



# Bridge Deck Reinforced with Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer Bars (GFRP)

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# Outline



GFRP Bars in Ontario:  
History & Use



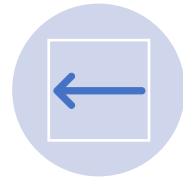
Why GFRP in Bridge  
deck?



Durability of GFRP:  
MTO perspective



What has changed  
lately? Product and  
Market



GFRP Bars in bridge  
deck



Rational design of  
bridge deck



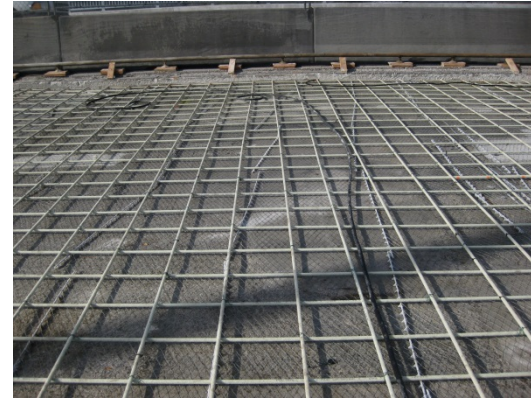
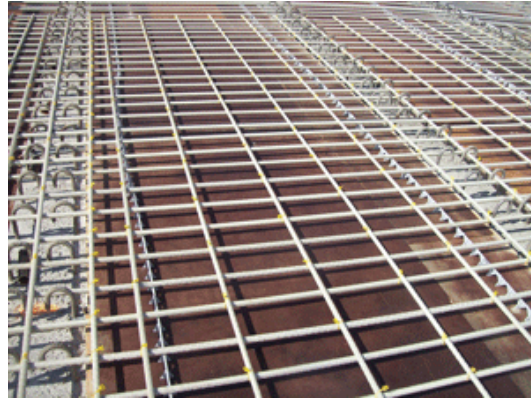
What's Next?



Q&A

# »» GFRP in Ontario

- ☑ Use of GFRP started in mid 90's
- ☑ Trial projects implemented in 2005
- ☑ CHBDC first adopted GFRP as a primary Rebar in 2006
- ☑ MTO first adopted GFRP as part of corrosion protection policy in 2008



# GFRP in Ontario

- ☑ MTO has constructed over 400 Bridges with GFRP Including:
  - ☑ Precast Deck Panels between girders
  - ☑ Cast in place on girders (simply supported or semi-continuous)
  - ☑ PL2/TL4 and PL3/TL5 Barrier walls
  - ☑ Topping slab over side by side box girders
  - ☑ Stirrups in Precast box girders
  - ☑ Overlays and side walks
- ☑ Progressed beyond trial stage

# Examples of Full GFRP Bridge Decks

- HWY 11/7 CPR Overhead Ouimet
- Third Street Bridge Over the Thames River
- Whiteman's Creek Precast Deck, Hwy 24
- Humber River Bridge Cast-in-place deck, Hwy 401
- Nestor Falls Hwy 71 Precast Deck
- Rainy Lake/Noden Causeway PC Deck
- Chukuni River Bridge Precast Deck Hwy 105
- Ottawa Queensway bridges cast-in-place deck
- Warden Avenue Hwy 401 overlay
- Bonnechere River Bridge cast-in-place exposed, Hwy 60
- Nipigon River Bridge

# »» Why GFRP in Bridge Deck?

## ☑ Lighter

- ☑ More rebar on a truck (4x)
- ☑ Less back injury and workers don't tire out by the end of the week
- ☑ Faster schedule
- ☑ Less than half manpower
- ☑ **Greener World!**

**\*\*Greener Word: Less Carbon footprint, Less gas/fuel usage, Easier demolition and end up better end of life than steel!**



# »» Why GFRP in Bridge Deck?

## ☑ Lighter Precast Deck

- ☑ Longer precast panel due to weight
- ☑ Lower cost of transportation
- ☑ **Greener world!**



# »» Why GFRP in Bridge Deck?

## ☑ Rust Free

- ☑ More Saving in long term
- ☑ In One year Canadian Government spent \$46B on costs associated to corrosion of rebar(US MARKET 10x)
- ☑ Safer infrastructure for generations
- ☑ Less demolition and rehabilitation which result in less greenhouse gas pumped into atmosphere
- ☑ Tremendous initial cost saving by removing CNI
- ☑ **Greener World!**





# »» Durability of GFRP(MTO Perspective)

## ☑ Alkaline attack in concrete

- ☑ For high durability GFRP products, more recent tests show possibly 10 to 12% loss of strength in 75 years for typical application in Ontario (worse in warm and humid climate)

CHBDC 2014 requires  $\Phi = 0.55$  at ULS

CHBDC 2019 requires  $\Phi = 0.65$  at ULS

## ☑ Creep rupture

- ☑ for sustained load  $> 45\% f_{pu}$  [New generation of GFRPs]

CHBDC requires  $\Phi = 0.25$  at SLS

AASHTO has different resistance and durability factors, but the end result is similar:

Environmental reduction factor  $C_E = 0.7$  (apply to guaranteed  $F_u$ )

Creep rupture reduction factor  $C_C = 0.3$

Fatigue rupture reduction factor  $C_f = 0.25$

Strength resistance factor  $\Phi = 0.55$  to  $0.75$

## »» Durability of GFRP(MTO Perspective)

### ☑ Accelerated aging and natural aging condition

$$\frac{N}{C} = 0.098 e^{0.0558T}$$

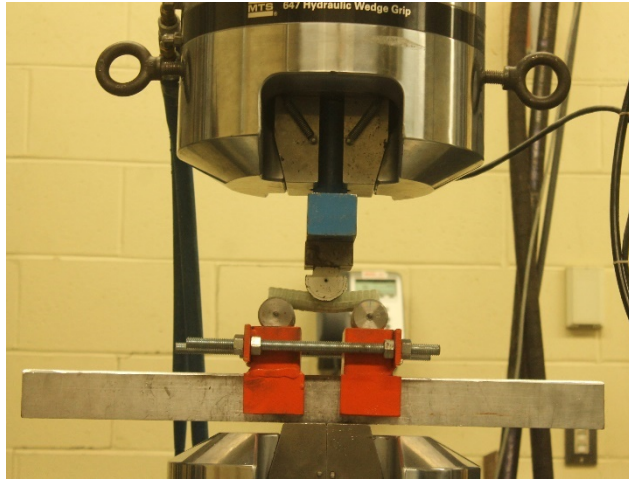
Temperature (°C)	Solution (pH 12.6-12.8)	Accelerated ages (days)	Natural ages (years)
40	Alkaline	150	13
40	Alkaline	300	27
60	Alkaline	150	100
60	Alkaline	300	199

# »» Durability of GFRP?

- 
- **Most Recent Alkali Resistance Interlaminar Shear Strength(ILSS)**
  - Apparent Horizontal Shear Strength by Short-Beam Method of Glass Fibre-Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars in High pH Alkaline Solution at 60 °C – Reference and Conditioned Bars #3, #4, #5, and #8



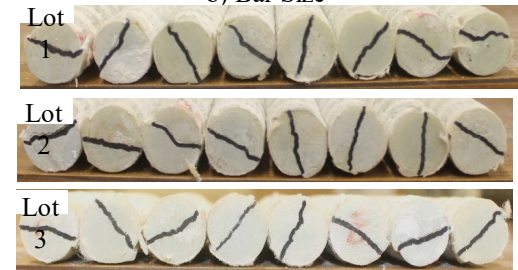
# Durability of GFRP Bars



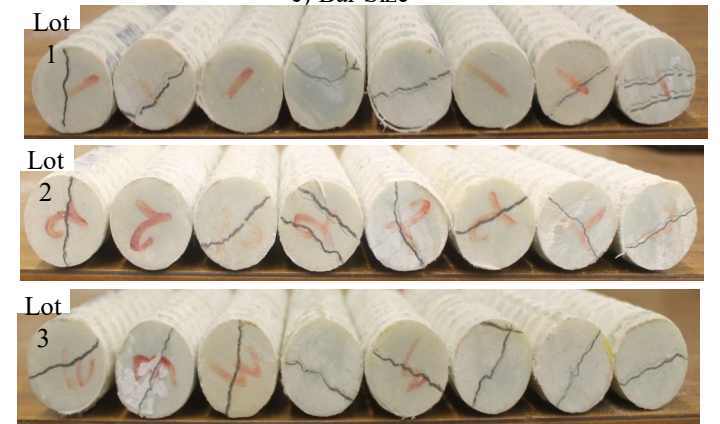
a) Bar Size



b) Bar Size



c) Bar Size



d) Bar Size

#8

# Durability of GFRP Bars

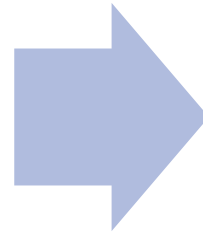
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Bar Size	Lot #	Specimens	Apparent Horizontal Shear Strength (MPa)	Strength Retention $R_{et}$
#3	1	Reference	48	<b>96%</b>
		Conditioned	46	
	2	Reference	49	<b>96%</b>
		Conditioned	47	
	3	Reference	47	<b>96%</b>
		Conditioned	45	
#4	1	Reference	53	<b>92%</b>
		Conditioned	49	
	2	Reference	52	<b>96%</b>
		Conditioned	50	
	3	Reference	51	<b>96%</b>
		Conditioned	49	
#5	1	Reference	70	<b>99%</b>
		Conditioned	69	
	2	Reference	71	<b>96%</b>
		Conditioned	68	
	3	Reference	70	<b>99%</b>
		Conditioned	69	
#8	1	Reference	60	<b>97%</b>
		Conditioned	58	
	2	Reference	59	<b>97%</b>
		Conditioned	57	
	3	Reference	60	<b>97%</b>
		Conditioned	58	

»» What has changed lately? Material Standpoint

E-Glass

Degrade in Alkaline  
environment



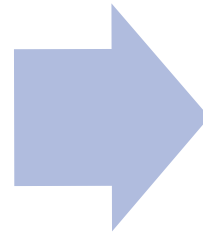
Boron Free  
Glass

Never degrade

# What has changed lately? Material Standpoint

Polyester

Degrade in Alkaline  
environment



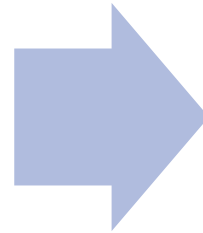
Vinyl-Ester

Never degrade  
Better elongation  
Higher strength

# What has changed lately? Material Standpoint

$E=40\text{GPa}$

Low stiffness required more rebar



$E=60\text{GPa}$

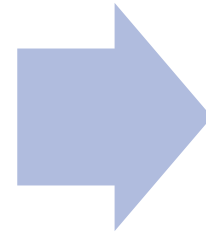
Higher stiffness required less rebar



# What has changed lately? Material Standpoint

$\tau=110-$   
 $160\text{MPa}$

Low Shear Strength



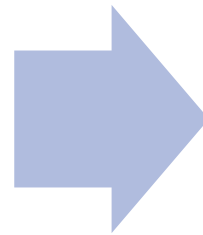
$\tau=200-$   
 $250\text{MPa}$

Higher Shear Strength

# What has changed lately? Material Standpoint

$\delta=750\text{MPa}$

Average Tensile Strength



$\tau=1000\text{MPa}$

High Tensile Strength



What has  
changed lately?  
Material  
Standpoint

$\delta\text{Bond} < 10\text{MPa}$

Low Bond Strength

$\tau > 25\text{ MPa}$

High Bond Strength

# What has changed lately? Material Standpoint

$\delta=450\text{MPa}$

Low Bend Strength

$\tau=700-800\text{ MPa}$

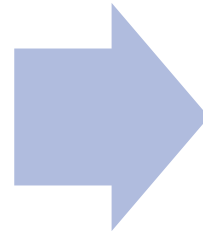
High Bend Strength



# What has changed lately? Market Standpoint

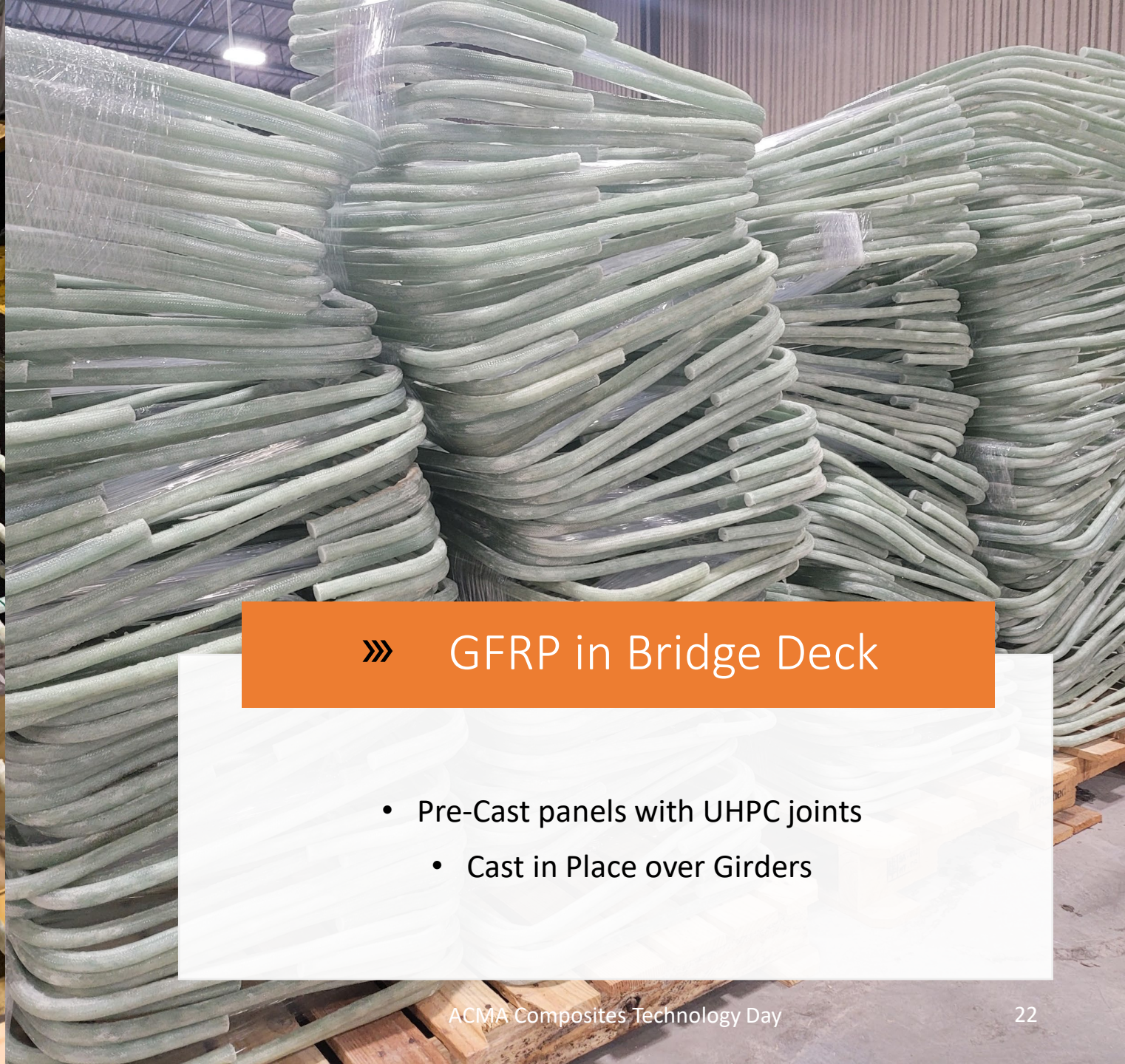
**Corrosion  
Niche Market**

Corrosive applications



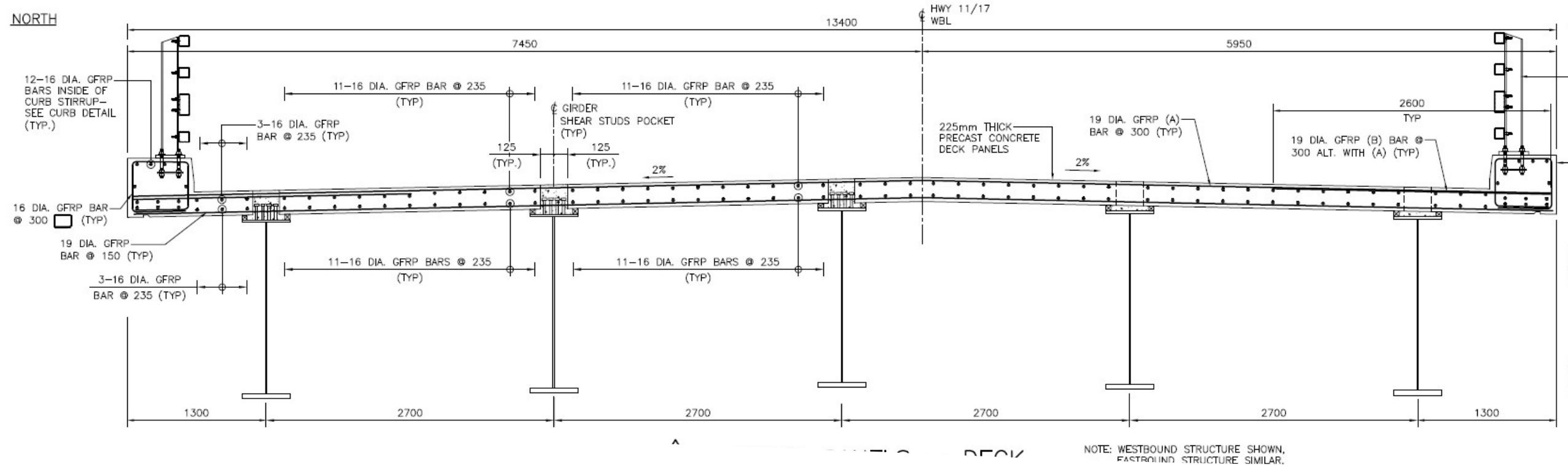
**Any Concrete  
Market**

Due to Weight, Price &  
Strength



## »» GFRP in Bridge Deck

- Pre-Cast panels with UHPC joints
- Cast in Place over Girders



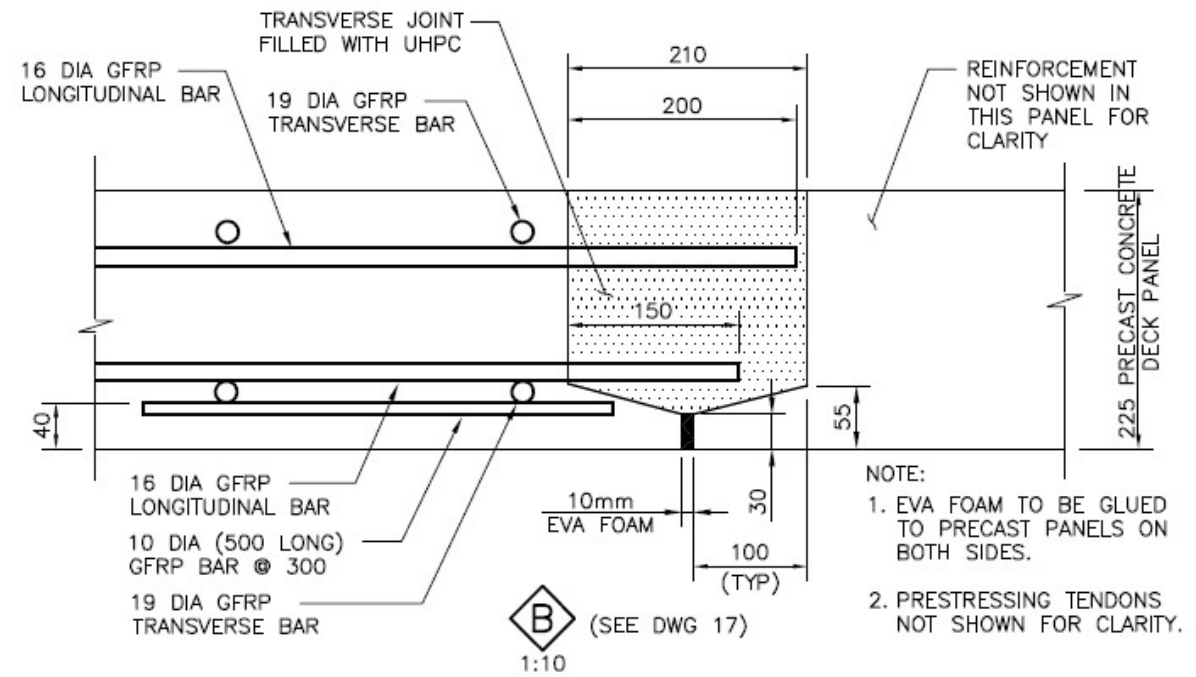
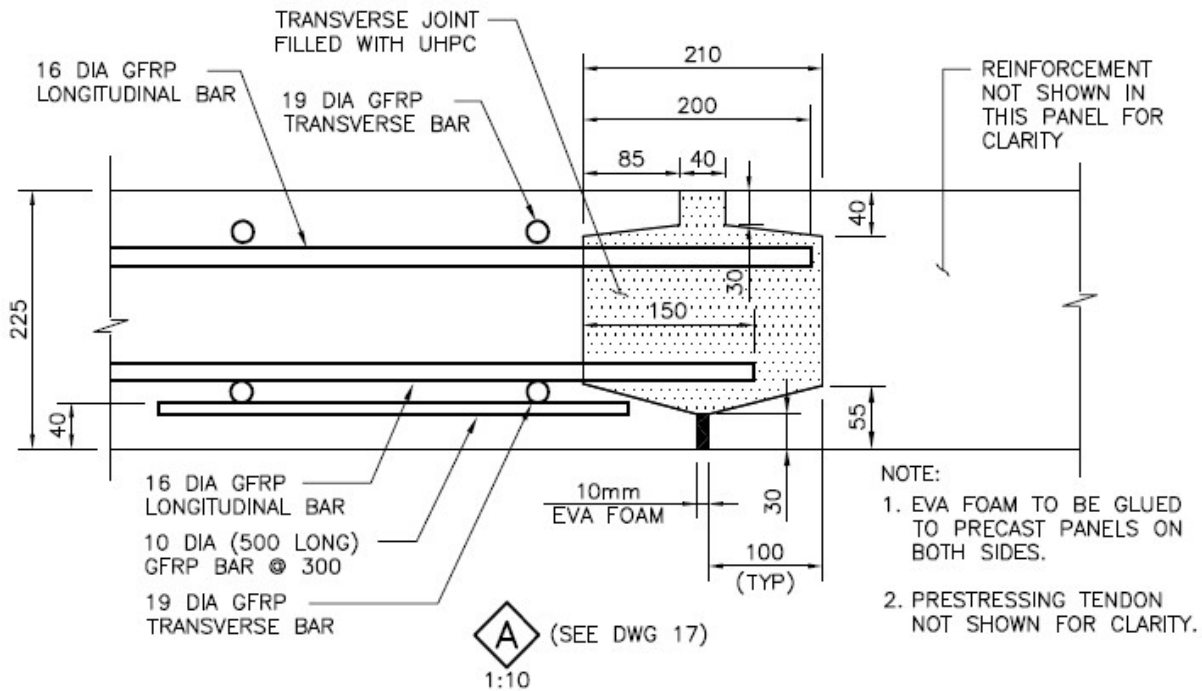
## Pre-Cast panels with UHPC joints

### Advantages

- ☑ Save Construction Time
- ☑ QA/QC
- ☑ Durability
- ☑ Less Change in Contract Price

### Disadvantages

- ☑ Higher initial cost
- ☑ Transportation and handling
- ☑ Modification



UHPC= Stronger Connection & Less Overlap



# »» Rational Design-Deck Slab with GFRP

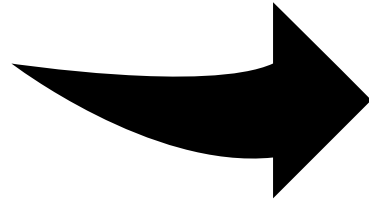
- ☑ Started in Ontario from 1979
- ☑ Design by either empirical method or flexural methods is allowed (Clause 16.8.8). For simplicity, **empirical method** can always be used when the conditions for its use are satisfied.
- ☑ Crack widths need not be checked for the empirical method.(importance of  $K_b$  factor)
- ☑ **Only use GFRP grades 3 in the deck slab: No Grade 1.**
- ☑ **No need for Corrosion Inhibitors or other corrosion protection.**
- ☑ No need for strengths higher than 30 MPa for a typical slab on girder bridge.
- ☑ For economy:
  - ☑ For a deck slab  $t = 200$  mm, use empirical methods for girder spacing over 2.4 m, otherwise flexural methods.
  - ☑ For a deck slab  $t = 225$  mm, use flexural methods.

# Advantages of Using Empirical Design in Bridge Deck Slab

- ❑ **Empirical method** Can be considered since it would result in a more economical design than traditional method.
- ❑ **Empirical method** could result in material saving by using less reinforcing bar.
- ❑ **Initial cost of 10% less when using Empirical design method Vs. Traditional method.**

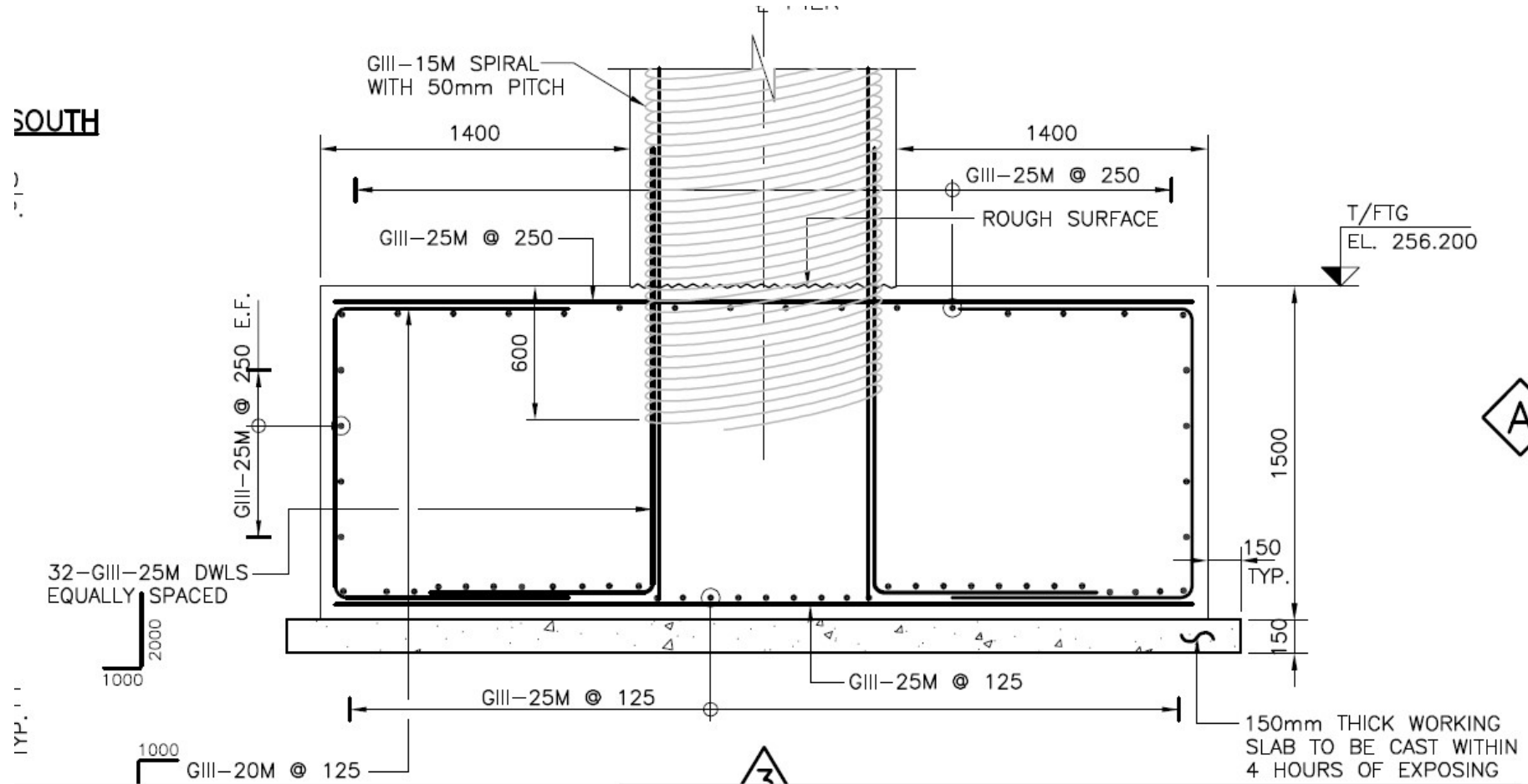
## »» What's Next?

- ☑ More confident
- ☑ Better QC/QA
- ☑ Better Bent bars
- ☑ More research
- ☑ Lower cost

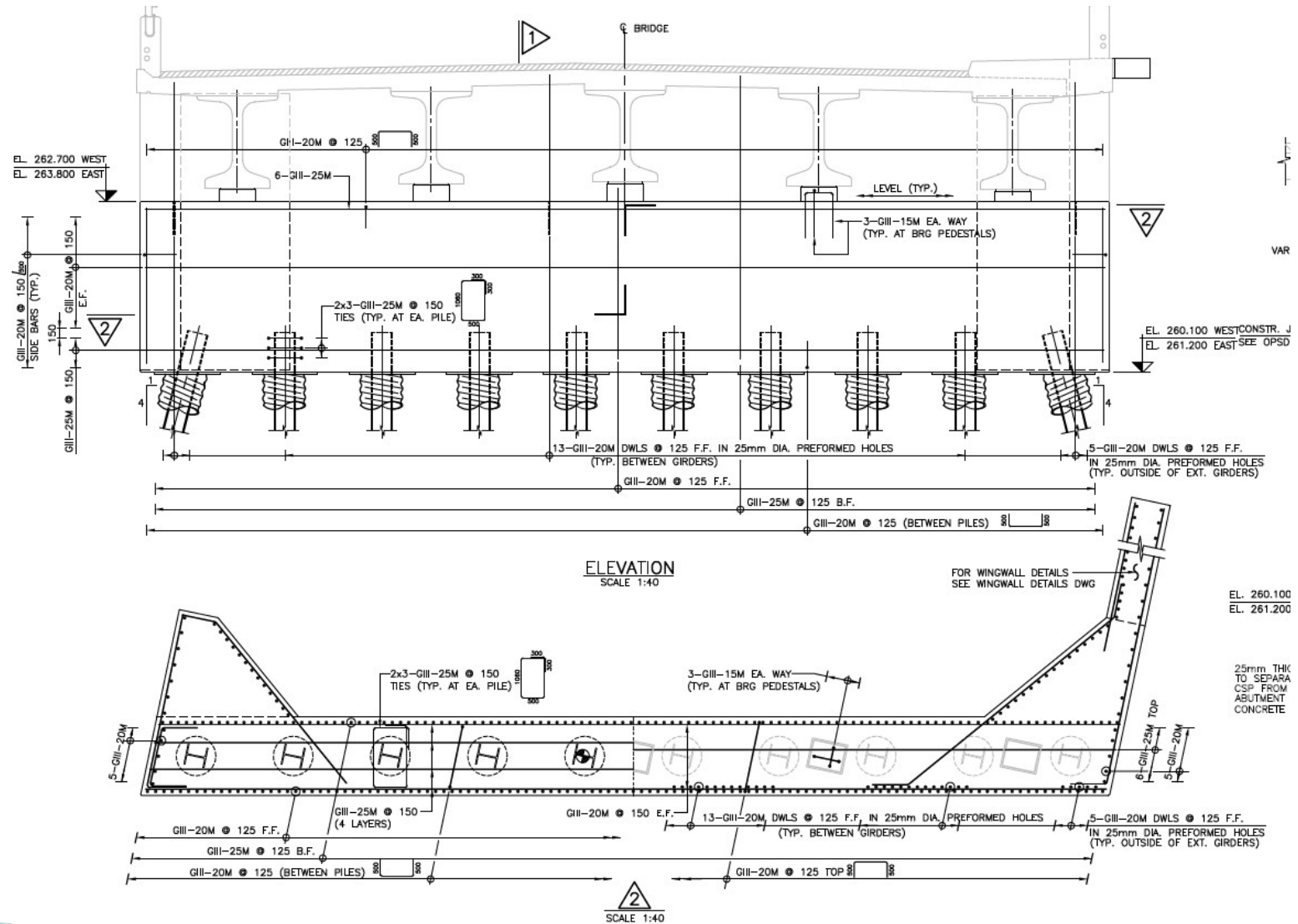


**FULL GFRP BRIDGE  
in 2021**

# What's Next?

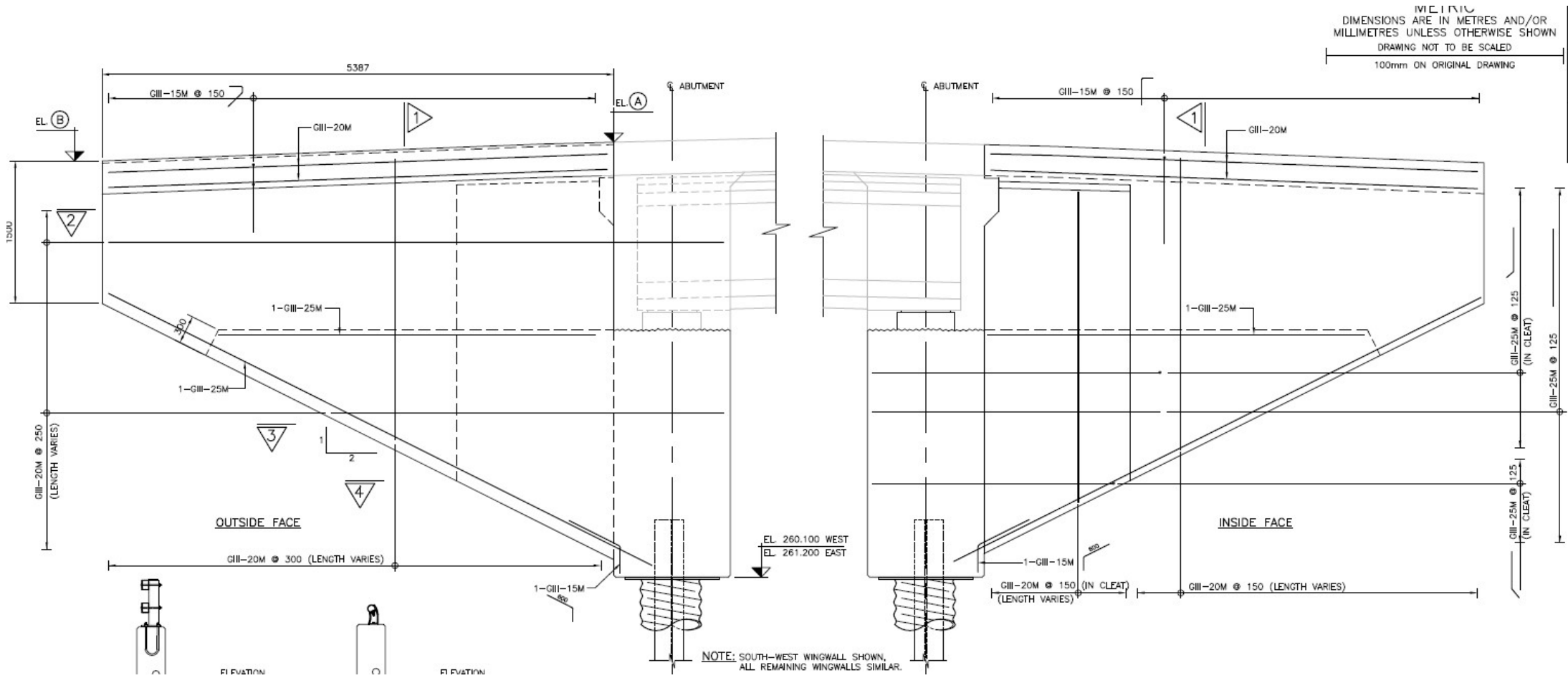


# What's Next?

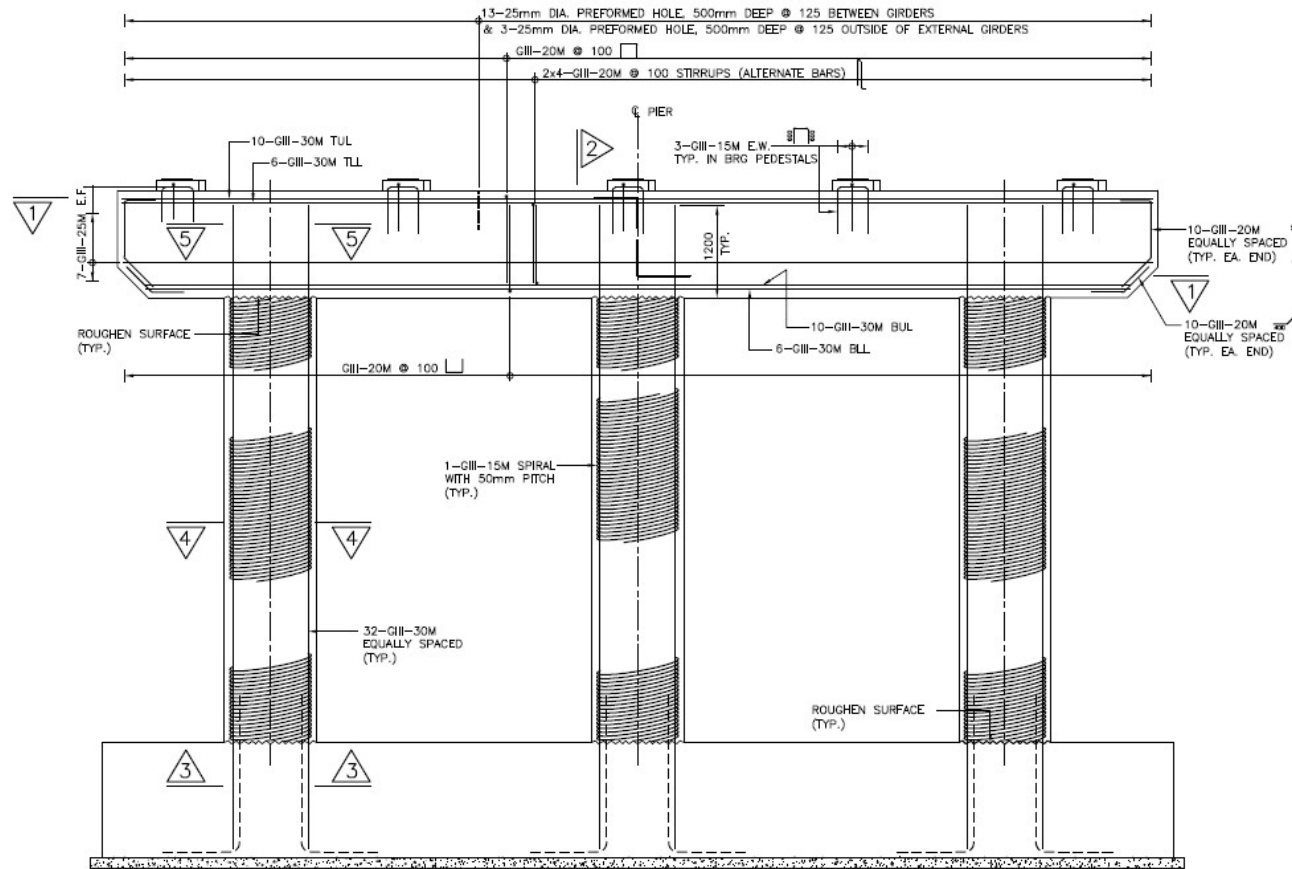




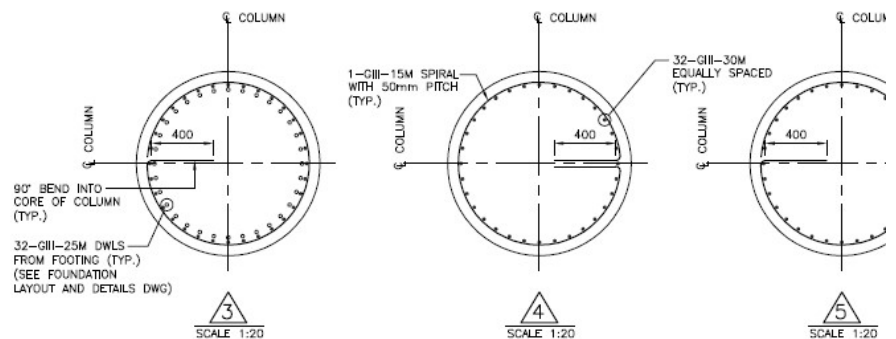
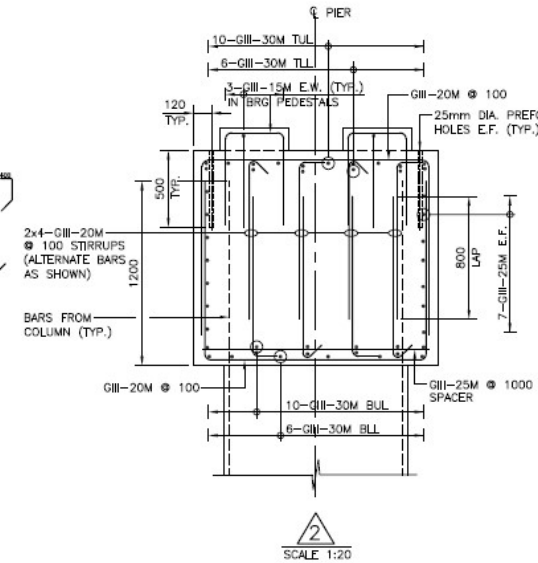
# What's Next?



# What's Next?



SECTION-ELEVATION  
SCALE 1:40



WP XXXX-XX-XX  
HIGHWAY 11  
WEST ST. UNDERPASS  
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
PIER REINFORCEMENT

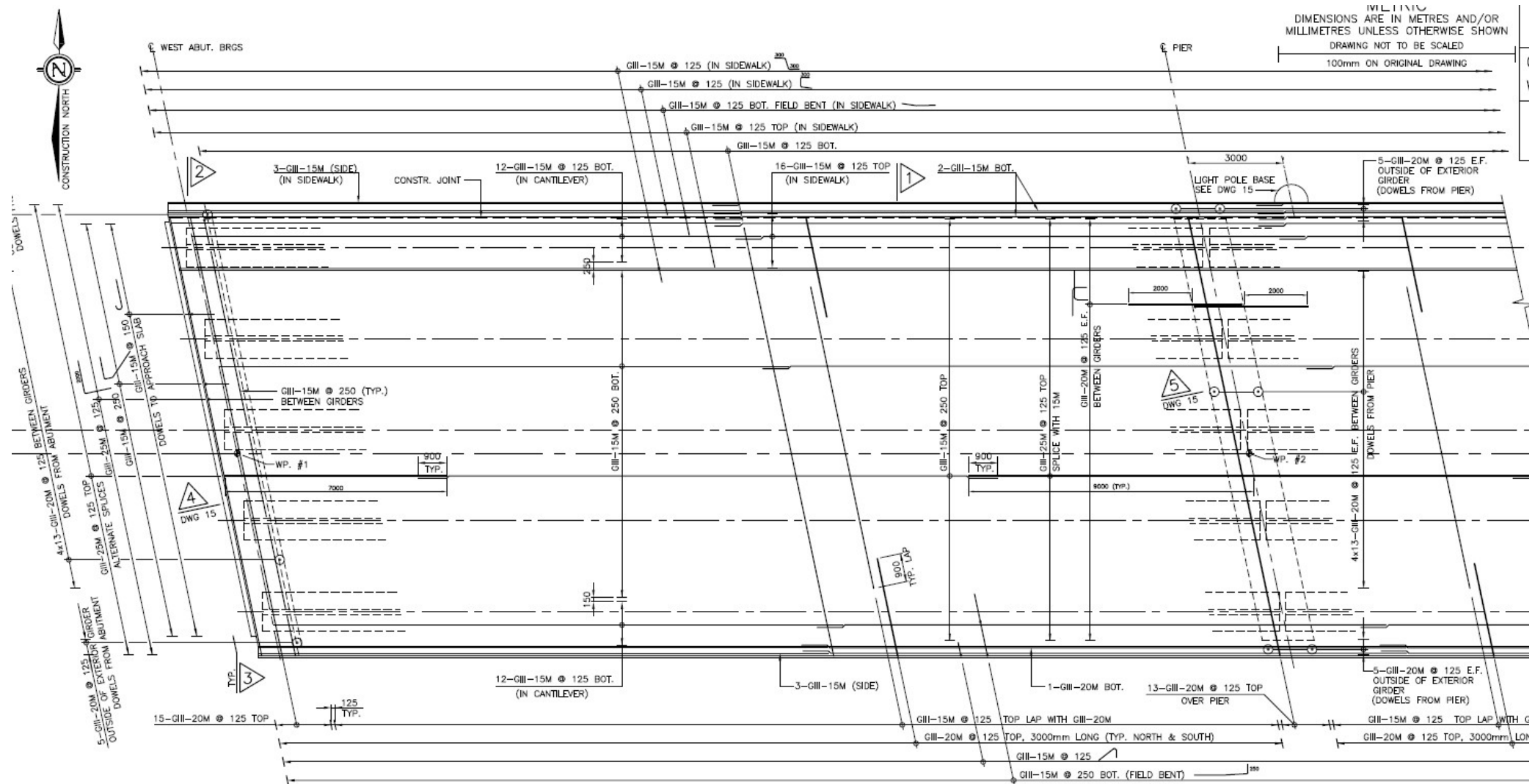
- NOTES**
1. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH DRAWING.
  2. FOR FOOTING REINFORCEMENT SEE FOUNDATION AND FOOTING DETAILS DRAWING.
  3. CLEAR COVER TO FRP REINFORCEMENT PIER COLUMNS AND PIER CAP

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

BRGS	BEARINGS
UND	UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
C/J	CONSTRUCTION JOINT
E.F.	EACH FACE
EL	ELEVATION
W.P.	WORKING POINT
TUL	TOP UPPER LAYER
TLL	TOP LOWER LAYER
BUL	BOTTOM UPPER LAYER
BLL	BOTTOM LOWER LAYER



# What's Next?



# Question & Answer

