

# BOX CULVERTS

ALABAMA VIRTUAL SERIES



American  
Concrete Pipe  
Association

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ALABAMA VIRTUAL SERIES

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# BOX CULVERTS

Alabama Virtual Series

## Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the basic fundamentals of precast drainage structures
2. Box Design-Example
3. List the necessary steps to properly install box culvert
4. Discuss the options available for box culvert end treatments
5. Describe how manufacturers are able to provide “specials”
6. Discuss the key tenants of Accelerated Precast Construction

# Course Agenda

## Precast Structures Fundamentals







# Precast Structures

## Fundamentals

# Precast Structures: Fundamentals

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Pipe

ASTM C76



4 Sided Box

ASTM C1577



3 Sided Box

ASTM C1504



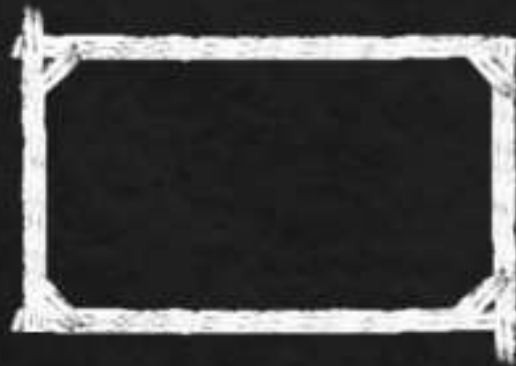
# Precast Structures: Fundamentals

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Concrete Pipe  
Association



Pipe

ASTM C76



4 Sided Box

ASTM C1577



3 Sided Box

ASTM C1504



Pipe



Round



Elliptical



Arch



Side View



# 4 Sided Boxes



→ *Monolithic*

*Box Culvert*  
*4 Sided Box*

*Segmented*

*Clamshell*  
*Splitbox Culvert*

*3 Sided Boxes*



*3 Sided Box*

*HySpan*

*Arch Bridge*

*3 Sided Bridge  
Flat Top Bridge  
Concrete Frame*

*3 Sided Bridge*

*Conspan  
Arch Frame*

# Precast Structures: Fundamentals



Pipe

ASTM C76



4 Sided Box

ASTM C1577



3 Sided Box

ASTM C1504



Round

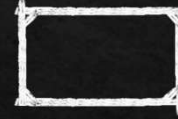


Elliptical



Arch

## 4 Sided Boxes



Monolithic

Box Culvert  
4 Sided Box



Segmented

Clamshell  
Splitbox Culvert

## Precast Drainage Structures

## 3 Sided Boxes



3 Sided Box

3 Sided Bridge  
Flat Top Bridge  
Concrete Frame



HySpan

3 Sided Bridge



Arch Bridge

Conspan  
Arch Frame



# Goals for Today



Durable Reliable Infrastructure

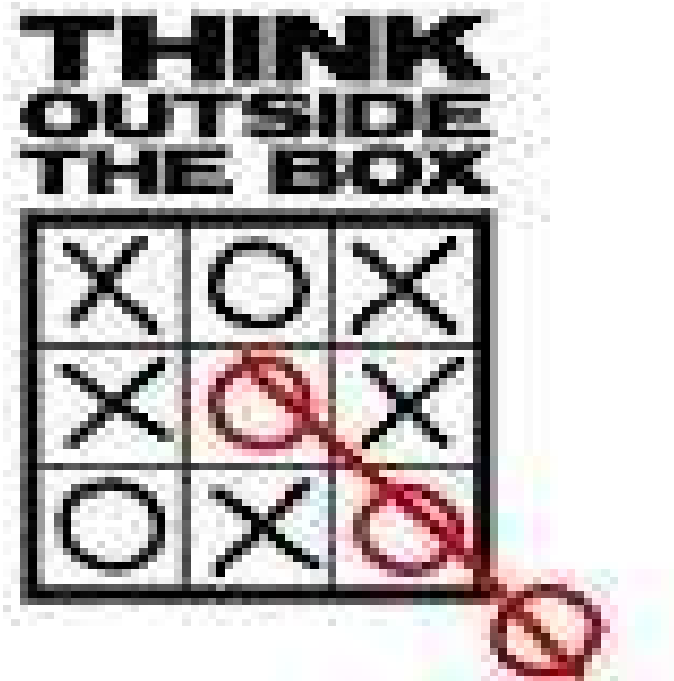


Let's Put on Our "Thinking Caps"  
about applying today's lesson  
to current or future jobs



Durable Reliable Infrastructure

Much has been said about:



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- Today – we'll be thinking
  - About the Box itself



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# Why do we need to Replace & Add Culverts:

- Alabama Facts:
- Total of over 100,900 miles of paved roadways
- Over 77,000 miles of rivers and streams




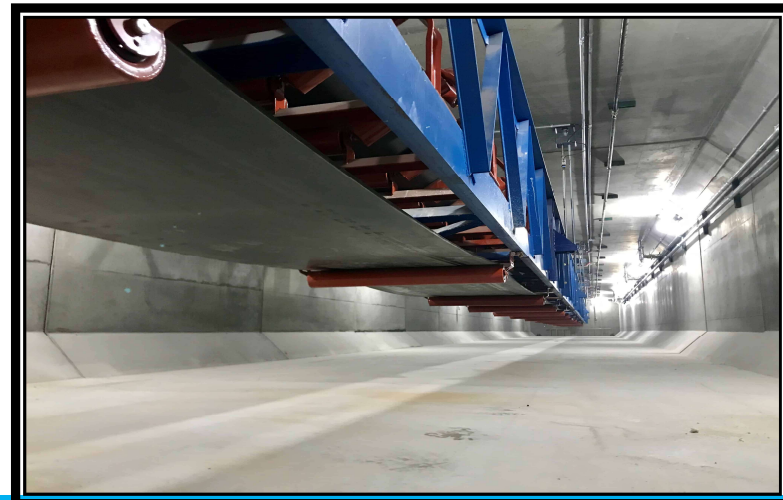
Durable Reliable Infrastructure



# Box Culverts:

Note: Box Culvert  $\neq$  RCP<sup>2</sup>

- Standard, and Non-Std. uses
- Beyond Bridges and Culverts:
- Large Capacity Detention
- Pedestrian, and Wildlife Tunnels
- Junction Chambers:
- Large Capacity Pump Stations –
  - *Vertical Application (we'll see an example near the end)*
- Underground Conveyor Systems:
  - Aggregate suppliers 
- “Preppers” – Bomb Shelters
  - (yup, where better to spend the rest
    - of your days!)



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Durable Reliable Infrastructure



Durable Reliable Infrastructure



## DETENTION SYSTEMS:

- Most efficient shape
- Large detention volumes
- Meets highway loadings



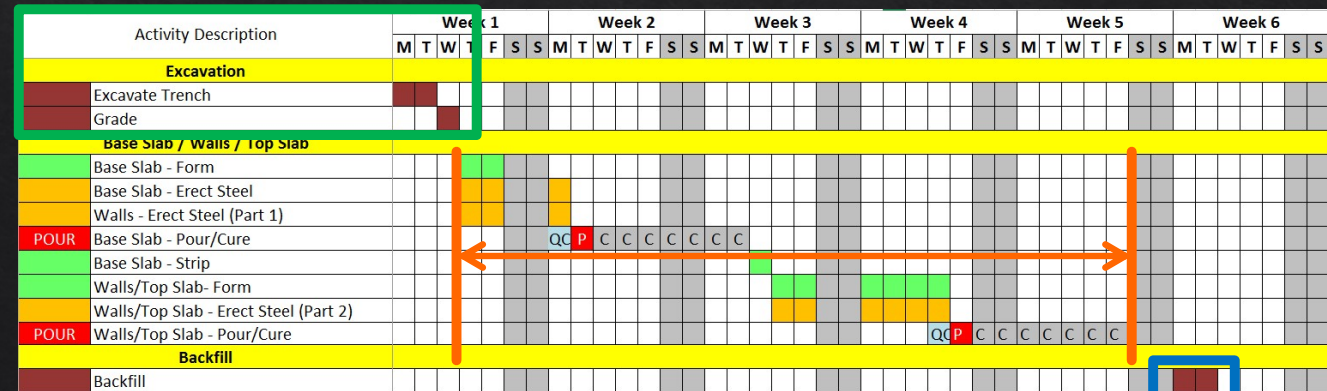
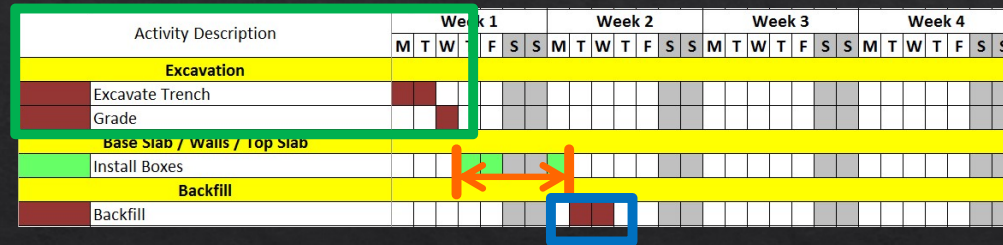
- Little to no cover required



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# Precast Structures: Advantages



# Precast Structures:

Precast

VS

Cast-in-Place

➤ Consistent dimension tolerance







Environmental  
Exposure





Everyday you're near the creek  
setting forms-tying steel – pouring concrete-  
waiting for cure time-stripping-  
You expose yourselves to **Environmental Risks!**



# Precast Structures:

Precast

VS

Cast-in-Place



➤ weather resilient construction







Speed, Safety, Less  
Environmental Impact ,  
Less Liability– **You Pick?**





# Precast Structures: Advantages

- Controlled Curing Environment
- Removal from the Critical Path
- Potential for Reduced Cost
- Lower Weather Dependency
- Simpler Construction Methods
- Accelerated Project Completion



# WHY BOX CULVERTS?

- BASIC BOX (C 1577): 3X2 UP TO 12X12
- CUSTOM SIZES
- MULTICELL
- LARGE SPANS
- SHALLOW/ DEEP FILLS  
(0 TO 300 FT)





Foley Concrete Products.

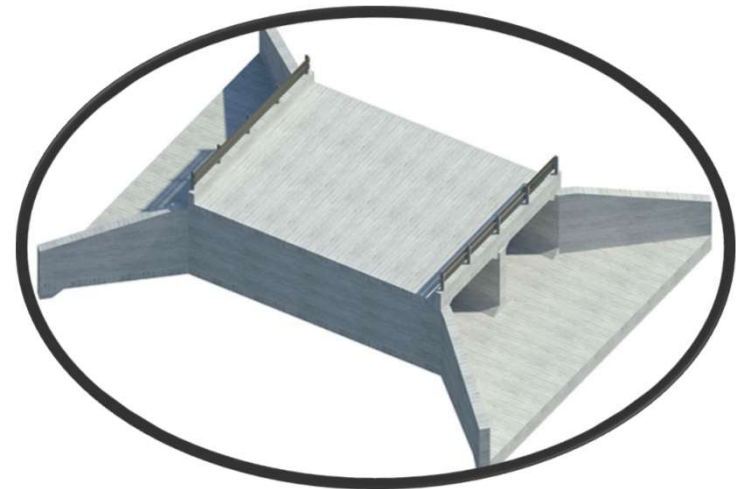
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## **BOX DESIGN:** GUIDING DESIGN PUBLICATIONS

### **AASHTO: SECTION 12**

LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

### **ASTM C-1577**



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## Box Culvert Design: *Considerations*

- **Peak Flow Events:**

- Pipe Size, Slope, Entrance Type, Freeboard, Ponding
- Inlet / Outlet Control Rainfall, Watershed Modeling

- **Economics:**

- Life Span, Installation, Cost of Structural Damage, Replacement Costs

- **Legal Requirements:**

- EPA, Forest Practice Regulations, Construction Timing

- **Fish Passage:**

- Migration Period, Water Velocity, Pipe Inlet Geometry, Water Depth
- Stability of Outlet Pool

- **Maintenance:**

- Woody Debris, Bedload, Maintenance Funding, Scour Effects



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# Box Culvert Sizing:

Determining required Waterway Area (sq. ft)



- -Estimate Peak Discharge 100yr flood using:

- 1)---Rational Method (most commonly used method)

- --Assumes Entire Basin has Uniform Constant Rainfall Intensity until the design discharge at the crossing is achieved.

- 2)---USGS Magnitude and Frequency Method

- equations developed from actual precipitation and runoff data collected

- 3)---Flow Transference Method:

- -Flow can be determined for streams that are nearby a hydrologically similar watershed
- -With a Long-Term gauging station.



- 4)---Using FHWA Culvert Capacity Nomograph:

- -Sizing determined by calculated stream flow and headwater depth
- = (headwater / diameter) ratio.

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## Hydraulic Modeling w/HY-8-it's free!

- Hydraulic computation Model for roadway stream crossings (Culverts)
- Created and Provided Online by FHWA:
  - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/software/hy8/>
- Allows users to:
  - Allows for multi-barrel crossings and multiple crossing in 1 project\*
  - Analyze roadway Overtopping (weir flow over road)
  - Analyze the performance of culverts (velocities, water depths, flow profiles)
- HEC-RAS



# Let's Design A Box...

- Early Design Considerations:

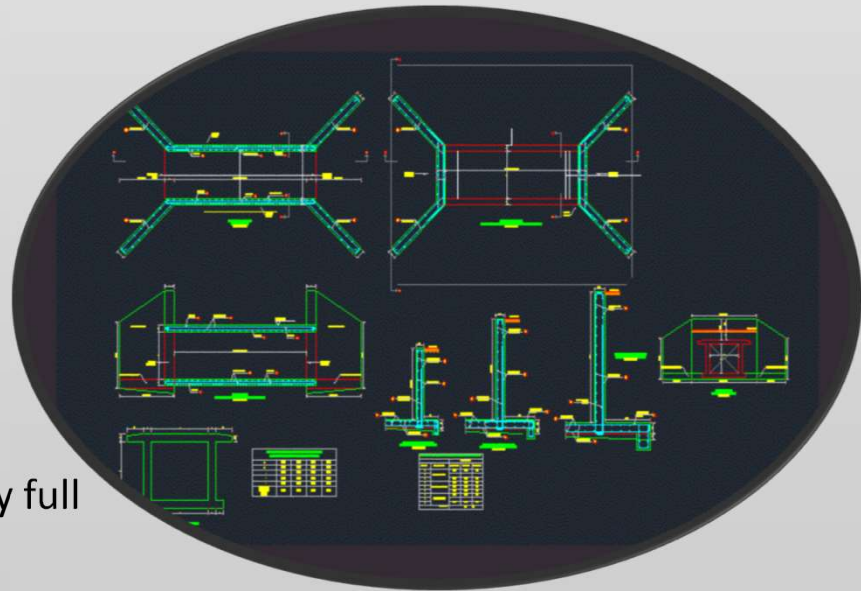
- Flow Controls:

- *Inlet Control*—

- *Often w/Steep Slopes*

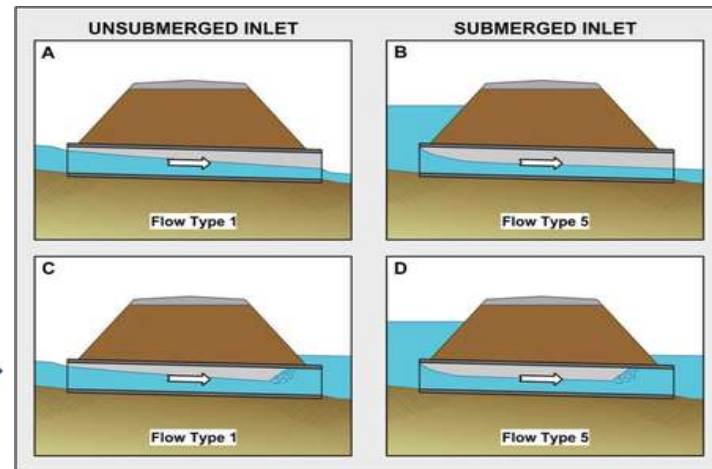
- *Outlet Control*—

- Often runs full, or partially full



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# Inlet Control:



- Inlet Control:

- Culvert will convey more flow than the inlet will accept
- Parameters required to determine Dia. / End Area:
  - Design Flow Rate
  - Maximum Allowable Headwater Depth
  - Culvert Slope
  - Type of Inlet:
  - Type of Culvert Material: RCP, Box Culvert, Other.. \*\*

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## Outlet Control:



- Outlet Control:
  - OC=water enters faster than it flows through the culvert
    - Culverts w/O.C – often flow full, or partially full.
  - Parameters required to determine Dia. / End Area:
    - Design Flow Rate
    - Maximum Allowable Headwater Depth
    - Culvert Slope
    - Type of Culvert Material
    - Type of Inlet
- Same as Inlet Control**
- Add: Tailwater Height
- Length of Culvert



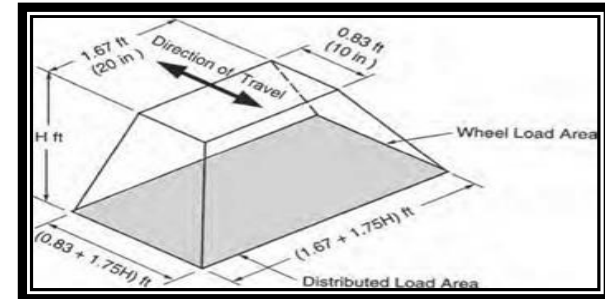
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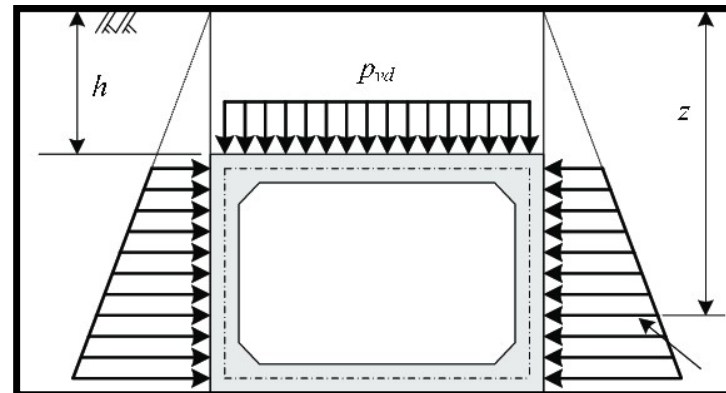
## WHAT WE NEED TO DESIGN A BOX CULVERT?

- **REQUIRED “END AREA<sup>\*</sup>”** -AS DETERMINED BY ENGINEER
- **SPAN— RISE** (BOTH IN FEET) (CAN BE DONE IN SMALLER INCREMENTS)
- (\* = “NET”: LOST END AREA FROM 12” X 12” “HAUNCHES” IN CORNERS)
- (EX: 8’ X 8’ BOX = 63.1 SQ. FT)
  
- **FILL HEIGHT:** TOP OF BOX TO TOP OF ROAD SURFACE
- **LIVE LOAD -HL-93 OR HL-93 MOD**
- **ANGLE OF BOX :** ANGLE OF ROAD CROSSING

## Loading Considerations:



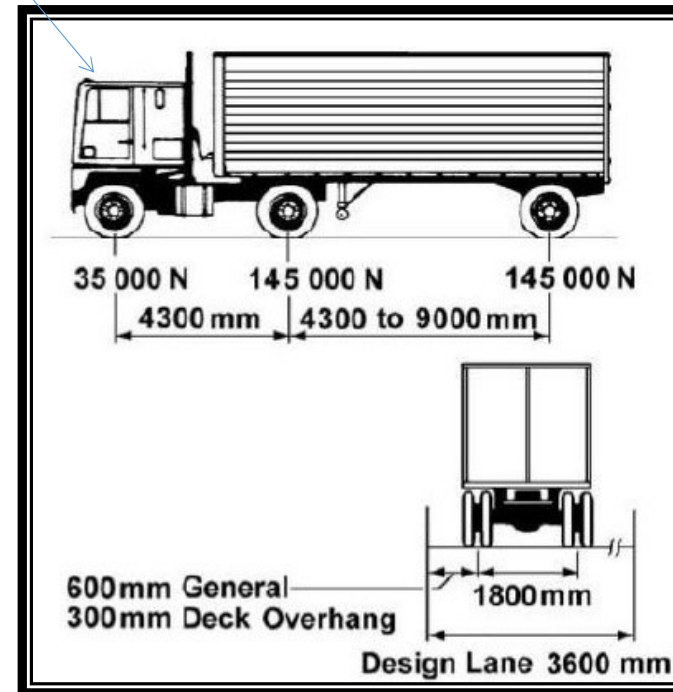
- Live Loads
- Dead Loads
- Lateral Earth Loads:
  - From Soil and
  - Hydrostatic Loads from Groundwater
- Vertical Loads:
  - From Cover and live loads
- Surcharge Loads:
  - From nearby impact loads
- Seismic loads (where applicable)



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# Culvert Loading:— Historical Nomenclature: Truck Design

- Historically called: HS-20 44 or (HS-25)
- (where **H** stands for highway,
- **S** for semi-trailer)
  - **20** = 20 ton weight of tractor
  - 44= year adopted (1944)
- Current Design Loading:
- A) HL-93 Loading
- (where **H** stands for highway
- and **L** stands for Loading).
- (developed in 1993)
- B) HL-93 Mod
- *The design of this structure is based on 1.2 times the current AASHTO LRFD Bridge design specification HL-93 loading with the exception that the **Design Tandem** portion of the HL-93 Load definition shall be replaced by a single 60KIP axle load before application of this **1.2 factor**—the resulting factors is designated HL-93 Mod*

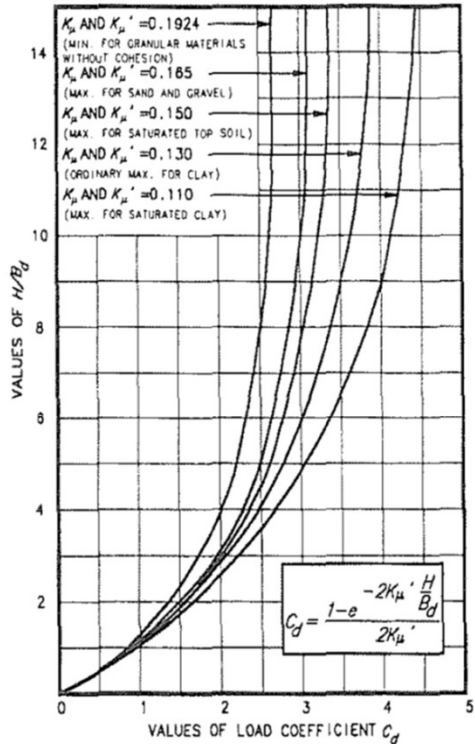


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# AASHTO SECTION 12.11.1

- LI
- M
- ST
- DI
- TC
- SE
- TH
- DI



□ M Figure 12.11.2.2.1-3 Coefficient  $C_d$  for Trench Installations.

## DISTRIBUTION (H<2'; H>2')

(12.11.2.2.1-1) LOADS FOR SOIL

## REACTION

$$20 \frac{H}{B_c}$$

(12.11.2.2.1-2)

## LOADS

$$f_s = \frac{M_s + N_s \left( d - \frac{h}{2} \right)}{(A_s j i d)}$$

(C12.11.3-1)

in which:

$$e = M_s / N_s + d - h/2$$

$$i = 1 / (1 - j d / e)$$

$$j = 0.74 + 0.1(e/d) \leq 0.9$$

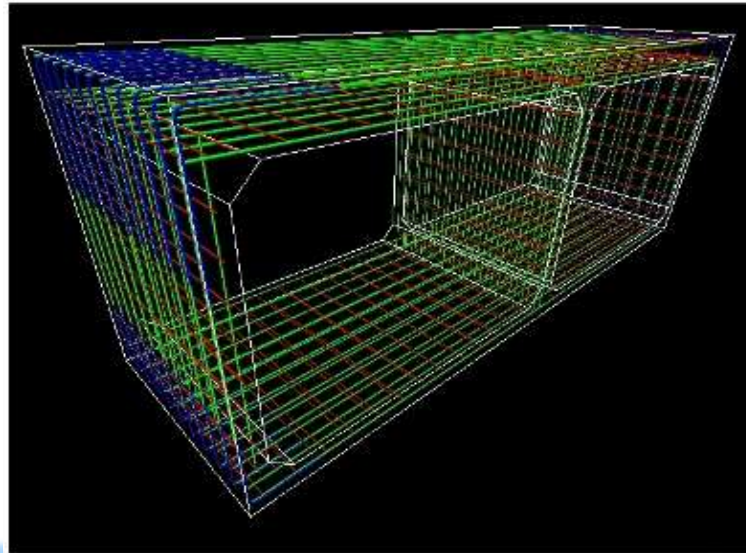
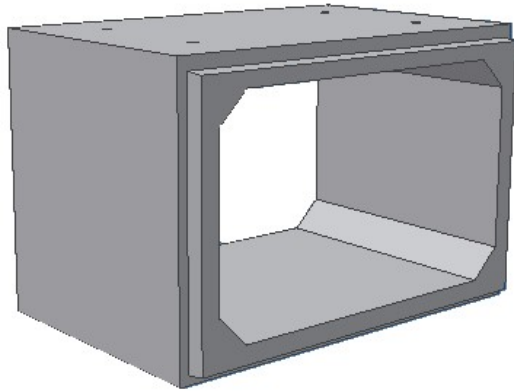
## □ MINIMUM TOP SLAB CONCRETE COVER

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**BOXCAR**  
**SOFTWARE**

**OR**

**ET CULVERT**



- AASHTO / ASTM C 1577 DESIGN
- 3D WIREFRAME GENERATION
- LOAD RATINGS PER C 1577 & SECTION 12

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# EXAMPLE: ASTM C 1577

- 4' SPAN X 4' RISE (8" WALLS MINIMUM)
  - LESS THAN 2' OF COVER
  - HL-93 LIVE LOADING
  - 5,000 PSI COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH CONCRETE

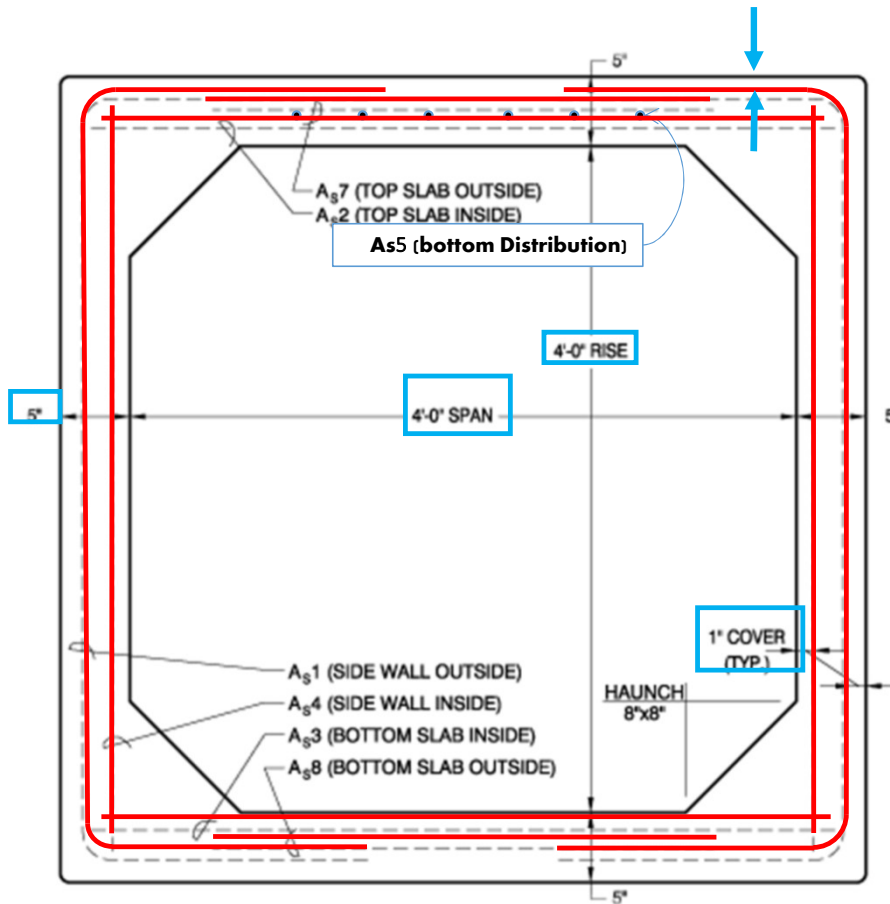
## □ DESIGN TABLES:

4 ft by 4 ft by 5 in.							
Design Earth Cover, ft	Circumferential Reinforcement Areas, in. <sup>2</sup> /ft						
	A <sub>s1</sub>	A <sub>s2</sub>	A <sub>s3</sub>	A <sub>s4</sub>	A <sub>s5</sub>	A <sub>s7</sub>	A <sub>s8</sub>
0<2 <sup>a</sup>	0.18	0.33	0.20	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.14
2<3	0.12	0.26	0.23	0.12			
3-5	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.12			
10	0.12	0.15	0.15	0.12			
15	0.12	0.19	0.20	0.12			
20	0.12	0.25	0.25	0.12			
25	0.14	0.31	0.31	0.12			
30	0.17	0.37	0.37	0.12			

**TABULAR DESIGNS IN C 1577 WERE PREPARED ACCORDING TO AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS**



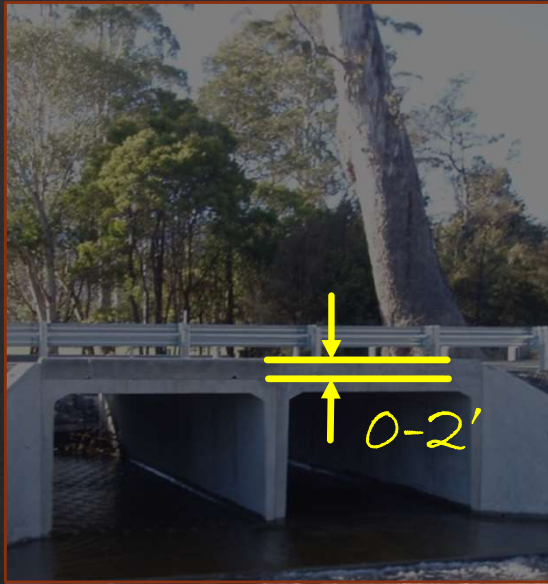
# EXAMPLE: C 1577: 4'x4'x8'' (8" WALLS IS OUR MIN.)



- 4' SPAN, 4' RISE,
  - 8" WALLS
  - 1"-2" CONC. COVER
- 5000 PSI CONCRETE
  
- **As1** (SIDE WALL OUTSIDE)
- **As2** (TOP SLAB INSIDE)
- **As3** (BOTTOM SLAB INSIDE)
- **As4** (SIDE WALL INSIDE)
  
- **As5** (TOP SLAB INSIDE
  - DISTRIBUTION)
- **As7** (TOP SLAB OUTSIDE)\*\*
- **As8** (BOTTOM SLAB OUTSIDE)

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Cover: 0-2'



AASHTO: M273  
ASTM: C850

Cover: 2'+



AASHTO M259  
ASTM C789

ASTM: C1433

LRFD → ASTM: C1577



# MINIMUM COVER



## 0' COVER:

- ❑ MAXIMIZES HYDRAULIC CAPACITY
- ❑ PLACE ROAD SURFACE DIRECTLY OVER BOXES



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INSTALLATI





**JACKED**



**TRENCH**



**EMBANKMENT**

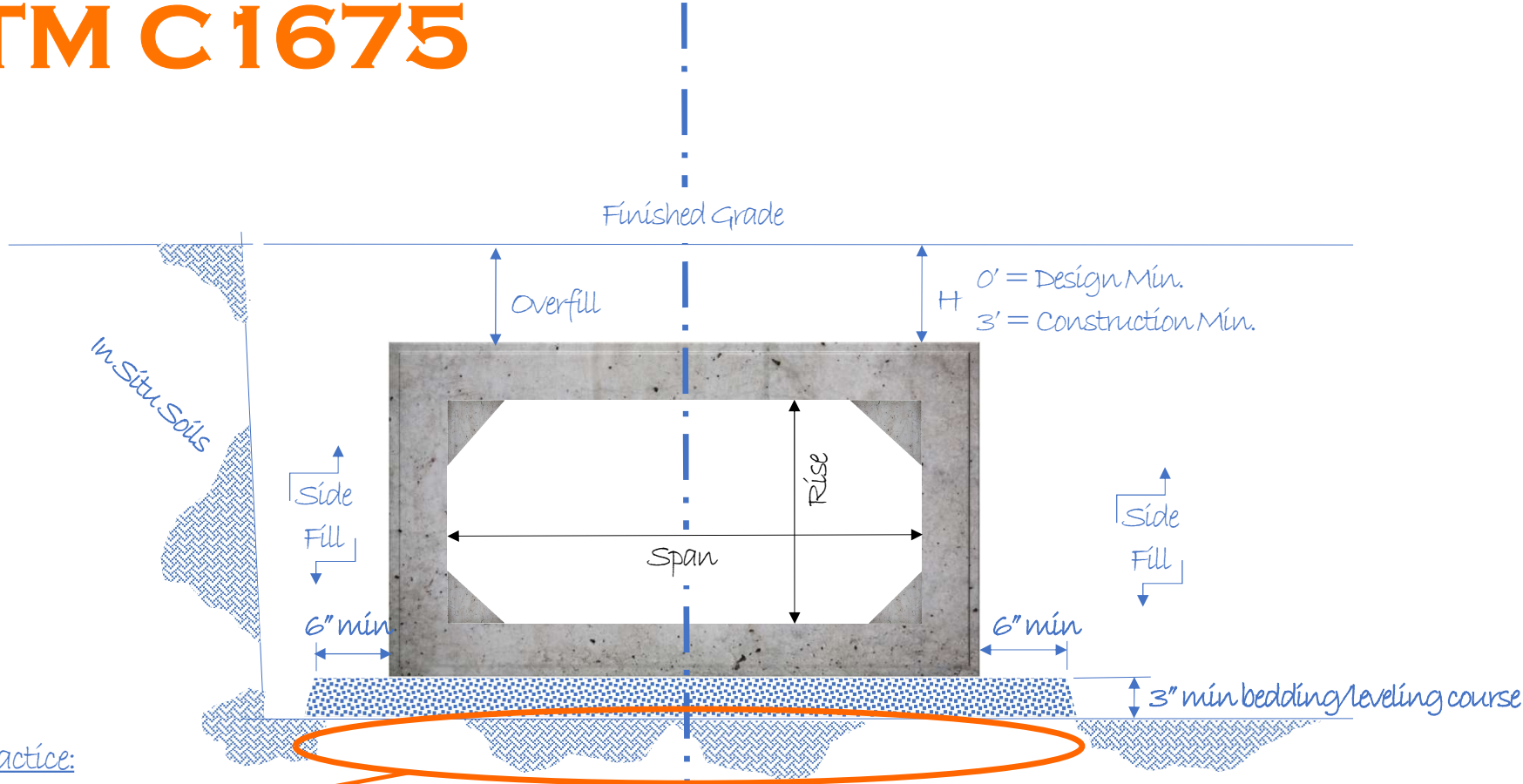
# Installation Options



Lucerne County, PA 2014

TLC200 PRO 2014/08/04 08:40:36

# ASTM C 1675



0' = Design Min.  
3' = Construction Min.

Best Practice:  
6" medium granular material  
foundation compacted

**TRENCH**

Foundation

**EMBANKMENT**



# CULVERT LOADING

- EARTH
- LIVE
- CONSTRUCTION



Unless designed for construction loading, RCB backfill should be placed 3' above top of box to accommodate construction loads.

# INSTALLATION BEST PRACTICES

- ❑ SCHEDULING & UNLOADING = PROJECT EFFICIENCY
- ❑ DIVERT DRAINAGE
- ❑ ESTABLISH A GOOD, LEVEL GRADE
  - ❑ USE FINE TO MEDIUM MATERIAL
  - ❑ LEVELING COURSE SHOULD BE 3" (MIN)



# INSTALLATION KEYS

**1-HANDLING**

**2-DEWATERING**

**3-BEDDING**

**4-PLACEMENT**

**5-JOINING**

**6-FINAL BACKFILL**

**7-END TREATMENTS**

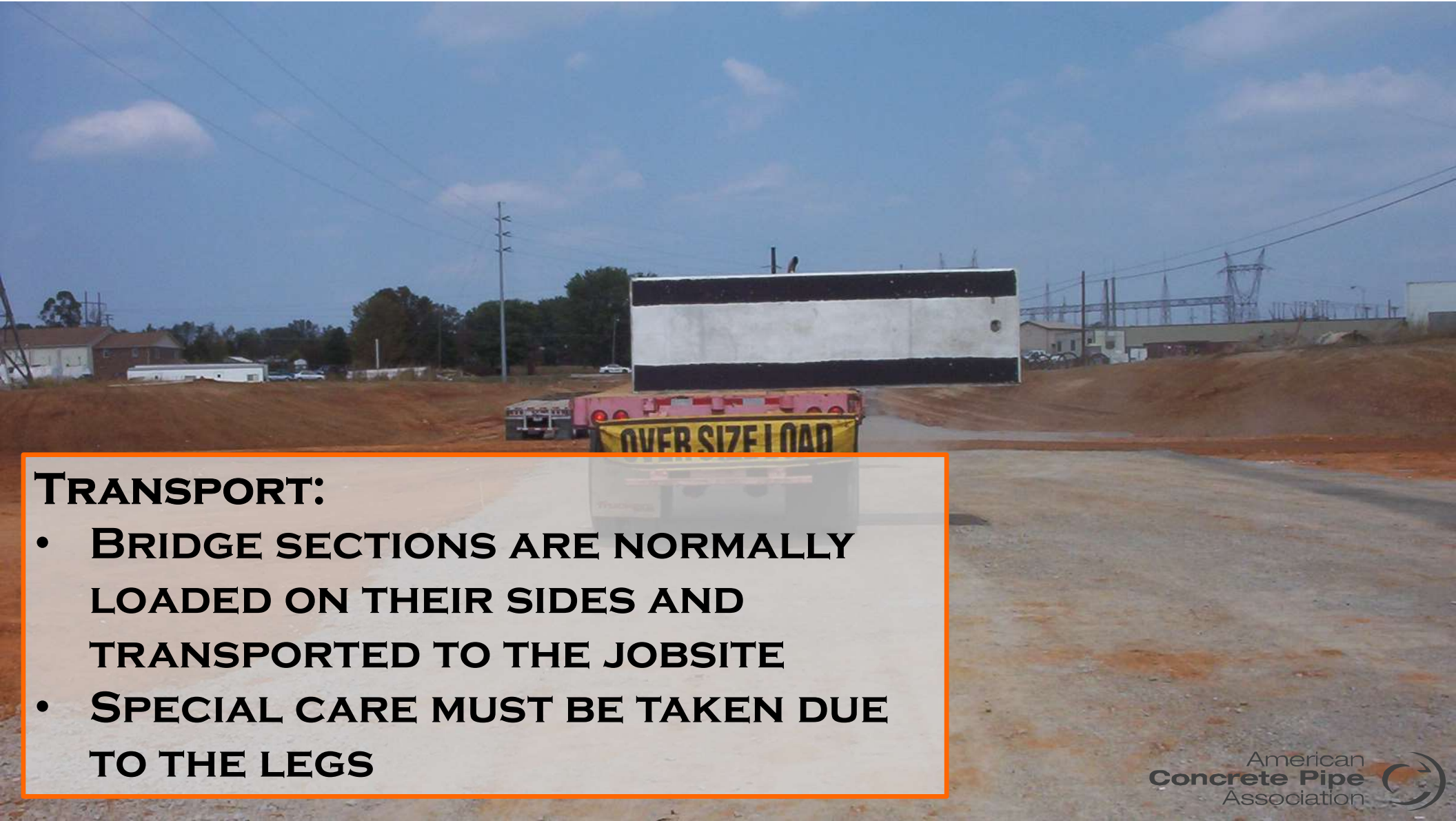
**8-SPECIALS**

# 1-HANDLING



# HANDLING:





## **TRANSPORT:**

- **BRIDGE SECTIONS ARE NORMALLY LOADED ON THEIR SIDES AND TRANSPORTED TO THE JOBSITE**
- **SPECIAL CARE MUST BE TAKEN DUE TO THE LEGS**









## **TRANSPORT:**

- **EXERCISE CAUTION!**



**OAK BRANCH  
@ 60 MPH**

The photograph shows several large, rectangular concrete pipe sections stacked outdoors. Two orange arrows point from the text 'OAK BRANCH @ 60 MPH' to specific impact points on the concrete. The impact on the left shows a jagged, broken edge, while the impact on the right shows a more rounded, crushed area. The concrete is light grey and shows signs of weathering and staining.

# 2-DEWATERING

# DEWATERING:

CONTROL SURFACE & GROUND WATER

- MAINTAIN DRY CONDITIONS DURING INSTALLATION





# DEWATERING:



**BEST  
PRACTICES  
HIGHLIGHT**



**EXCEPTION TO THE RULE**



# 3-BEDDING

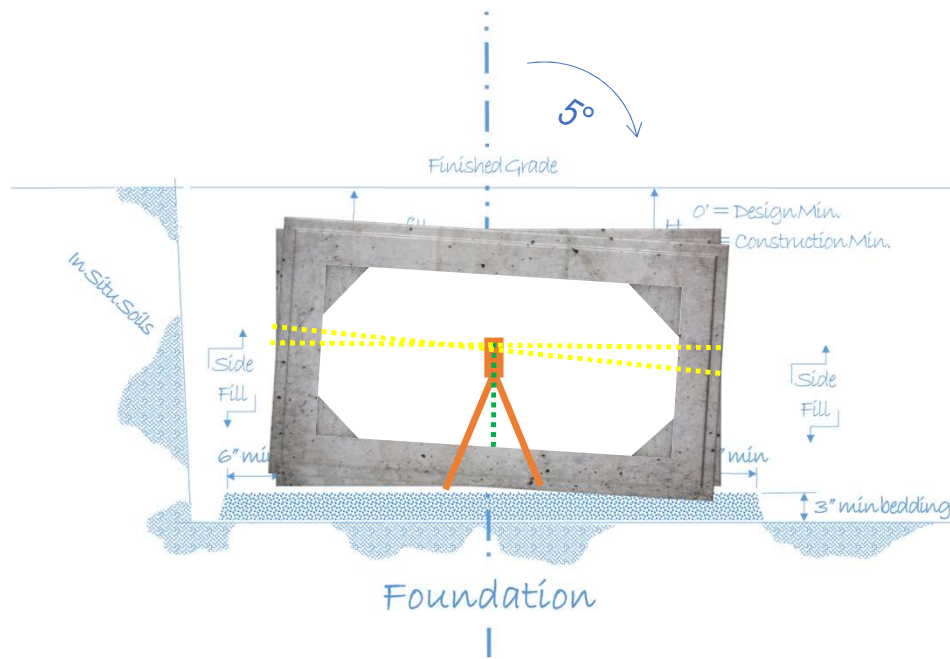
# BEDDING:

CHECK LINE AND GRADE  
FREQUENTLY AND EVENLY



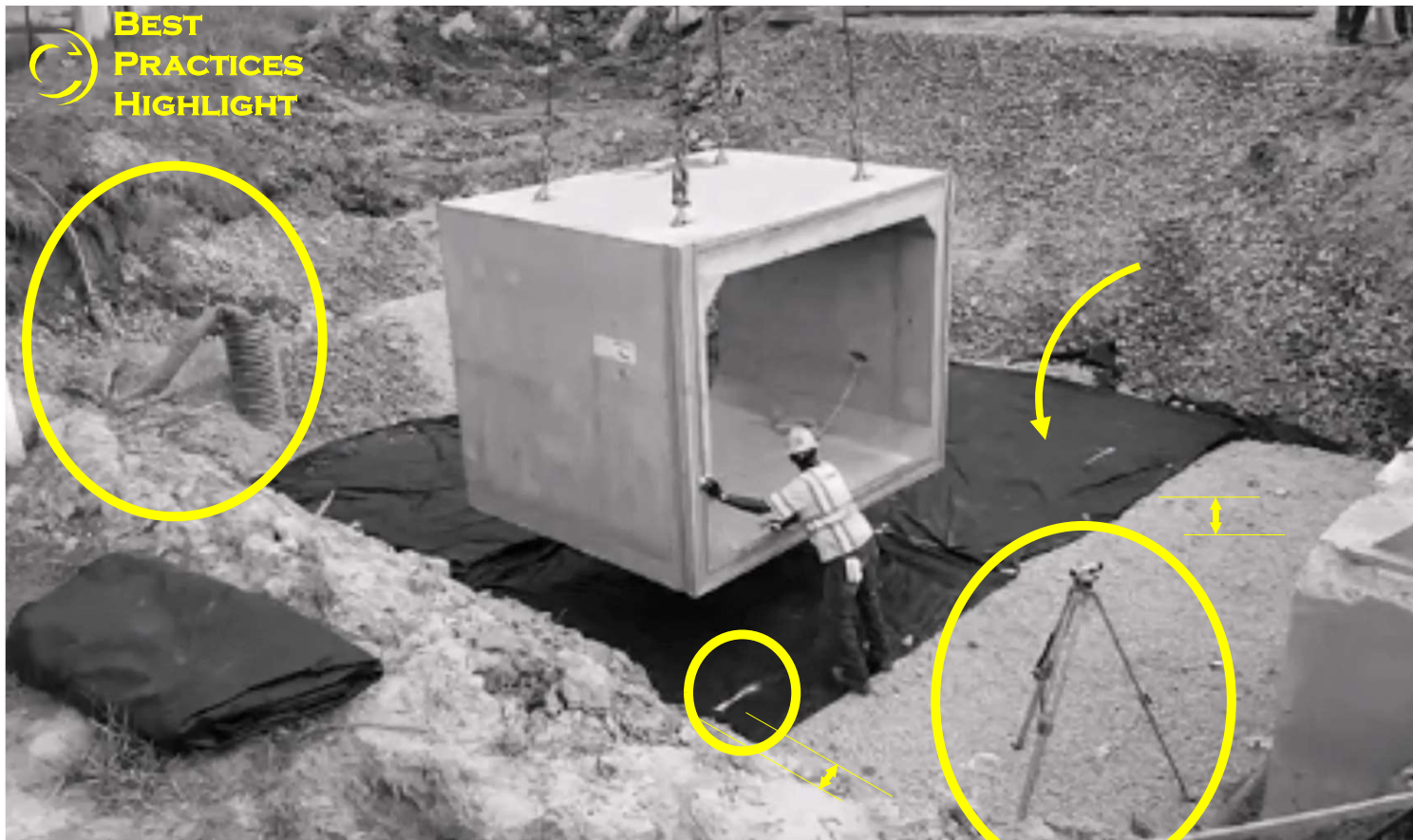
# BEDDING:

CHECK LINE AND GRADE  
FREQUENTLY AND EVENLY





# BEDDING: BEDDING IS KEY TO A SMOOTH INSTALLATION!



# 4-PLACEMENT

# PLACEMENT:

SEQUENTIAL MARKING HELPS PROPER PLACEMENT ON  
LARGE/COMPLEX JOBS





# 5-JOINING

# JOINING:

ASTM C 1577:

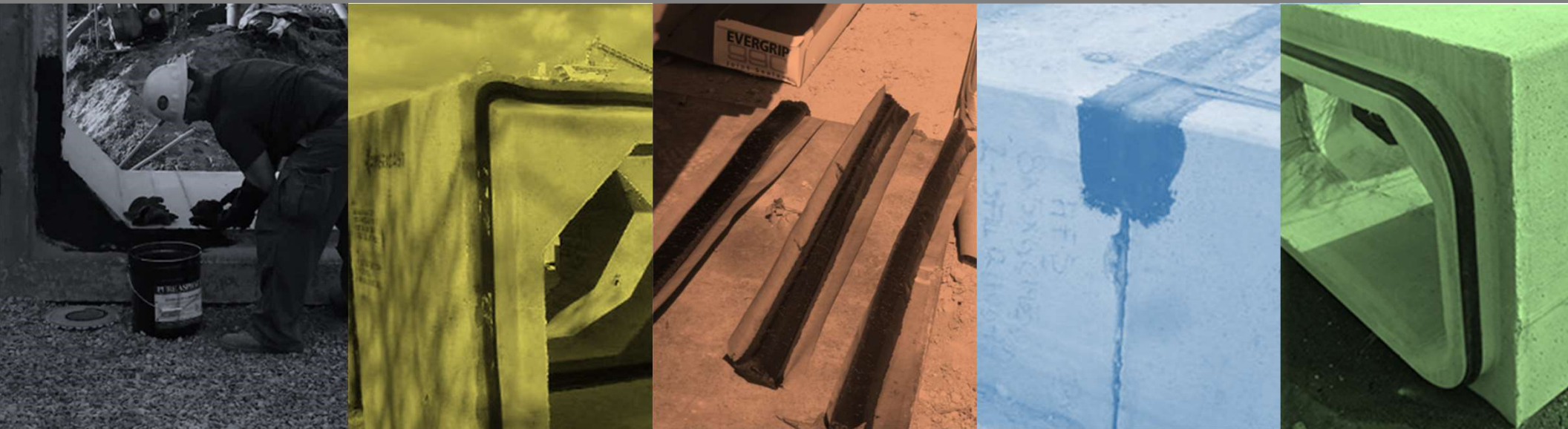
- BOX JOINTS ARE TO BE TONGUE & GROOVE
  - MORTAR
  - SEALANT
  - FABRIC WRAP



# JOINING:

VARIOUS JOINT MATERIALS ARE USED IN THE MARKET:

- ❑ MASTIC
- ❑ NEOPRENE CLOSED CELL SPONGE
- ❑ BUTYL RUBBER SEALANT
- ❑ BUTYL EXTERIOR JOINT WRAP
- ❑ PROFILE RUBBER GASKETS





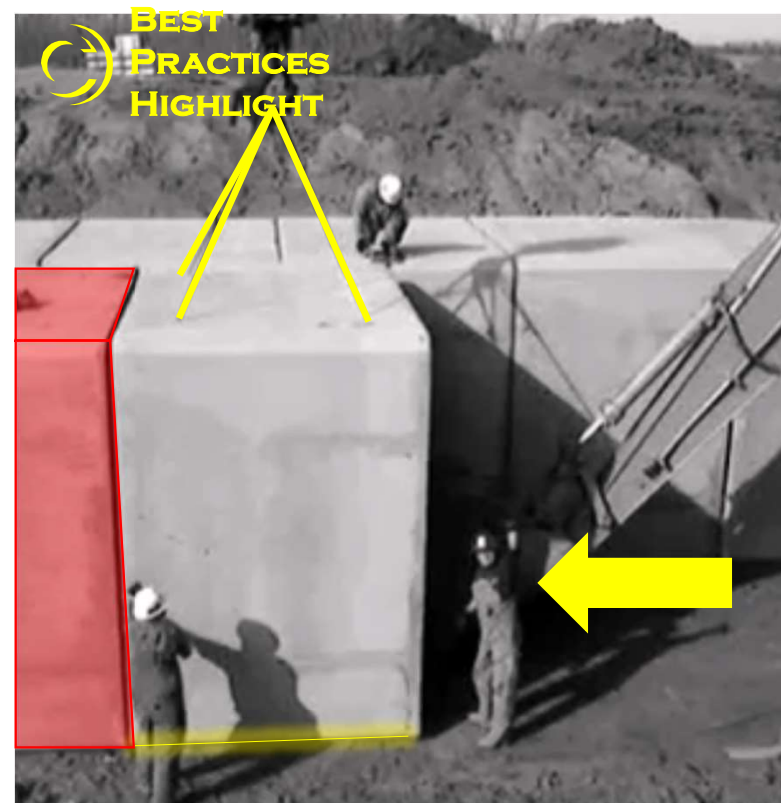
# JOINING:

- ❑ PREVENT BEDDING MATERIAL ENTERING THE JOINT.
- ❑ SMOOTH THE BEDDING TO IMPROVE HOMING THE JOINT.



# JOINING:

HOMING TECHNIQUES DRIVEN BY CAPABILITIES OF CREW,  
EQUIPMENT & CONDITIONS.







# JOINING

## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

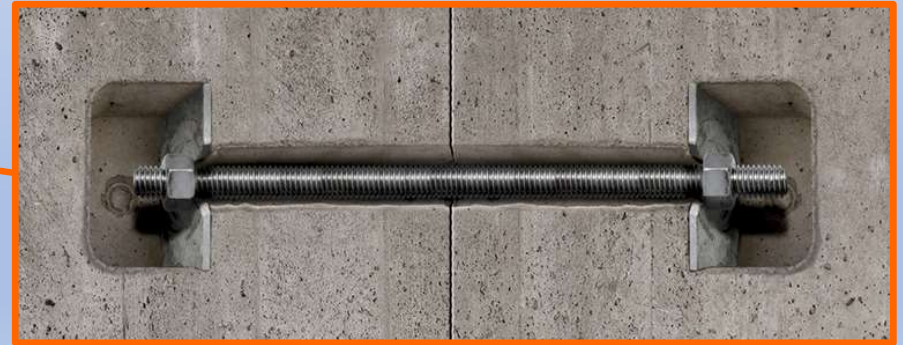
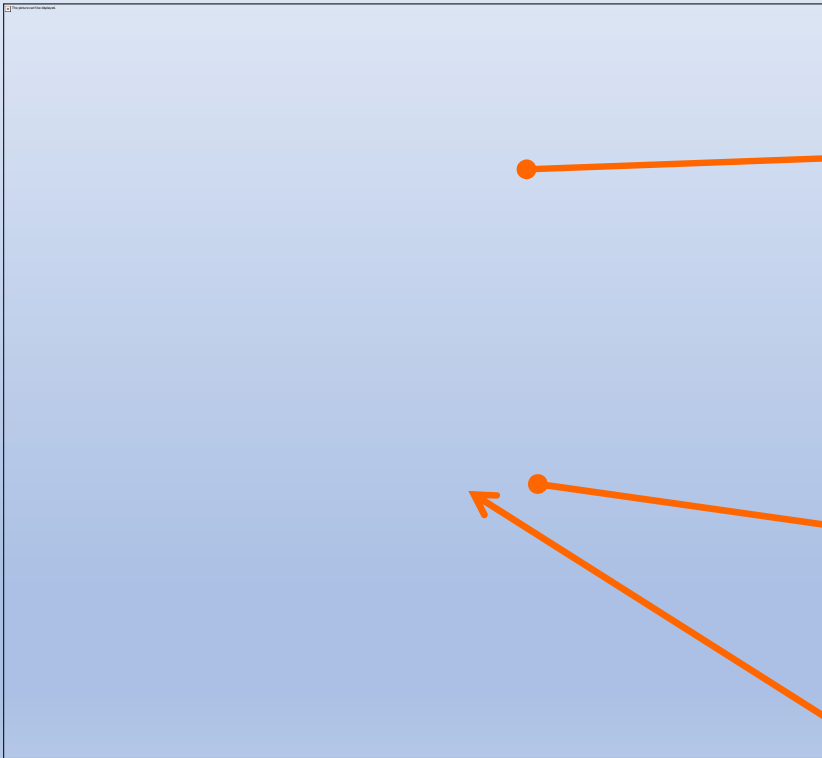
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- POCKET BOLTS
- POST TENSIONING STRANDS



# JOINING

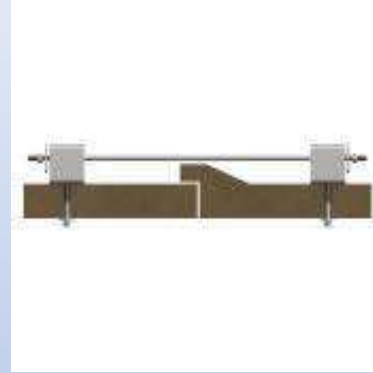
## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS



**POCKET BOLTS**

# JOINING

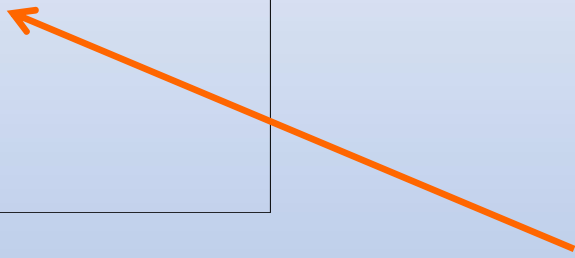
## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS





# JOINING

## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS



**POST TENSIONING STRANDS**



# 6-FINAL BACKFILL

# FINAL BACKFILL:



- ❑ COMPACT BACKFILL IN LIFTS
- ❑ AVOID LARGE ROLLING COMPACTORS OVER THE CULVERT



- ❑ **AVOID CONSTRUCTION LOADING WITH LESS THAN 3' OF COVER!**



# FINAL BACKFILL: MINIMUM COVER



**PROVIDE WEARING SURFACE FOR  
MINIMUM COVER**



# FINAL BACKFILL: MAXIMUM COVER



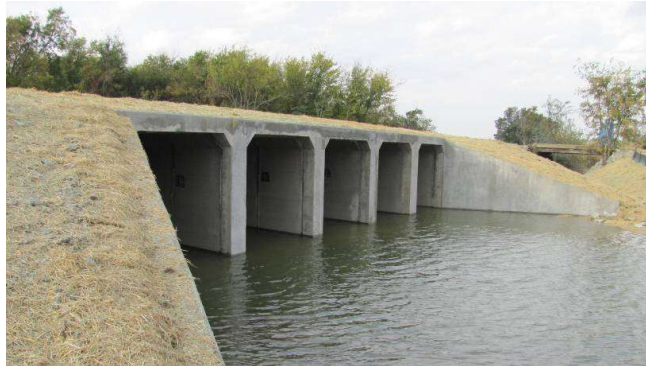
SPECIAL DESIGN IS  
NEEDED FOR *DEEP*  
COVER







# SUCCESSFUL 1<sup>ST</sup> INSTALLATION:





# 7-END TREATMENTS

# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS

### **PRECAST END UNIT ADVANTAGES:**

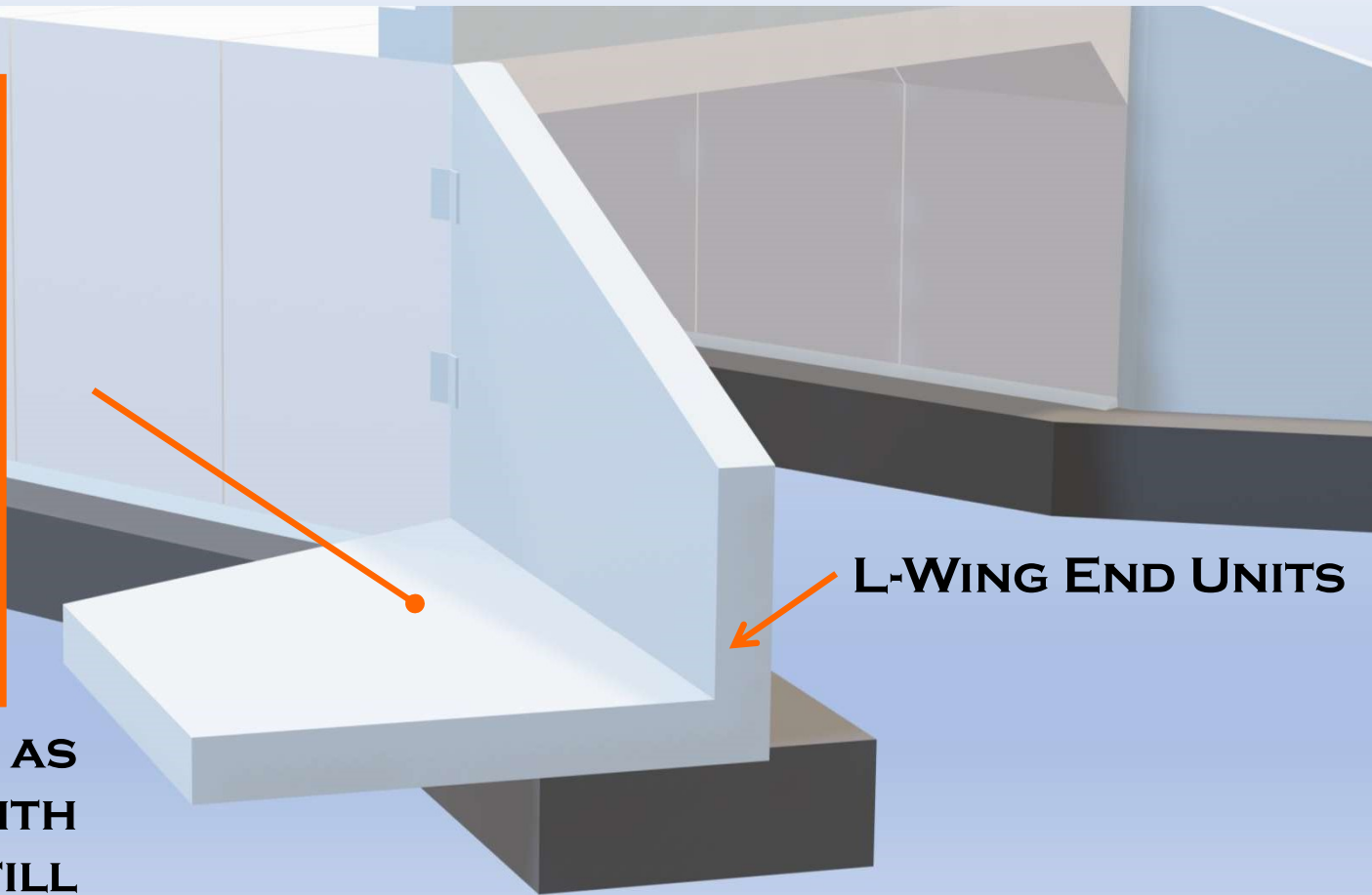
- **SAVE WEEKS OFF CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**
- **ALLOWS IMMEDIATE BACKFILL AND COVER**
- **GEOMETRIC FLEXIBILITY—DESIGNED TO FIT YOUR SITE**
- **AESTHETIC MOLDS ARE EASILY APPLIED**

# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS



**L-WING WALLS ACT AS  
CANTILEVERED WALLS WITH  
WEIGHT OF SOIL BACKFILL**



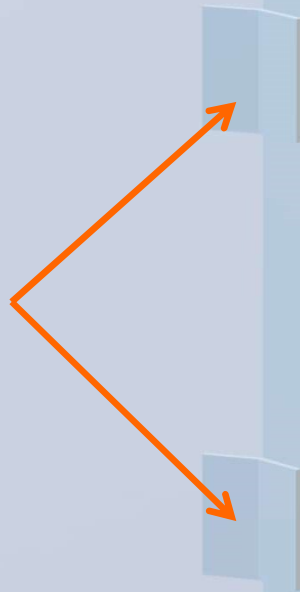
**L-WING END UNITS**



# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS

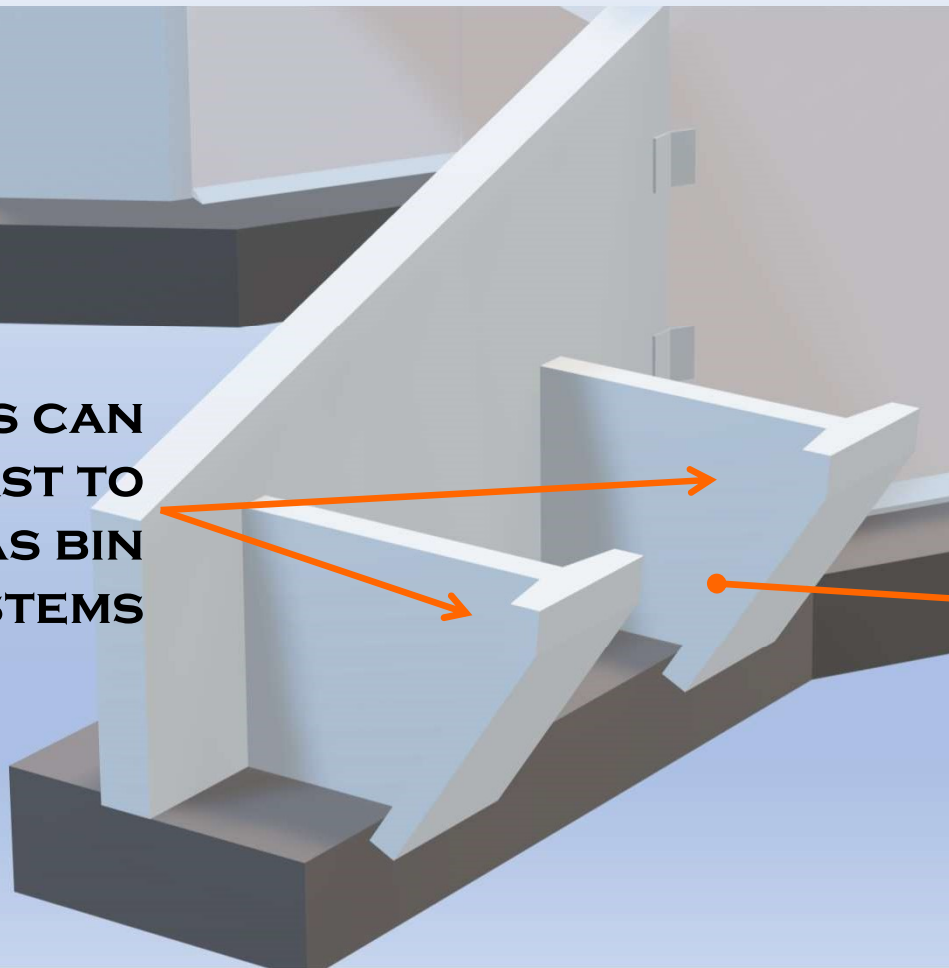
**STEEL PLATES  
CONNECT ADJACENT  
PANELS**



# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS

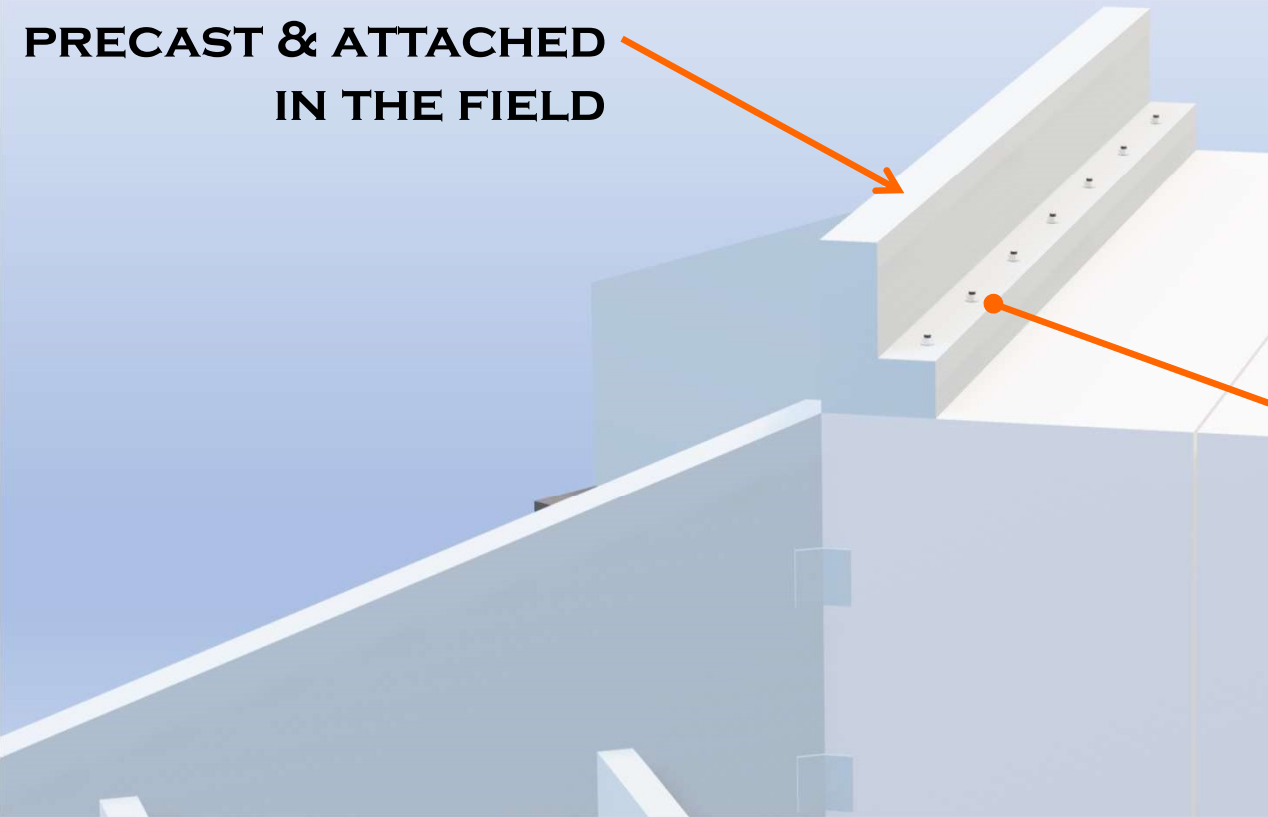
**SOIL ANCHORS CAN  
BE PRECAST TO  
FUNCTION AS BIN  
TYPE WALL SYSTEMS**



# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS

HEADWALLS CAN BE  
PRECAST & ATTACHED  
IN THE FIELD





# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS

...OR PRECAST  
WITH END UNIT



# END TREATMENTS

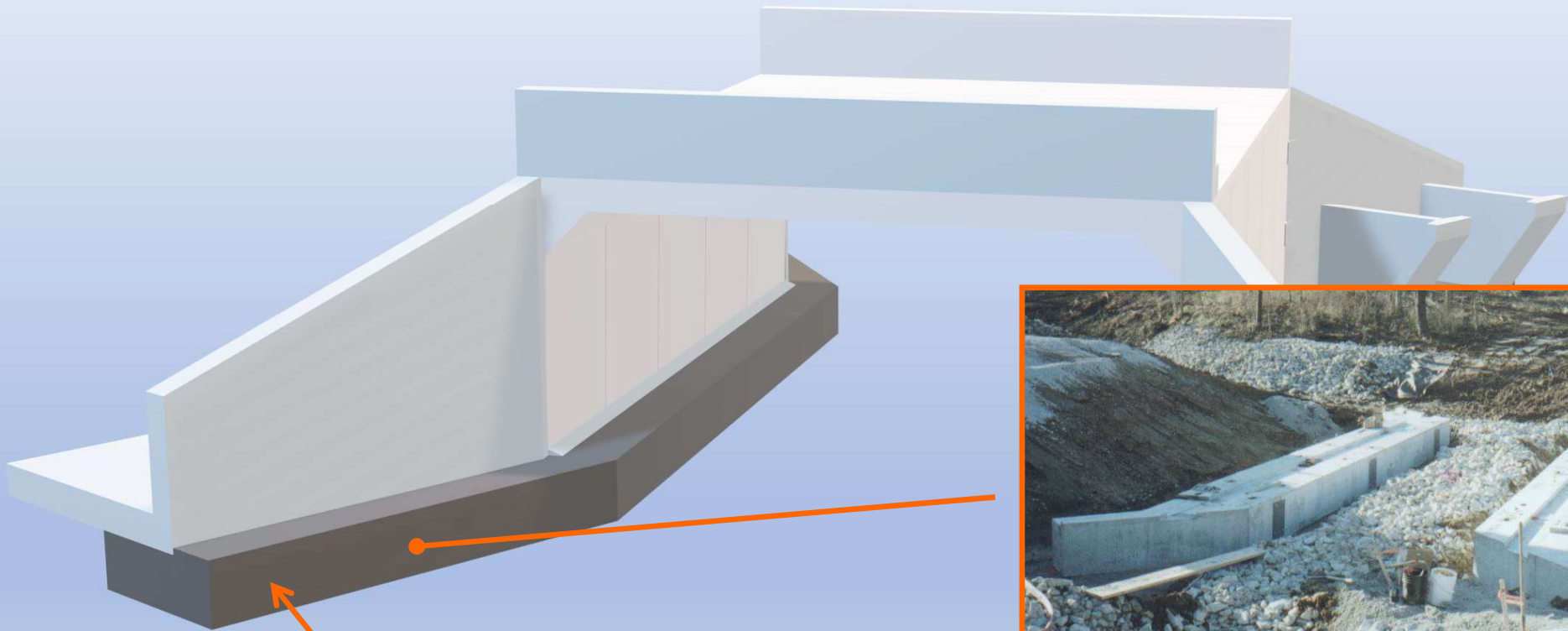
## PRECAST OPTIONS





# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS



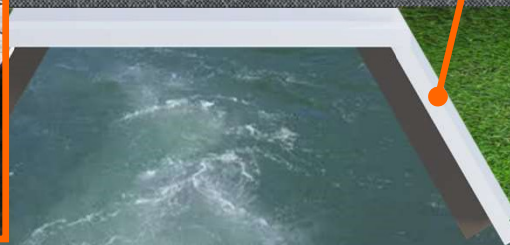
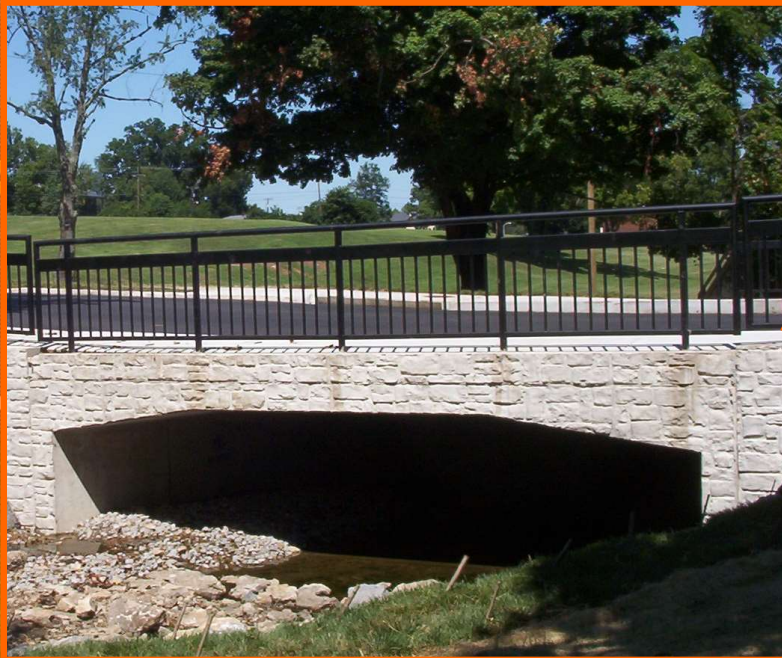
**STRIP FOOTING CONTINUOUS  
UNDER FLARED WINGWALLS**



# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS

NATURAL FACADES CAN BE PRECAST OR CAST IN PLACE INTO WINGWALLS & HEADWALLS











# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS





# END TREATMENTS

## PRECAST OPTIONS



# 8-SPECIALS

# SPECIALS:



**BENDS CAN SAVE MONEY &  
ELIMINATE JUNCTION BOXES**





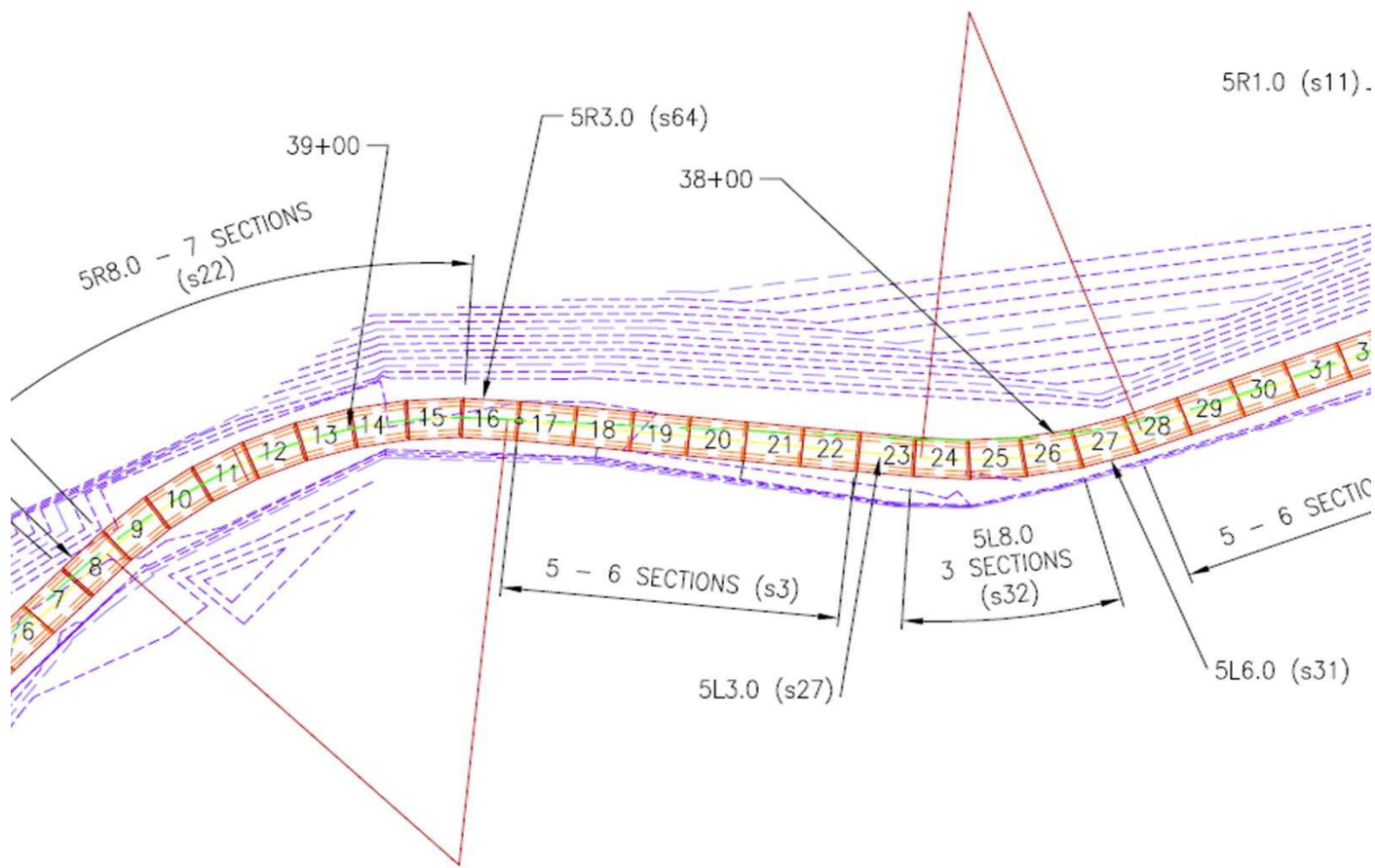
# SPECIALS:



**MANUFACTURERS CAN  
CUSTOMIZE ANY BEND  
ANGLE**



# SPECIALS:



- LOGAN CANYON:**
- **LOTS OF CURVES**
  - **WINTER HOUR CONSTRUCTION (8 HOURS A DAY)**
  - **NO ACCESS ROAD**
  - **TRANSPORT UP TO 3,000 FT**
  - **LEAK RESISTANT JOINTS**







# Extending existing CIP Boxes



# MULTI BOXES:



**MULTICELL VS  
MULTIBARREL**



# SKEWED ENDS:



**SKEWS ARE LIMITED  
BY SIZE & GEOMETRY.**





# LARGE BOXES:



**TWIN 14x11**



**23x8  
TRANSITION**



**20x12  
ANIMAL CROSSING**

**C1577: 3x2 → 12x12**

# PENETRATIONS:



- ❑ PENETRATION ADDRESSED IN PLANT
- ❑ CAN BE DESIGNED FOR FIELD PENETRATIONS
- ❑ TOP, BOTTOM & SIDE PENETRATIONS



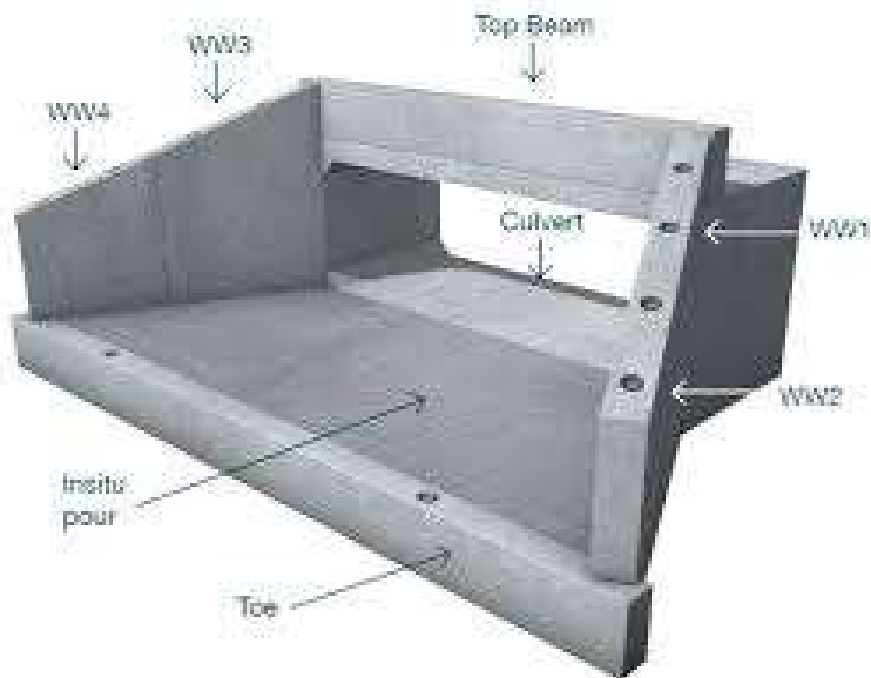


# RESILIENCE:



**ADAPTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE**

# RESILIENCE:



# RESILIENCE:



**ADAPTIVE DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE  
DRY WEATHER INVERTS**







