



69<sup>th</sup> Annual KU Structural Engineering Conference

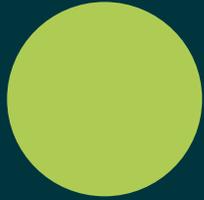
# The Gordie Howe International Bridge Project

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# Agenda



- Introduction
- MAIN BRIDGE
  - Bridge Type and Layout
  - Foundations/Towers
  - Superstructure
  - Wind Design / Stay Cables
  - Erection
  - Durability
  - Key Dates
- MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE
  - Local Road and Connecting Ramps Bridges
  - LTPs and Gateway Towers
  - Unique Features
  - Redundancy Analysis
- Acknowledgements



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## Introduction: Procurement Process

- Project Delivered as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
- RFQ released in July 2015
- Introductory Project Meetings and Industry Days were held in Windsor and Detroit in August 2015.
- 848 people representing 419 companies attended
- Six North American and international respondent teams submitted responses.
- WDBA announced three Shortlisted Respondents in January of 2016
- The RFP was released in November 2016
- CCM meetings held throughout 2017
- Technical Submissions Due April 2018
- Preferred Proponent announced in July 2018
- Financial close was in September 2018



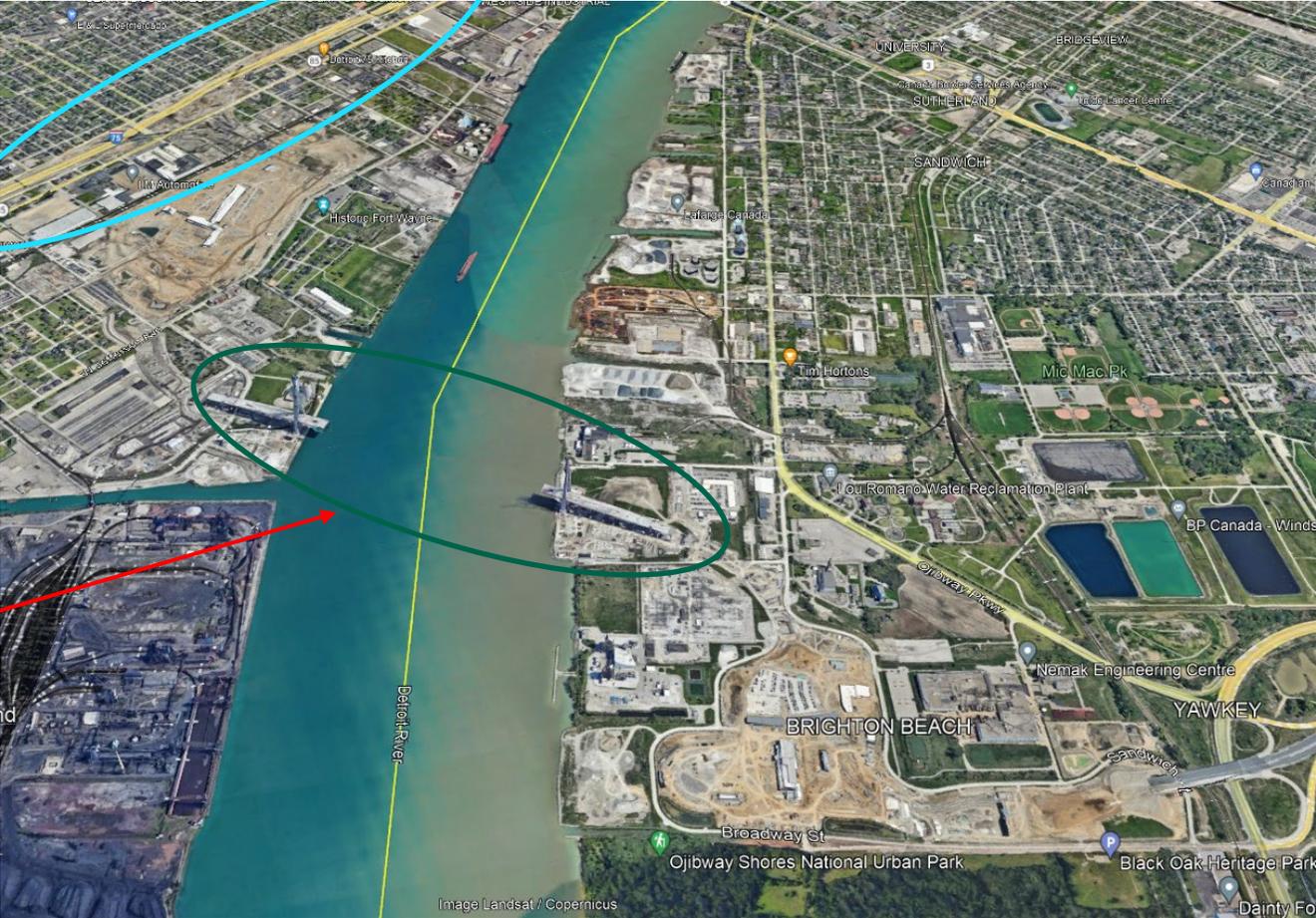
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## Introduction: Bridging North America

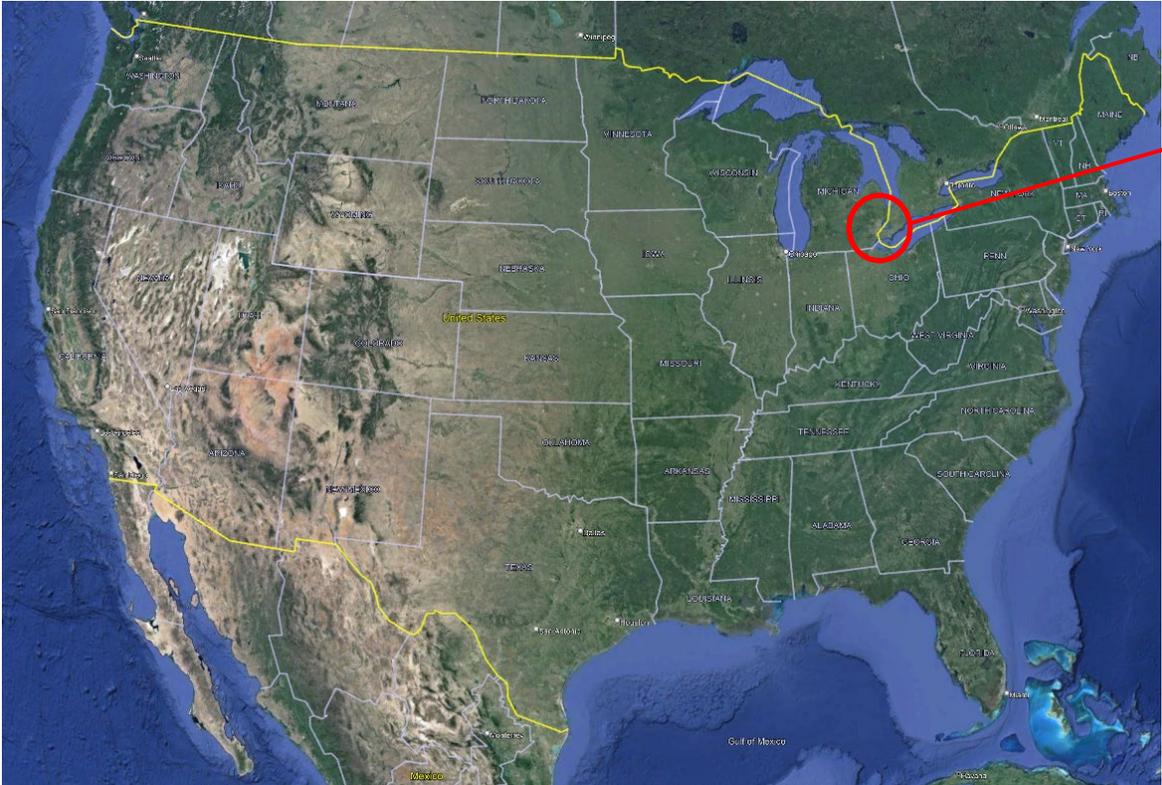


# Introduction: Location

Detroit, MI, USA



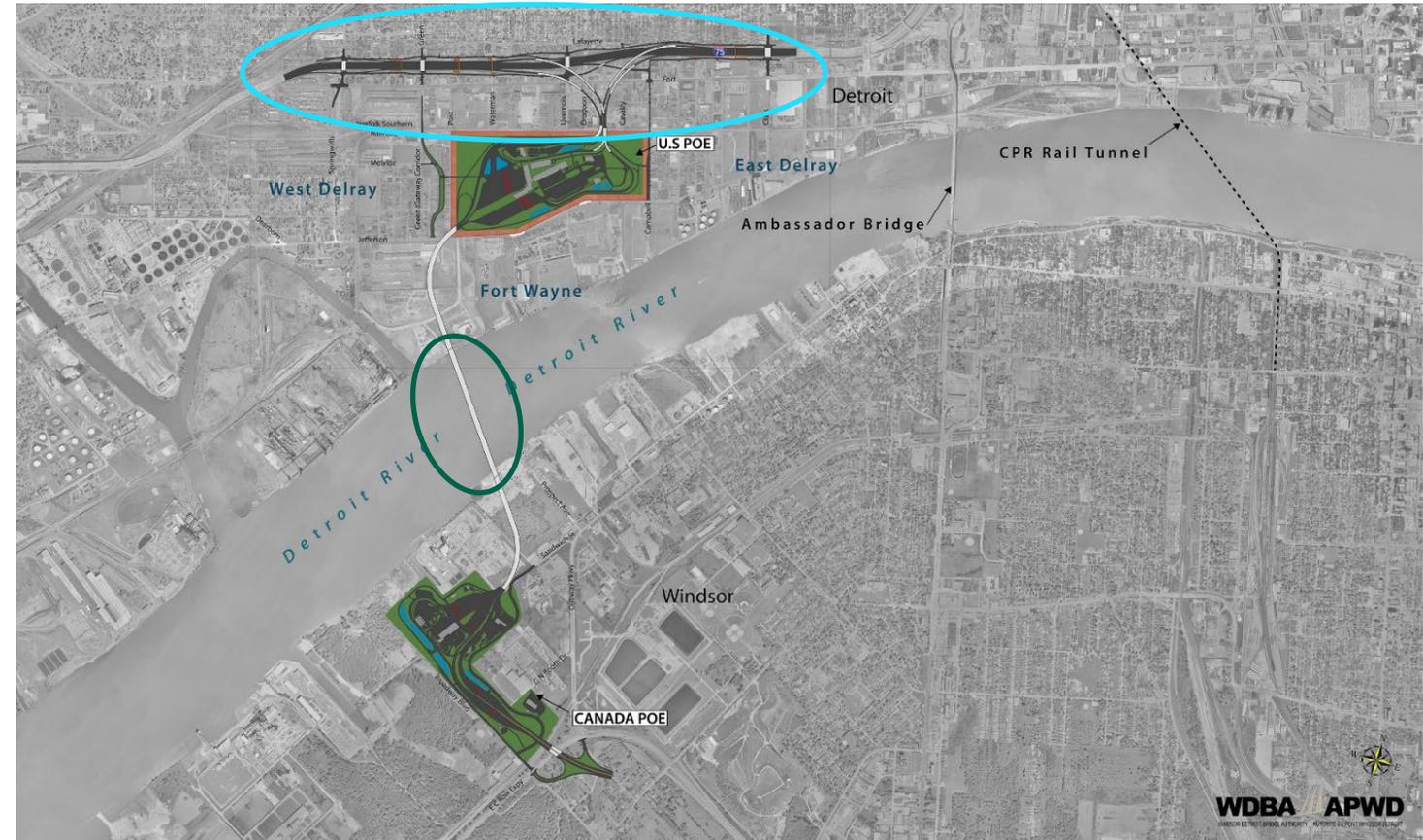
Windsor, ON, Canada



# Introduction:

- Four major components:
  - Canadian POE
  - **The Bridge**
  - US POE
  - **Michigan Interchange**
- Contract Value: \$5.7B update \$6.4B
- Substantial Completion: Sept 2025
- OMR Period: 30 years after construction

Detroit, MI, USA



Windsor, ON, Canada

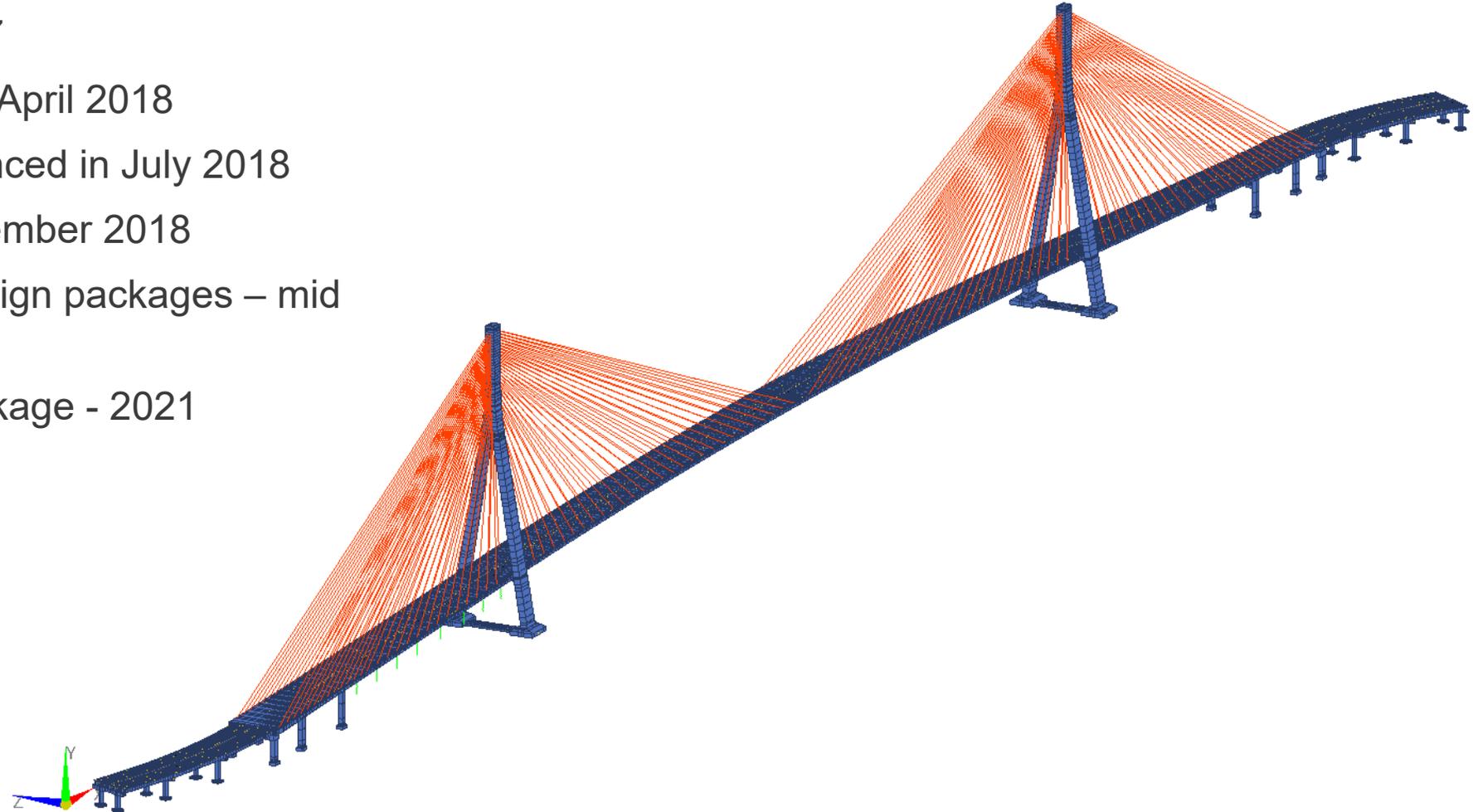
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# Introduction: AECOM Design Team Global Mobilization



# Introduction: Design Timeline

- The RFP was released in November 2016
- Bid design start – early 2017
- Technical Submissions Due April 2018
- Preferred Proponent announced in July 2018
- Financial close was in September 2018
- Main Bridge early works design packages – mid 2019
- Main Bridge last design package - 2021



# Bridge Type and Layout

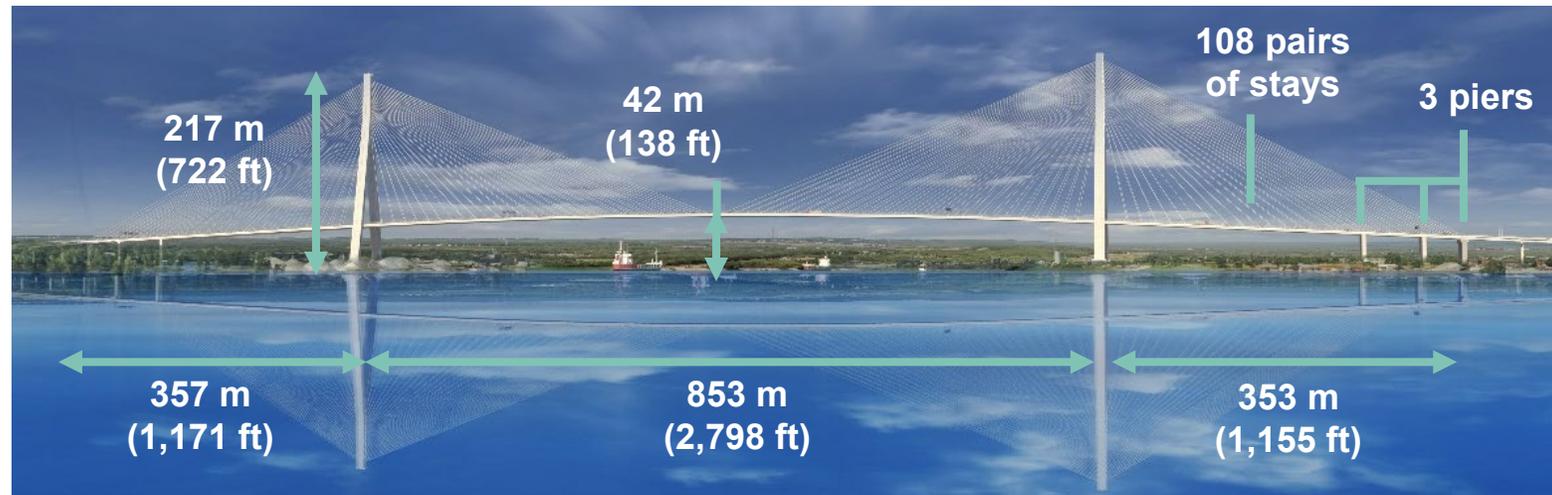
## Cable Stayed Bridge

- 853m / 2,798ft main span
- 357m / 1,171ft US side span
- 352m / 1,155ft CAN side span
- 2 side span piers and 1 anchor pier
- 217m / 722 ft tower height
- 42m / 138 ft vertical clearance

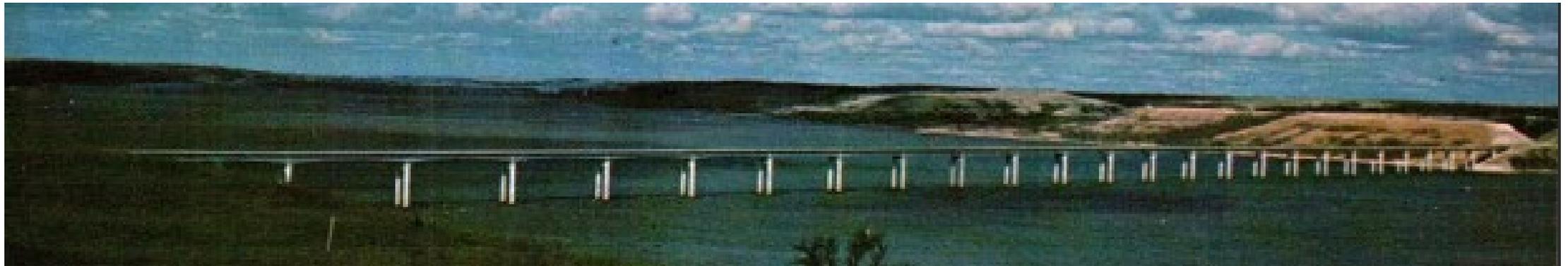
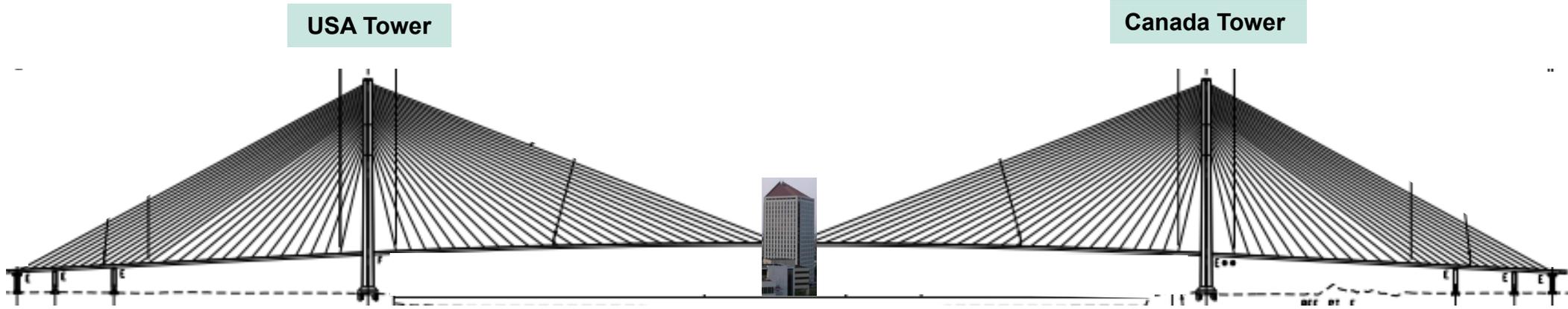
Longest CS Bridge in North America

10<sup>th</sup> Longest CS Bridge in World

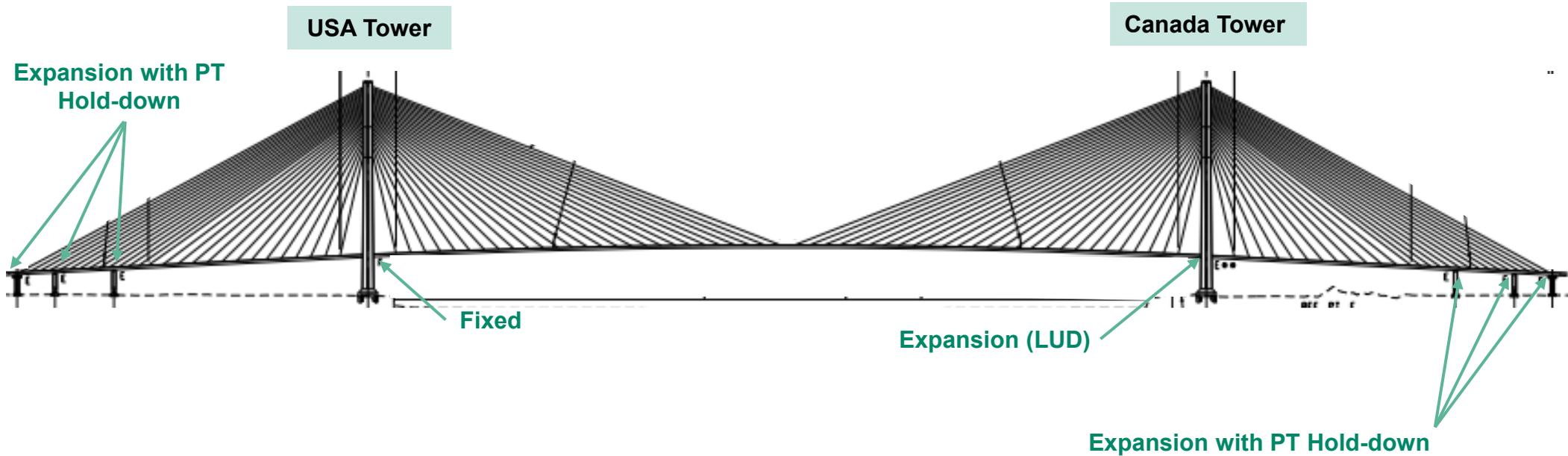
Longest Composite Deck CS bridge in the World



# Bridge Type and Layout: Comparison to the Randolph Bridge and Epic Center



# Bridge Type and Layout: Articulation



## Bearings

- Vertical Bearings at Towers and Piers
- Longitudinally Fixed Bearing at US Tower
- Lateral Bearings at Towers

## Hold-Downs

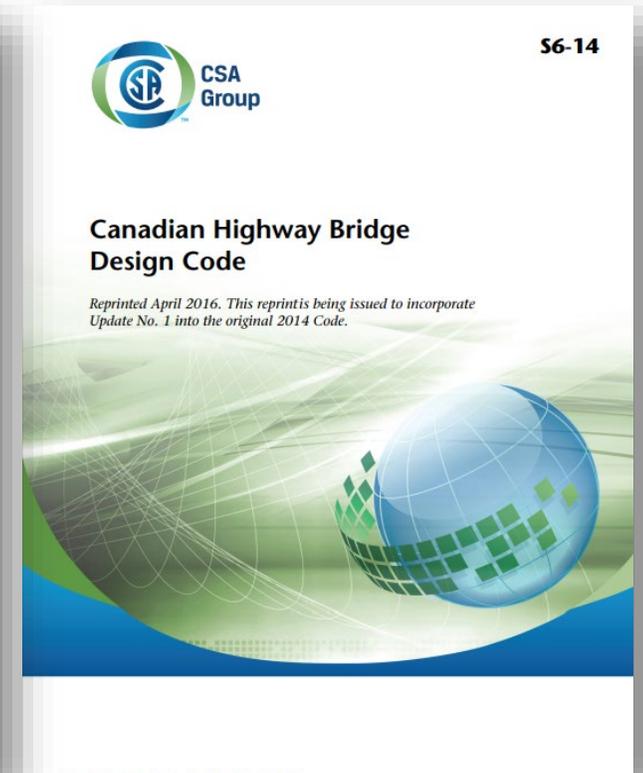
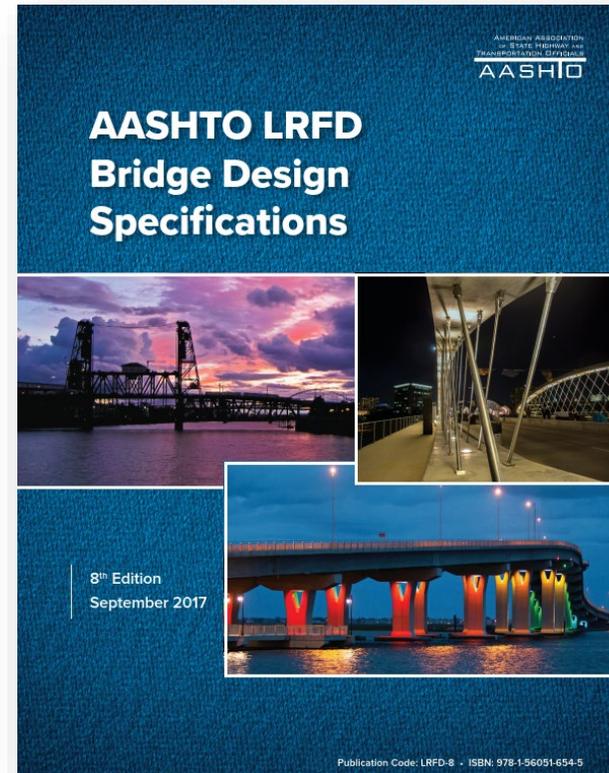
- Post Tension Hold Downs at Anchor and Side Span Piers

## Lock Up Device (LUD)

- Longitudinal LUD At CAN Tower

# Overall Design: Criteria

- **Dual Track Design**
  - US Track – AASHTO LRFD (English Units)
  - CAN Track – CSA S6 (Metric Units)
- **Vertical Loads**
  - Code and Project Specific Vehicles
  - Initial and Future Configuration
- **Lateral Loads**
  - Site Specific Wind Study (ULS wind speed of 228km/hr / 142mph)
  - Low-moderate Site Specific Seismic Study (PGA of 0.04g)



# Overall Design: Tower Foundations

## Drilled Shafts:

- Diameter = 3.0 m (10 ft)
- Length > 30 m (98ft) (down to bedrock)
- Ultimate strength at rock socket level (per shaft):
  - Compression → 15,100 tonnes
  - Tension → 730 tonnes
- Loading/construction method verified by Osterberg cell load test
- One footing per tower leg
- Post-tensioned tie between footings



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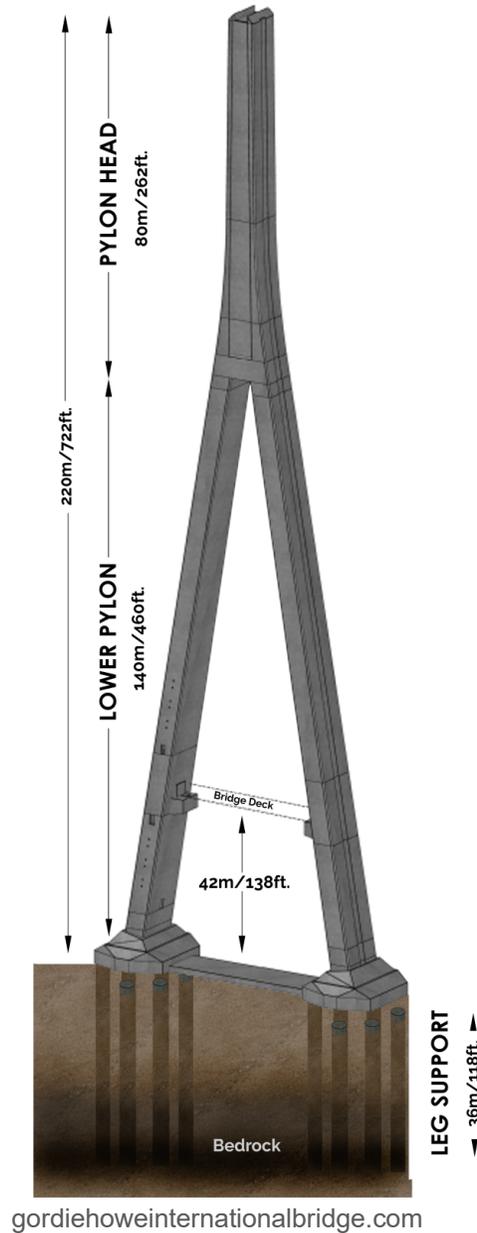


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# Overall Design: Towers

## Inverted “Y” shape towers

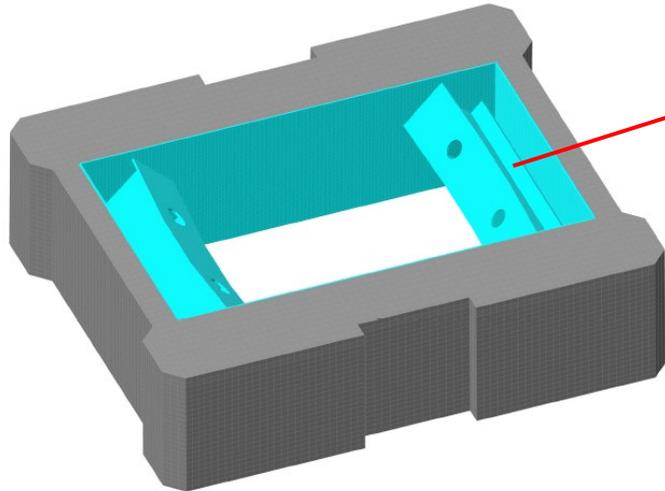
- Conventionally reinforced concrete
- Hollow box section
- Steel anchor boxes for stay cable anchorage
- Corbels to support deck, no need for strut at deck level
- Uncoated reinforcing steel except stainless steel in the splash zone near deck level
- Completely accessible by ladders and elevators in all legs and upper part
- Transition room at legs’ merging height



# Overall Design: Tower Anchor Boxes

## Anchor box for 4 stays at each level

- Composite action with concrete section
- Boxes not structurally joined together
- Max. lifting weight: 36 tonnes



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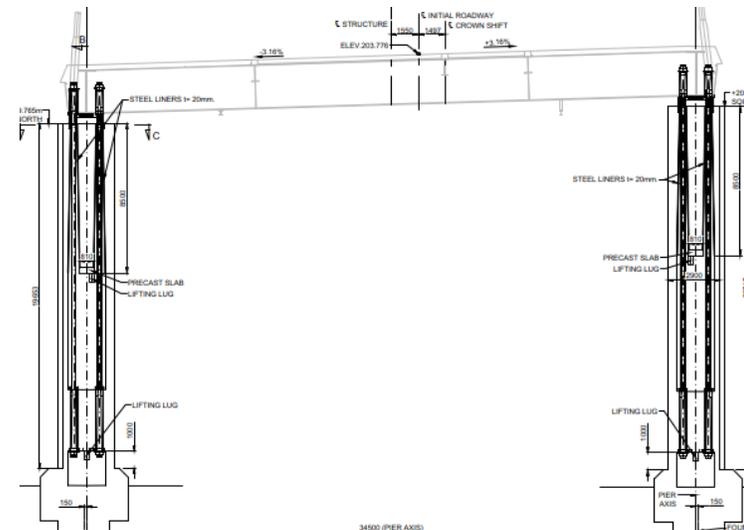
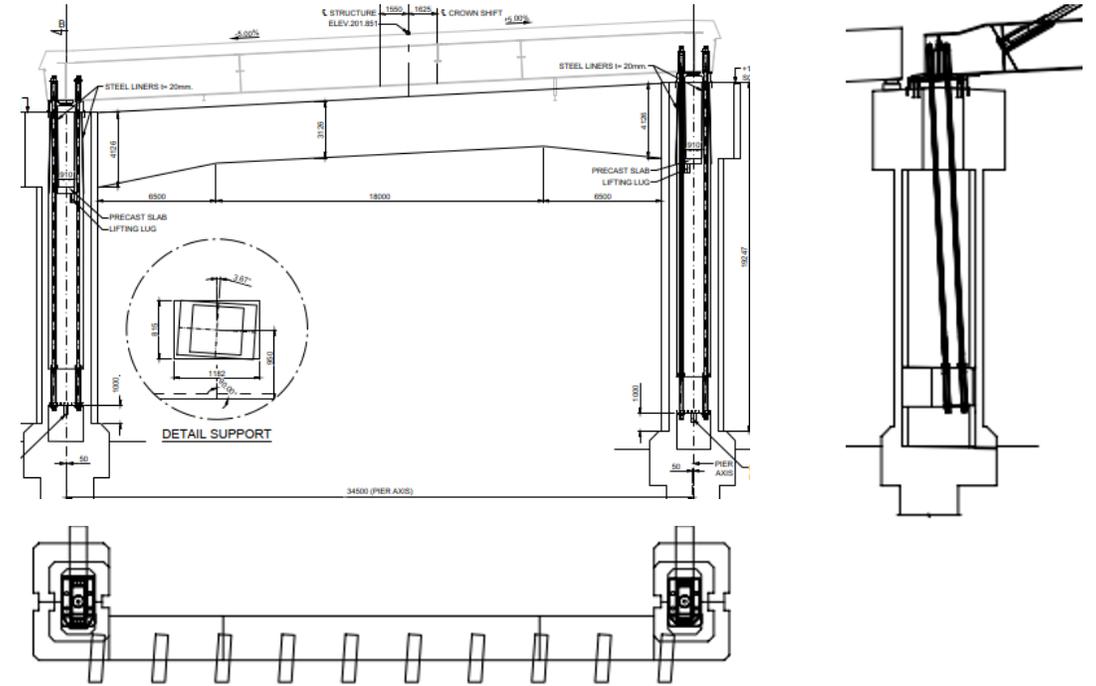
# Overall Design: Piers

## Anchor piers

- 2 columns with prestressed cross-beam
- Hollow-box reinforced concrete columns
- They support main and approach bridges
- 4 tie-downs per column provide net compression
- Single drilled shaft foundation → D=3.0 m (10 ft)

## Side span piers

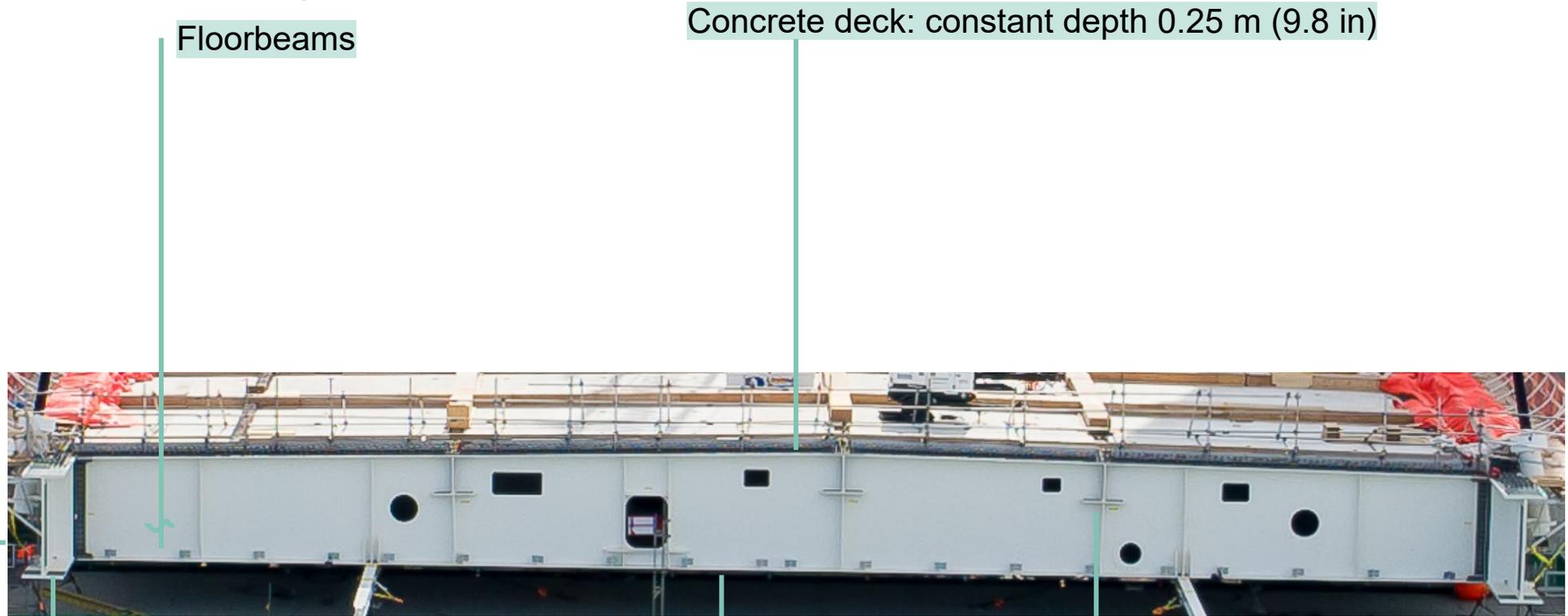
- 2 single columns both with guided bearings
- Hollow-box reinforced concrete columns
- 4 tie-downs per column provide net compression
- Single drilled shaft foundation → D=3.0 m (10 ft)





# Overall Design: Superstructure Cross Section (Initial traffic configuration)

- 37.50 m (11.43 ft) wide, asymmetric
- Multiuse trail + 2 x 3 lanes



Floorbeams

Concrete deck: constant depth 0.25 m (9.8 in)

Edge girders → depth 2.50 m (8.2 ft)

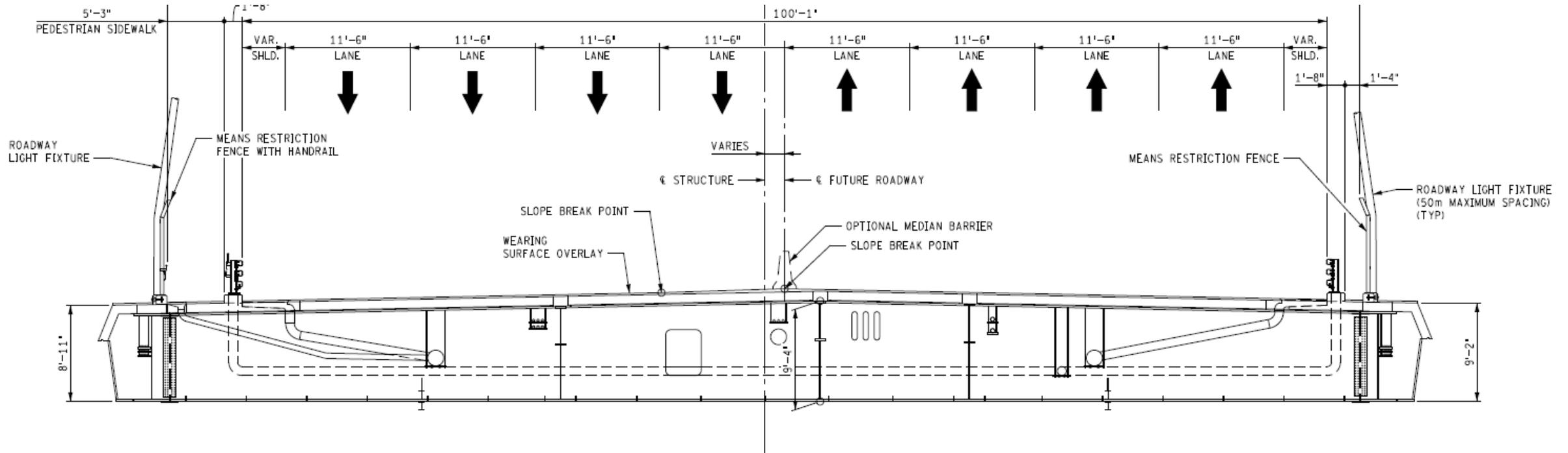
Redundancy girders → Structural

Cladding panels → Non structural: aerodynamics + aesthetics

Soffit panels → Non-structural: aerodynamics + aesthetics

# Overall Design: Superstructure Cross Section (Future traffic configuration)

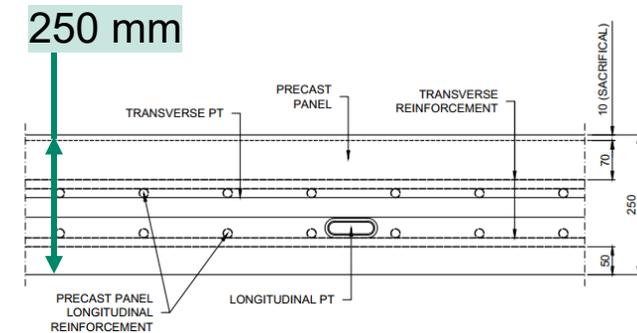
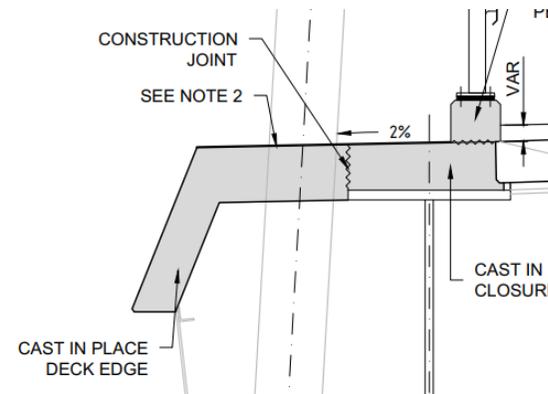
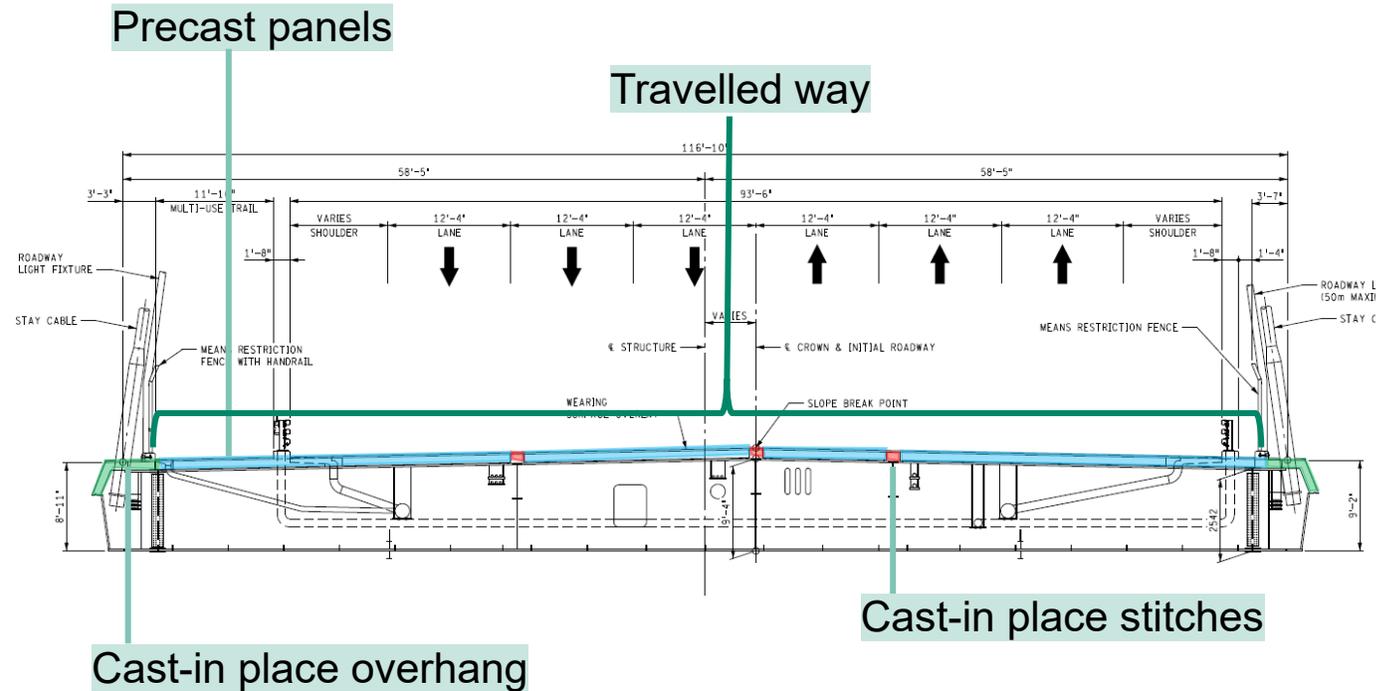
- 2 x 4 lanes



# Superstructure Design

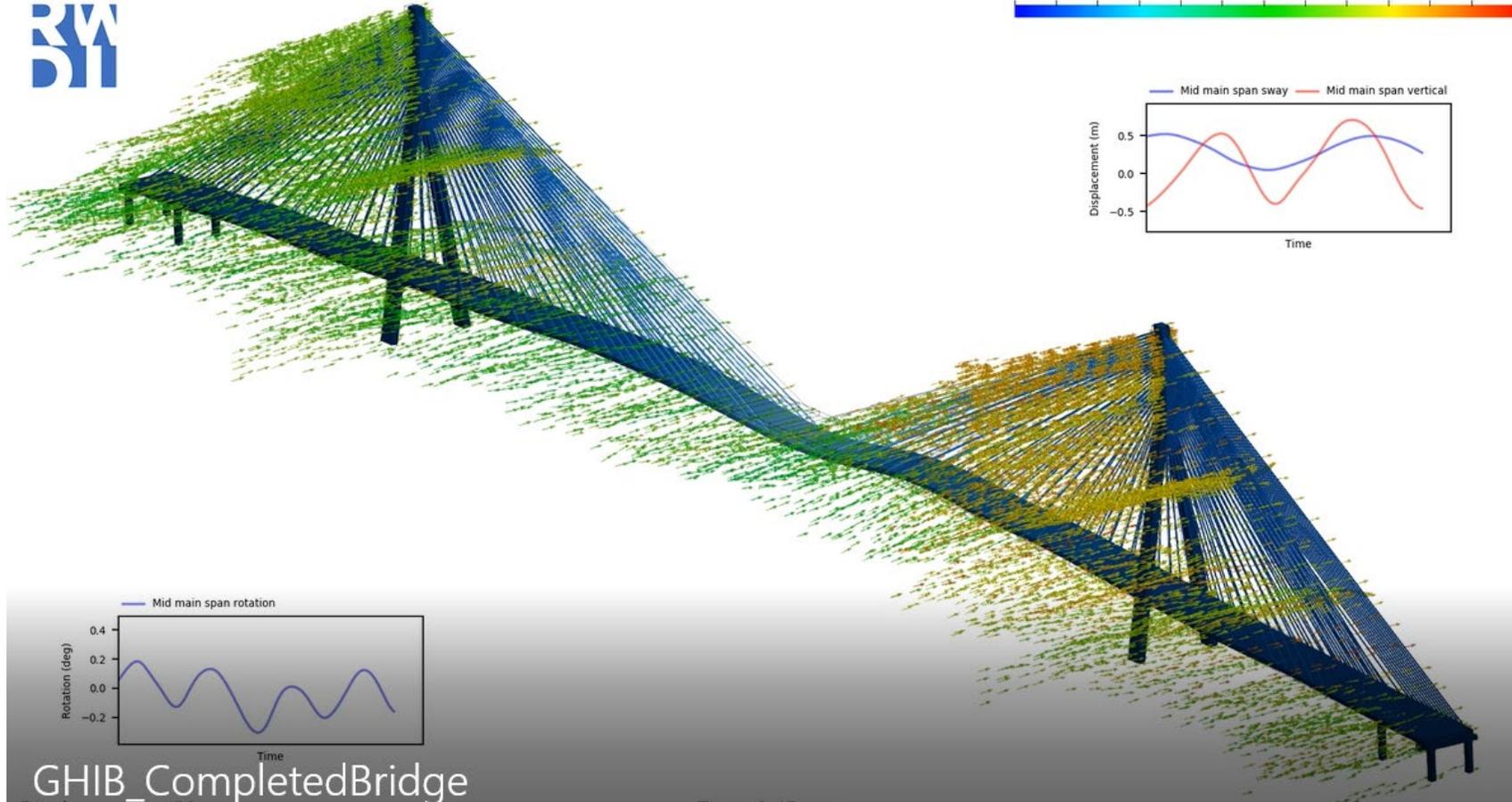
## Precast concrete deck

- Precast slabs + stitches + overhang
- Zero tension under SLS in travelled way
- Longitudinal post-tensioning
  - Next to anchor piers
  - Center of main span
- Transverse post-tensioning
- Stainless steel reinforcement and embeds
- 240 mm (9.4in) + 10 mm (0.4in) (sacrificial)
- 70 mm cover at top reinforcement
- Local + global demands → Non-linear analysis



# Aerodynamic Considerations

## Wind buffeting analysis



# Aerodynamic Considerations

## Wind tunnel testing

### Section model testing

- Static Drag
- Flutter Stability
- Vortex induced oscillations
- Buffeting
- Erection stages
- Iced barriers/railings
- Vehicle Overturning

### Full Aeroelastic Model

- Flutter
- Vortex Shedding
- Buffeting
- Construction stages

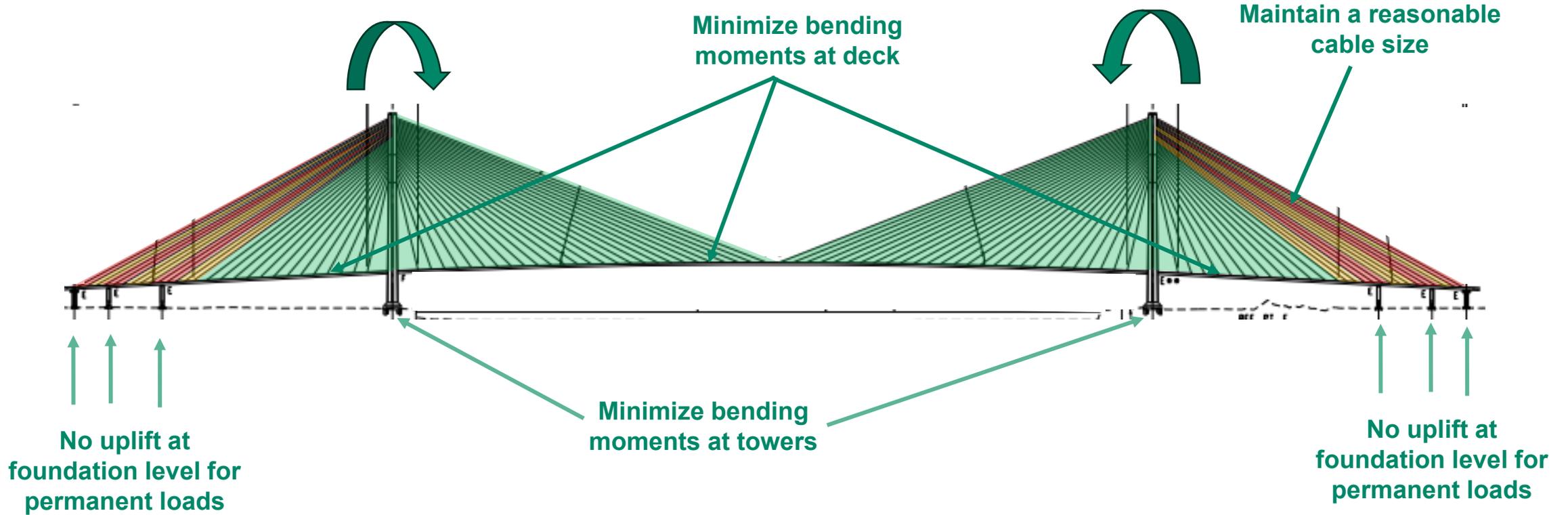
### Tower Model

- Static drag
- Final and erection stages
- Aerodynamic Stability
- Interaction with Tower Crane



# Stay Cables

## Cable tuning

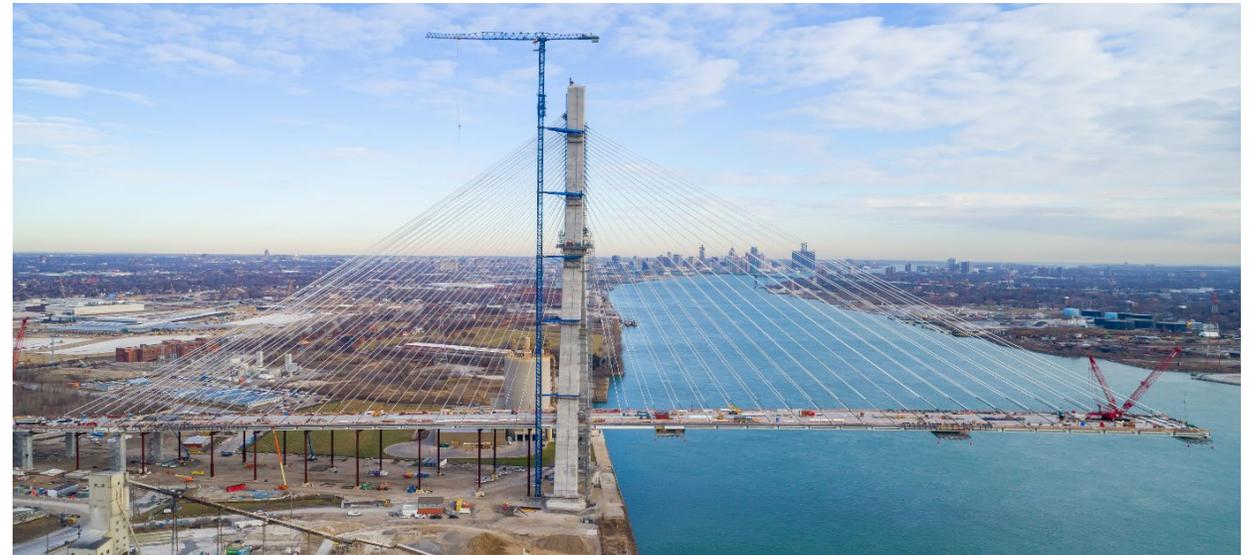
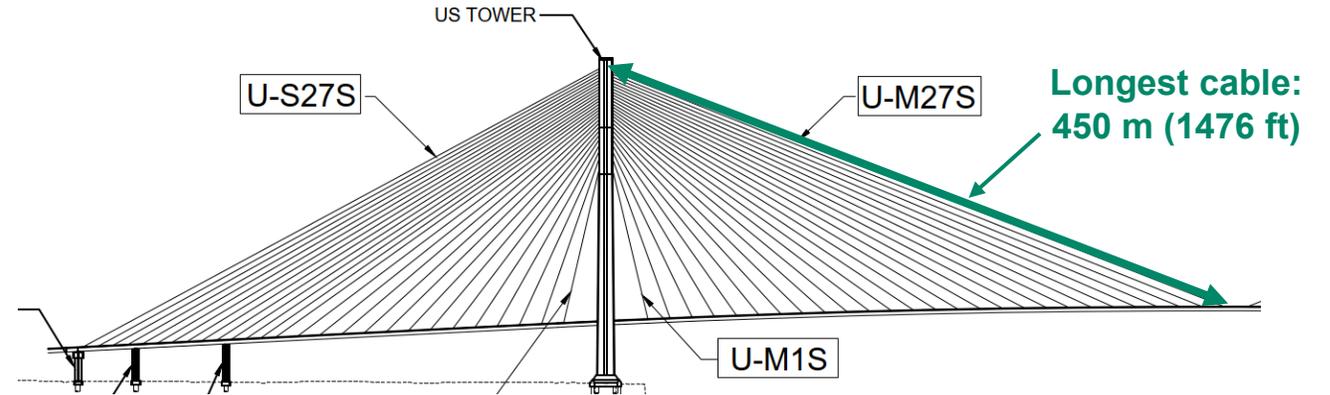


**OBJECTIVE: Compensating the lower weight in the side span with tie-down forces at piers**

# Stay Cables

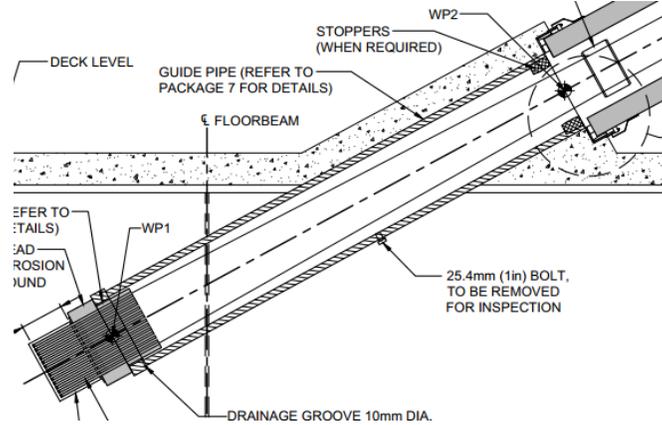
## Parallel sheathed strands

- Parallel 0.6" diameter grade 270 post tensioning strand
- Sizing: from 38 to 121 strands per cable
- Greased and sheathed strand, encased in outer polyethylene sheath
- Design for passive and future active ice control measures



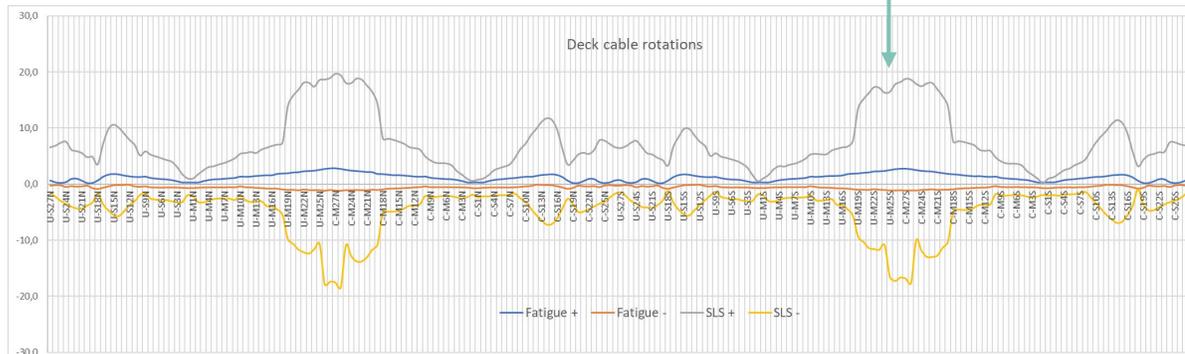
# Stay Cables

## Deck anchorages



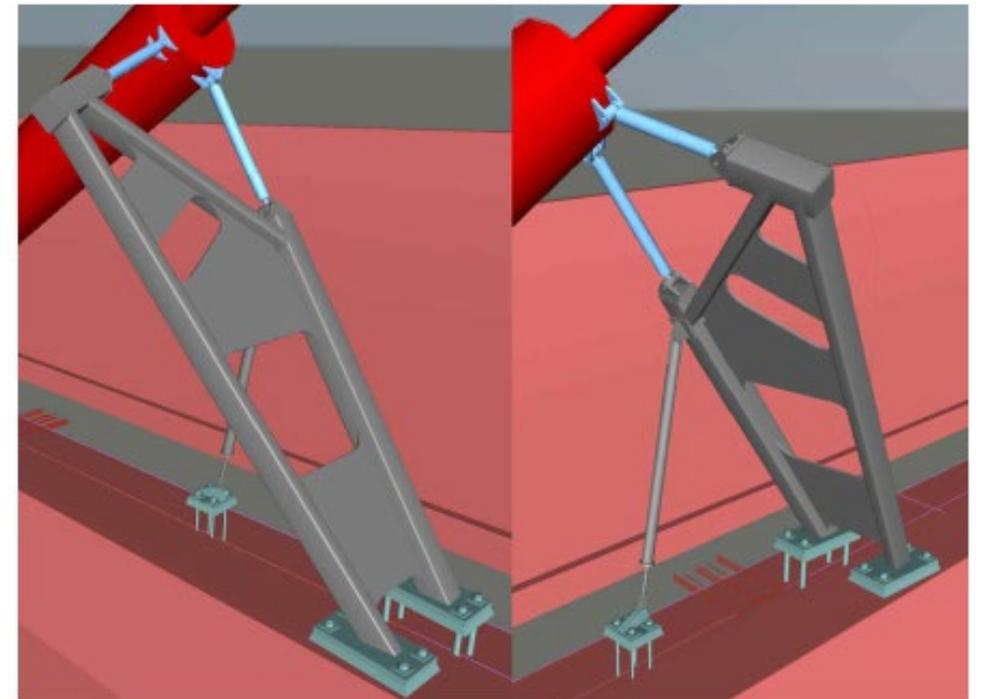
- Significant rotations → rotational offset

- SLS < 25 mrad
- Fatigue < 10 mrad



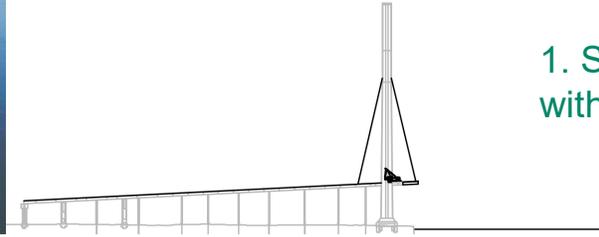
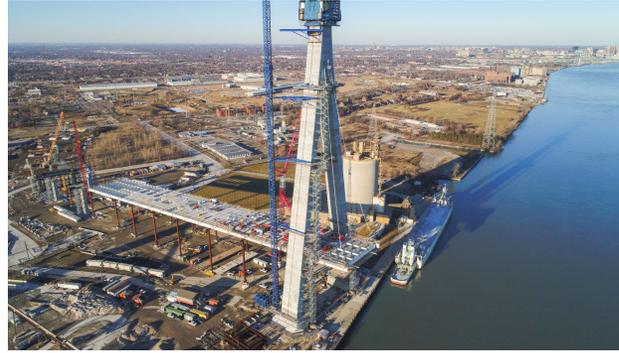
## Damper frames

- All cables incorporate DYWIDAG external hydraulic dampers

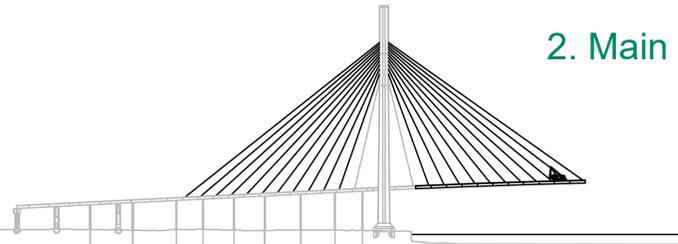


# Erection: Outline

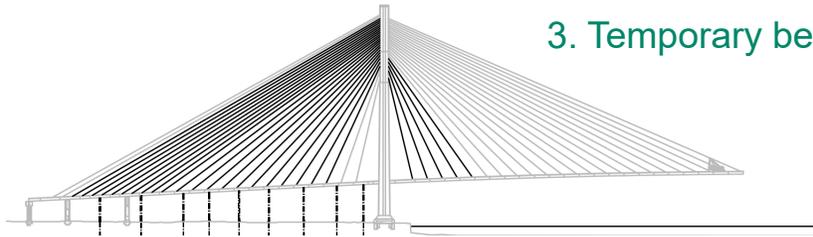
Shored side span + cantilevered main span



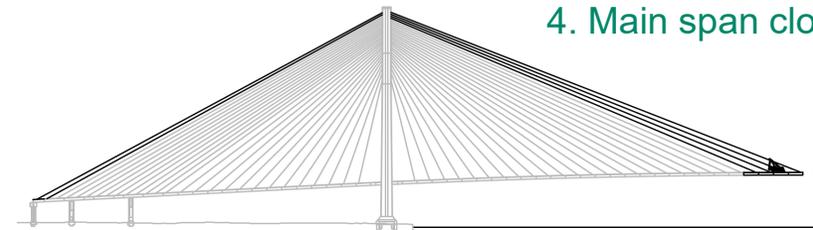
1. Side span (steel + concrete) with steel temporary bents



2. Main span: no river erection



3. Temporary bents removal



4. Main span closure + finishings

- Side span over temporary bents every ~30 m (98 ft)

# Erection: Main Span Segment

## Stick Assembly

- Main span segment:
  - Piece-by-piece steel assembly
  - First cable stressing
  - Precast panel installation
  - Second cable stressing
  - Stressing of side span cable



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# Durability

## Service life: 125 years

- Excepting replaceable elements:
  - Cable stays → 100 years.
  - Bearings & expansion joints → 50 years
  - Others → 30 – 60 years
- Concrete durability based on fib Bulletin 34 “Model code for Service Life Design”
- STADIUM analysis software
- Maintenance painting → CAPP System® (Coating Assessment and Painting Priority)
- Comprehensive Durability Plan including assessment of all materials incorporated into the bridge

## Key dates: Main Bridge



[gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com](http://gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com)

- Current focus is on Main Span Segment Erection Across the River, Stay Cable Installation
- Superstructure Side Span Erection Began 1st Quarter 2022
- Superstructure Main Span Erection Began January 2023
- Mid Span Closure – Mid 2024
- Construction Completion: Sept 2025
- 30 Year Handover 2055

# Michigan Interchange

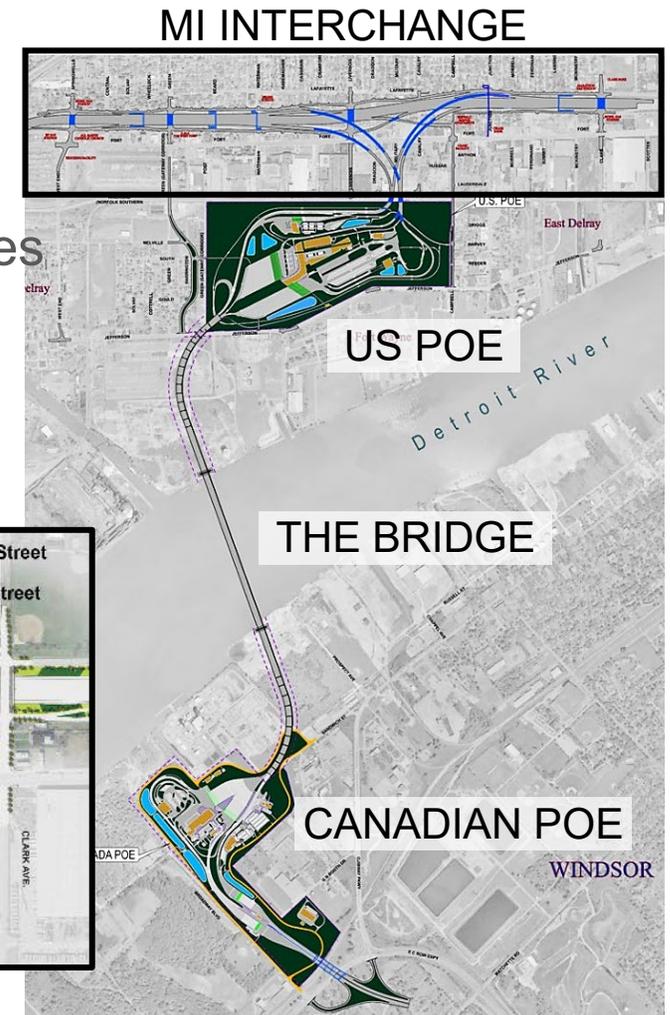
## I-75 Improvements

- 4 Local Road Bridges
- 5 Pedestrian Bridges
- Noise Barrier Walls

## Connecting Ramps

- 5 Steel Superstructure Flyover Bridges
- 5 Concrete Superstructure Ramp Bridges
- 8 Load Transfer Platforms
- 4 Gateway Towers –

Transition from Steel to Concrete



# MI Interchange – Pedestrian Bridges



# MI Interchange – Structures along I-75

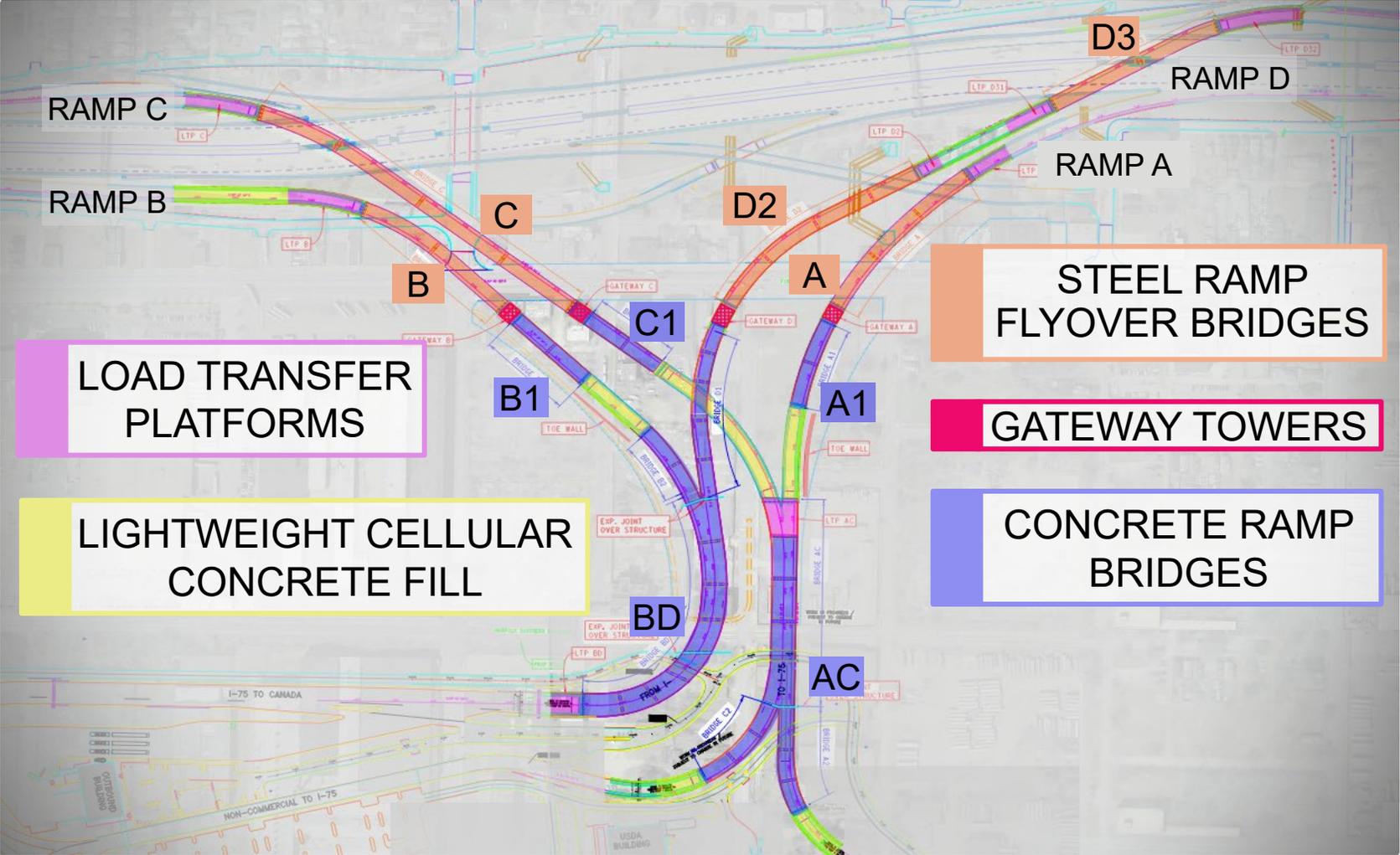
## Pedestrian & Local Bridges

Arch was chosen option by the community

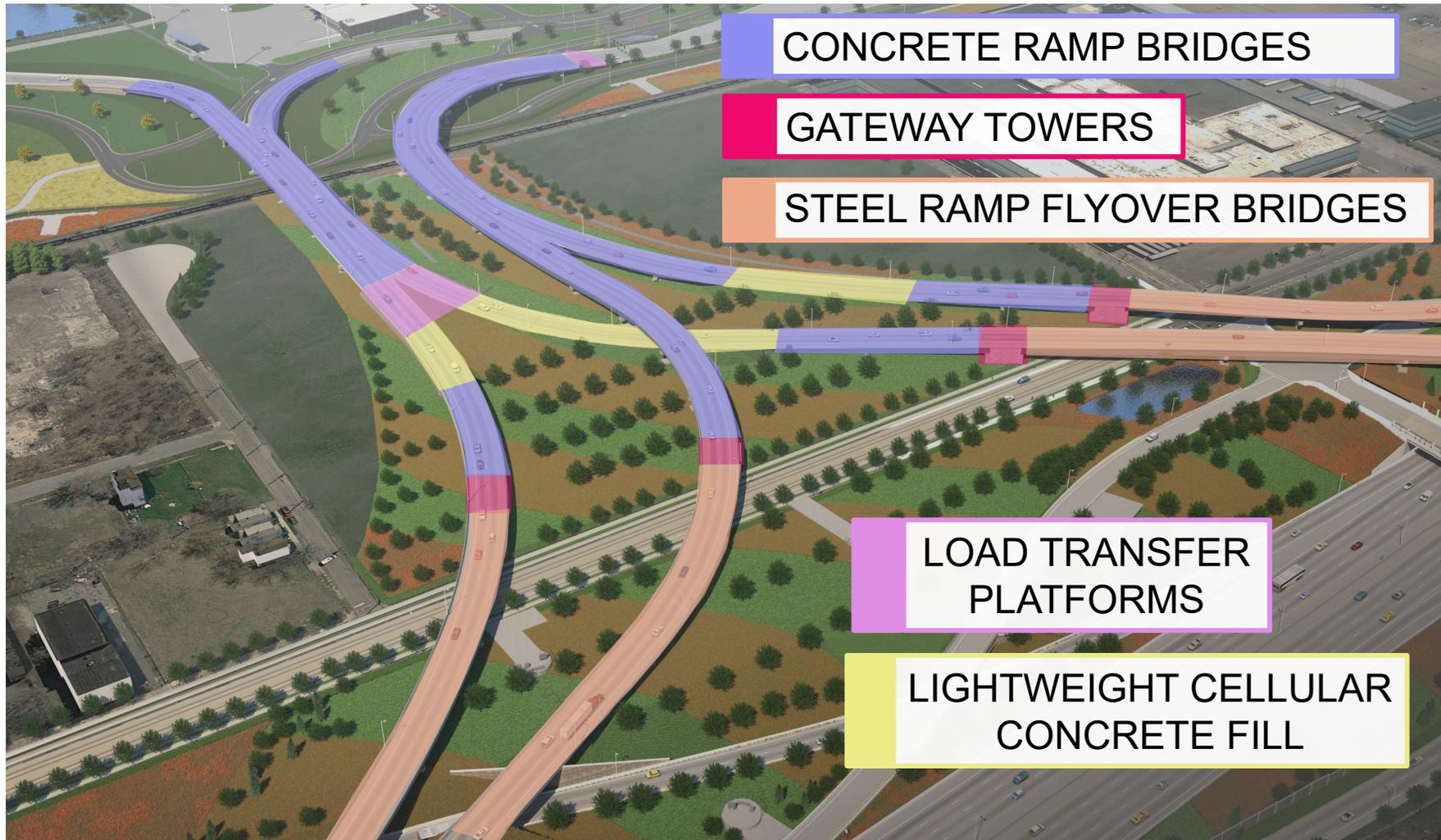
Aesthetic treatments for local road bridges



# MI Interchange – Connecting Ramps

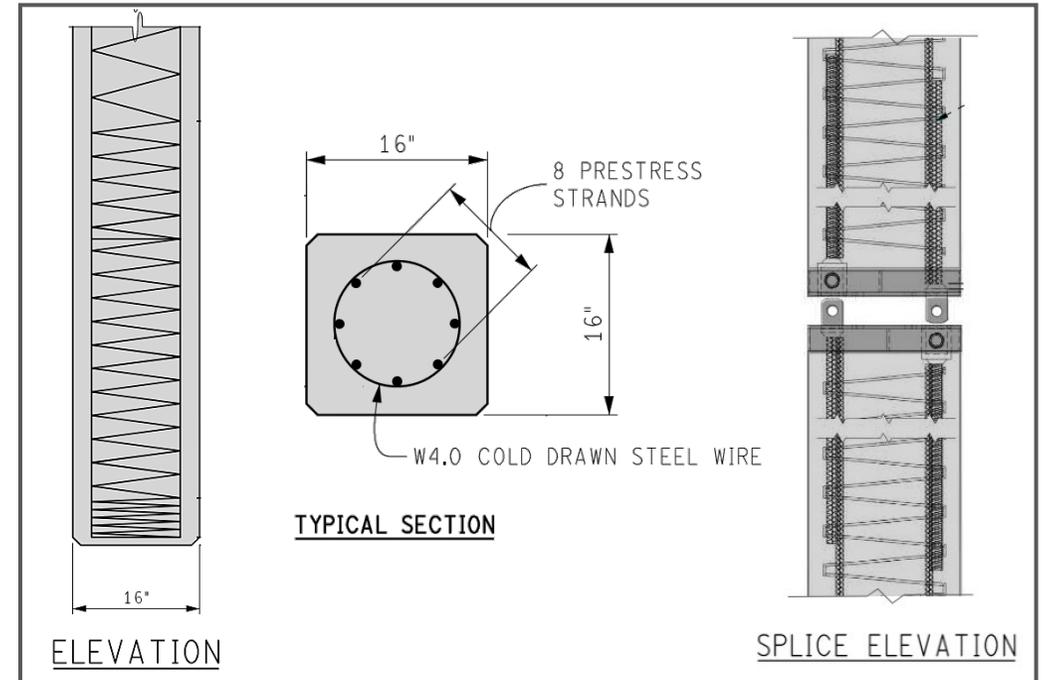
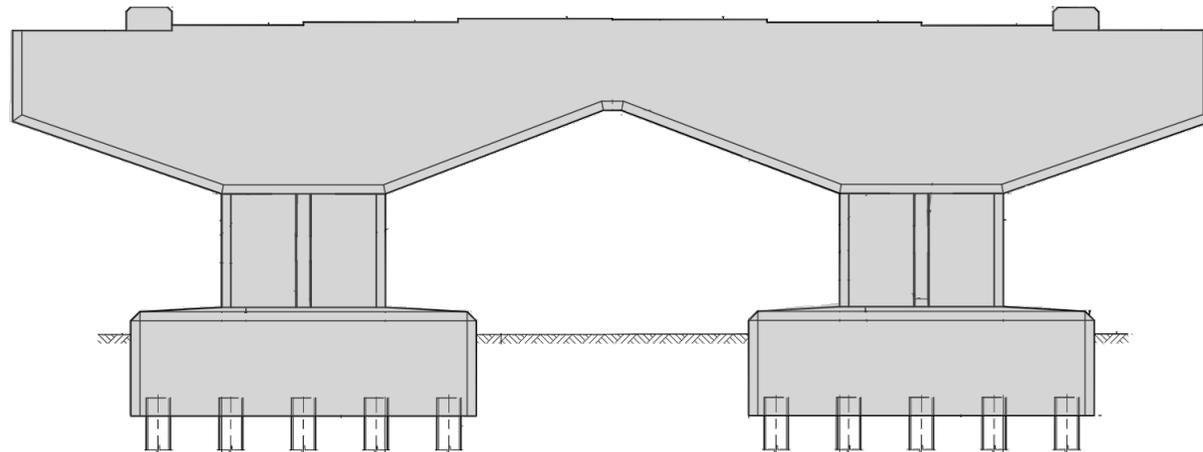
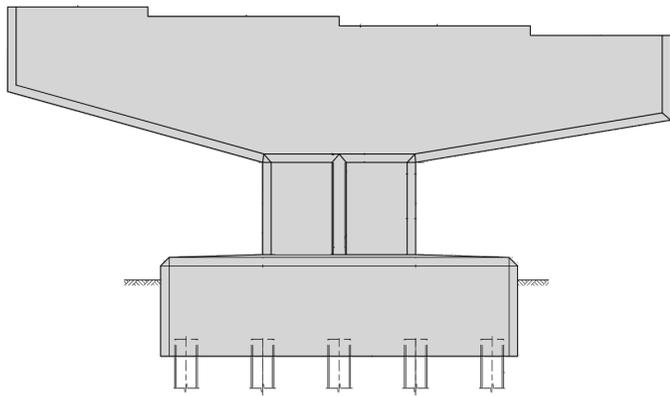


# MI Interchange – Connecting Ramps



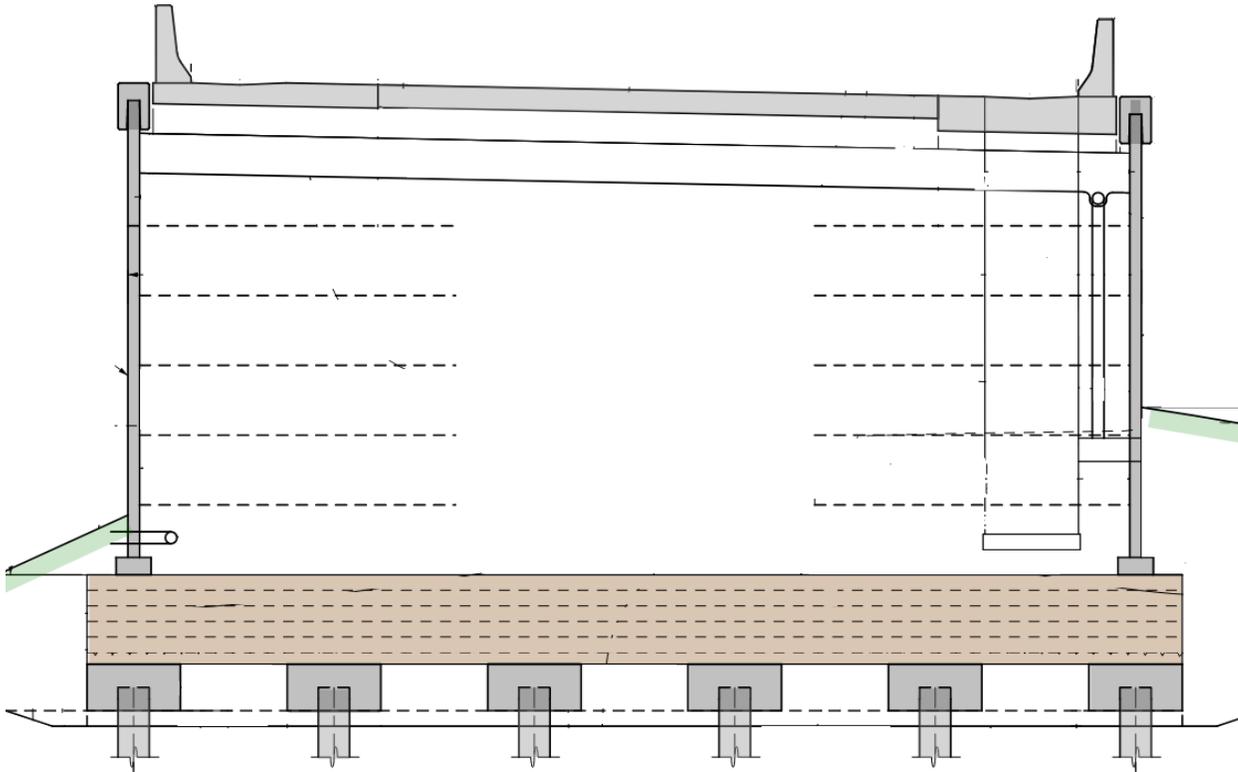


# MI Interchange – Typical Flyover Bridges



- Post-Tensioned Hammerhead Caps
- Single-Column Piers
- Prestressed Precast Concrete Piles

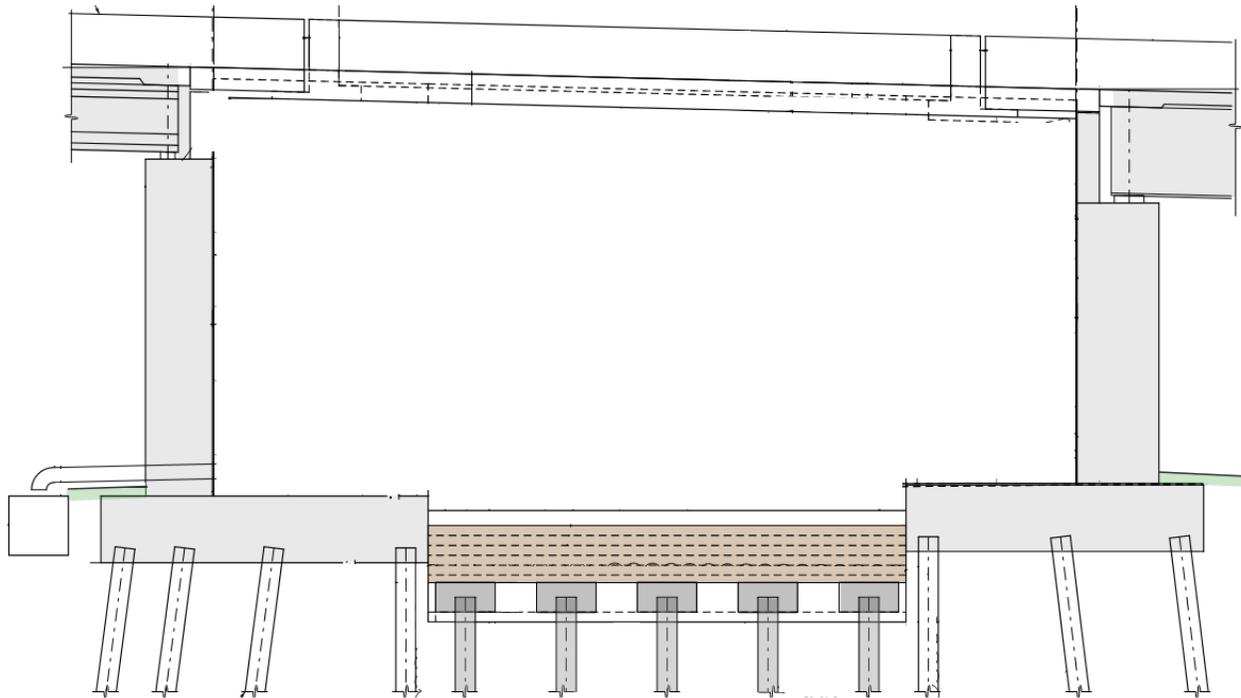
# MI Interchange – Load Transfer Platforms (LTP)



- Piles @ 8' centers, both ways
- Geosynthetic Grid – 8" lifts
- Dense-Graded Aggregate fill
- 4' x 4' Pile caps
- MSE walls supporting fill



# MI Interchange – Gateway Towers



- Transition between different bridge types and varying superstructure heights
- Consists of LTP with MSE wall to support fill between high wall abutments

# MI Interchange – Connecting Ramps



# MI Interchange – Unique Features

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- 125 years of design service life for the Connecting Ramp bridges
- AASHTO LRFD (HL-93 MOD) and WDBA specific live loads
- Minimize expansion joints
- Project specific reports:
  - Bridge Design Criteria report
  - Bridge Access report
  - Durability plan
  - **Redundancy report**
  - Erection Procedure report

# MI Interchange – Redundancy Analysis

## Design-Build Specifications

Load Path Redundancy

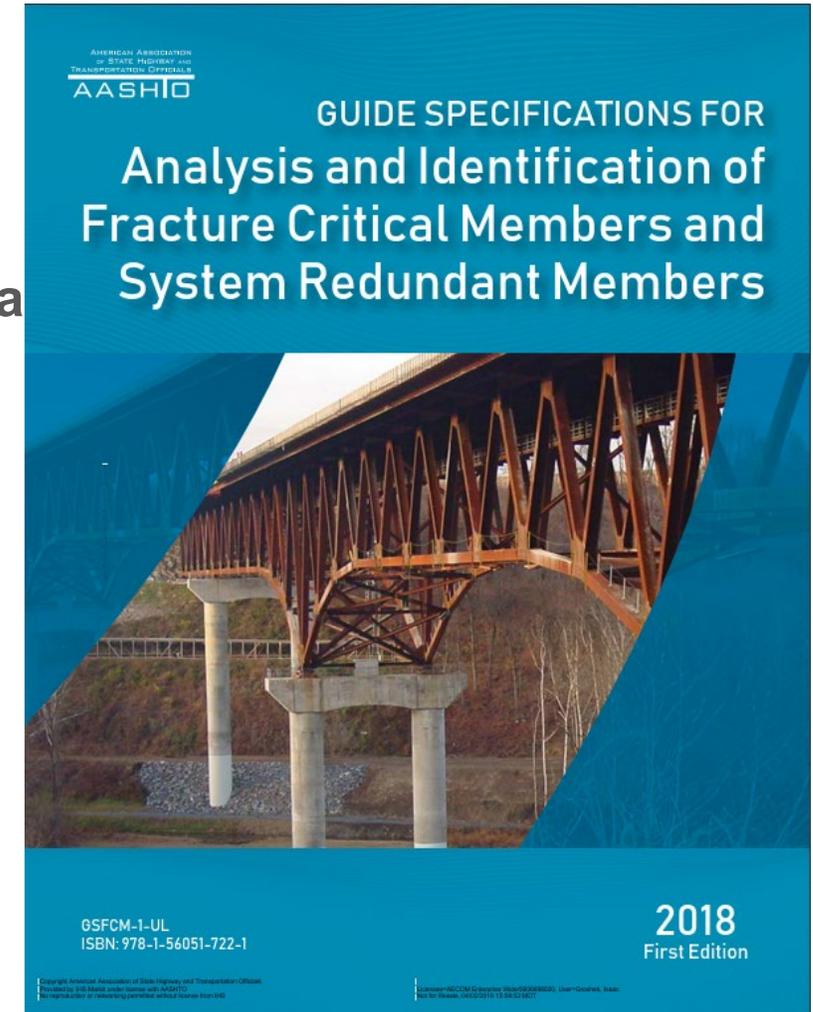
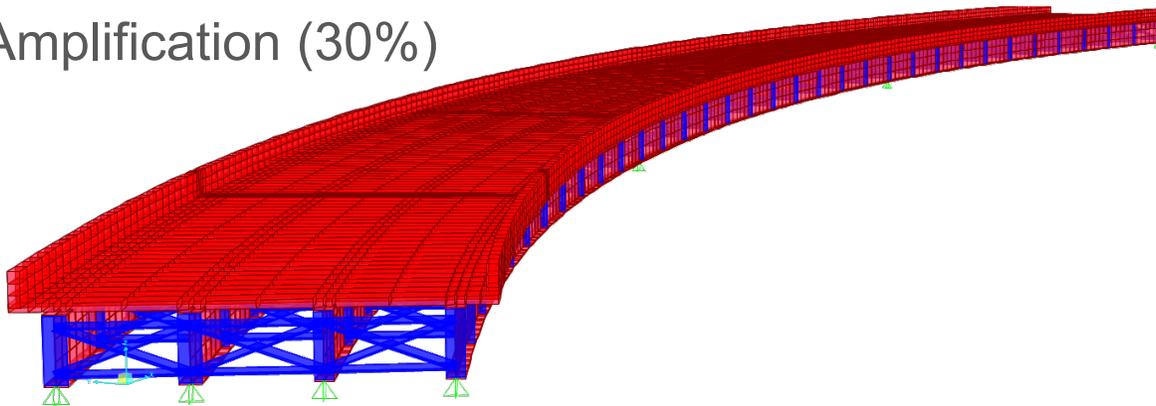
Positive & Negative Moment Fractures

**AASHTO Guide Specifications for Analysis and Identification of Fracture Critical Members and System Redundant Members**

Nonlinear Analysis Guidance

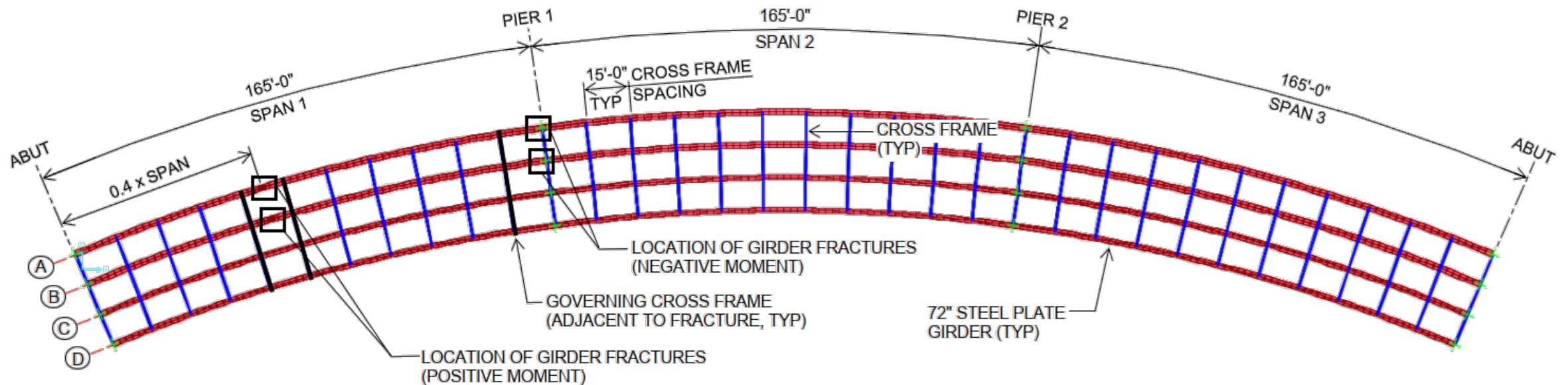
Strain-based Failure Criteria

Dynamic Amplification (30%)



# MI Interchange – Redundancy Analysis Fracture Locations

- Positive Moment Fractures
- Negative Moment Fractures
- Governing Cross Frames

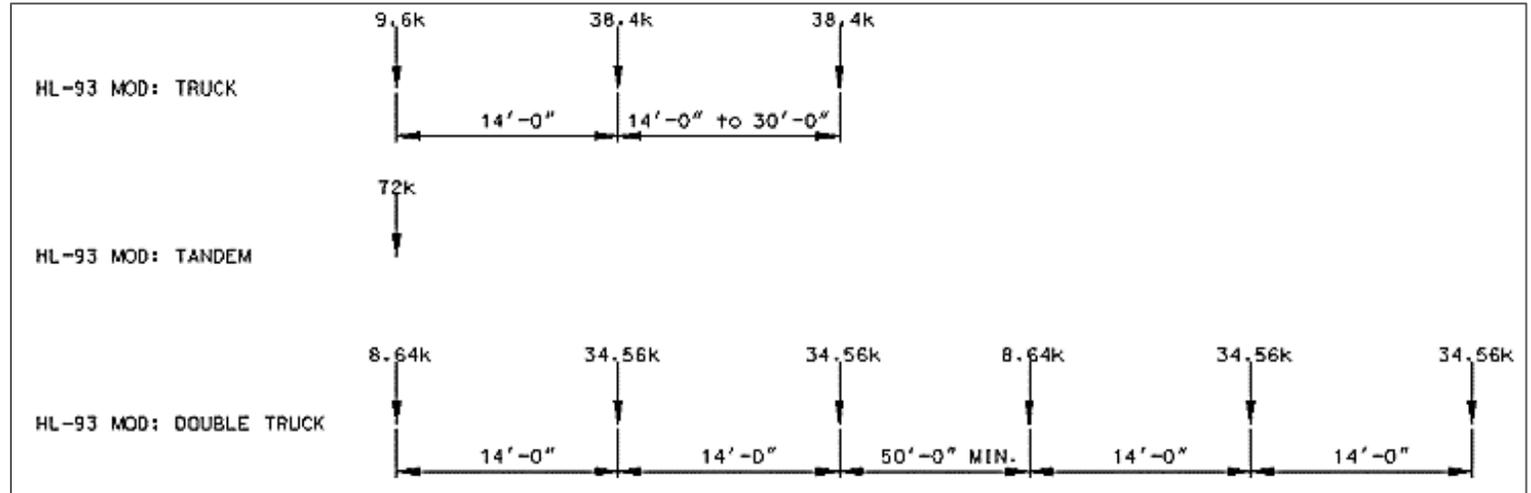


**BRIDGE D1 - FRACTURE LOCATIONS**

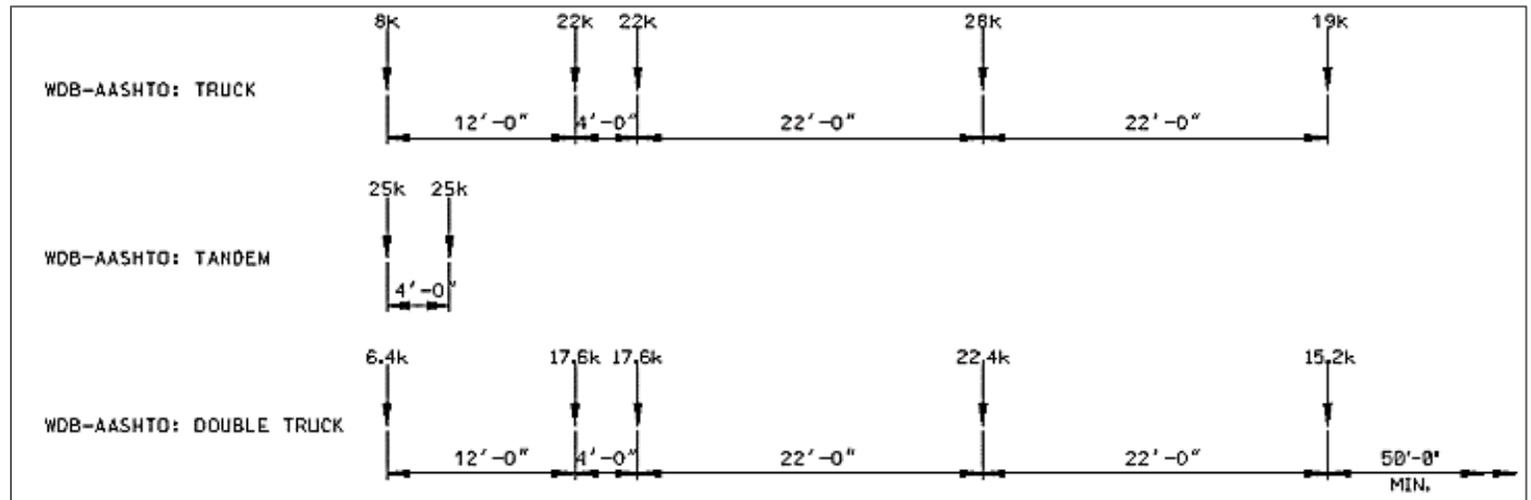
# MI Interchange – Redundancy Analysis Vehicular Loading

## HL-93 (MOD) Vehicular Loading

20% greater loading than standard HL-93 Loading



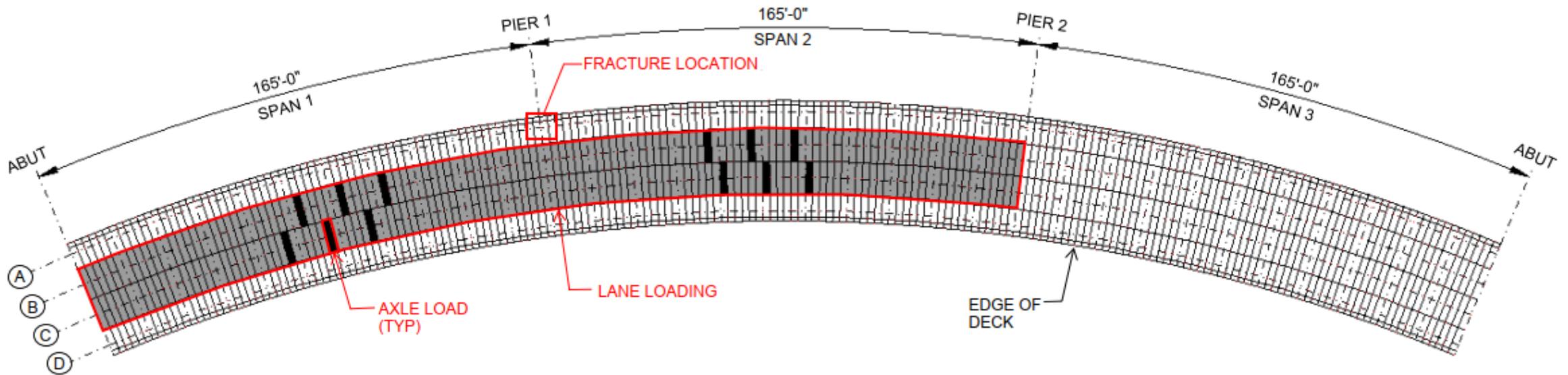
## WDBA Vehicular Loading



# MI Interchange – Redundancy Analysis Loading Application

Specific Loading Configurations for each fracture case determined by linear analysis.

Area loads used to apply truck and lane loads.



BRIDGE D1 - LIVE LOAD PATTERN - EXTERIOR GIRDER FRACTURE

# MI Interchange – Redundancy Analysis

## Redundancy Load Combination

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Importance Factor,  $\eta_I = 1.05$

- Required by D-B Specification
- Applies to all loading types

Dynamic Amplification Factor,  $DAR = 0.30$

- Accounts for bridge oscillation after fracture
- Based upon research at University of Austin, TX

Static Force Amplification

- DC Loading =  $1.05 \times 1.30 \times 1.25 = 1.71$
- DW Loading =  $1.05 \times 1.30 \times 1.50 = 2.05$
- LL + IM Loading =  $1.05 \times 1.30 \times 1.30 \times 1.33 = 2.36!!!$

Redundancy Load Combination:

$$\eta_I \times (1 + DAR) \times [1.25DC + 1.5DW + 1.30(LL + IM)], \text{ IM} = 33\%$$

Reminder: HL-93 (Mod) is 20% heavier than HL-93 Loading

➤  $1.2 \times 2.36 = 2.83$

# MI Interchange – Redundancy Analysis Challenges & Solutions

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- Challenges:
  - Deck Crushing Failure – Positive Moment Fracture
  - Unacceptable Tensile Strains in Flanges
  - Unacceptable Strains in K-Style Cross Frames
  
- Solutions:
  - Confinement Reinforcement for Deck & Haunches
  - Ensure Flange Size for Increased Tensile Strains
  - X-Frame Style Cross Frames

# Acknowledgements

## Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

- Responsible for delivery of Gordie Howe International Bridge Project



## Bridging North America

- Private sector partner responsible for design, build, finance, operate and maintain the facility
  - ACS Infrastructure
  - DRAGADOS
  - Fluor
  - AECON



# Acknowledgements

**AECOM Design Lead** — **AECOM**

- CFCsl + FHECOR (JV)

CARLOS FERNANDEZ CASADO, S.L.  
OFICINA DE PROYECTOS



- COWI



- Thurber Engineering



- Tourney Consulting



- KTA Group



- RWDI



- RS Engineering



- NTH Consultants



- HNTB (IDC)



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better world

