Waste C+
 Dams D	 Ports B-	 Stormwater D
 Drinking Water C-	 Parks D+	 Transit D-
 Energy C-	 Rail B	 Wastewater D+
 Hazardous Waste D+	 Roads D	Overall C-

Why Am I Here?

- I attended the ASCE annual meeting in Miami in October '19 and experienced the Floating Cities Virtual Reality exhibit



The Floating City debuted at the ASCE 2019 Convention in Miami. PHOTO: Jason Dixon Photography



Convention attendees had the chance to experience the Future World Vision Floating City via virtual reality. PHOTO: Jason Dixon Photography

Connecting FRP Composites to ASCE



Defining an FRP Composite

What is a Composite?

- **Webster Definition:**

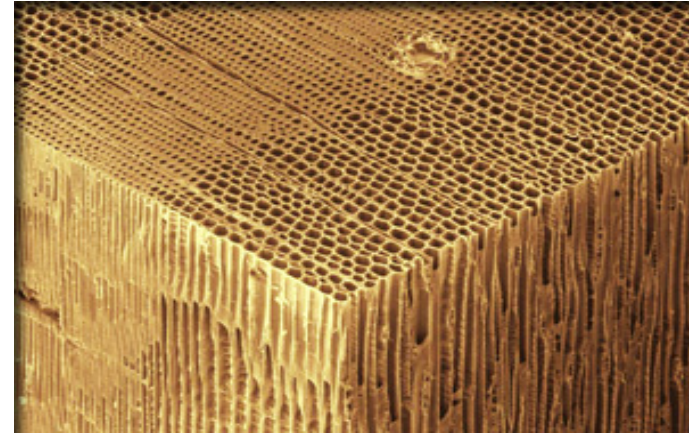
“Something that is made up of diverse elements”

- **Wikipedia Definition:**

“Engineered or naturally-occurring materials made from two or more constituent materials with significantly different physical or chemical properties”

Composites We Are All Familiar With....

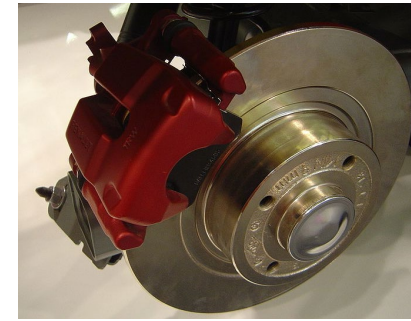
- Wood is a natural composite of cellulose fibers in a lignin matrix
- There are many man-made composites



Early civilization houses were composites of mud and straw



Modern highways are composites of concrete and steel re-bar



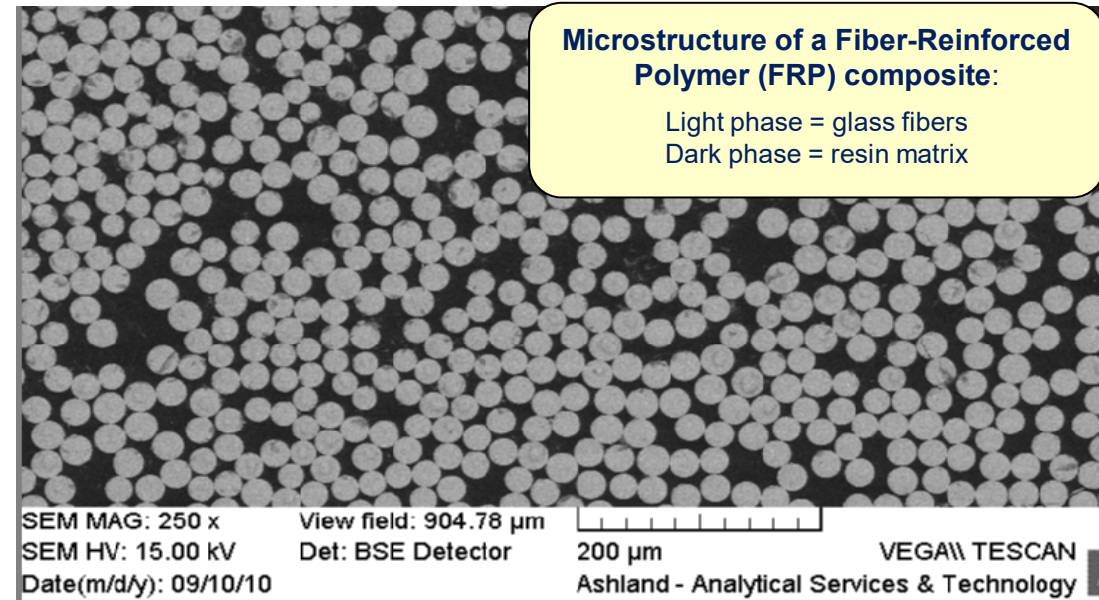
Disc brake pads are composites of hard ceramic particles embedded in soft metal

Focus for this Presentation = FRP Composites

FRP = Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Composites

A composite made from a polymer and a reinforcing fiber

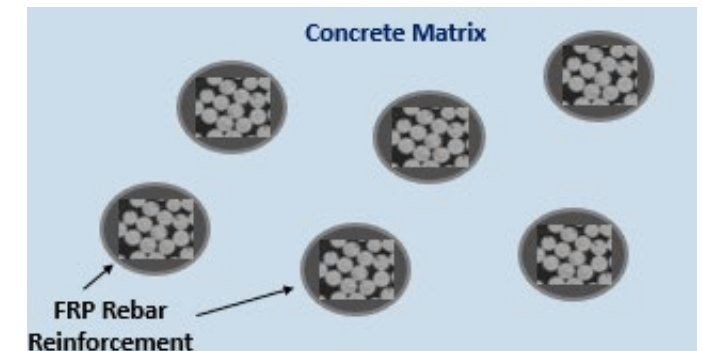
- **Polymer (Resin) Matrix:**
 - Thermoplastic
 - Thermoset
 - Epoxy, Vinyl Ester, Unsaturated Polyester, Polyurethane ...
- **Reinforcing Fiber:**
 - Glass (GFRP)
 - Carbon (CFRP)
 - Basalt
 - Natural



At a microscopic level, the constituent materials remain distinct within the finished structure.

FRP Rebar: A Composite Used to Make Composites

- FRP rebar can replace steel rebar in reinforced concrete
 - Used in place of epoxy-coated steel, stainless steel and galvanized steel rebar
 - Used in buildings, bridges, tunnels
- FRP rebar is available in a variety of shapes and sizes
 - #2 - #13
 - Relevant standard = ASTM D7957
- Concrete reinforced with FRP rebar is a composite that contains a composite!
 - Matrix = concrete
 - Reinforcement = FRP rebar



"A Composite of a Composite"

Material Substitution & Material Enhancement

- **Material Substitution:**

- FRP composites can be used to substitute for alternative materials of construction
 - Metals
 - Steel
 - Aluminum
 - Concrete
 - Wood



More durable than wood



Lighter than metals

- **Material Enhancement:**

- FRP composites can be used to enhance the properties of other materials
 - FRP rebar enhances the corrosion resistance and durability of reinforced concrete



More corrosion-resistant than steel-reinforced concrete

FRP Composites Find Widespread Use

- Key Markets:

- Marine
- Aerospace
- Transportation
- Equipment
- Industrial / Corrosion
- Building & Construction
- Infrastructure



Marine



Aerospace



Transportation

FRP Composites Find Widespread Use

- Key Markets:

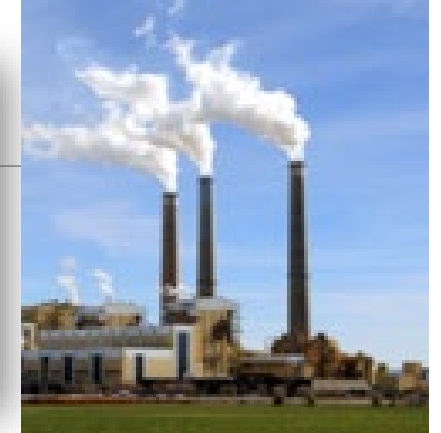
- Marine
- Aerospace
- Transportation
- Equipment
- Industrial / Corrosion
- Building & Construction
- Energy
- Infrastructure



Equipment



Industrial / Corrosion



Building & Construction



Wind Energy

Infrastructure Applications of FRP Composites

Bridge Construction

Composite rebar, decks & girders used with concrete



Water Treatment & Delivery

Durable pipes & storage vessels



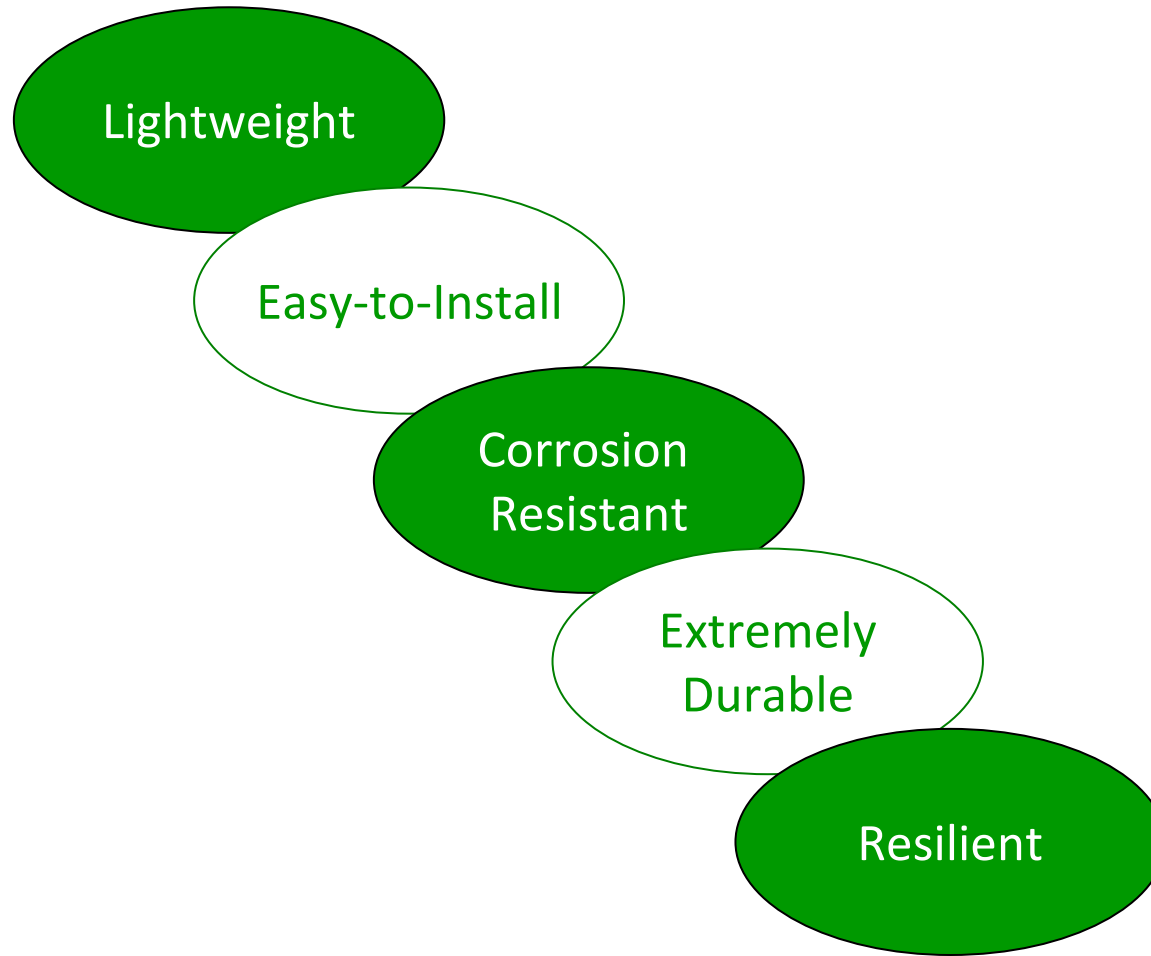
Power Poles, Piers & Seawalls

Lightweight, resilient structures

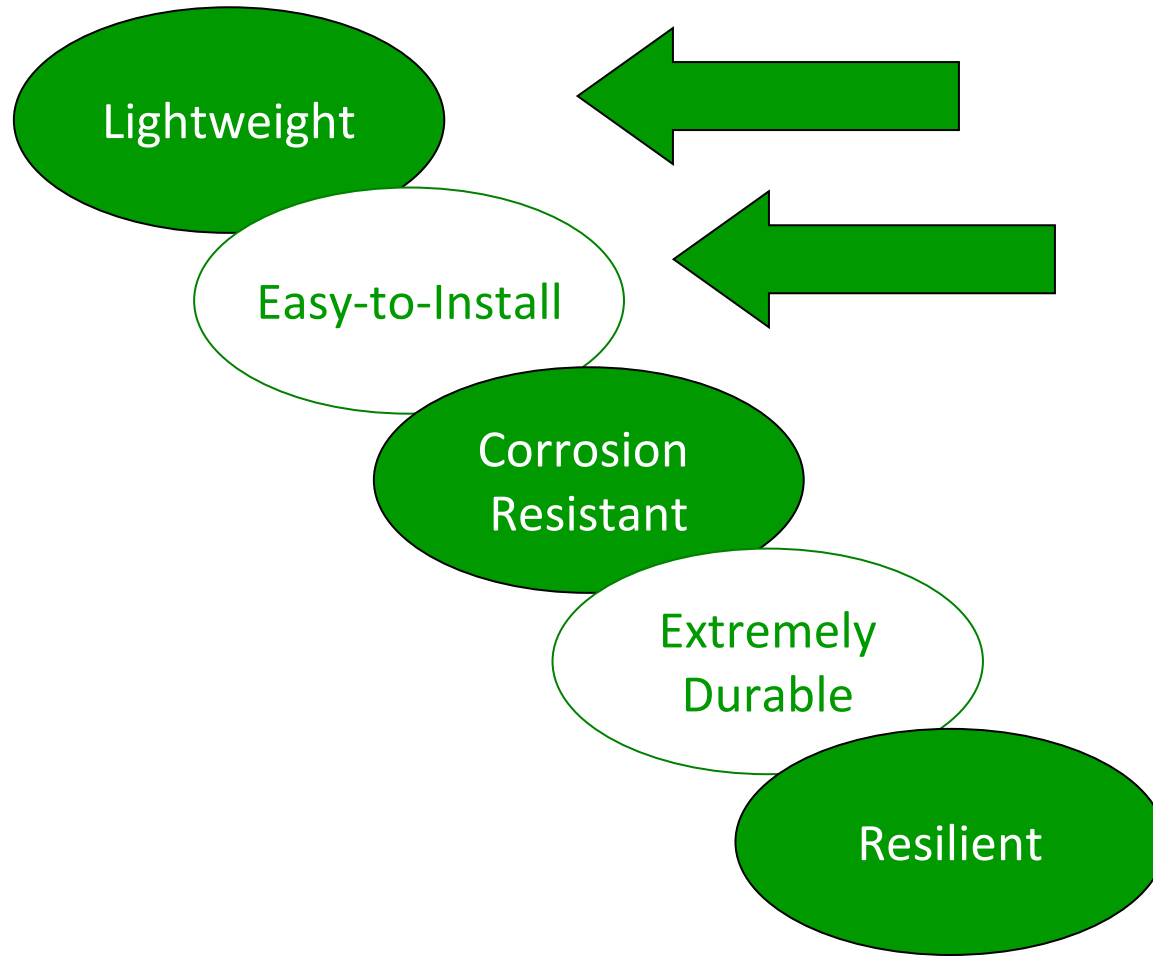


Attributes & Benefits of FRP Composites in Infrastructure & Construction Applications

Key Attributes of FRP Composites for Infrastructure Applications

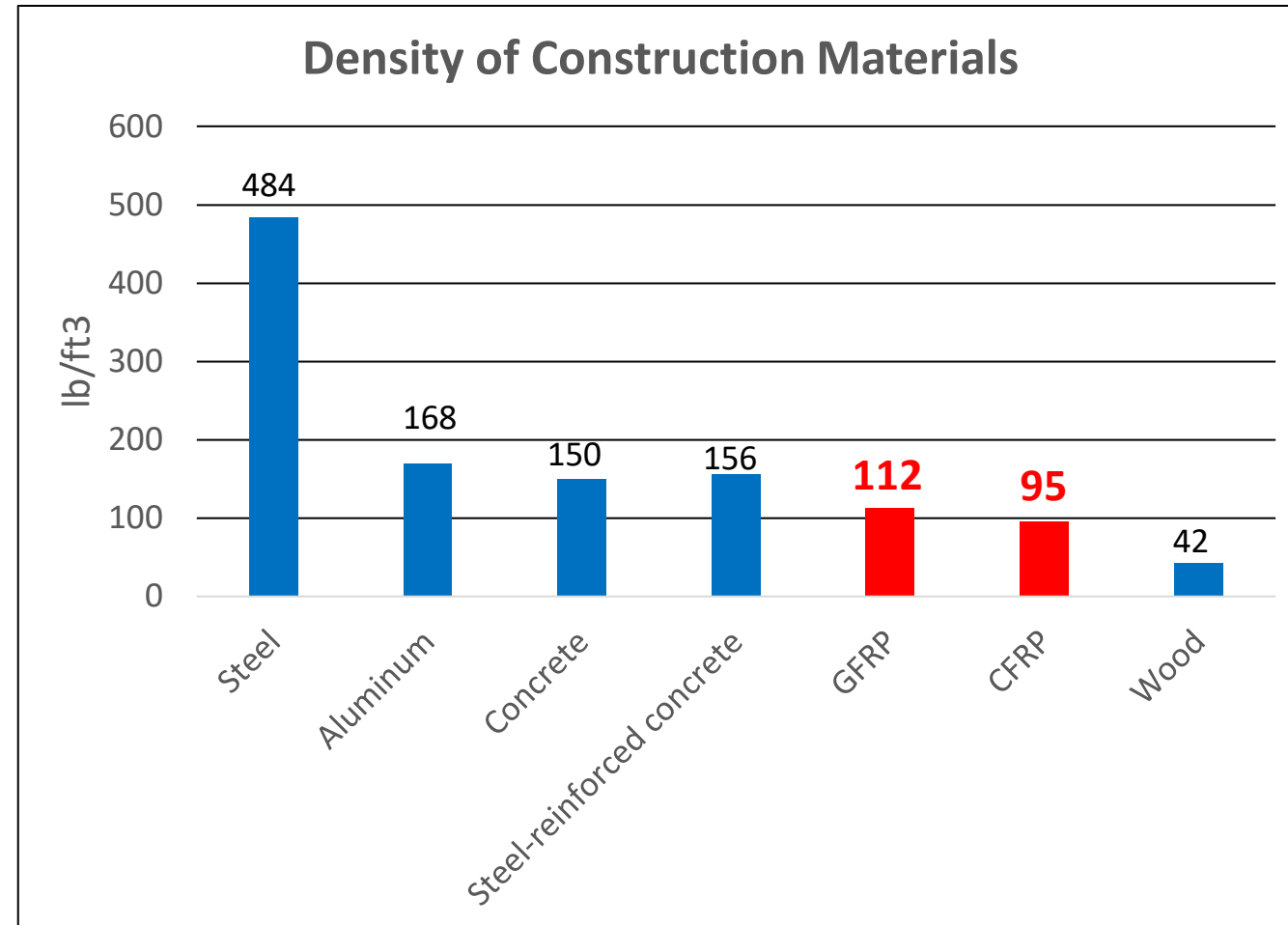


Key Attributes of FRP Composites for Infrastructure Applications



FRP Composites are Lightweight

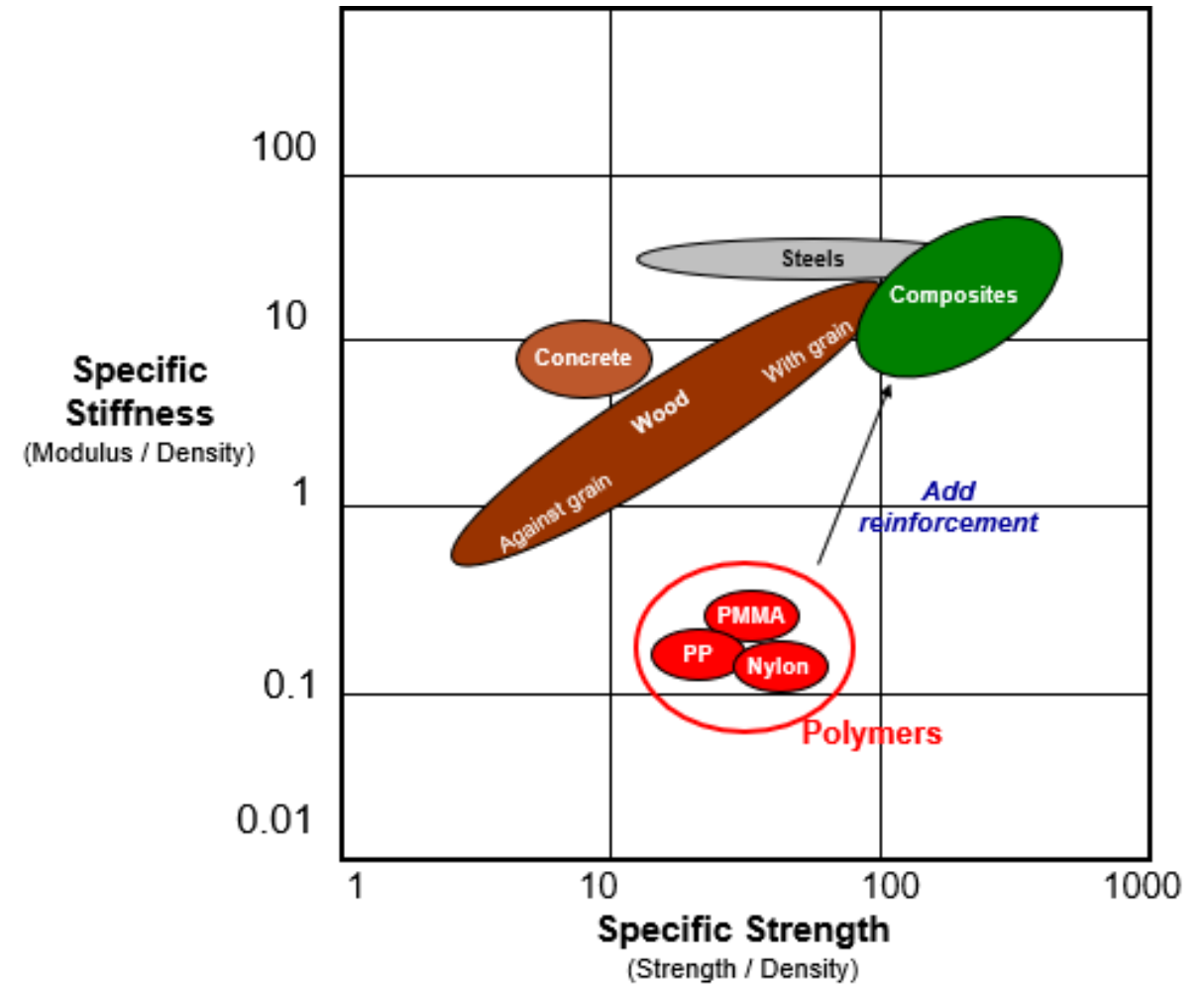
- FRP composites are lighter than steel, aluminum, concrete, and brick
 - CFRP < GFRP
- This can result in:
 - Labor savings
 - Material savings
 - Lower transportation costs
 - Less equipment during installation



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Specific Strength & Specific Modulus

- Lightweight FRP composites have high specific strength and high specific modulus



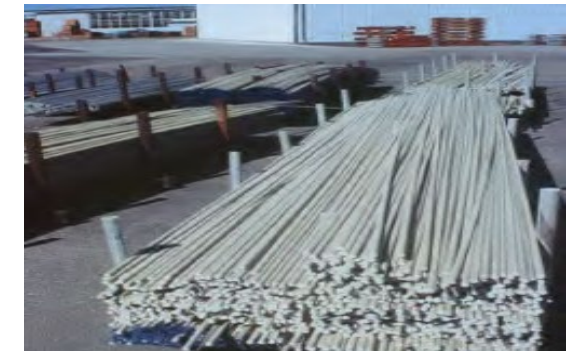
Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Lightweight FRP Rebar

Size	Diameter (in)	Linear Weight (lb/ft)		Ratio
		Steel	GFRP	GFRP/Steel
#3	0.375	0.38	0.10	0.26
#4	0.50	0.67	0.17	0.25
#5	0.625	1.04	0.29	0.28
#6	0.750	1.50	0.41	0.27
#7	0.875	2.04	0.55	0.27
#8	1.00	2.67	0.74	0.28



FRP rebar is less than 1/3rd the weight of steel rebar



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Labor Savings

Future Impact of
FRP Concrete Reinforcement on the
Commercial Building Industry

Brett McMahon
CEO, Miller & Long Co., Inc.



Labor Savings

- Cost and availability of labor increasingly drives overall costs
- Rodman is a hard, dirty job!
 - Increasingly harder to find people to do it.
- FRP: Potential to significantly lower reduce labor costs
 - More with less
 - More efficient



“FRP rebar is 1/3 the weight of steel rebar, which is as-valuable to the building industry as its non-corrodibility is to civil transportation owners & builders”

Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Material Savings

- The façade' of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art uses FRP composite rain shields
 - Aesthetically-pleasing
 - Lightweight
- The use of lightweight exterior panels reduced the consumption of steel in the interior of the building by 1 million pounds
- The use of FRP reduced the construction schedule by 3 weeks



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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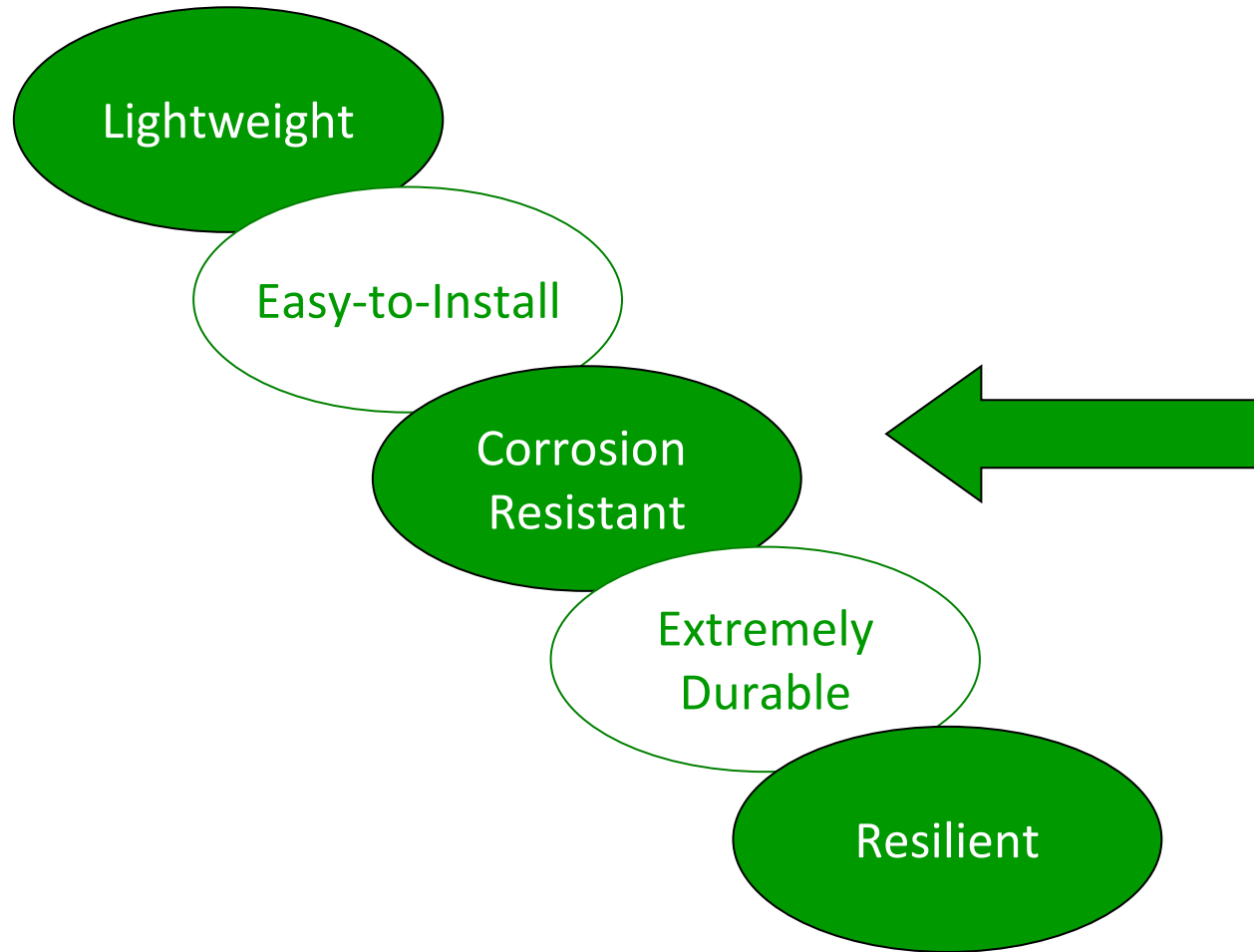
Equipment Savings

These columns were transported to the top of the Terminal Tower in a freight elevator, not with a crane



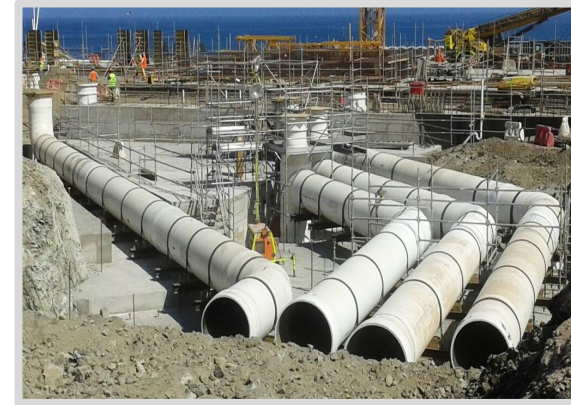
Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Key Attributes of FRP Composites for Infrastructure Applications



FRP Composites are Extremely Corrosion-Resistant

- FRP composites are used in a wide variety of industrial applications where corrosion resistance is important
 - Chemical
 - Mining
 - Energy
- They find widespread use in corrosive environments
 - Pipes & tanks
 - Ductwork
 - Liners
 - Cladding for roofs & walls



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Corrosion-Resistance of FRP Rebar

- FRP rebar is much more resistant to corrosion than steel rebar
- FRP rebar-reinforced concrete is ideal for use in chloride-containing environments
 - Seawater
 - De-icing chlorides



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Taking Advantage of the Corrosion Resistance of FRP Composites

- The state of Florida has been a leader in the use of FRP composites and FRP rebar-reinforced concrete
 - Bridges
 - Seawalls, piles & piers
 - Marine structures
 - Traffic railings
 - Culverts
 - Sewage tunneling

FDOT Florida Department of TRANSPORTATION
Safety, Innovation, Mobility, Attract, Retain & Train

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State Materials Office

State Materials Office / Administration / Quality Systems / Acceptance / Steps / FRP

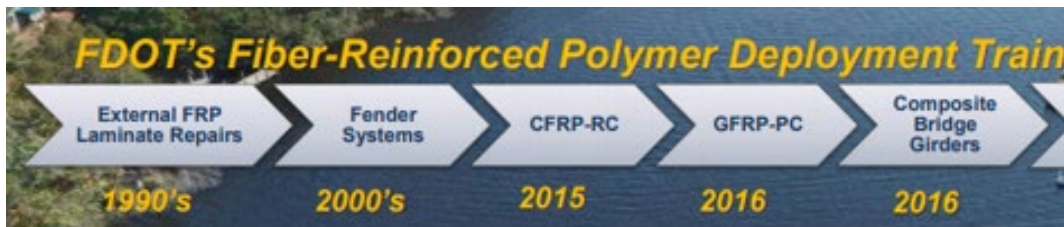
Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites

The following information has been provided to guide you in the materials acceptance process. To obtain a copy of the documents listed below, please click on the appropriate hyperlink or contact the State Materials Office Corrosion and Materials Durability Unit.

Material/Producer Listing

Search "FDOT & FRP"

Fiber Reinforced Polymer Sources
This document contains a listing of sources with accepted quality control plans.

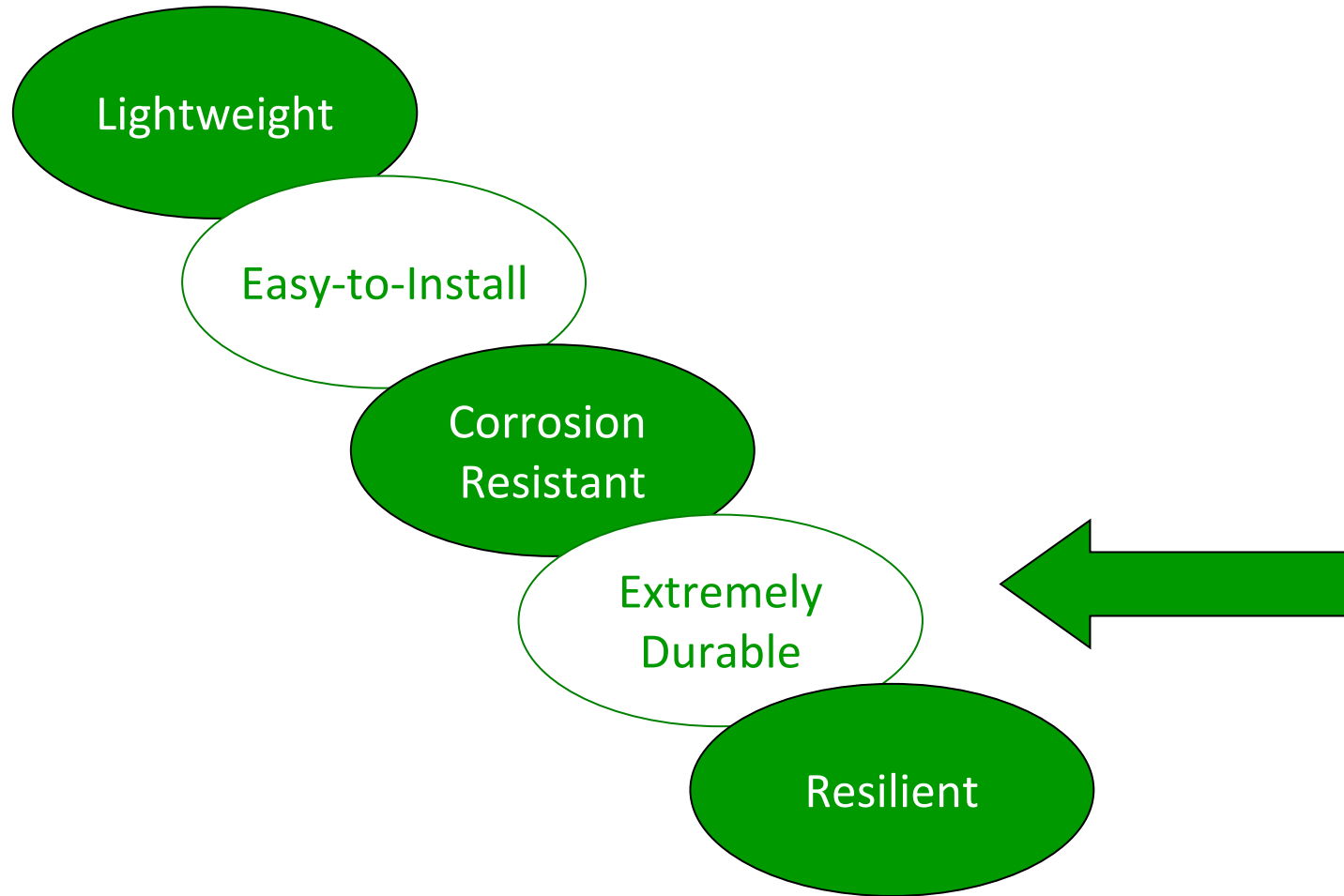


<https://www.fdot.gov/materials/quality/programs/materialsacceptance/documentation/frp.shtm>



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Key Attributes of FRP Composites for Infrastructure Applications



FRP Composites are Extremely Durable

- FRP composites are built to last for decades



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Waterfront / Coastal Applications of FRP Composites

- FRP composites are much more durable than wood in waterfront and coastal applications

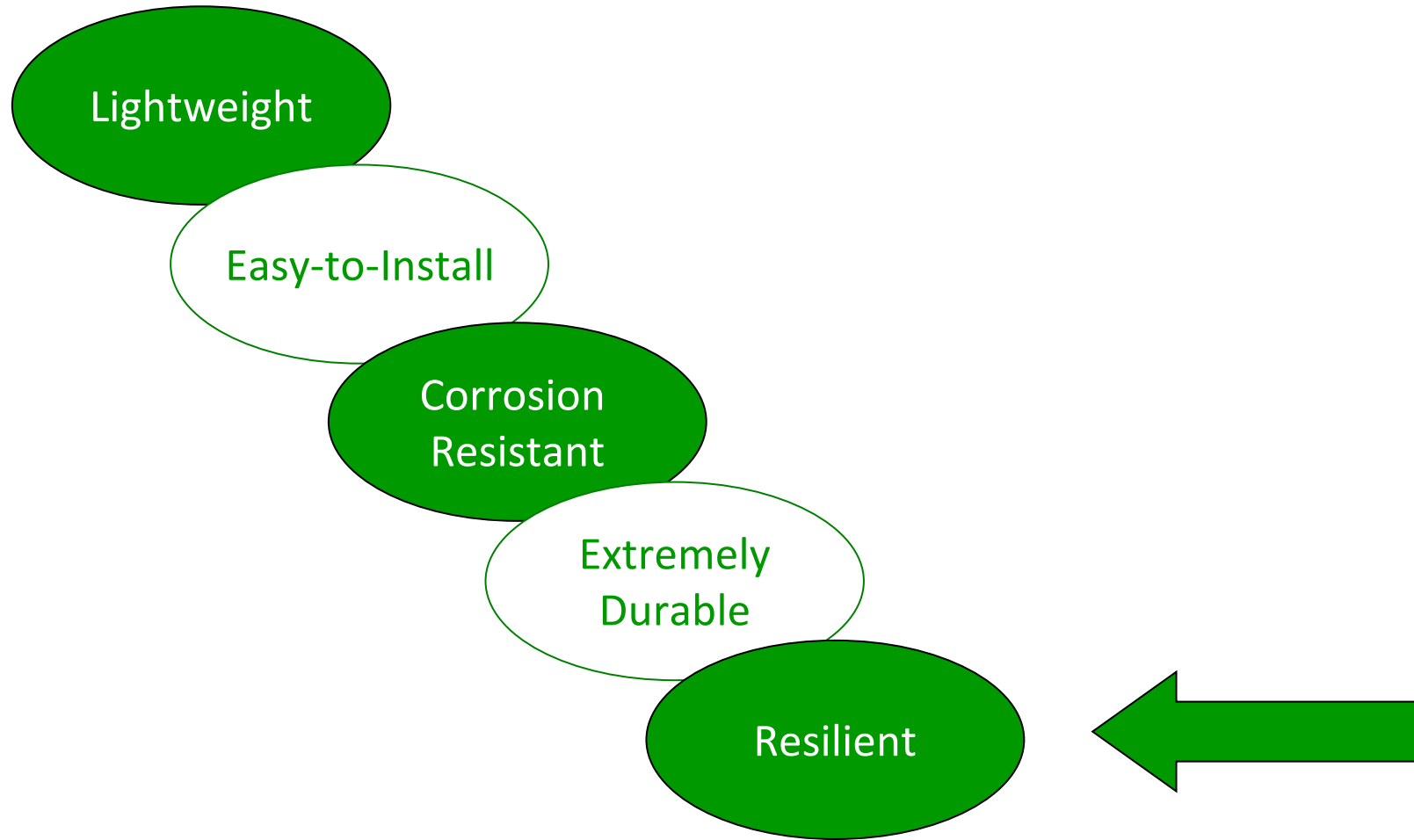


*Jamestown – Scotland Ferry, Virginia



Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Key Attributes of FRP Composites for Infrastructure Applications



Resiliency of FRP Composites

- FRP composites are resistant to damage from natural disasters
 - Hurricanes, storm surge
 - Tornados
 - Earthquakes, fires



Dune restoration in Florida after Hurricane Matthew



Seawall in New York built after Hurricane Sandy

Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Resiliency of FRP Composites

- FRP utility poles have survived hurricanes and forest fires



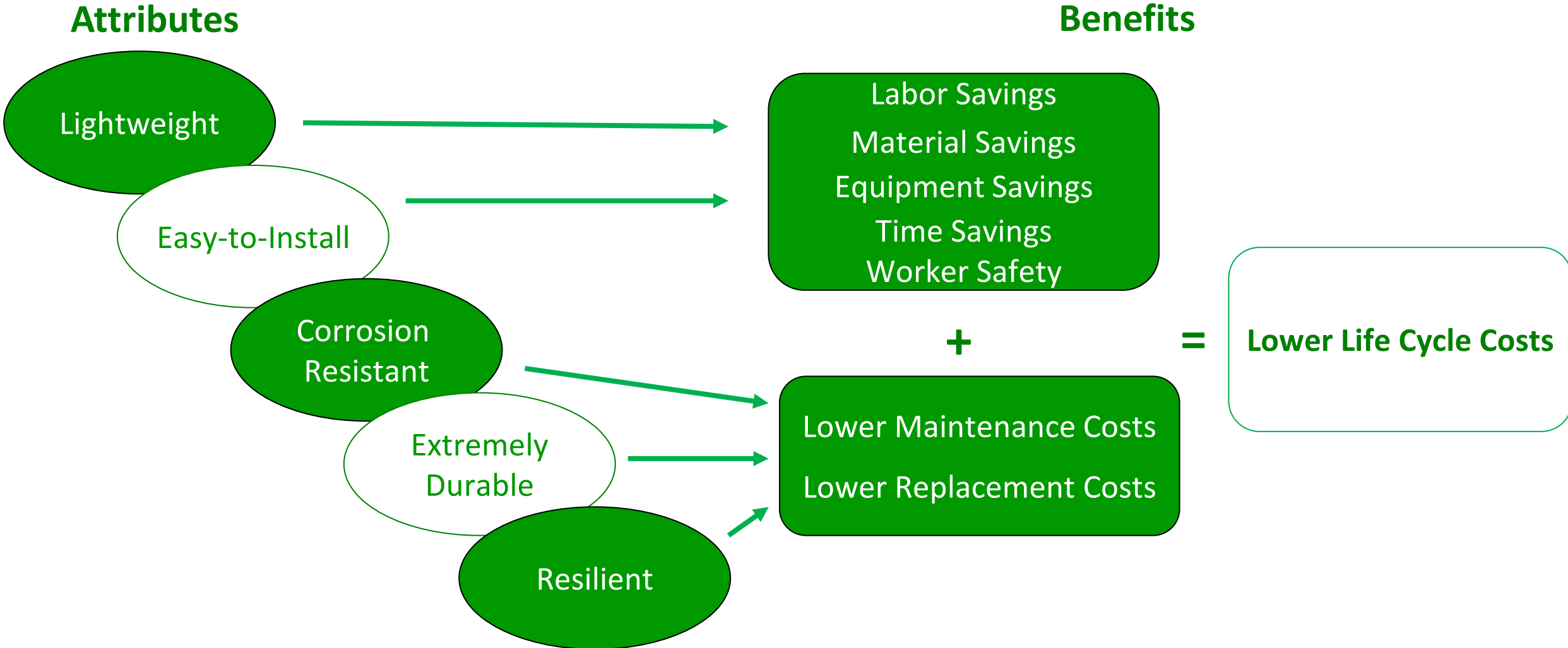
Composite Utility Pole Survives Forest Fire

Sherry Hoodin © November 14, 2019



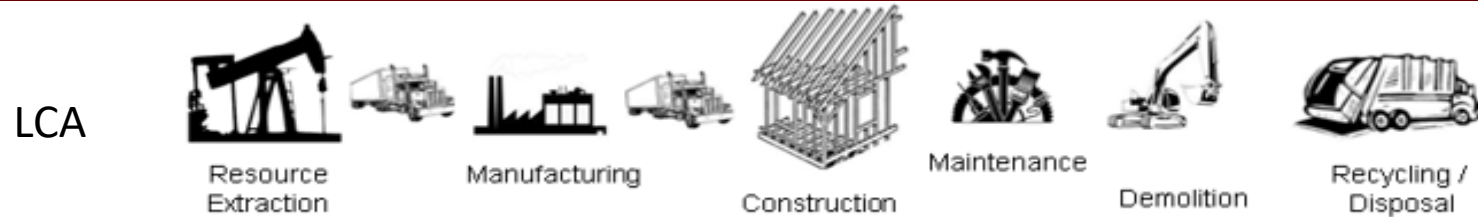
Attributes	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient
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Attributes & Benefits of FRP Composites for Infrastructure Applications



Life Cycle Cost Considerations

Total Life Cycle Cost Analysis is similar to Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)



FRP composites can be more costly to purchase

They are low weight, resulting in lower cost to transport and install

Composites typically require less maintenance

Durability results in low replacement frequency

Life Cycle Cost Analysis

Advances in Civil Engineering Materials

Thomas Cadenazzi,¹ Giovanni Dotelli,² Marco Rossini,³ Steven Nolan,⁴ and Antonio Nanni³

DOI: 10.1520/ACEM20180113

Life-Cycle Cost and Life-Cycle Assessment Analysis at the Design Stage of a Fiber-Reinforced Polymer-Reinforced Concrete Bridge in Florida



Homosassa, FL 2017-19 (GFRP-RC & CFRP-PC)
Five-span vehicular bridge

- Halls River Bridge in Homosassa, FL north of Tampa
- Continuous deck with 5 spans
 - 186' long, 58' wide
- Completed in November 2019

Benefits

Lightweight

Easy-to-Install

Corrosion-resistant

Extremely durable

Resilient

Lower Life Cycle Costs

Halls River Bridge Replacement

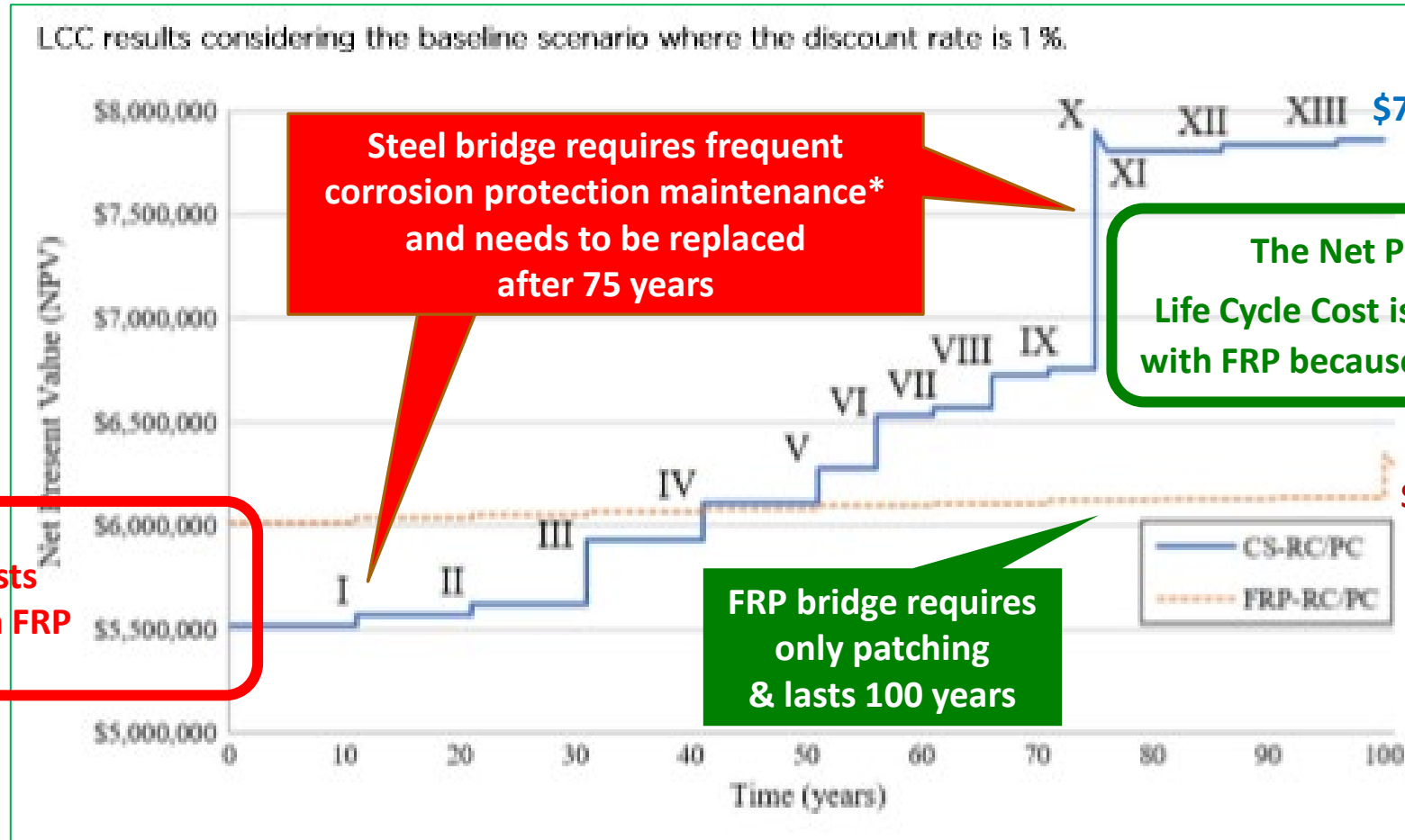
- Owner: Citrus County
- Designer: FDOT
- Funding: FHWA

- Experimental project using innovative materials for the superstructure, substructure & sheet pile walls
- Uses GFRP- and CFRP- reinforced elements:
 - GFRP-RC bridge deck, pile bent caps, bulkhead caps, traffic railings and approach slabs
 - CFRP-PC bearing piles
 - CFRP-PC/GFRP-RC sheet piles
 - Hybrid HSCS-PC/GFRP-RC sheet piles



Benefits	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient	Lower Life Cycle Costs
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Life Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA) of the Halls River Bridge: Higher Upfront Cost but **Lower Life Cycle Cost**



Initial construction costs are \$0.5M higher with FRP

Steel bridge requires frequent corrosion protection maintenance* and needs to be replaced after 75 years

FRP bridge requires only patching & lasts 100 years

The Net Present Value of the Life Cycle Cost is \$1.6M (20%) lower with FRP because of reduced maintenance

Higher CAPEX

Lower OPEX

*Life-365 software used to develop the maintenance and repair schedule

Benefits	Lightweight	Easy-to-Install	Corrosion-resistant	Extremely durable	Resilient	Lower Life Cycle Costs
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An Example of Lower Upfront Costs

- Replacement of the Tide Mill Bridge in Edmunds, ME using “Bridge in a Backpack” technology developed at U Maine
- Installed Cost (Materials + Engineering) with FRP was 50% lower than CON/SPAN®

	Cost (\$)
FRP arches & decking	398,000
CON/SPAN® (modular precast concrete)	750,000

- One phase construction with FRP
- The use of FRP arches in place of steel rebar provides improved corrosion resistance and reduces maintenance costs



Lower CAPEX

Lower OPEX

More Examples of Lower Installed Costs

- Pultruded GFRP used for permitted, primary structures
- 10-30% lower installed cost than steel
 - Vertical integration helps lower costs
 - Fabrication + installation



Mechanical support mezzanine



Screen wall



Lower CAPEX

Lower OPEX

Pipe rack

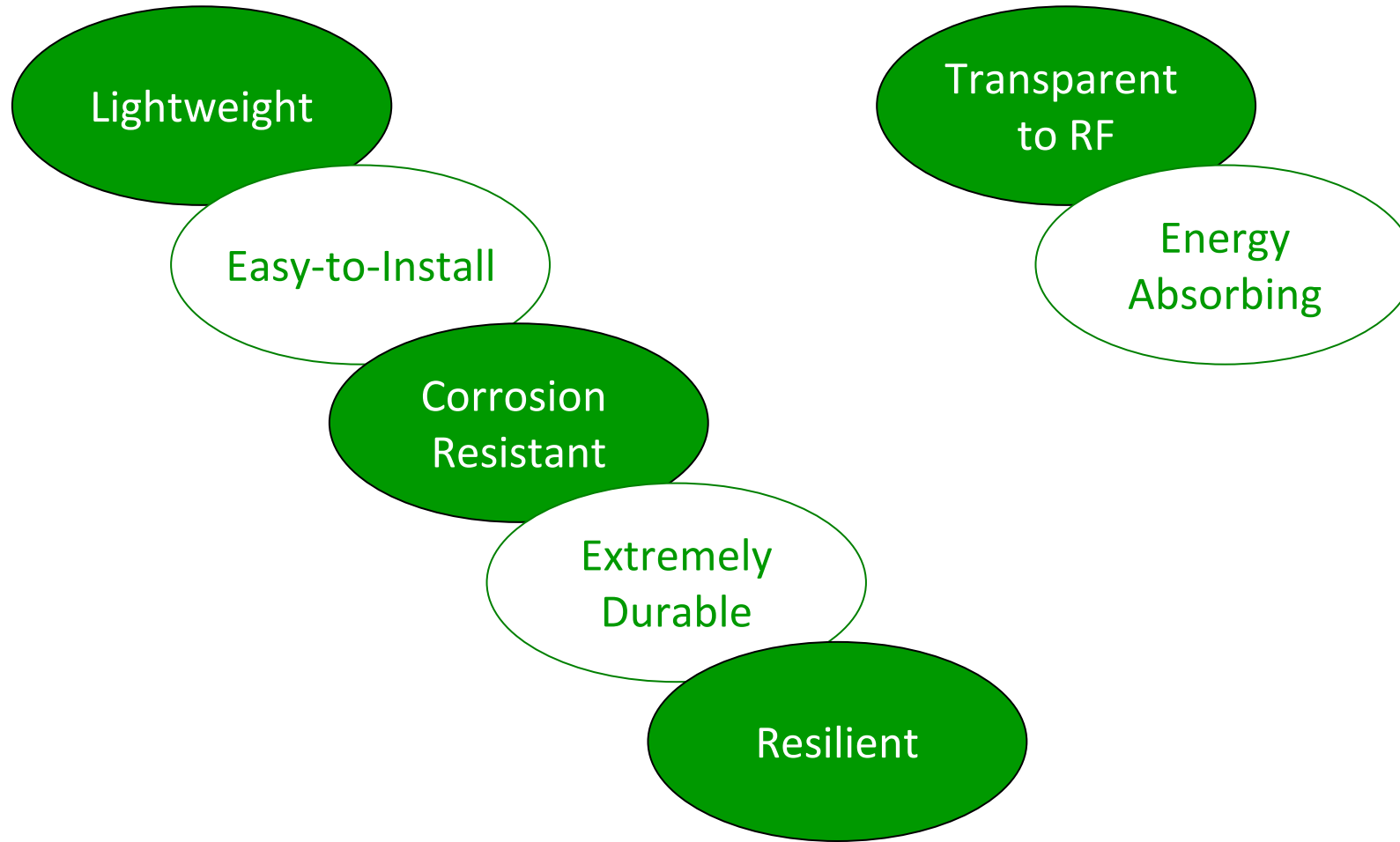
All pictures courtesy of Advantic

Sustainability Considerations

- **Energy-savings:** Lightweight FRP composites require less energy to transport and install
- **Material savings:** Durable FRP composites do not need to be replaced as frequently
- **Lower Emissions:** 8% of CO₂ emissions come from cement production. FRP can replace concrete. FRP rebar can make it last longer.
- **End-of-life:** Cost-effective recycling solutions are being developed to recover and re-use the fibers and the resins
- **Energy-enabling:** FRP blades and towers enable sustainable wind energy on-shore and off-shore

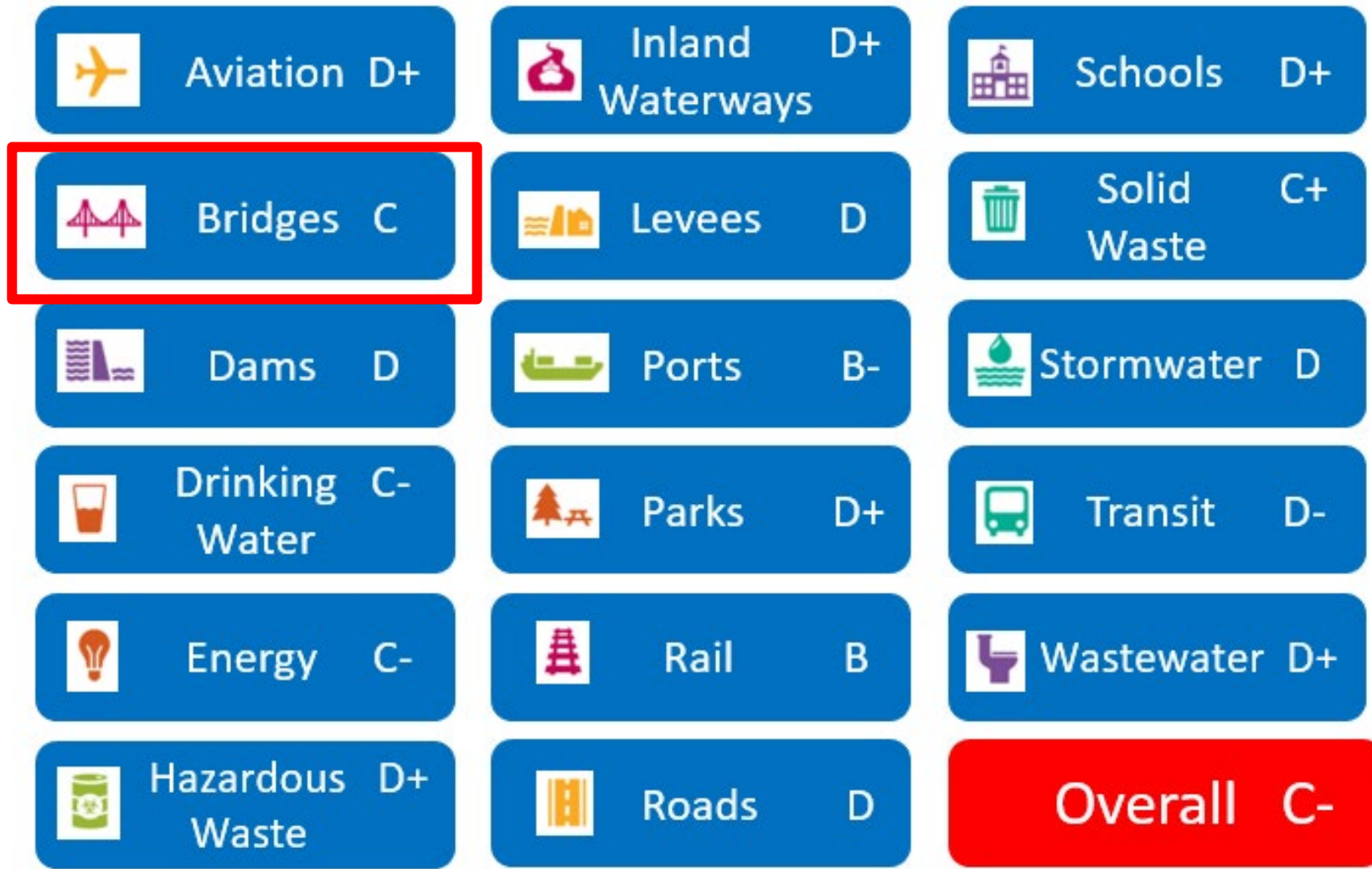


Other Important Attributes of FRP Composites



Connecting FRP Composites to ASCE's Infrastructure Report Card

Many Opportunities for Improvement



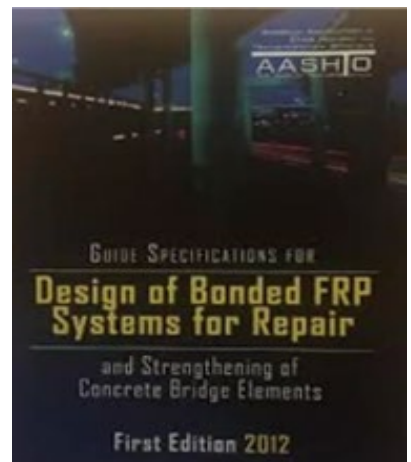
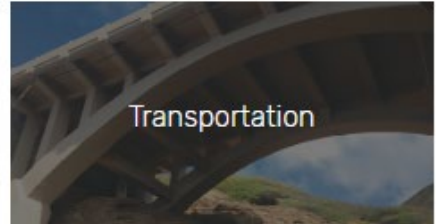
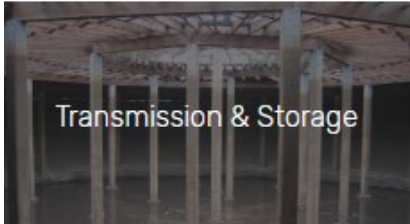
Bridge Construction

- More than 500 bridges have been constructed with FRP composites and/or FRP rebar-reinforced concrete
- 22 states and Canada



Strengthening of Bridges

- FRP wraps have been used to strengthen and repair bridges
 - Usually CFRP
 - Improved resistance to earthquakes
- Other examples of FRP strengthening



Column strengthening

Pedestrian Bridges and Walkways

- Pedestrian bridges are lightweight and durable
- Plans are underway to add a pedestrian walkway to the famous Newport RI bridge
 - Lightweight addition to an existing structure



Courtesy of Composite Advantage

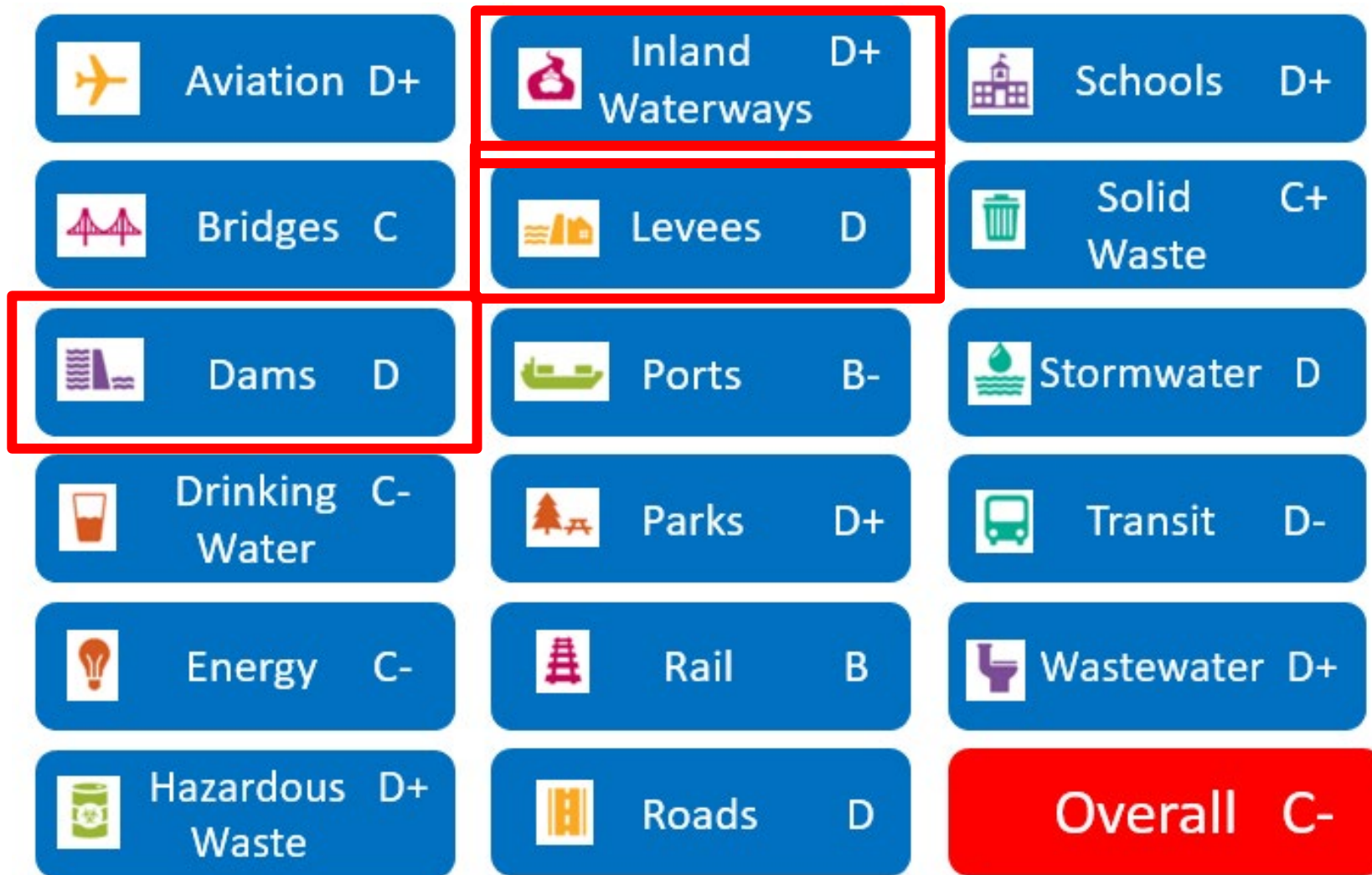
Indian Lake, Ohio



Courtesy of Composite Advantage

Lake Tahoe

More Opportunities for Improvement

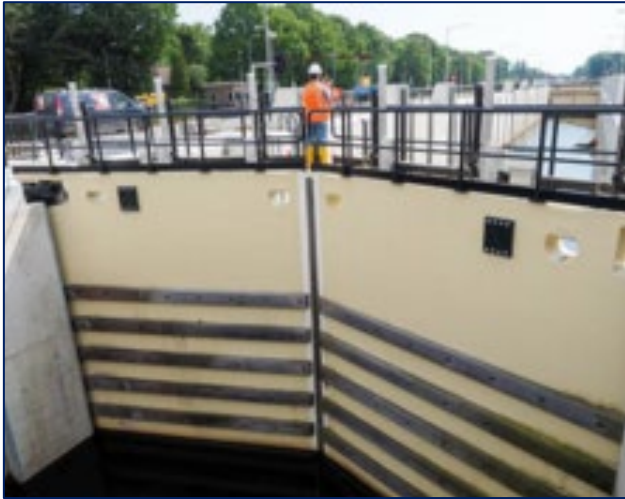


Inland Waterways, Dams & Levees

 Inland Waterways D+

 Dams D

 Levees D



FRP Locks



FRP Wicket Gates

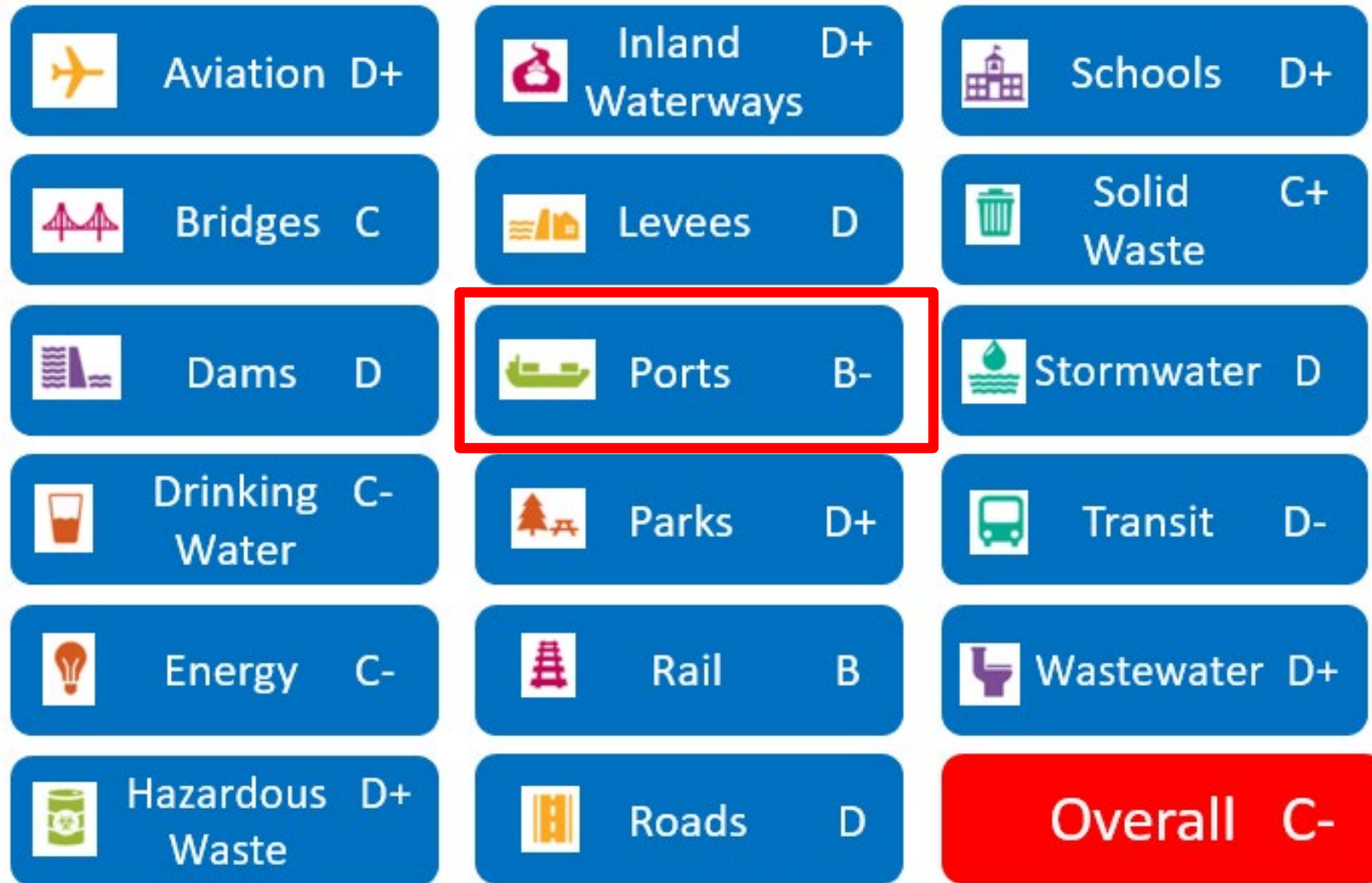


Bridge Protection



Navigation Aids with FRP Piles

More Opportunities for Improvement



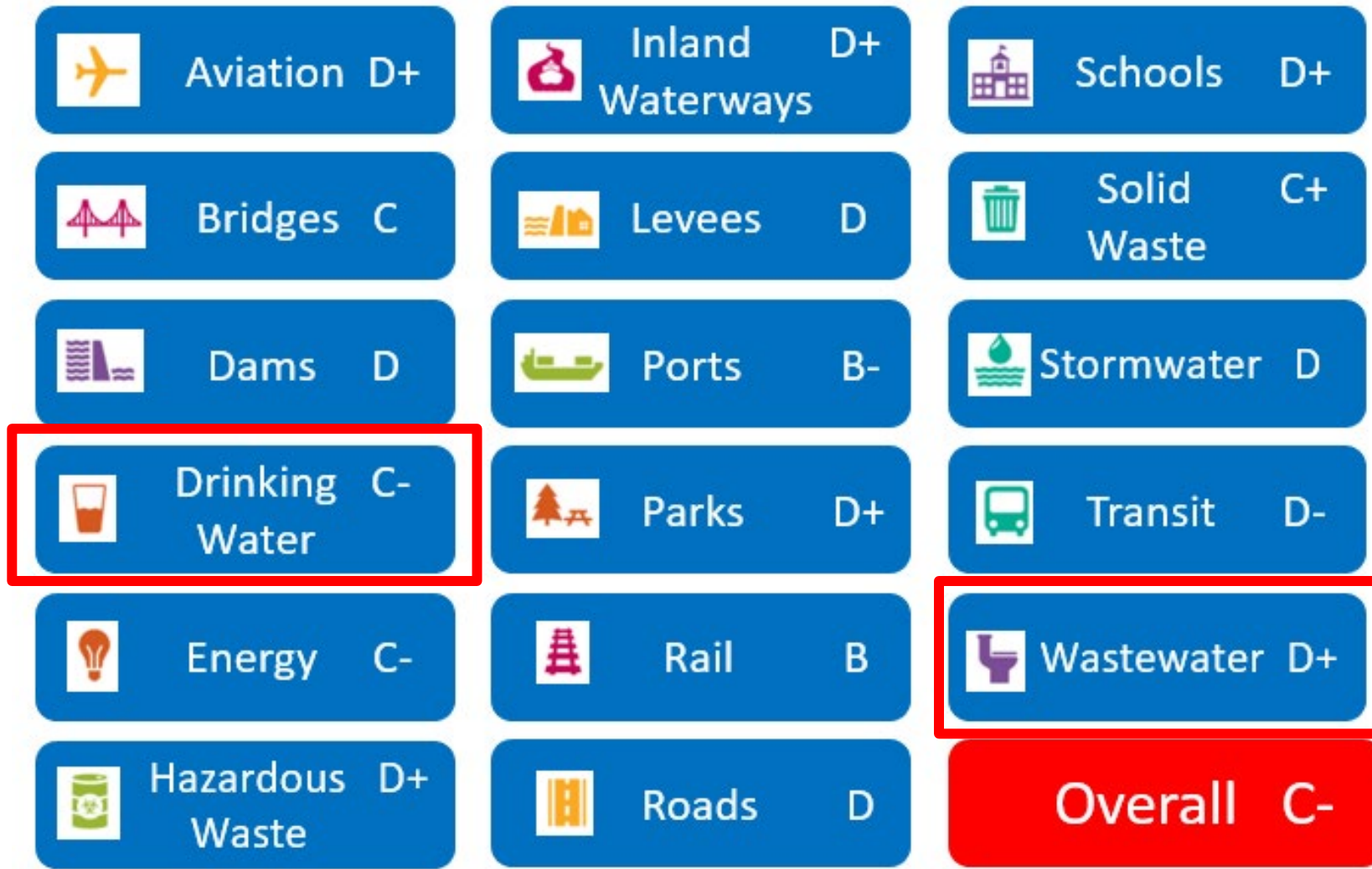
Ports



Piers



More Opportunities for Improvement



Negative Impacts of Aging Water Infrastructure

- Loss of drinking water
 - 6 billion gallons of treated water per day!
- Contamination of drinking water
 - Leaching of lead from pipes
- Water main bursts
 - > 250,000 per year
 - Damage & disruption

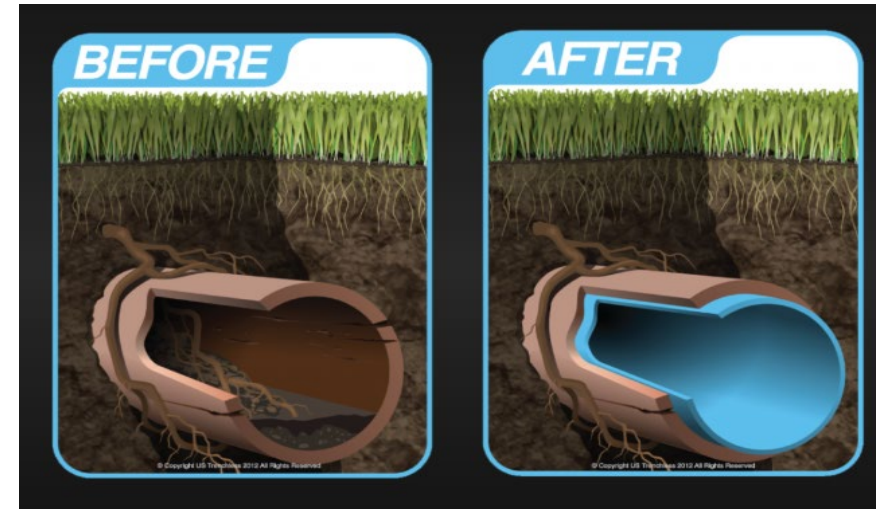


NEW YORK
Massive water main break floods NYC neighborhood around Lincoln Center
By BRITTANY KRIEGSTEIN, CLAYTON GUSE, WES PARNELL and ANNA SANDERS
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | JAN 13, 2020 | 2:02 PM

NEWS
Houston main break causes chaos, strands people in rising water
By Joshua Rhett Miller
February 28, 2020 | 10:19am | Updated

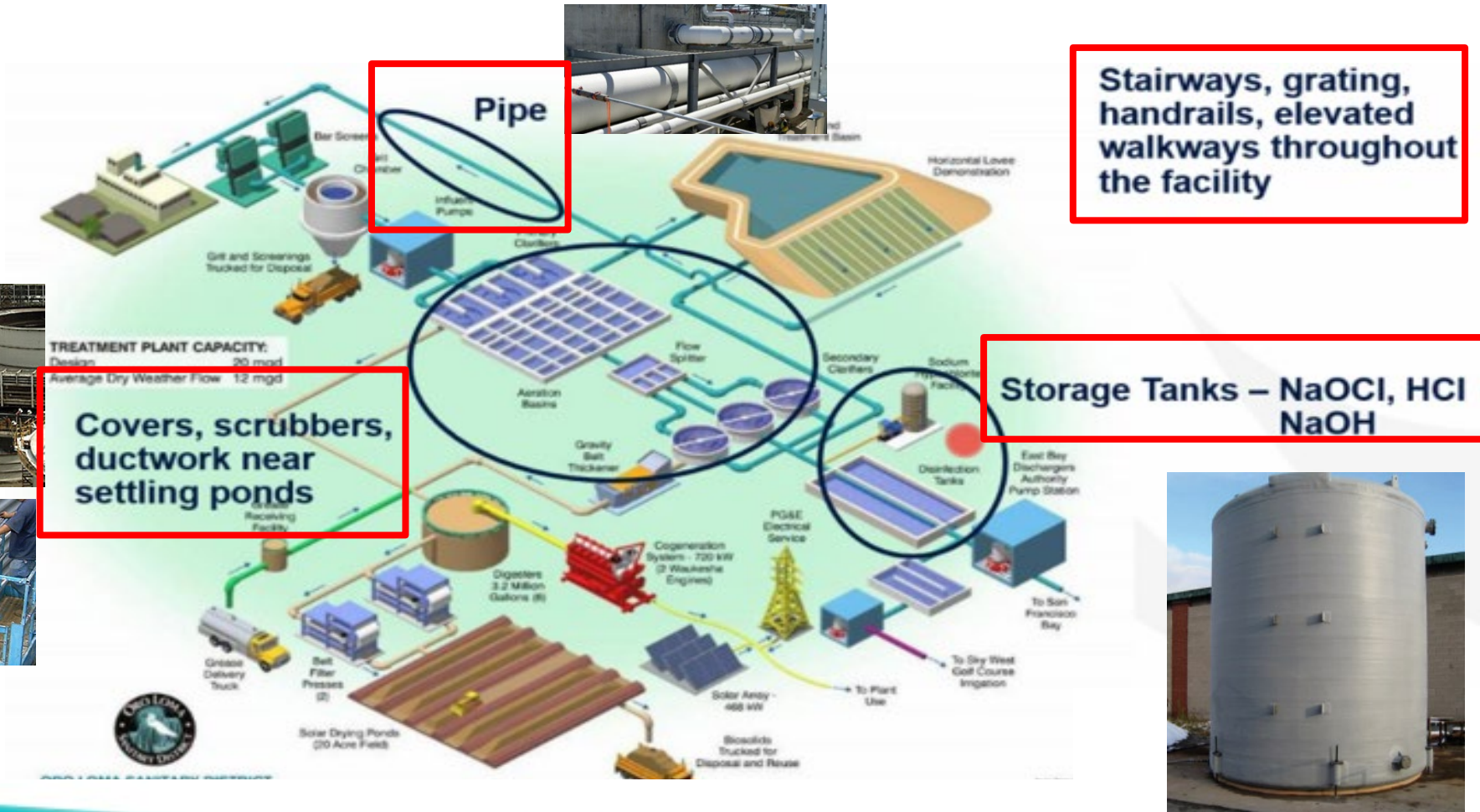
Improving Water Infrastructure with FRP

- Drinking Water
 - Pipes suitable for potable water
 - Corrosion-resistant, no lead
 - Pass NSF 61
- Repair of pipes
 - Trenchless repair with Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) and liners



Improving Wastewater Infrastructure with FRP

- Corrosion-resistant FRP can be used with bleach, strong acids and strong bases in wastewater treatment plants



Stairways, grating, handrails, elevated walkways throughout the facility



Covers, scrubbers, ductwork near settling ponds



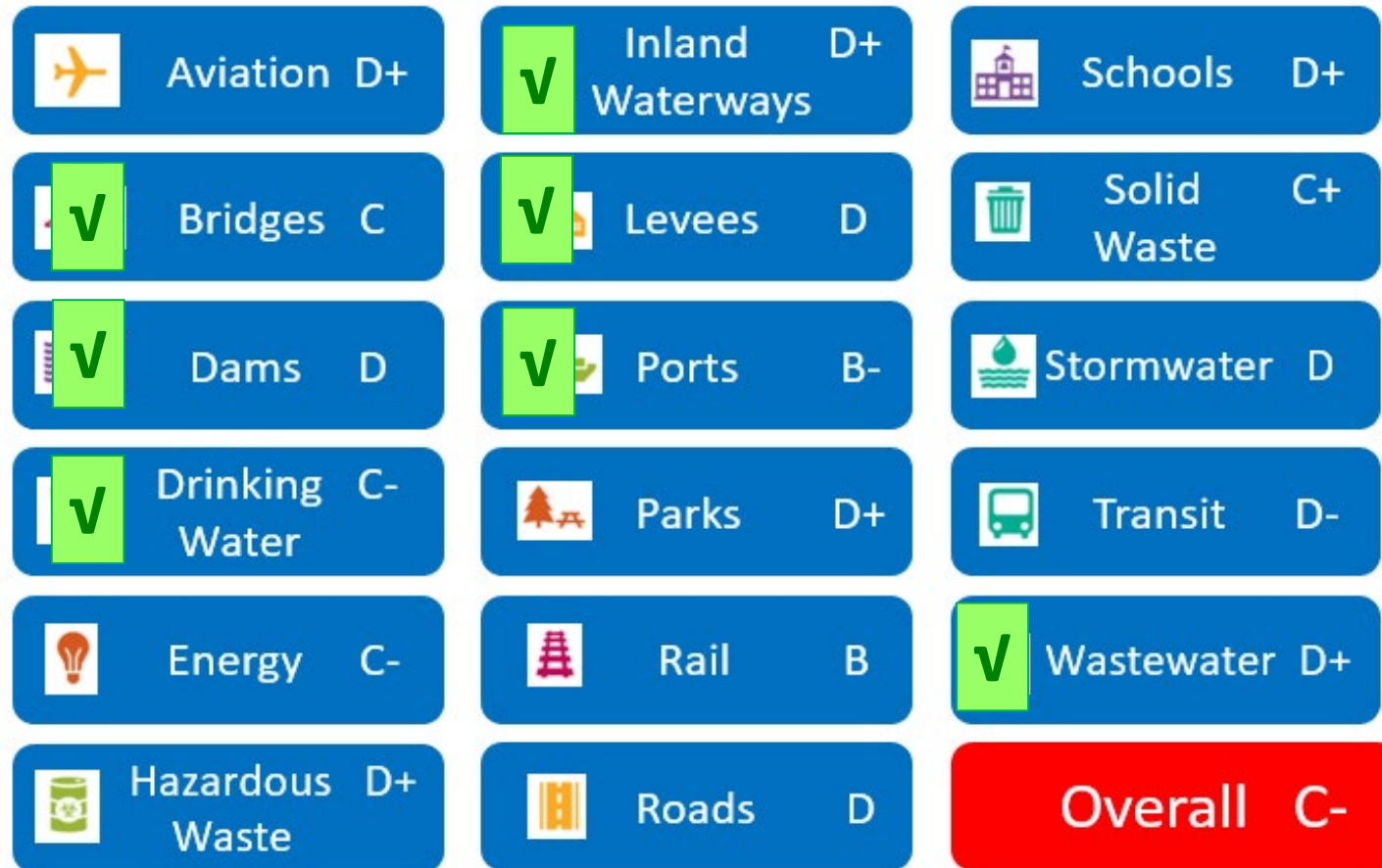
Storage Tanks - NaOCl, HCl, NaOH



All pictures courtesy of INEOS Composites

To Summarize

- There is an extremely good fit between FRP composites and our nation's infrastructure needs, today and in the future

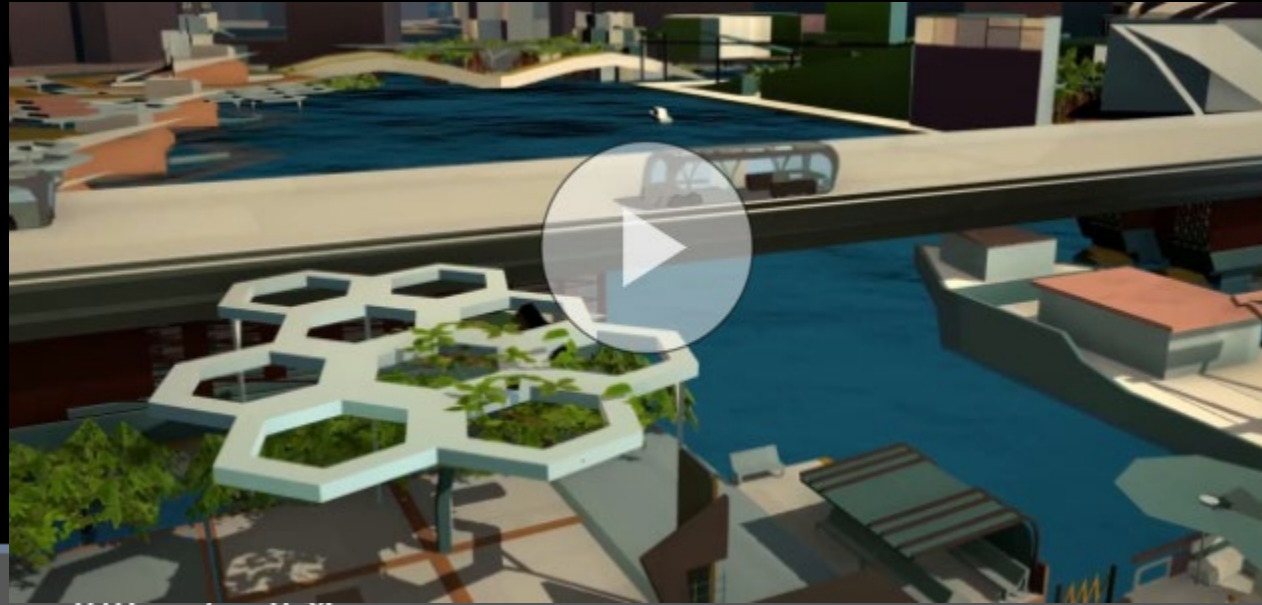


Connecting FRP Composites to ASCE's Future World Vision



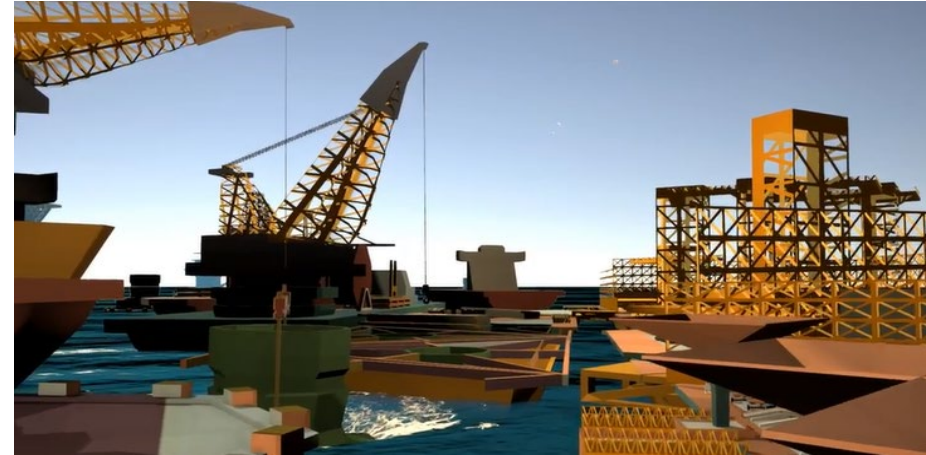
FUTURE WORLD VISION

The Floating City



<https://www.futureworldvision.org/future-worlds/floating-city#:~:text=Created%20using%20Future%20World%20Vision%27s%20combination%20of%20future-scenario,as%20rising%20sea%20levels%20threaten%20coastal%20city%20flooding.>

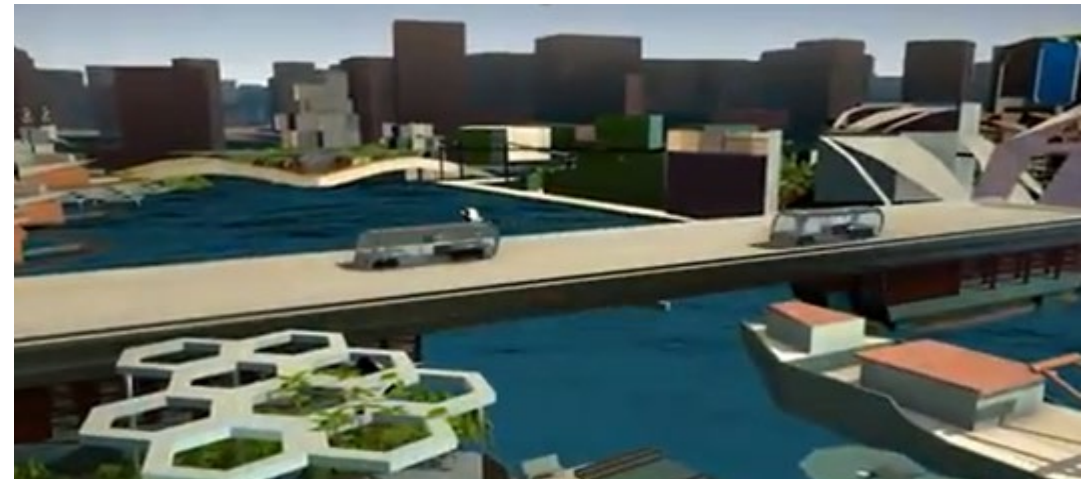
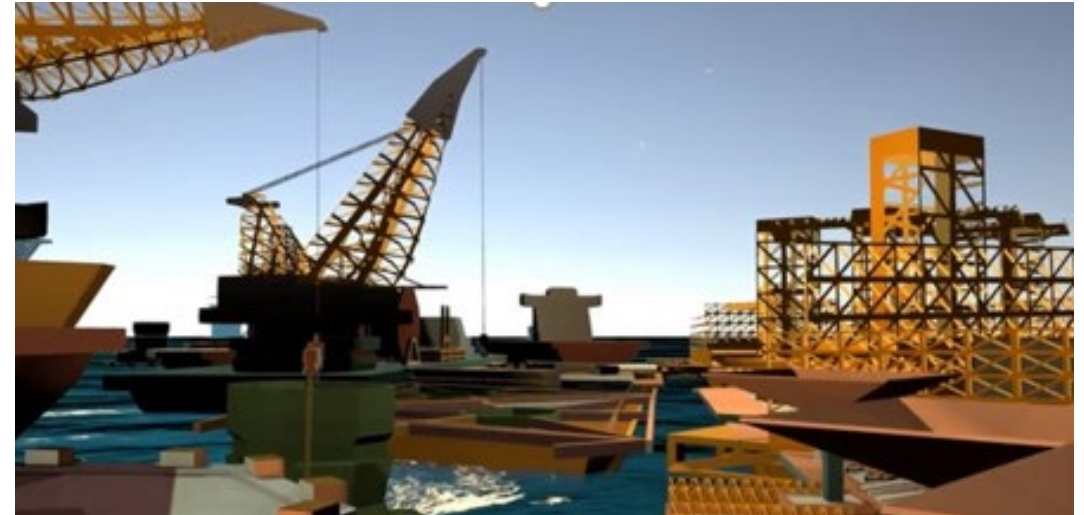
Screen Shots from the Video



Using FRP Composites in Floating Cities

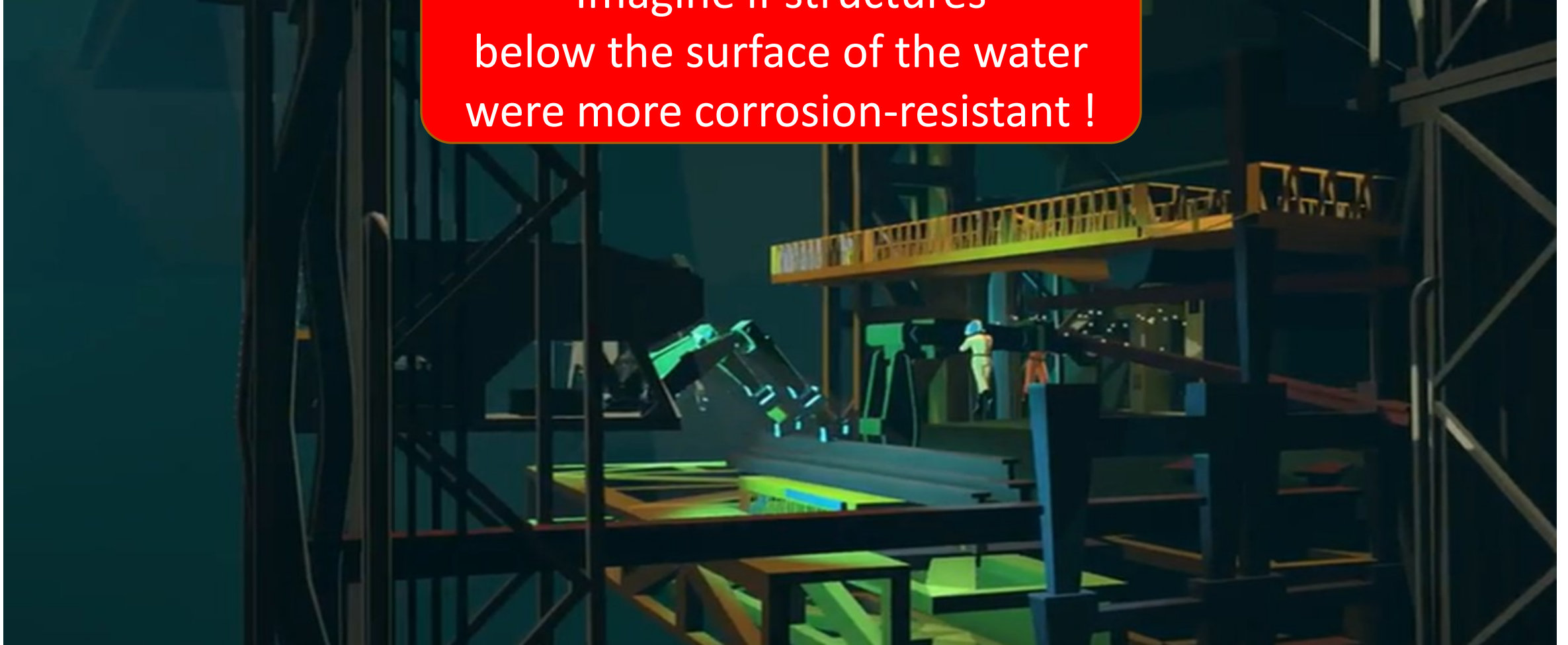
Imagine if everything
on top of the water
was lighter !

- FRP composites 30% lighter than concrete
- FRP rebar – 1/3rd the weight of steel
- Building facades, pedestrian bridges



Using FRP Composites Underneath Floating Cities

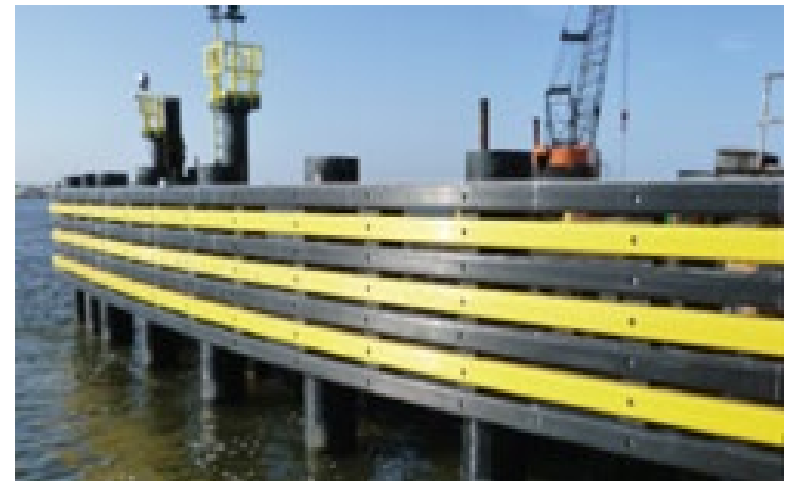
Imagine if structures
below the surface of the water
were more corrosion-resistant !



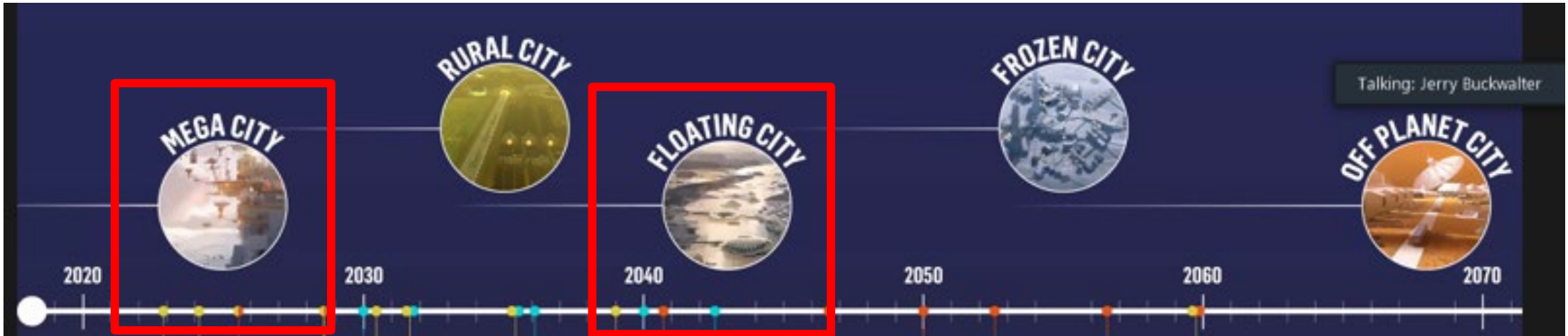
Using FRP Composites Around Floating Cities

Consider the widespread use
of FRP composites
in waterfront & coastal applications

U.S. NAVY PIER 12
SAN DIEGO, CA



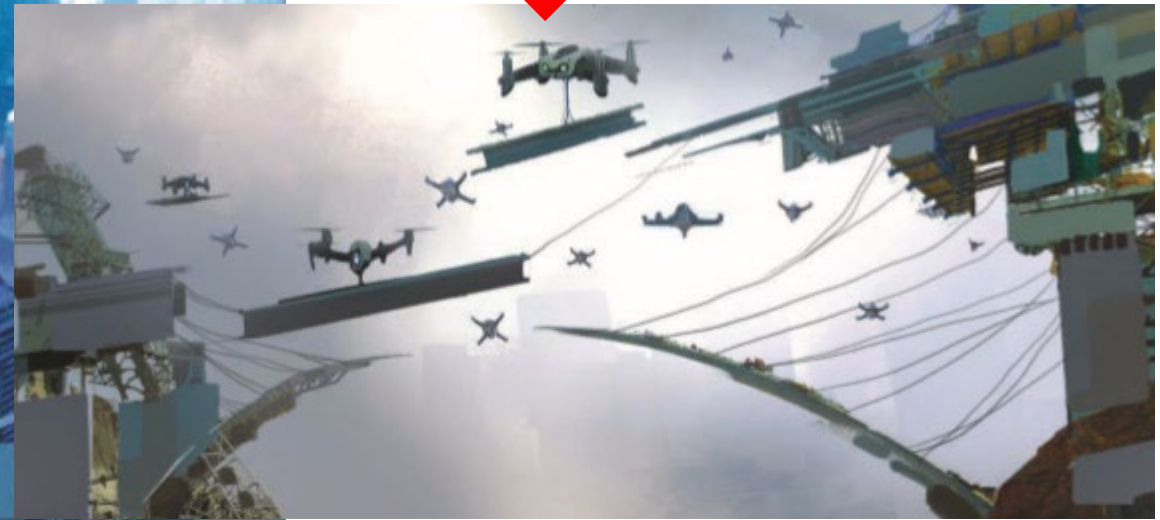
Using FRP Composites in Other *Future World Vision* Scenarios



Using FRP Composites in Other *Future World Vision* Scenarios



FRP composites will be used for Urban Air Mobility in megacities



Civil Engineering, June 2019

Using FRP Composites in Megacities



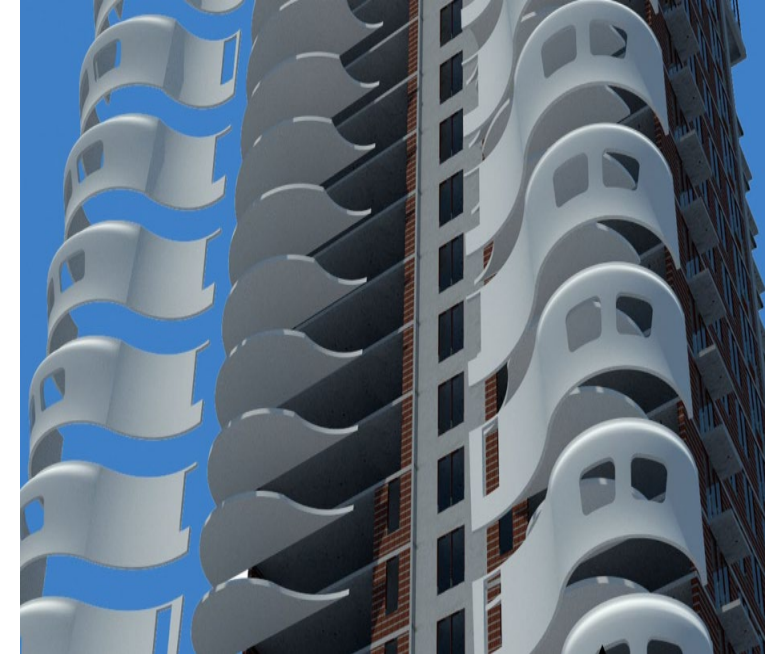
FRP composites can be used for heliports in megacities



Creating Additional Space Without Adding Much Weight



Recall that this walkway can be added to the existing bridge structure without adding too much weight



"Inhabitable Skin" Concept: CRAFT Engineering Studio

Similarly, lightweight composite could be used to add floor space to an existing building

Using FRP Composites for 5G Communication in Smart Cities

- Many more antennas will be needed for communication in megacities with 5G
- FRP composites are transparent to the high frequency, short wavelength radiation for 5G
 - 24-86 GHz (RF, mmWave)
- FRP composites can be used to improve communication between buildings and within buildings
 - Antenna radomes, shrouds and tubes
 - Signage
 - Building facades
 - Curtain wall frames



Using FRP Composites for 5G Communication

- “Smart” FRP light poles are being developed for 5G communication
 - www.luxturrim5G.com
- Pultruded FRP products are ideal for 5G applications
 - Poles
 - Tubes
 - Panels



Lux Turrim 5G smart poles

Using FRP Composites in Other *Future World Vision* Scenarios

Modular construction may be made faster and more efficient by shop-fabricated pieces delivered to jobsites by drones.



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Using FRP Composites in Other *Future World Vision* Scenarios

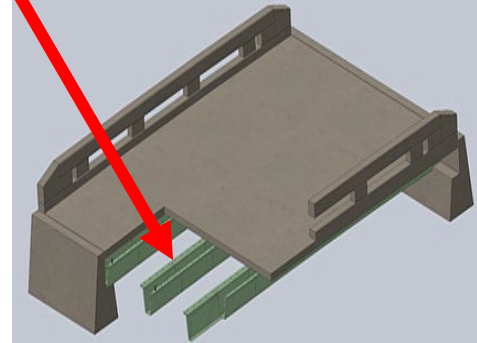
“Modular construction may be made faster and more efficient by shop-fabricated pieces delivered to jobsites by drones”



**Modular construction:
Pre-fabricated walls for a composite foundation are easy to install**



This FRP bridge girder is 70% lighter than a steel girder



Courtesy of The University of Maine & Advanced Infrastructure Technologies



Courtesy of Composite Panel Systems

Take-Home Message & Next Steps

Take-Home Message

There is an extremely good fit
between FRP composites
and our nation's infrastructure needs,
today and in the future.

Today



FRP composites can help civil engineers solve many of our nation's infrastructure needs



**...and in
the future**

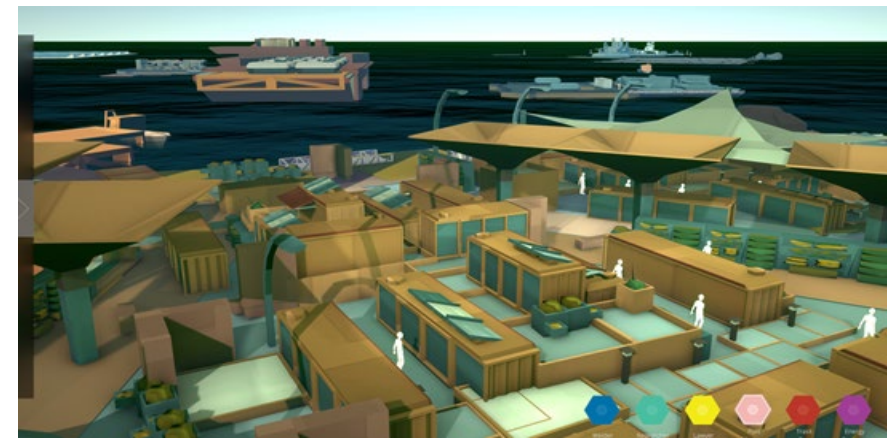


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AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

**Future World Vision:
Infrastructure Reimagined**
May 2019

The collage includes images of a red modular building, a green rooftop garden, and a futuristic cityscape.

**... FRP composites
can help civil engineers
create the infrastructure
of the future**



Next Steps

If you want to learn more



- You can listen to the next 3 days of programming
 - Tuesday Transportation & Waterfront Structures End User Panel
 - Wednesday Buildings & Industrial Structures LRFD Design Standard
 - Thursday Sustainability, Resiliency & Design End User Panel
- You can visit www.discovercomposites.com to learn more about the use of FRP composites in Infrastructure applications

If You Want to Learn More.....

- You can visit the ACMA “booth” in the Exhibitor section & download these documents:

- ANSI/ACMA Standards**

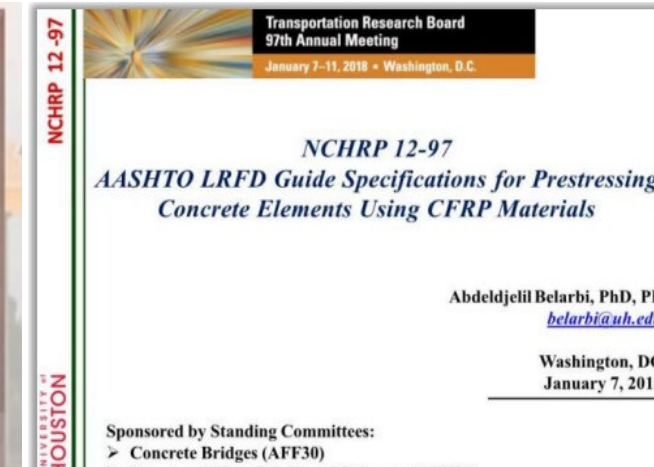
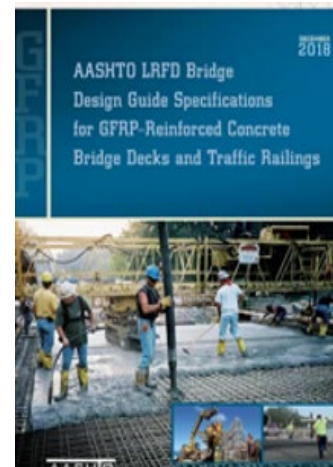
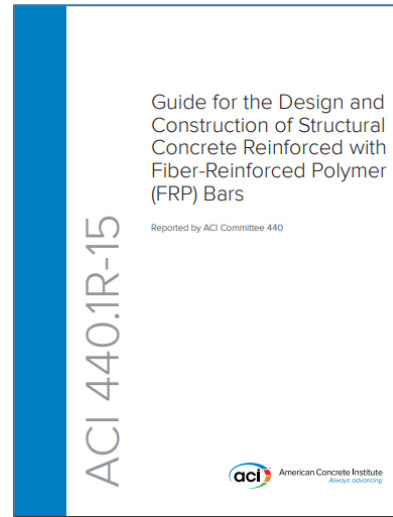
- Fiberglass Grating Manual
- FRP Composite Utility Poles

- Industry Guidelines**

- Guidelines and Recommended Practices for Fiber Reinforced Polymer Architectural Products
- Industry Recommendations for Installation and Maintenance of FRP Gratings

- References**

- Summary of Standards Specification Codes for FRP Composites in Construction and Infrastructure
- Report on FRP composites in WV Bridges
- FDOT Case Studies overview by application
- Summary of FRP Project Awards



Acknowledgments

- Jerry Buckwalter ASCE
- John Busel ACMA
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- Greg Nadeau Advanced Infrastructure Technologies
- Tony Nanni University of Miami
- Steve Nolan Florida Department of Transportation
- Scott Reeve Composite Advantage
- Dustin Troutman Creative Pultrusions

To Earn Your PDH Credit

- Click on the “Polls” icon on your screen
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