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# Changes to Geotechnical Engineering in the Last 50 Years

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**Kansas University Geotechnical Conference**  
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# **Bio: Jerry A. DiMaggio, PE, BC.GE**

- B.S., M.S. Civil Engineering — Clarkson University, New York
- P.E. — Many States
- Board Certified Geotechnical Engineer
- Work Experience
  - **2024 – Present: HNTB, Pavements/Geotechnical Practice Consultant**
  - **2014 – 2024:** Applied Research Associates, Inc., Senior Principal Civil Engineer — Associate
  - **2008 – 2014:** Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), National Academies, Implementation Coordinator and Senior Program Officer
  - **1976 – 2008:** U.S. DOT/FHWA, Principal Bridge Engineer/National Geotechnical Program Manager
  - **1974 – 1976:** New York State DOT, Junior Engineer



## Real Person: Jerry A. DiMaggio

- Pin Ball Machine Repairman – 2yr
- Country Club Maintenance Foreman – 3yrs
- Teamster Trucker– 2yrs
- Father – 46yrs
- Grandfather – 7 boys and girls
- Husband – 56yrs
- Civil Engineer (geotechnical and construction specialist) - 53yrs)



# Soil and Rock



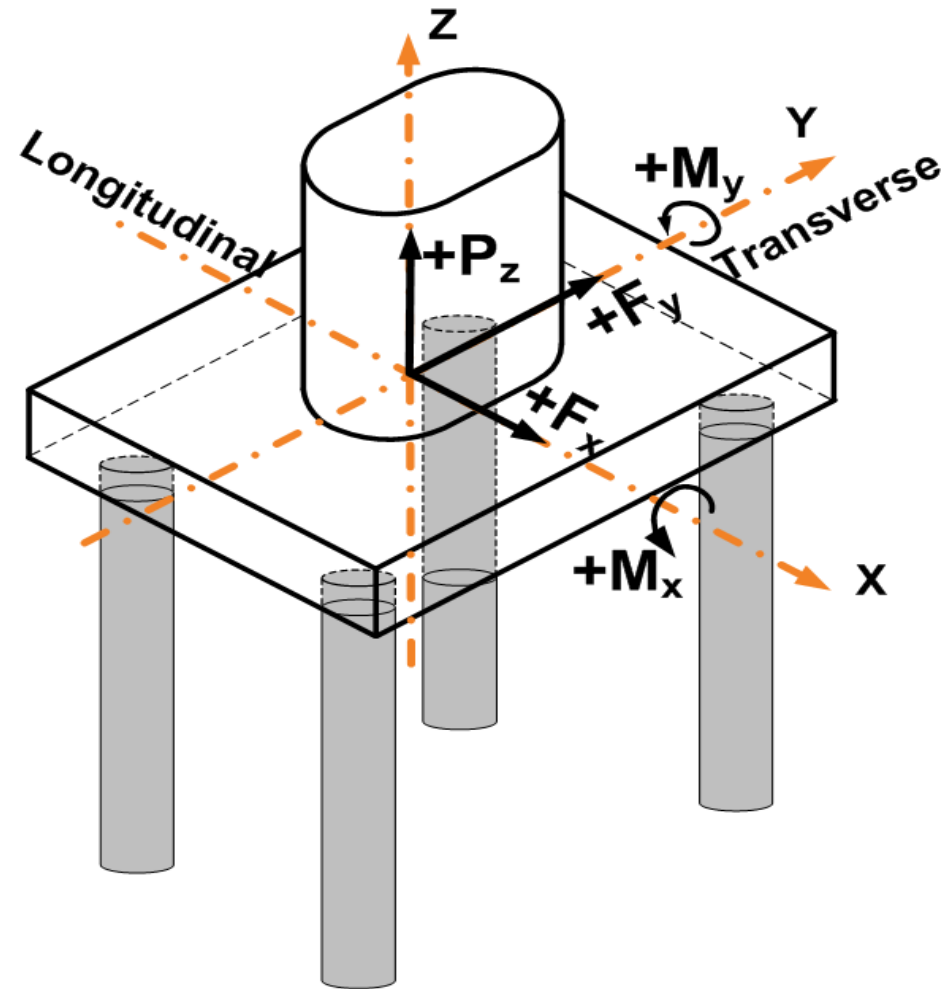
# What has Changed and Remained the Same in 50 Years?



$$\underline{\Sigma \eta_i \gamma_i Q_i} \Leftrightarrow \underline{R_r} = \phi \underline{R_n}$$

- $\eta_i$  = **Load modifier (eta)**
- $\gamma_i$  = **Load factor (gamma)**
- $Q_i$  = **Force effect**
- $R_r$  = **Factored resistance**
- $\phi$  = **Resistance factor (phi)**
- $R_n$  = **Nominal resistance**

# Loads Types, Magnitudes and Frequencies

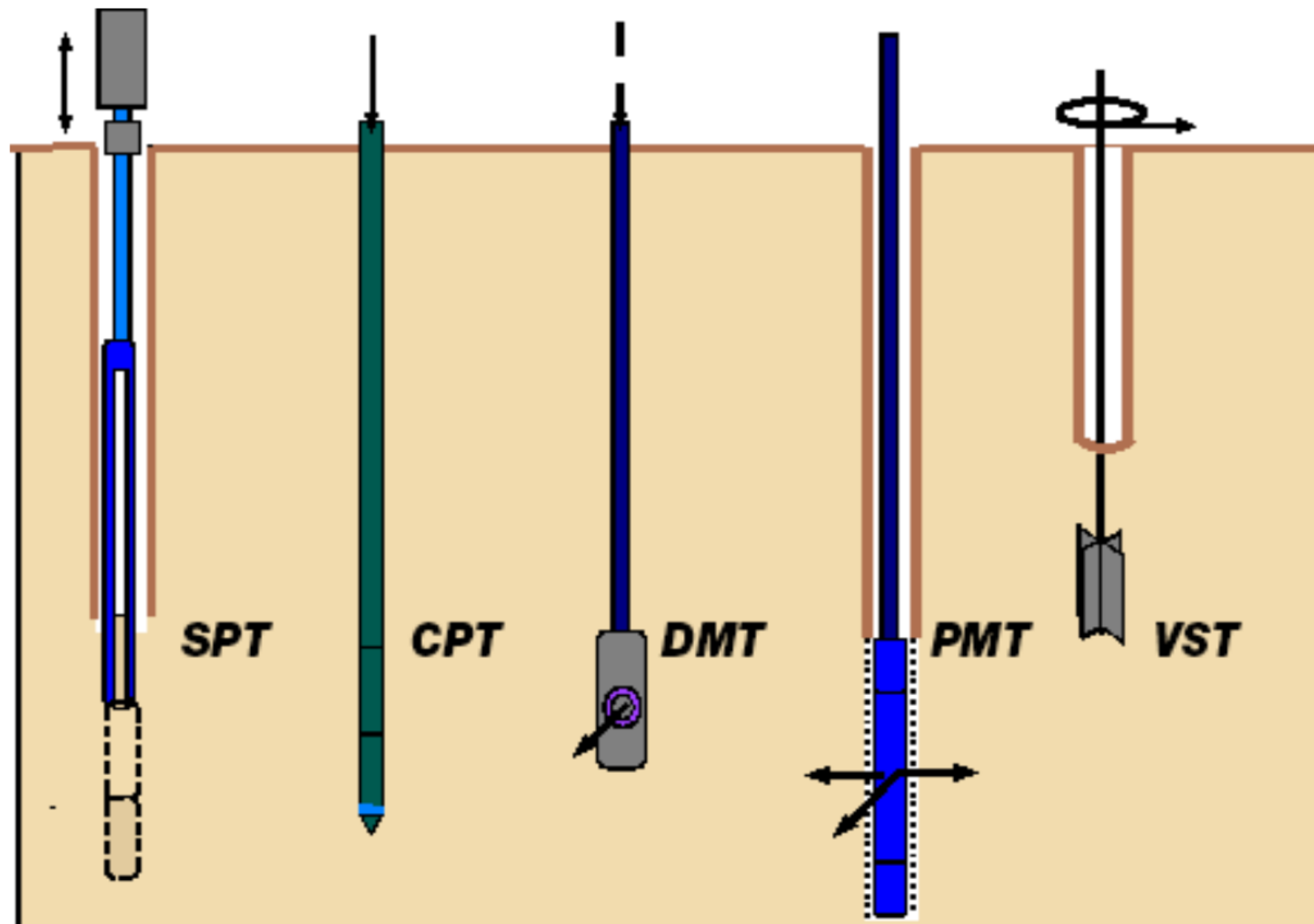




# Extreme Event Loads: Seismic, Ice, Flooding, Vehicle, Vessel, Scour







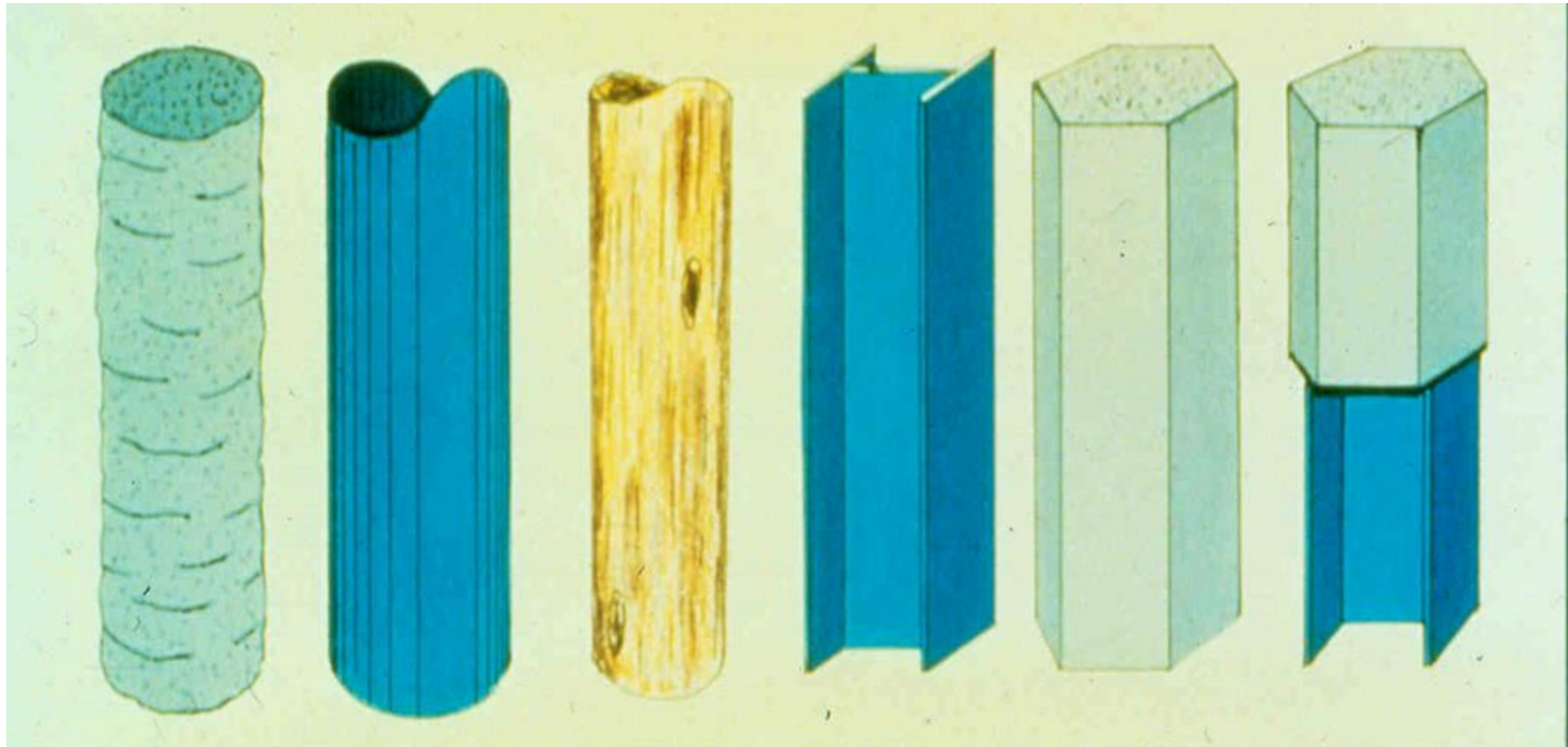
# AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specs. Section 10.4

## **Soil and Rock Properties**

- 4.1 Informational Needs
- 4.2 Subsurface Exploration
- 4.3 Laboratory Tests
- 4.4 Insitu Tests
- 4.5 Geophysical Tests
- 4.6 ***Selection of Design and Construction Parameters***



# TYPES OF PILING



Drilled Piles

Steel  
Pipe

Timber

Steel H

Prestressed Composite  
Concrete



# Deep Foundation Selection

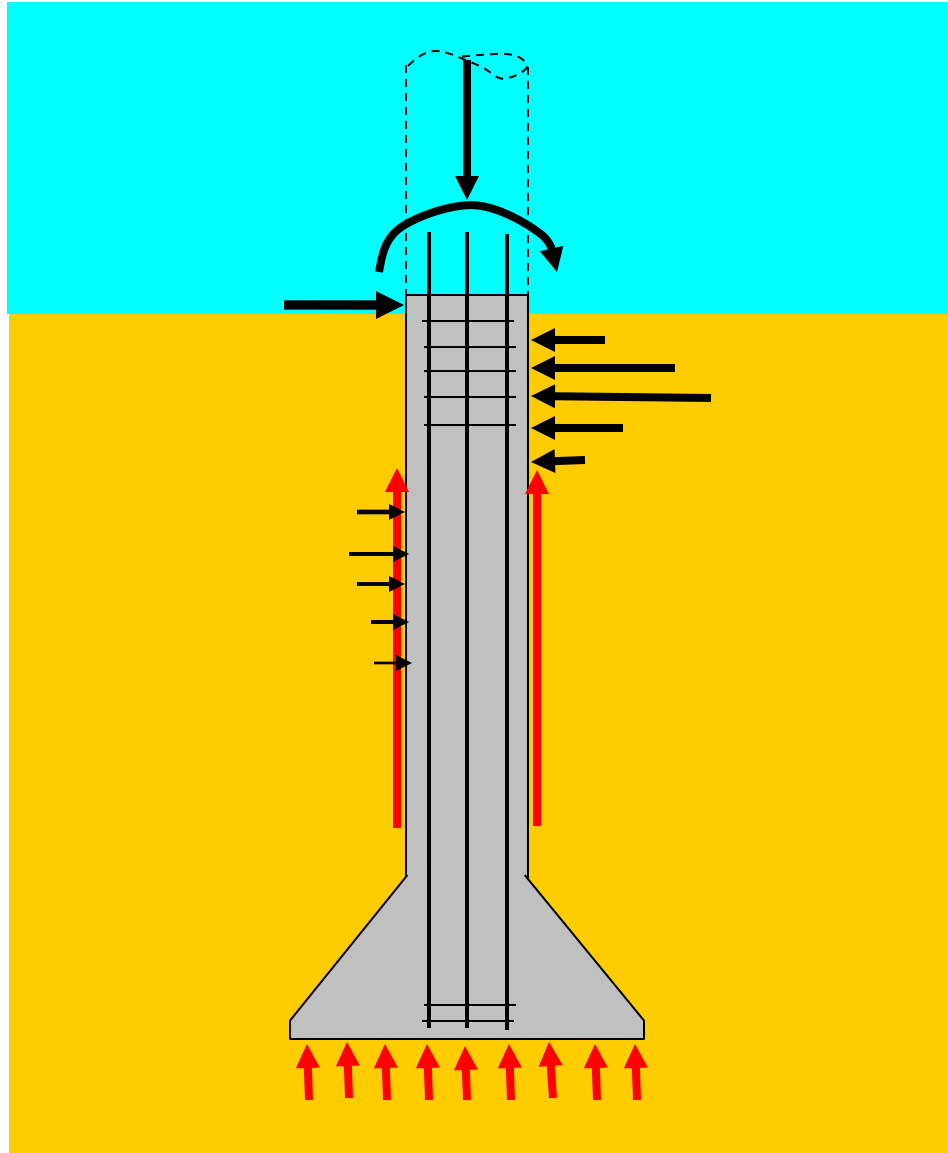
- Method of support
- Bearing material depth
- Load type, direction and magnitude
- **Performance Requirements** (schedule, deformations, extreme events)
- Constructability
- **Cost**
  - Expressed in \$/kip resistance
  - Include all possible costs (mobilization, time, phase construction and temporary work items)

# Steel H-Piles and Prestressed Concrete





# Drilled Shafts and Augercast Piles





# Concrete





## Micropiles: USA 1970s





# We've Learned the Meaning of Driveability!!!!





# **Structural Resistance Factors**

## **10.7.3.13 Pile Structural Resistance**

### **Concrete (5.5.4.2)**

Axial Comp. = 0.75

Flexure = 0.9 (strain dependent)

Shear = 0.9



### **Steel (6.5.4.2)**

*Axial* = 0.5-0.7

Combined

Axial = 0.7-0.8

Flexure = 1.0

Shear = 1.0

### **Timber (8.5.2.2 and .3)**

Compression = 0.9

Tension = 0.8

Flexure = 0.85

Shear = 0.75

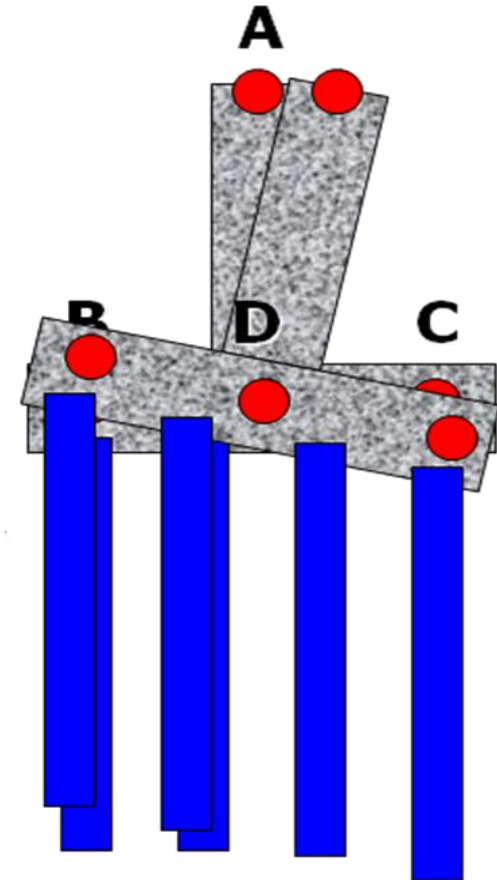
# Intolerable Movements



# Tolerable Movements and Movement Criteria

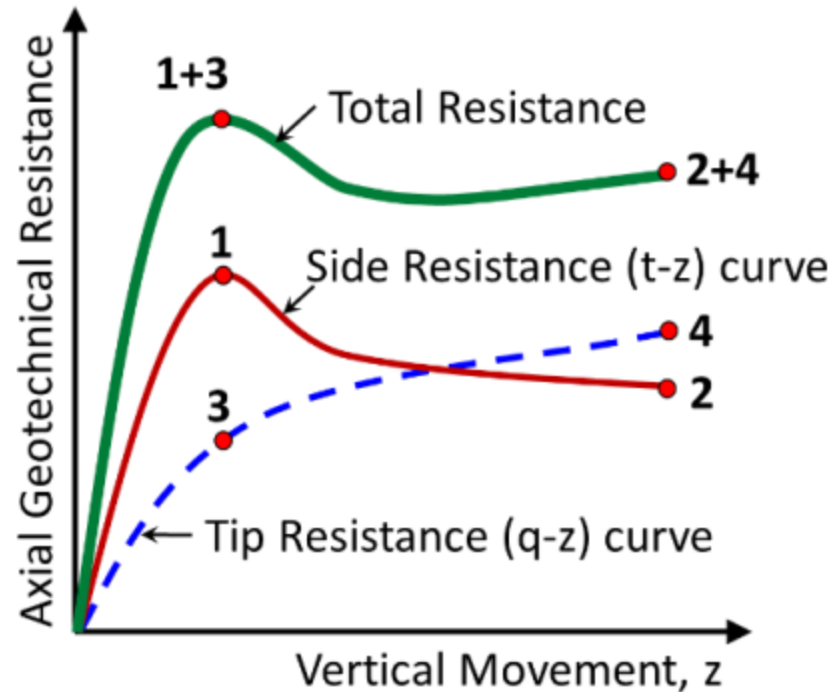
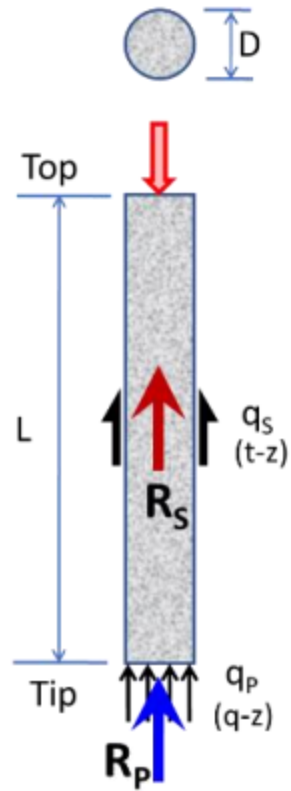
## Article AASHTO 10.5.2.2

- **Service loads for settlements, horizontal movements and rotations.**
- Omit transient loads for cohesive soils
- **Reference movements to the top of the substructure unit.**
- Angular Distortion (C10.5.2.2)



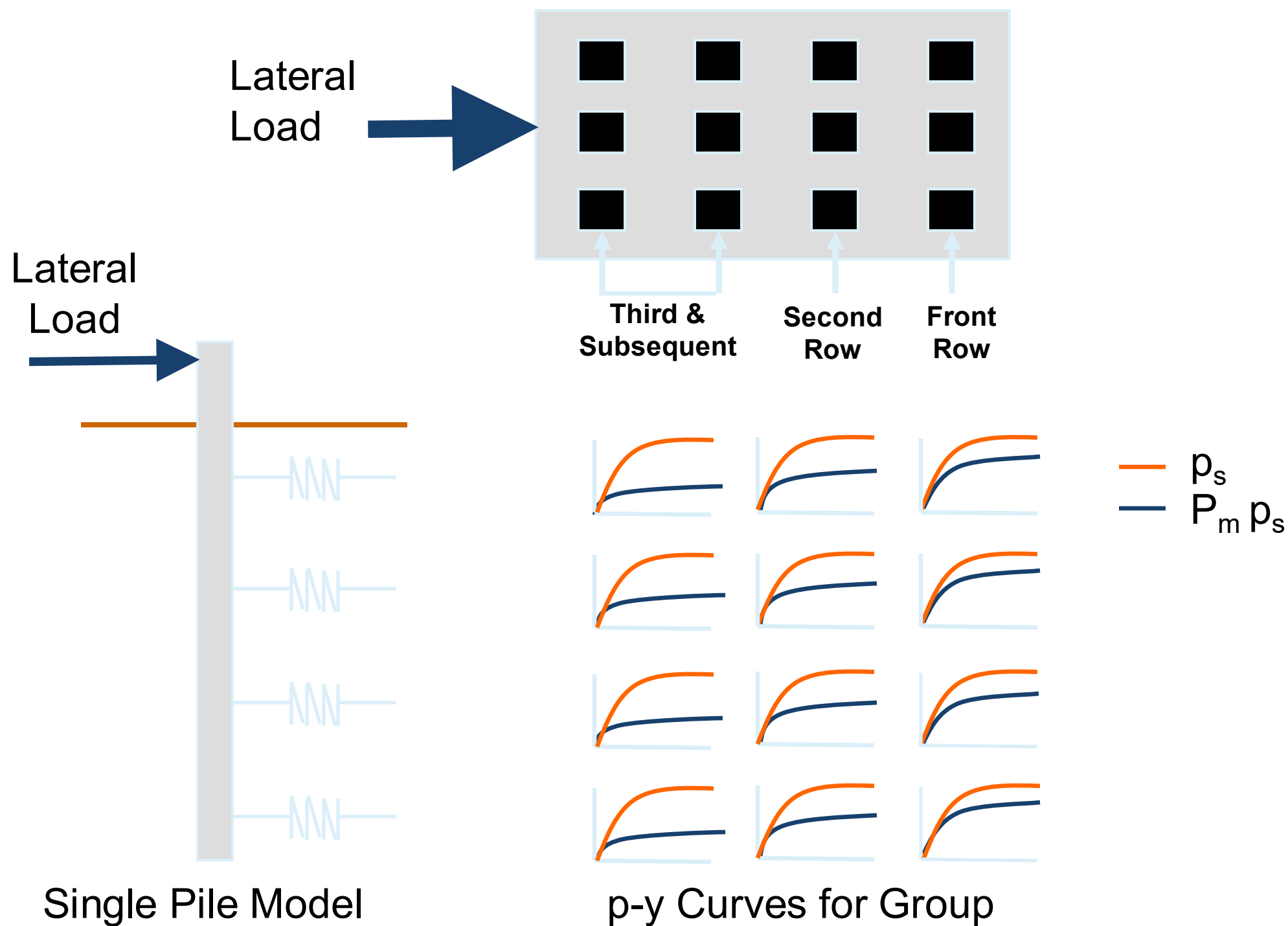


# Concept of Mobilized Resistance



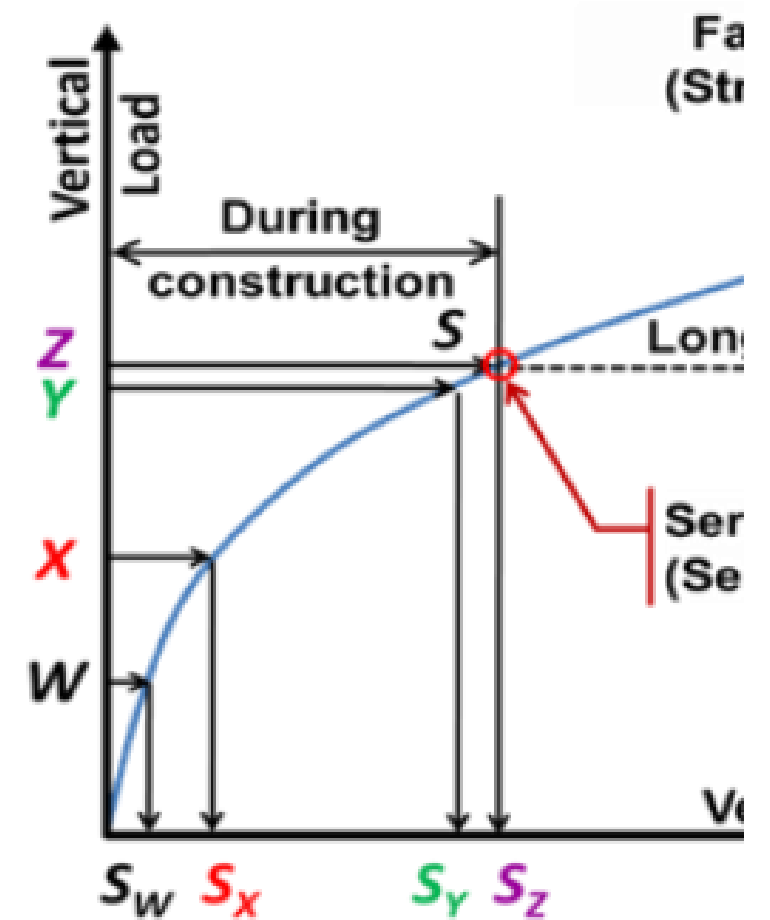
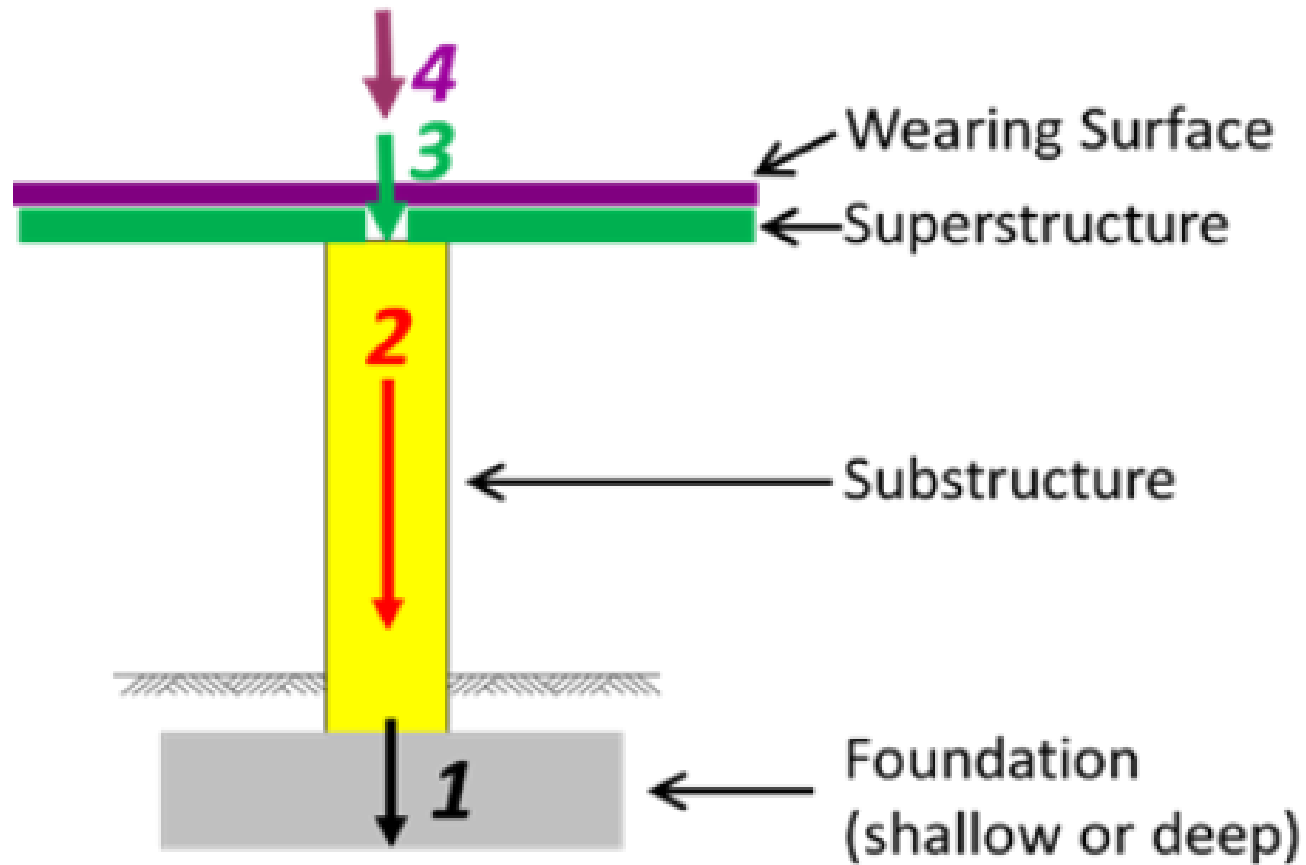
For rigid shafts,  $z_p = z_T$ ; For flexible shafts,  $z_p < z_T$



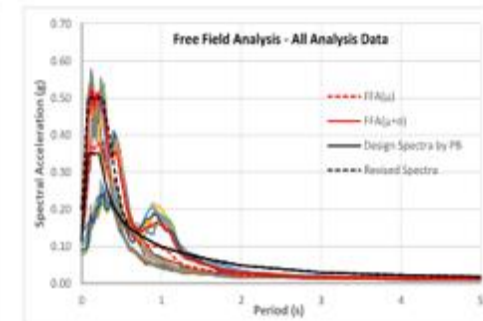
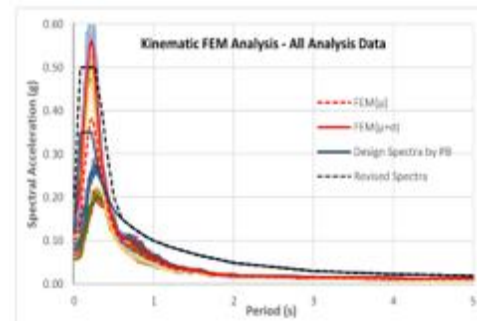
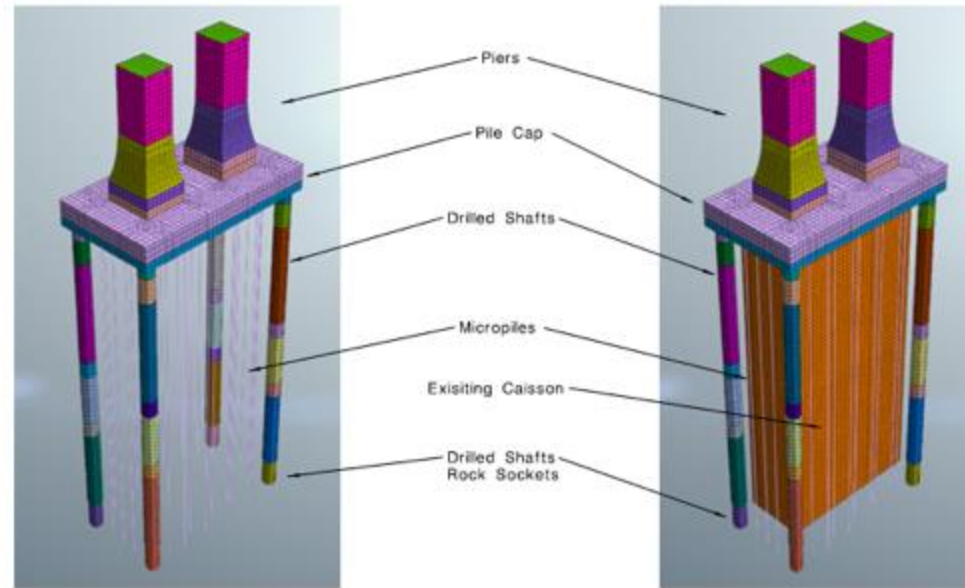
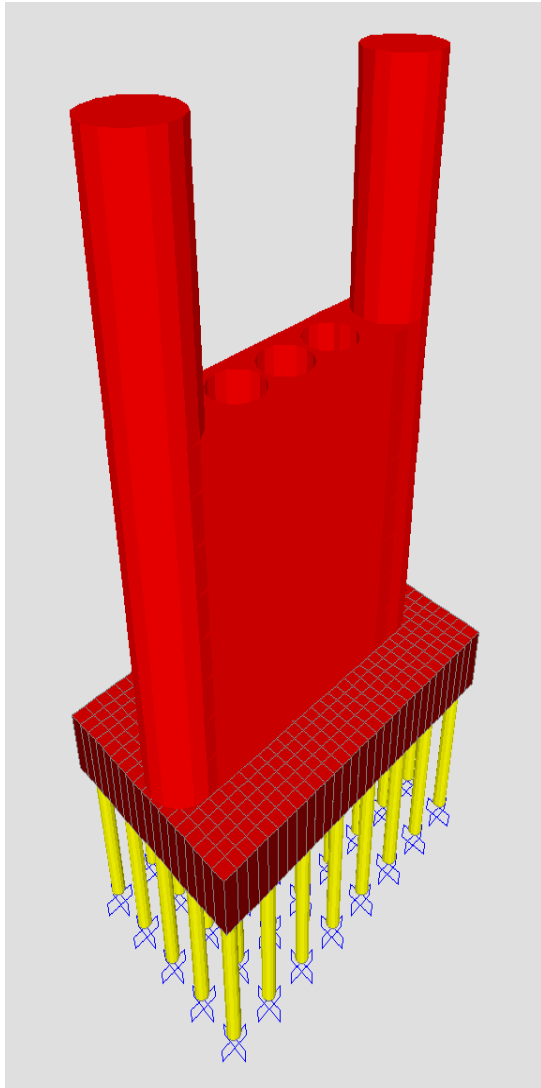




# Construction Point Concept



# Foundation Engineering Software



# Risk Mitigation, Claims Support, Forensic Engineering

- Elements of Risk Management.
- Expectations Management.
- Appropriate Scope, Fee and Schedule Development.
- Construction Observation by Geotechnical Staff.
- Decreased Liability.
- HNTB is exposed to risk even if services are subcontracted.
- Quickly respond to issues.
- Commitment to success of firm.
- QA/QC Role.
- Minimize construction claims / issues.



# Oscillator/Rotator Systems







# Pile Testing Methods

Analysis Method	Resistance Factor (f)
Dynamic formula	0.10 (EOD) or 0.40 (EOD)
Wave equation	0.50 (w field confirmation of hammer)
Dynamic testing	0.65 (2%) or 0.75 (100%) (0.5 uplift)
Static load test	0.75 to 0.80 (wo/w dynamic) (0.6 UPLIFT)





# Dynamic Load Test (PDA) ASTM D4945





# Pomeroy-Mason Bridge Pomeroy County Ohio

8' Dia. Shafts for  
Support of Bridge  
River Piers

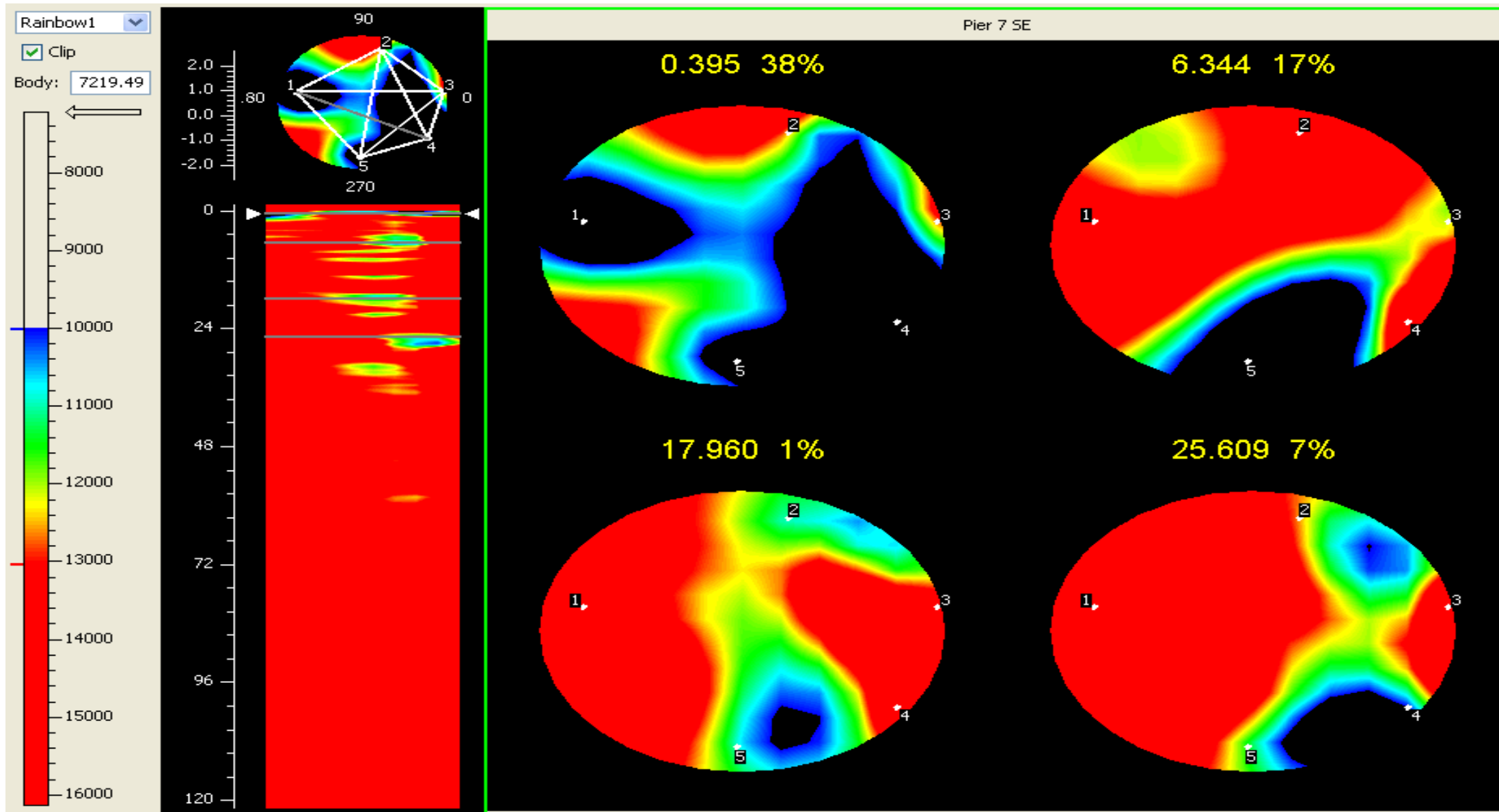




# Statnamic Load Tests



# NDT Testing and Analysis



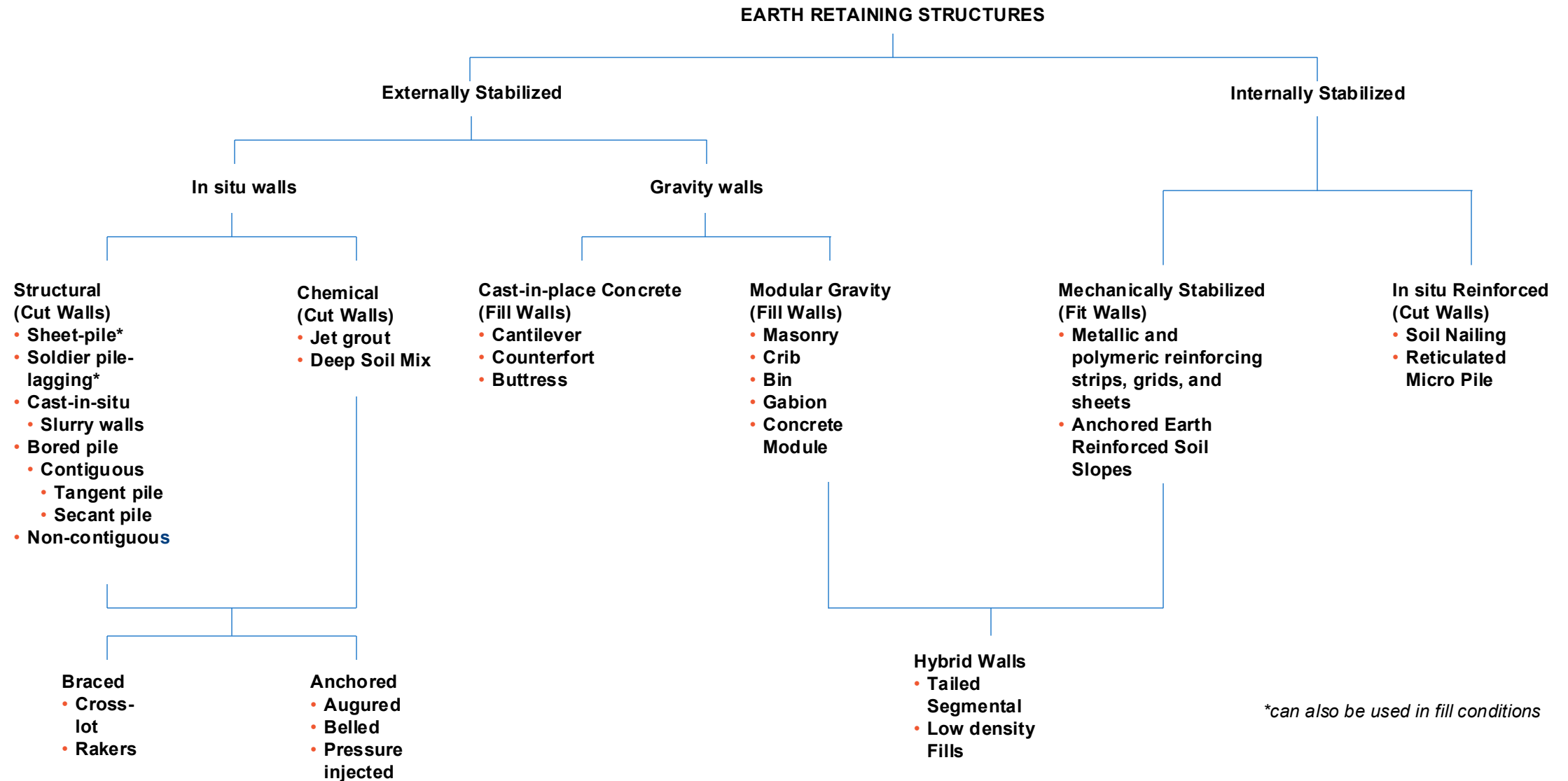


# Earth Retaining Structures





# Earth Retaining Structure Families



# Ground Improvement Methods

- Staged fills.
- Lightweight fill material.
- Grouting.
- Column supported embankments.
- Surcharge with prefabricated vertical drains.
- **More than 50 materials and Techniques!**

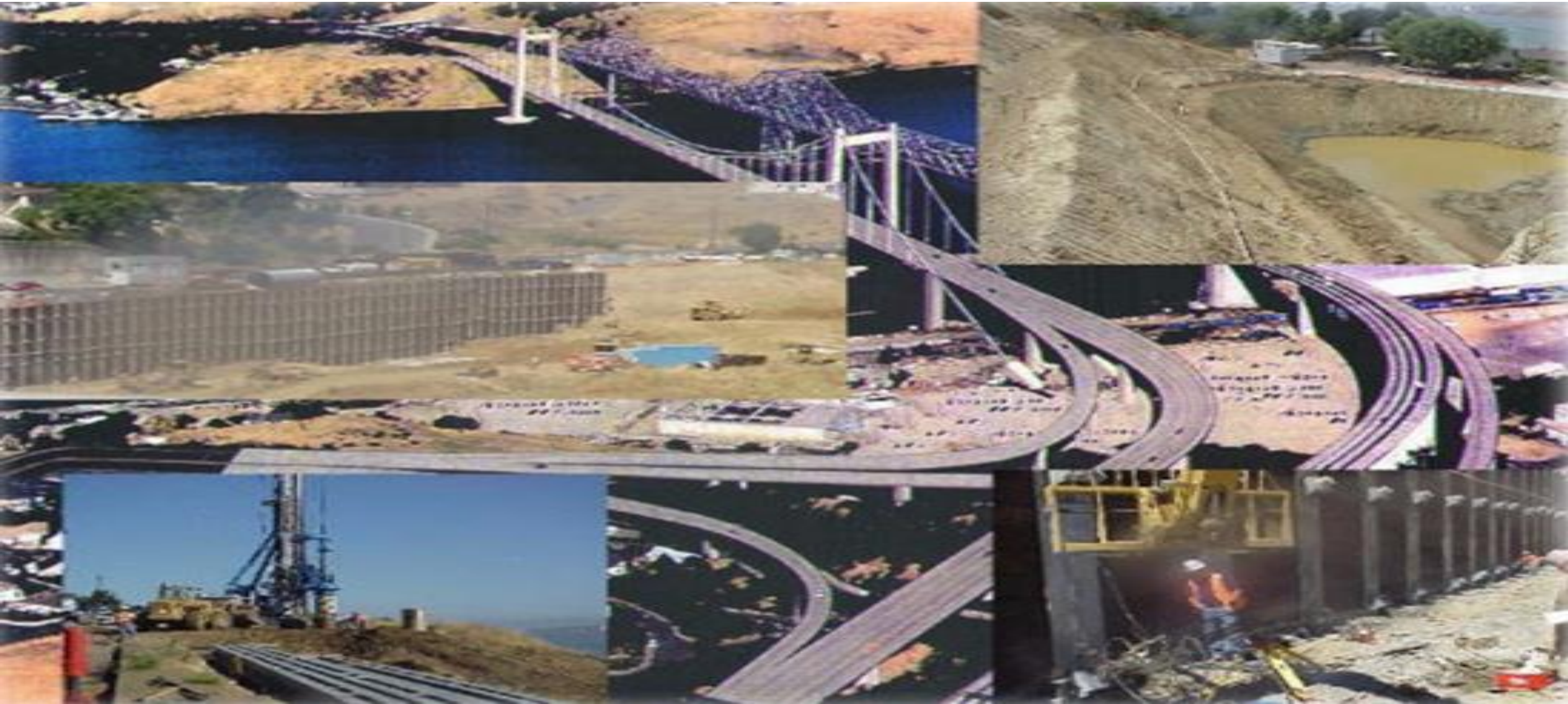


## Geosynthetic Types





# Geotechnical Asset Management



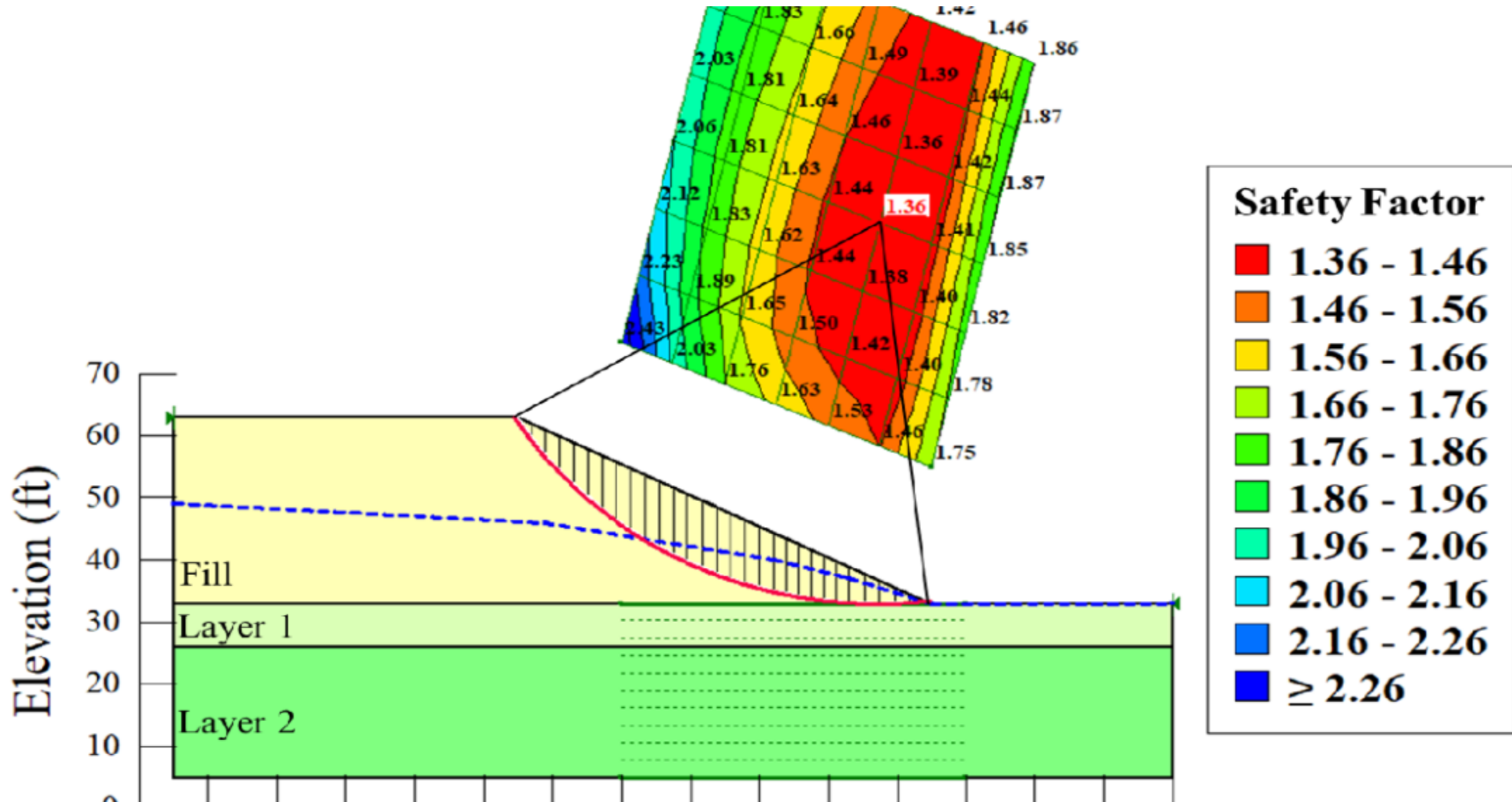


# Slope Stability Issues



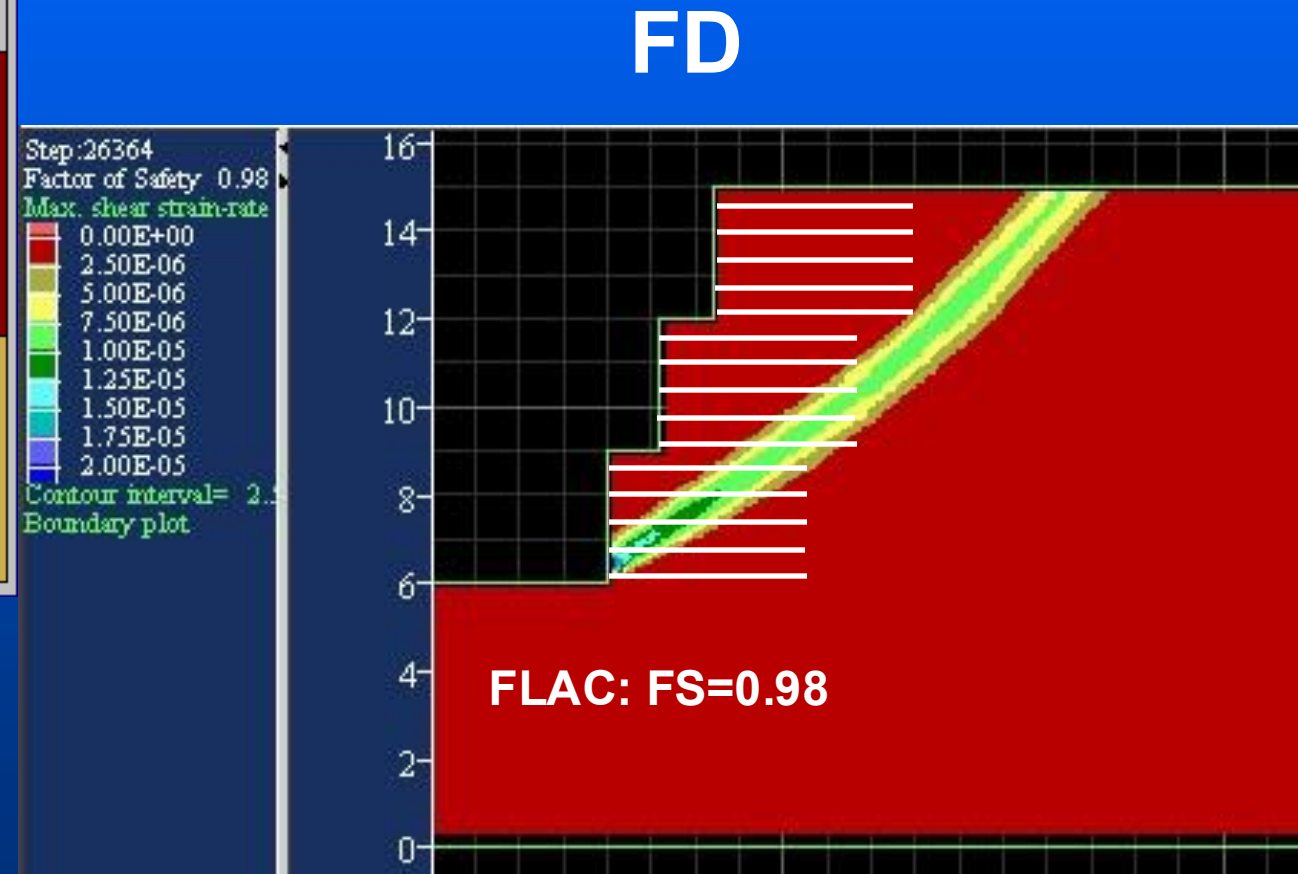
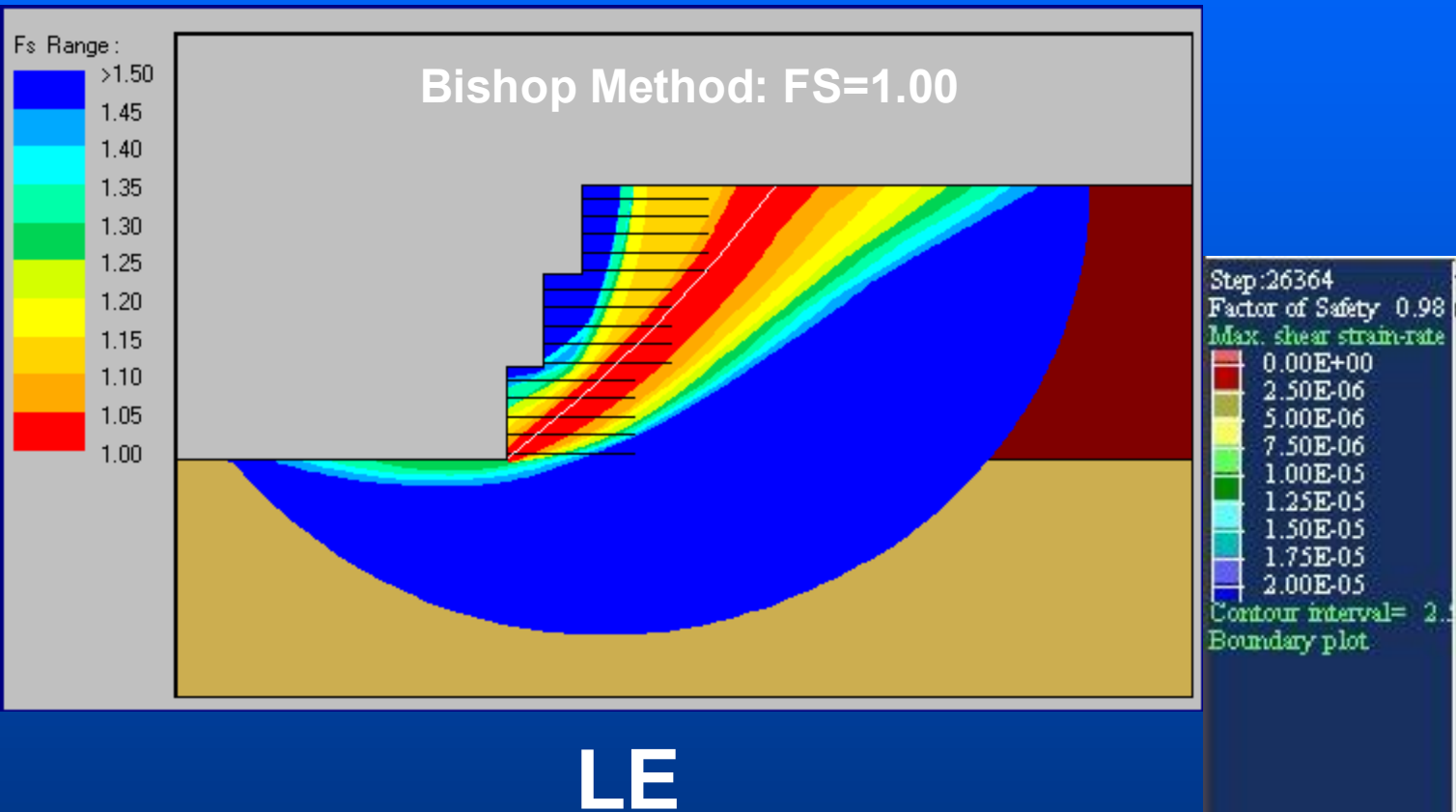


# Slope Stability Safety Map





# Example: LE&FD (Leshchinsky & Han, 2004)



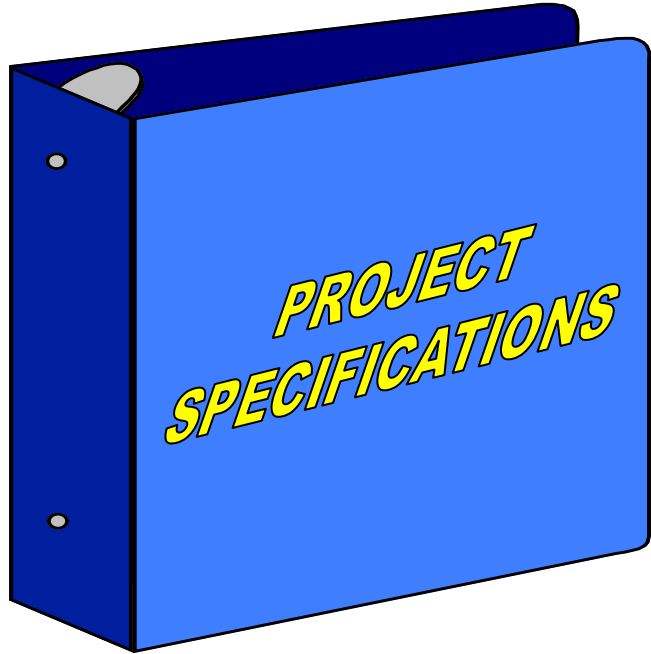
# Improved Foundations Extend Pavement Life and Condition

- Despite their significant impact, foundations are not integrated efficiently with pavement engineering.
- The BEST approach is to build on connecting all components from the bottom to the top and focus on long-term performance.



# CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

importance, complexity, performance based



**SPECIFICATIONS**



**PLANS**



# **Grand Challenges or GREAT OPPORTUNITIES**

- Poor understanding of tolerable deformations
- Mainstream application of soil/ structure interaction
- Marginal quality of construction and quality assurance
- Quality/use of lab and field subsurface information
- Definition of recommended soil/ rock parameters
- Demonstrating value added service to clients
- Communications oral and written
- OTHERS? Certainly, there are more.

# **Geocommunity NEEDS: Research / Innovation Deployment**

- Mainstream use of practical cost-effective innovations
- Deterioration and remaining service life models based on REAL performance
- Practical long-term monitoring of pertinent geo-feature conditions
- Improved reliability of deformation predictions and relevant application to transportation features
- Cost EFFECTIVE application of resilience and climate change considerations to geotechnical feature design and construction
- Processes to define short and long-term performance criteria for specific geotechnical features
- Develop and apply ROI and life cycle cost models to geotechnical features

**Thank You!**  
**Jerry D. “Alias Joe D’ Cousin”**  
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