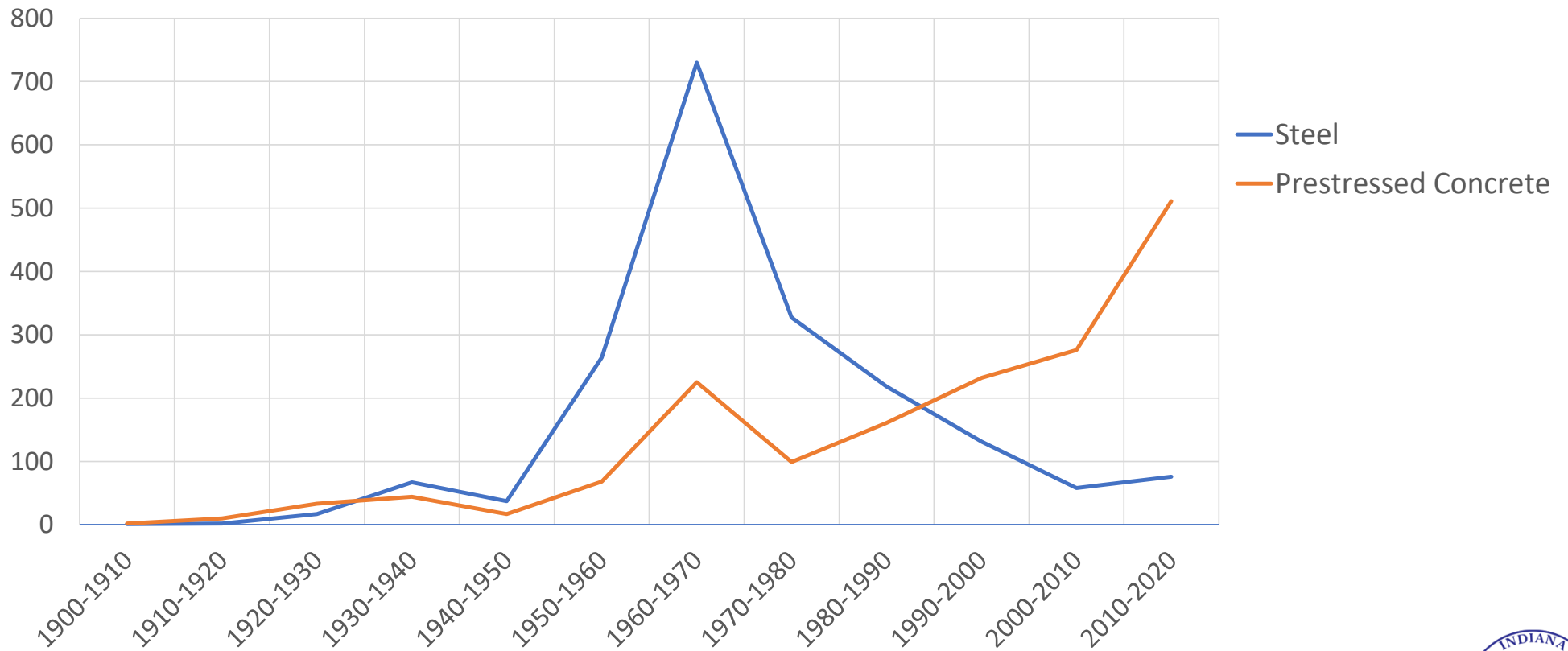


Steel

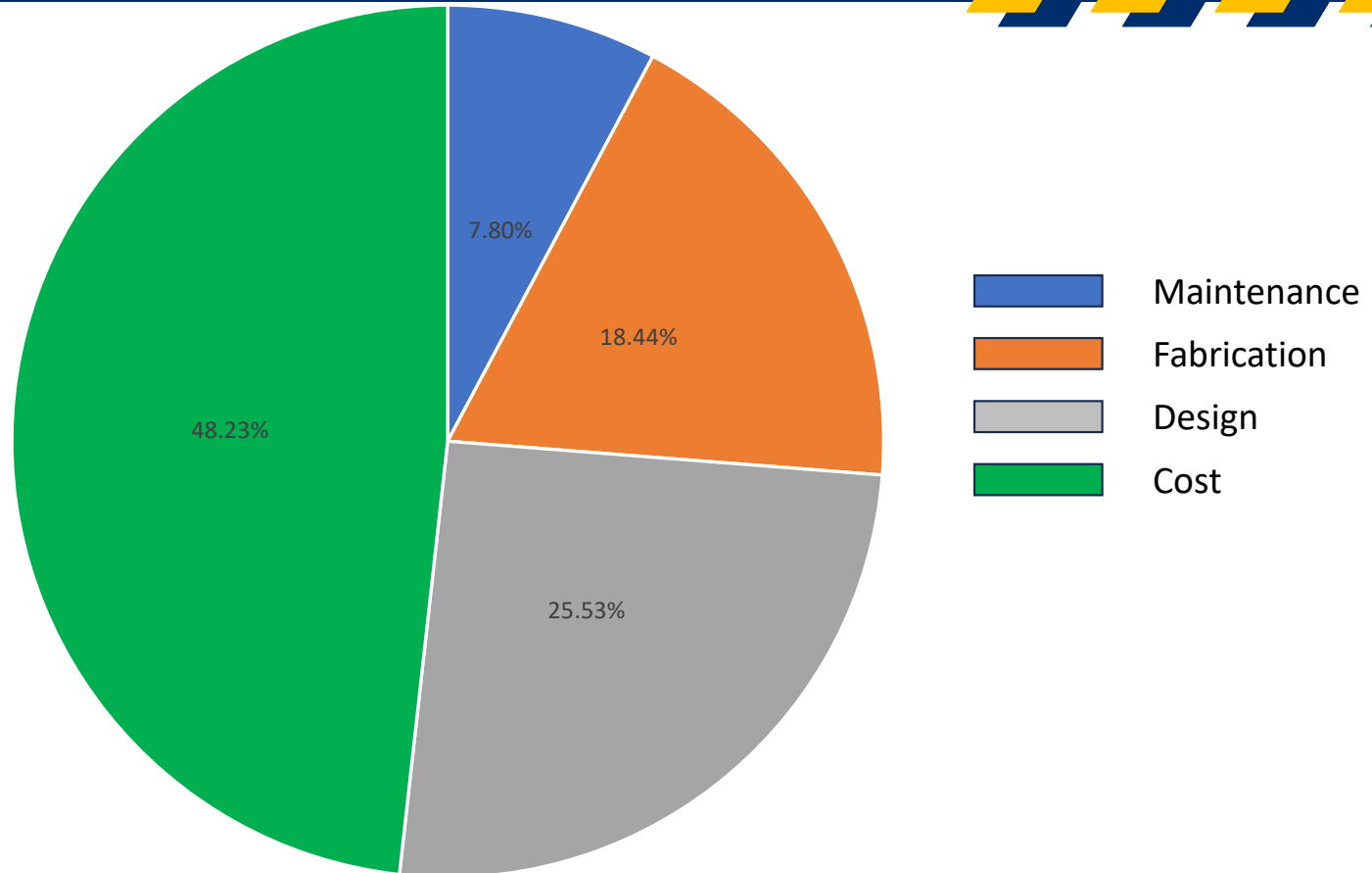


Steel vs. Concrete

Number of Bridges per Year Built



Steel Challenges



A large steel bridge spans across the frame, supported by illuminated concrete piers. A pedestrian walkway with a glass railing runs alongside the bridge deck. In the background, a brick building and trees are visible under a clear blue sky.

INDOT Bridge Conference

Steel Bridge Selection and Design

February 27, 2024

AGENDA

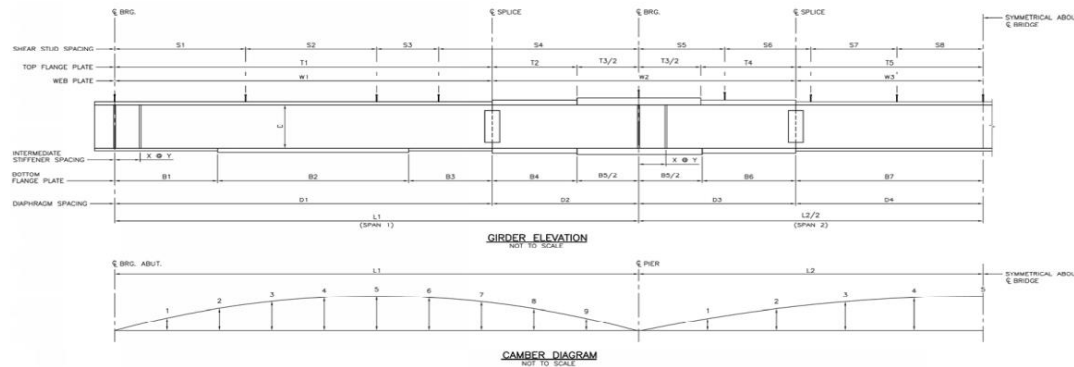
- Navigating Steel Design
- Steel Bridge Options
- Factors to Consider
- Sample Bridge Preliminary Design
- Understanding the Misunderstood



Navigating Steel Design



NSBA Continuous Span Standards



SPAN 1		FLANGE DATA												WEB DATA																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
T1	T2	T3			T4			T5			B1			B2			B3			B4			B5			B6			B7			D	W1	W2	W3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
L1	L2	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	D	W1	W2	W3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
7.8	1.0	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)	W(w)	Th(t)	L(f)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
127	1.50	16	0.75	87	18	1.3125	20	18	1.4375	30	16	0.75	35	16	1.125	87																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
129	1.63	16	0.75	94	18	1.0	22	18	1.8125	26	18	0.875	29	16	0.75	40.5	16	1.25	94																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
140	1.60	16	0.75	105	18	0.9375	21	18	1.75	28	18	1.1875	31	16	0.75	45	16	0.75	30																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
152	1.75	16	0.75	124	18	0.875	24	18	1.9375	36	18	0.875	31	16	0.75	53.5	18	0.875	33																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
164	1.75	16	0.75	126	20	1.0	25	20	2.175	35	20	1.0	36	20	0.75	50	18	0.875	35																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
176	2.25	16	0.75	130	20	1.1875	26	20	2.375	40	20	1.0625	39	16	0.75	53.5	18	0.75	37	18	1.125	65	18	1.125	28	20	1.6875	26	20	2.75	40	20	1.625	39	16	0.9375	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5	84	0.5625	130	0.5625	53.5</

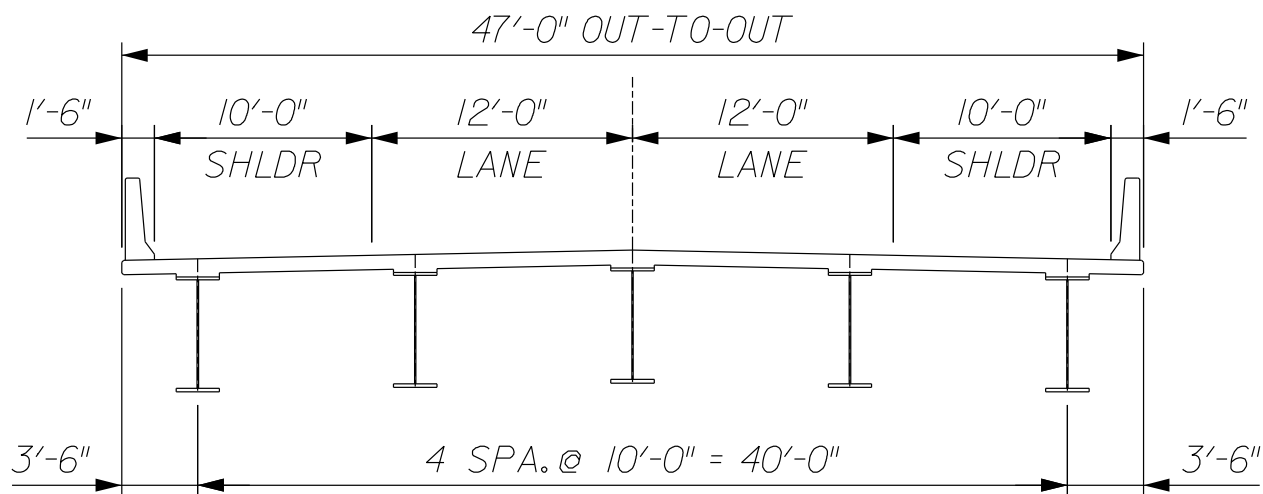
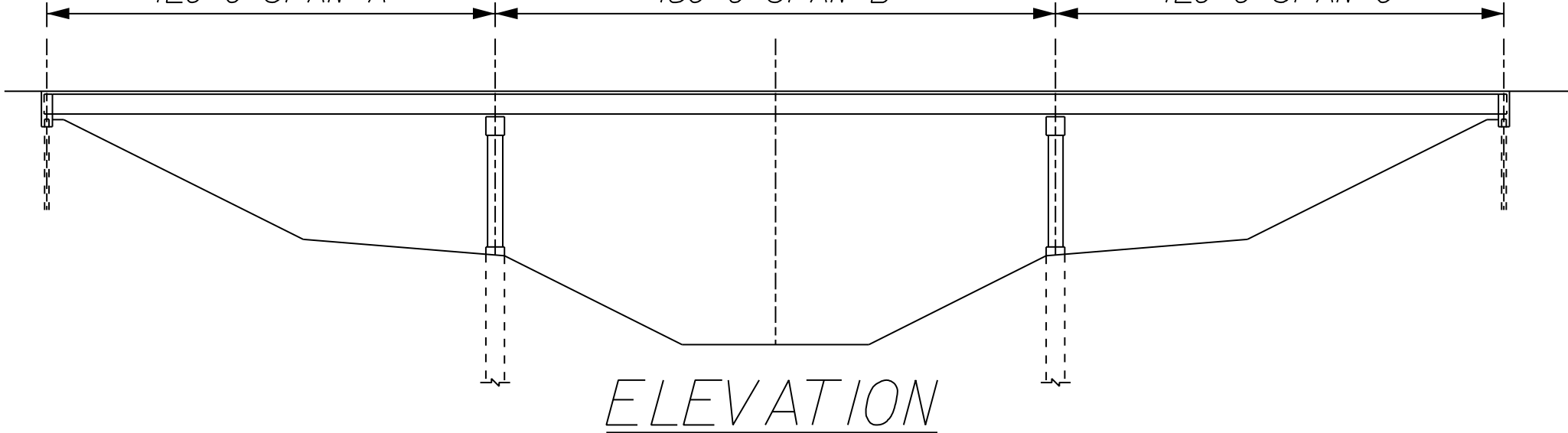


Factors to Consider

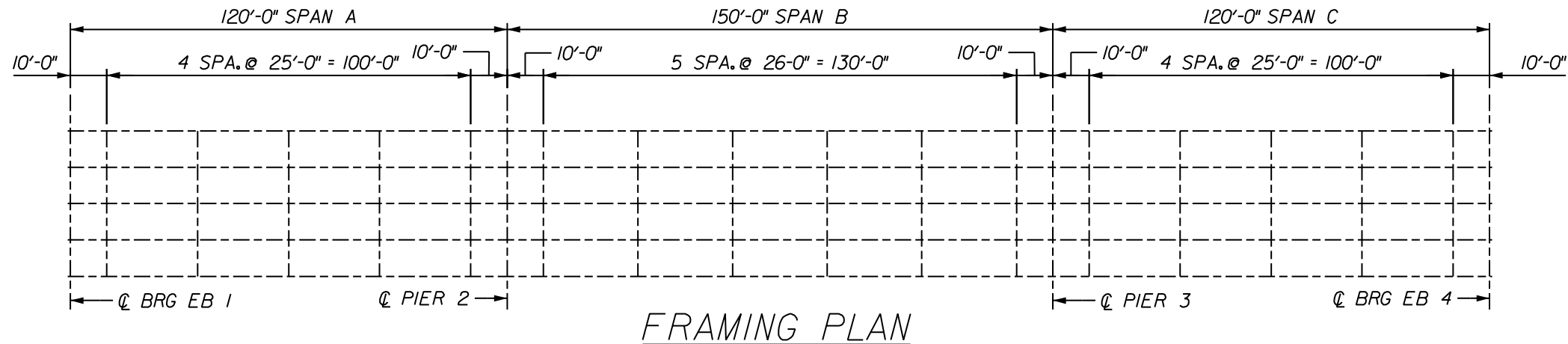
- Span Configuration
 - Simple Waterway or Grade Separation
 - Long Waterway or System Interchange Flyover Ramp
- Design
 - Beam/Girder Lines
 - Substructure Dimensions, Reinforcing, & Foundations
- Profile & Right of Way
- Life Cycle
 - Painted
 - Weathering, Galvanized or Metallized

Sample Bridge

120'-0" SPAN A 150'-0" SPAN B 120'-0" SPAN C

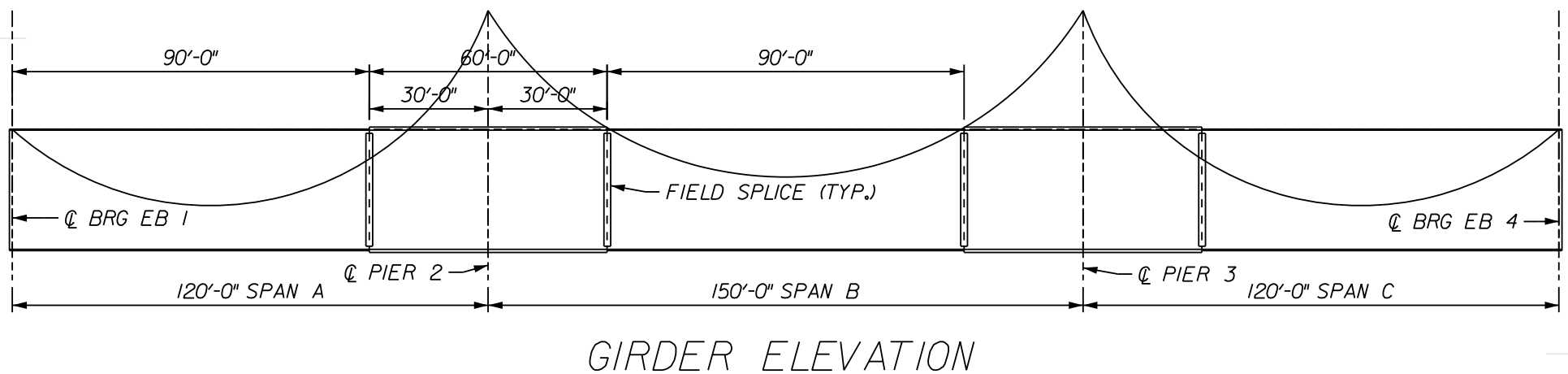


Framing Plan & Field Splice Locations

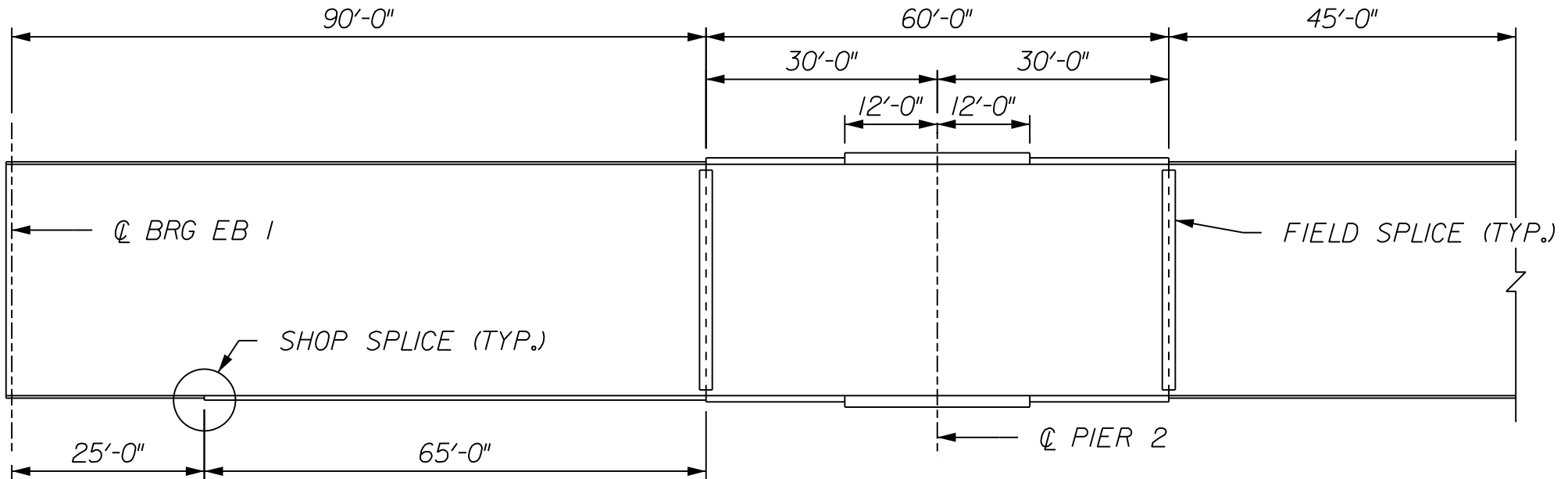


Intermediate Diaphragm Spacing: IDM 407-5.03(01) & AASHTO 6.7.4

Limit field sections to 125 feet maximum
(Up to 150 feet or more for spans approaching 300 feet)

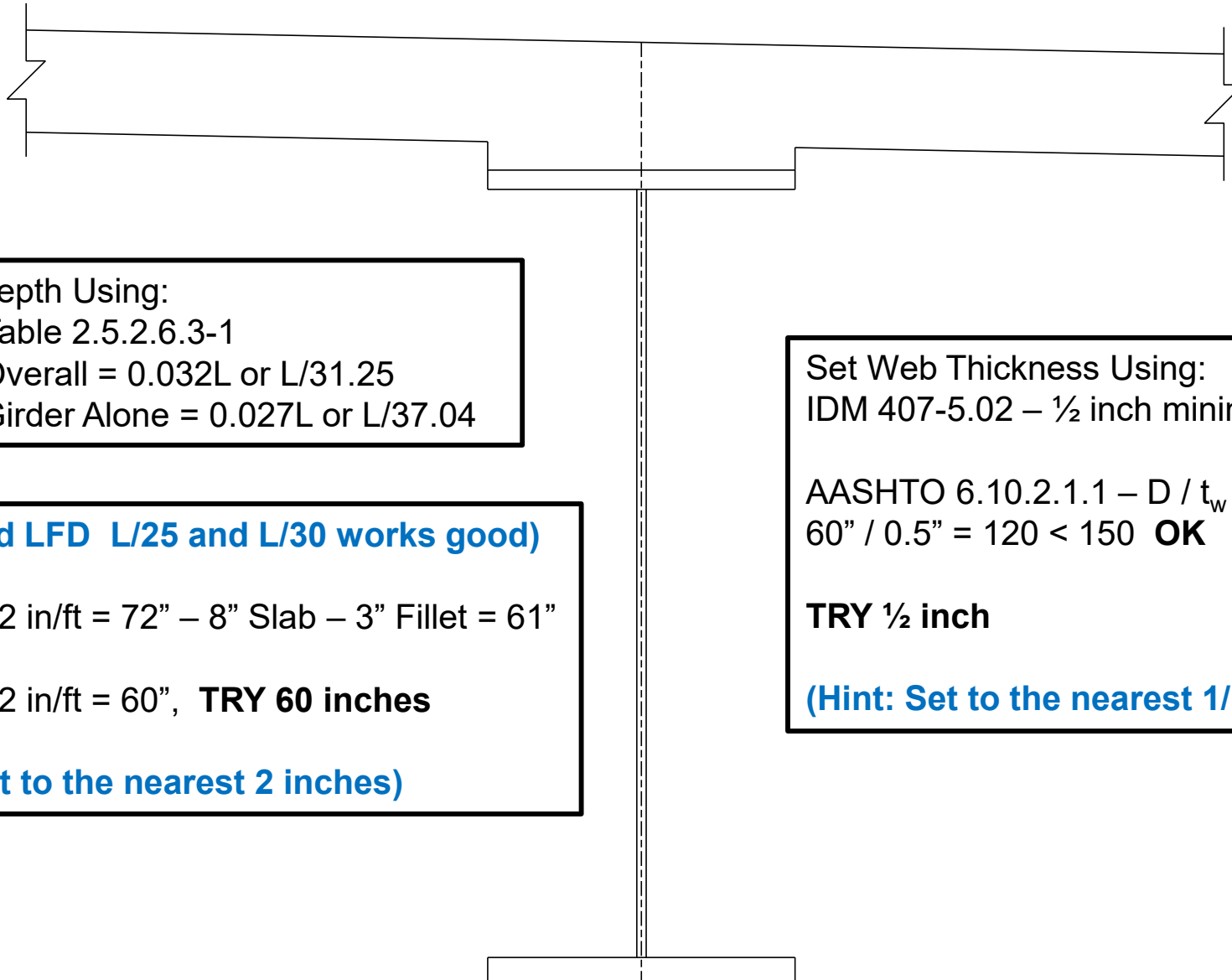


Shop Splice & Flange Transition Locations



HALF GIRDER ELEVATION

Preliminary Sizing of Girder - Web



Set Web Depth Using:
AASHTO Table 2.5.2.6.3-1
Minimum Overall = $0.032L$ or $L/31.25$
Minimum Girder Alone = $0.027L$ or $L/37.04$

(Hint 1: Old LFD $L/25$ and $L/30$ works good)

$150'/25 \times 12 \text{ in/ft} = 72'' - 8'' \text{ Slab} - 3'' \text{ Fillet} = 61''$

$150'/30 \times 12 \text{ in/ft} = 60''$, **TRY 60 inches**

(Hint 2: Set to the nearest 2 inches)

Set Web Thickness Using:
IDM 407-5.02 – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch minimum

AASHTO 6.10.2.1.1 – $D / t_w \leq 150$
 $60'' / 0.5'' = 120 < 150$ **OK**

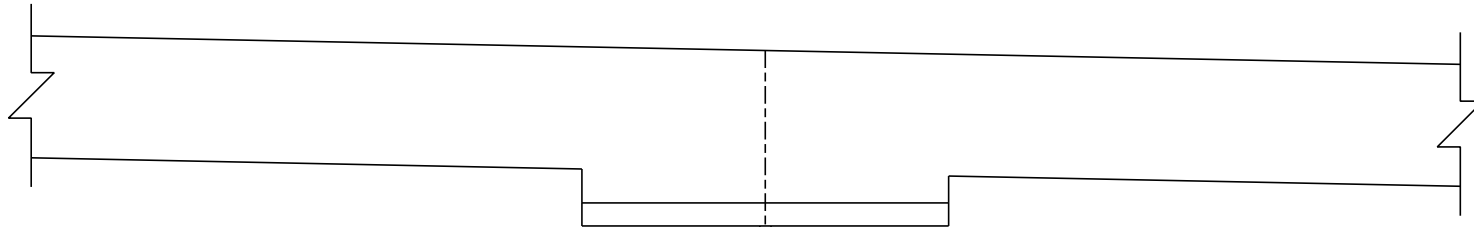
TRY $\frac{1}{2}$ inch

(Hint: Set to the nearest 1/16 inch)

Preliminary Sizing of Girder - Web



Preliminary Sizing of Girder - Flanges



Set Flange Width Using:
AASHTO 6.10.2.2-2 – $b_f \geq D / 6$
($D / 4$ for curved girder)

$60'' / 6 = 10$ inches; however, 12-inch min. is preferred per IDM 407-1.02(04) & others

AASHTO C6.10.2.2: $b_{fc} \geq L/85$

$90' / 85 \times 12 \text{ in/ft} = 12.70$ inches

TRY 14 inches

(Hint: Set to the nearest 2 inches and within the same field section use the same width)

Set Flange Thickness Using:
IDM 407-5.02 – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch minimum
(1 inch minimum for curved girder)

AASHTO 6.10.2.2-1 – $b_f / (2 * t_f) \leq 12$

$14'' / (2 * 0.75) = 9.33 < 12$ **OK**

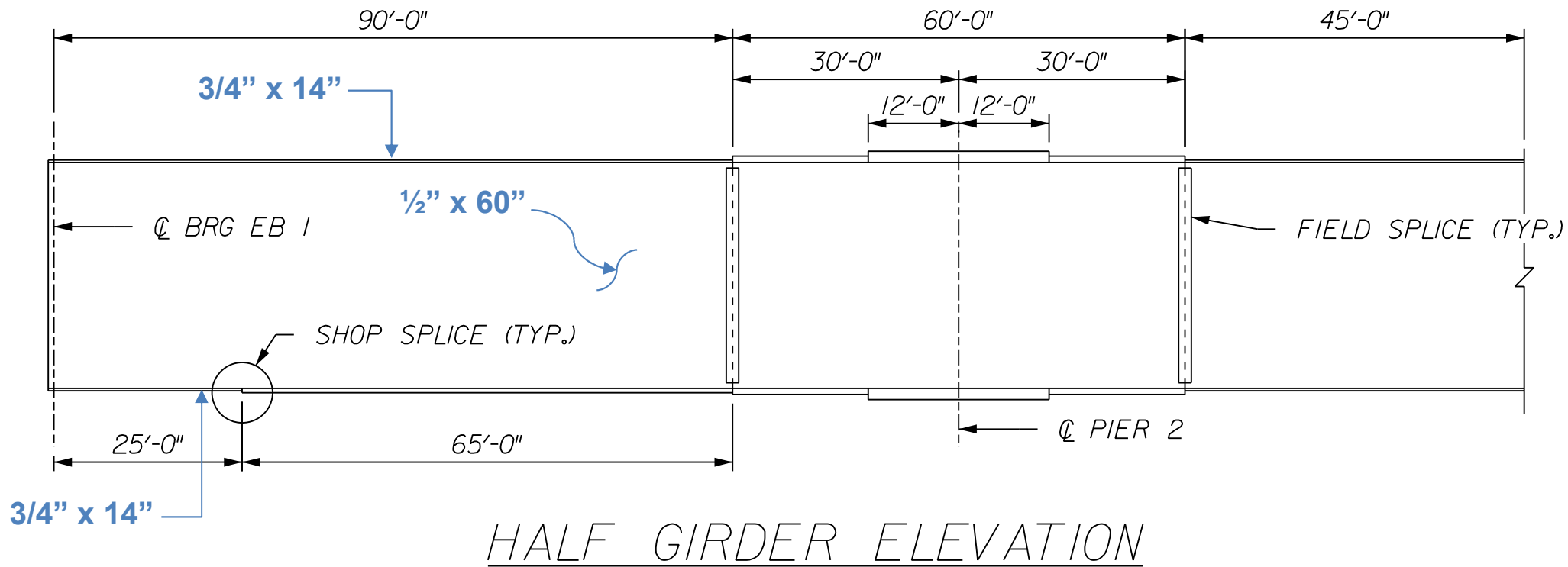
& 6.10.2.2-3 – $t_f \geq 1.1 * t_w$

0.75 inches $> 1.1 * 0.5 = 0.55$ inches **OK**

(Hint: Set to the nearest 1/8 inch and do not use a difference in area greater than 2 times)



Minimum Plate Sizes



Preliminary Girder Sizing – Bearing Stiffeners

Set Bearing Stiffener Width:
Place near narrowest flange width and round down to nearest ¼ inch

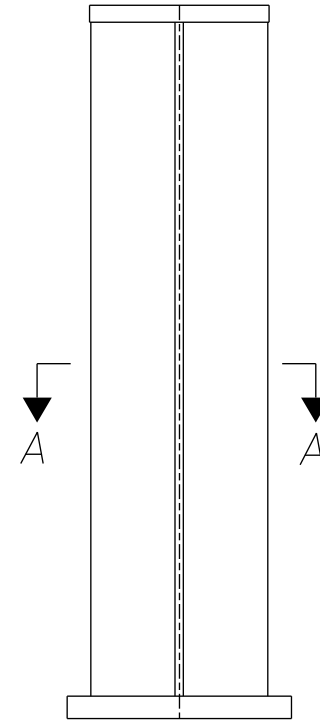
Set Bearing Stiffener Thickness Using:
IDM 407-5.02 – ½ inch minimum

AASHTO 6.10.11.2.2 –
 $t_p \leq b_t / 0.48 * \sqrt{(E / F_{ys})}$

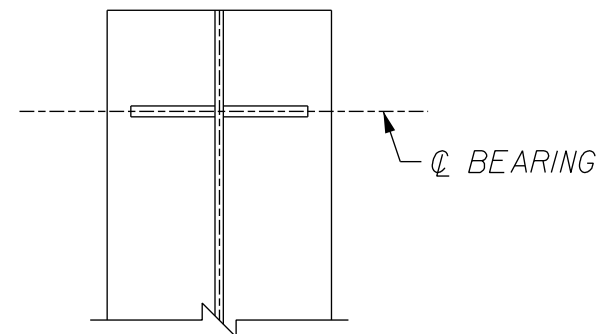
7 inches / $0.48 * \sqrt{(29,000 / 50)} = 0.606$ inches

TRY 0.625 inches or 5/8 inch, OK

(Hint: Set to the nearest 1/8 inch)



BEARING STIFFENER DETAIL



SECTION A-A

Preliminary Girder Sizing – Bearing Stiffeners



BEAM ENDS AND BEARING STIFFENERS SHALL BE FABRICATED SUCH THAT THEY ARE VERTICAL UNDER FULL DEAD LOAD.



Preliminary Girder Sizing – Transverse Stiffeners



Set Transverse Stiffener/Connection Plate Width:

IDM 407-5.03(03) – Not less than 5 inches

AASHTO 6.10.11.1.2-1

$$b_t \geq 2.0 + D / 30$$

5 inches $> 2.0 + 60'' / 30 = 4$ inches **OK**

(Hint: Use the minimum preliminarily and set to the nearest 1/4 inch)

Set Transverse Stiffener/Connection Plate Thickness:

IDM 407-5.02 – 1/2 inch minimum

AASHTO 6.10.11.1.2-2

$$16 * t_p \geq b_t \geq b_f / 4$$

$16 * 1/2 = 8$ inches ≥ 5 inches $\geq 14'' / 4 = 3.5$ inches **OK**

(Hint: Set to the nearest 1/8 inch)

Preliminary Girder Sizing – Intermediate Diaphragms



Next Steps

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK | SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING | DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

CLRoadOverPleasantCreekNoSidewalk.lbsx - LEAP Bridge Steel CONNECT Edition

Home Mode ProjectWise Bentley Cloud Services OpenBridge Modeler

Status Bar Bridge Definition Bridge Tree View Bridge Properties Add Bridge Remove Bridge Rename Bridge Refresh Bridge AASHTO LRFD-8 2017 State Specifications None Appurtenance Library Vehicle Library Material Library DTM: US (English) Save DGN Generate Drawings Input Data Deck Elevation Quantities Diagram Design Tutorials Help RSS Feeds

CSI COMPUTERS & STRUCTURES, INC. STRUCTURAL AND EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING SOFTWARE

HOME PRODUCTS SALES

HOME / CSIBRIDGE / OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW FEATURES COMPARE LEVELS VIDEOS ENHANCEMENTS SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS TRIAL

LRFD SIMON SOFTWARE SOLUTION FOR PRELIMINARY BRIDGE DESIGN

NSBA NATIONAL STEEL BRIDGE ALLIANCE FOUNDED 1995

SP NSBASPLICE SOFTWARE SOLUTION FOR SPLICE DESIGN

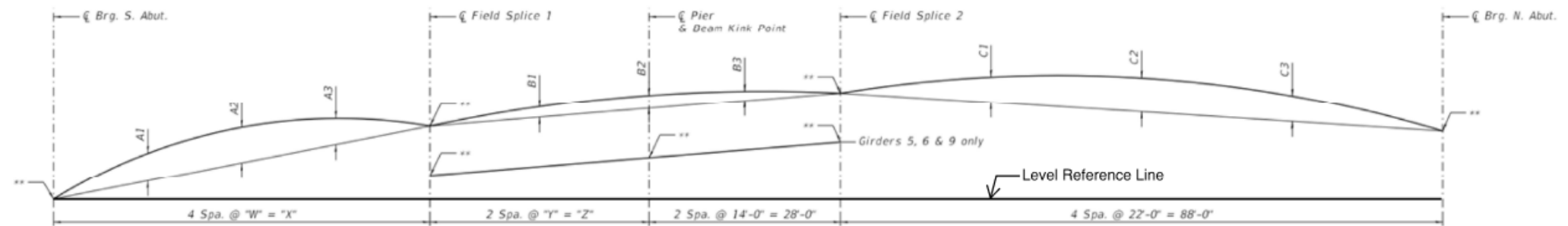
Point of Interest Locations Deck Placement Sequence Loads Analysis Design Rating Substructure Design/Analysis

Select View

ANALYSIS and LOADING in Table 1) with recycling for changes in sections due to design;

2. **Design** — Determination of the size of steel structural components based on a user controlled design sequence leading to either minimum cost or weight;
3. **Code Check** — Complete and detailed code check of all steel or reinforced concrete beam components which reference specific AASHTO equation

Understanding the Misunderstood



CAMBER DIAGRAM - GIRDERS 5 THRU 9

** Top of Web Elevations

**CAMBER DIMENSIONS
GIRDERS 5 THRU 9**

Girder	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	"W"	"X"	"Y"	"Z"
5	1 1/2"	1 1/2"	1 1/2"	0"	0"	0"	3 1/2"	5 1/2"	3 1/2"	13'-9 1/2"	55'-0 1/2"	±16'-1 1/2"	32'-0 1/2"
6	1 1/2"	1 1/2"	1 1/2"	0"	0"	0"	3 1/2"	5 1/2"	3 1/2"	13'-9 1/2"	55'-0 1/2"	±16'-0 1/2"	32'-0 1/2"
7	1 1/2"	1 1/2"	1 1/2"	1/2"	3/4"	1/2"	3 1/2"	5 1/2"	3 1/2"	±13'-9 1/2"	55'-1 1/2"	±16'-0 1/2"	32'-0 1 1/2"
8	1 1/2"	2"	1 1/2"	1/2"	3/4"	1/2"	3 1/2"	5 1/2"	3 1/2"	±13'-9 1/2"	55'-2 1/2"	±16'-0 1/2"	32'-1 1/2"
9	1 3/8"	2 1/2"	1 1/2"	0"	0"	0"	4"	5 1/2"	3 1/2"	13'-10"	55'-4"	±16'-1 1/2"	32'-2 1/2"

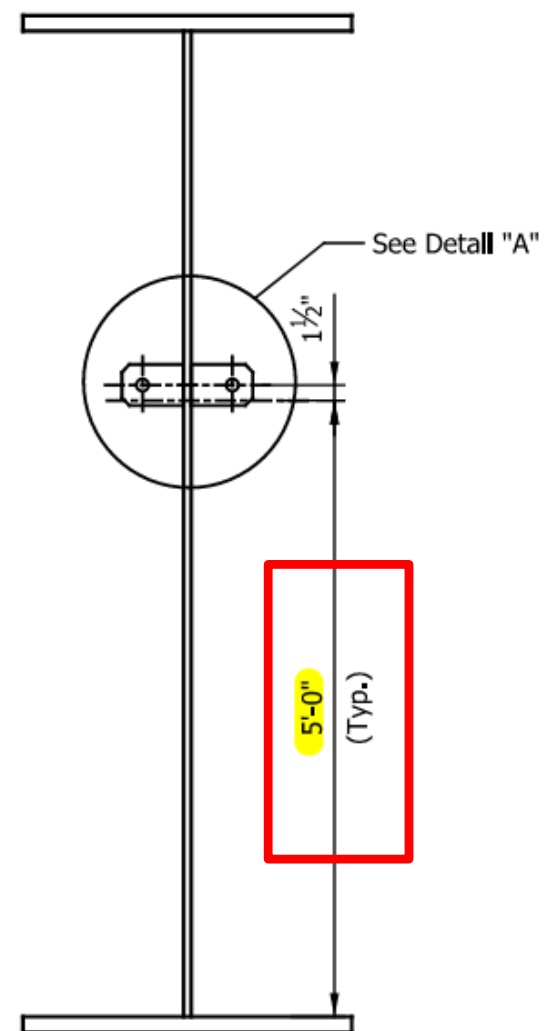
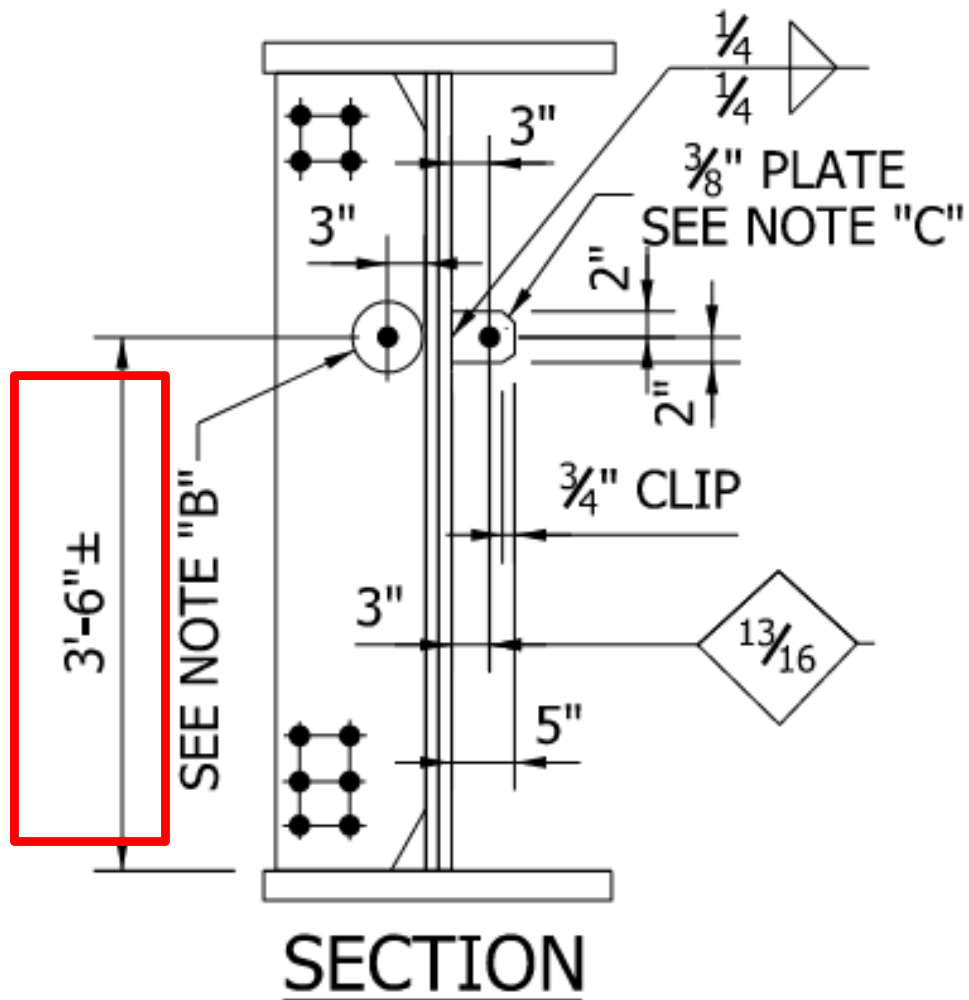
TOP OF WEB ELEVATIONS *					
Girder	℄ Brg. S. Abut.	℄ Splice 1	℄ Pier	℄ Splice 2	℄ Brg. N. Abut.
1	701.55	702.51	702.84	703.13	702.53
2	701.68	702.65	702.98	703.27	702.67
3	701.81	702.80	703.13	703.41	702.82
4	701.94	702.94	703.27	703.56	702.97
5	701.94	702.88	703.20	703.49	702.90
6	701.73	702.72	703.05	703.34	702.75
7	701.53	702.56	702.96	703.20	702.61
8	701.33	702.45	702.86	703.10	702.51
9	701.42	702.57	702.91	703.21	702.62

* For fabrication only

BLOCKING DIAGRAM

NO LOAD CAMBER AND REAMING DIAGRAM (SKETCH SHOWN FOR CREST VERTICAL CURVE)

Understanding the Misunderstood

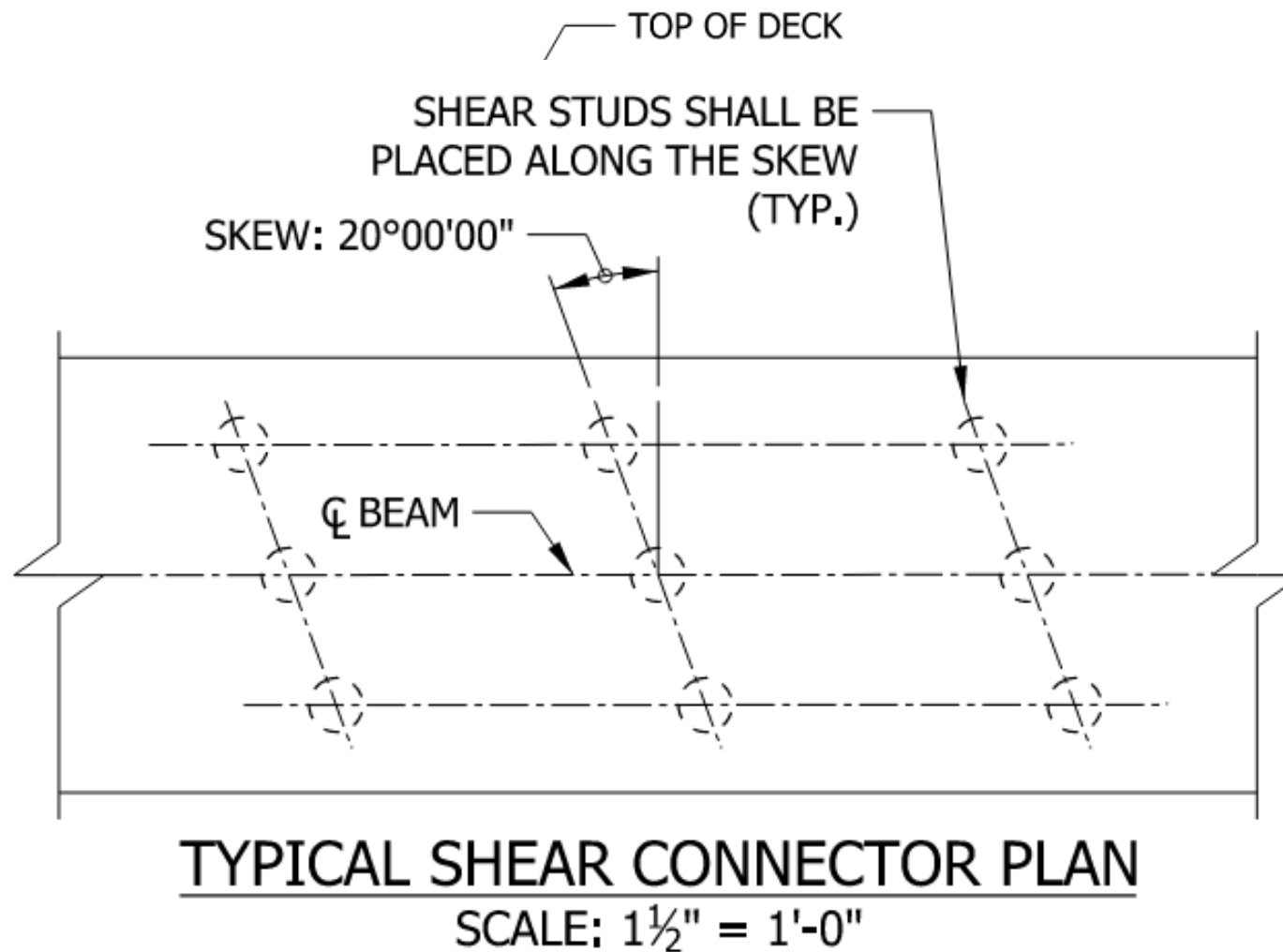


IDM Figure 407-1D

SECTION A-A

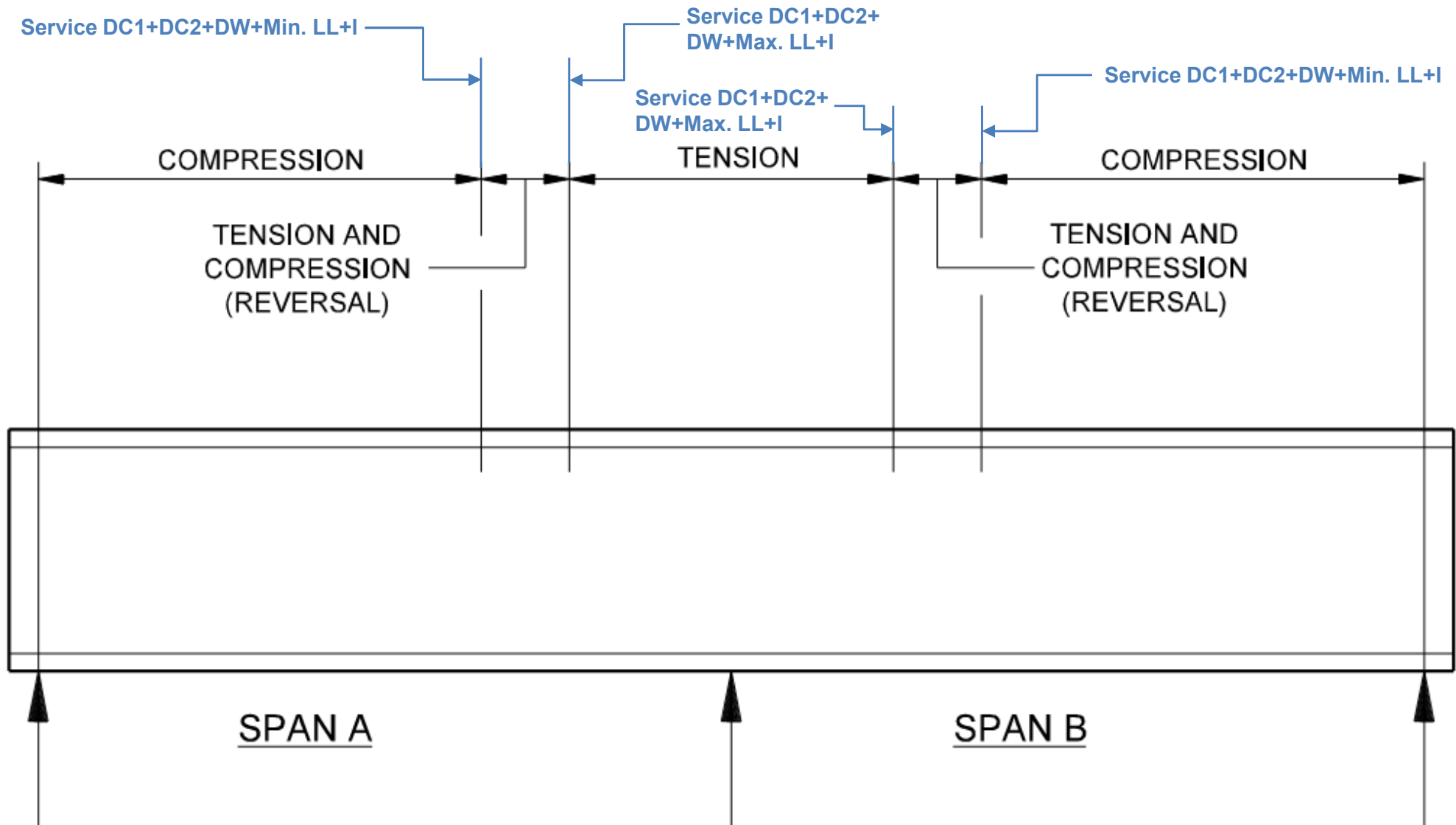
Handrail to Run the Length of the Girder and May Be Discontinuous at splice locations. Interior Girder Elevation Shown, Handrail Only on Inside Face of Exterior Girders

Understanding the Misunderstood



3. CONTRACTOR SHALL USE TALLER WELDED SHEAR STUDS AS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN 2" MIN. EMBEDMENT INTO THE SLAB.

Understanding the Misunderstood



Steel Design Doesn't Have to be Challenging



QUESTIONS?



STRUCTURAL STEEL A FABRICATORS PERSPECTIVE



2024 INDOT Bridge Design Conference

Speaker:
Justin Cowan P.E.
Business Development Manager
Wabash Steel Company, LLC

WABASH >



AISC
CERTIFIED
FABRICATOR
& ERECTOR

LET'S TALK STRUCTURAL STEEL

- *What is Structural Steel?*
- *Where does Structural Steel come from?*
- *How is Structural Steel made?*
- *Why Steel?*
- *How much does Structural Steel cost?*
- *Who can help?*





WHAT IS STRUCTURAL STEEL?

STRUCTURAL STEEL (BRIDGES)

It depends!

Railroad Thru-Girder

Rolled Beam

Tied-Arch

Kinked Plate Girder

Plate Girder

Bascule

Cantilever

Curved Tub Girder

Built-Up Press-Brake Tub Girder

Arch

Truss

Cable-Stay

Thru-Girder

Kinked Beam

Pedestrian

Curved Plate Girder

Press Brake Formed Tub Girder

Welded Plate Tub Girder

You get the point!



WABASH ➤



WABASH 



WABASH 

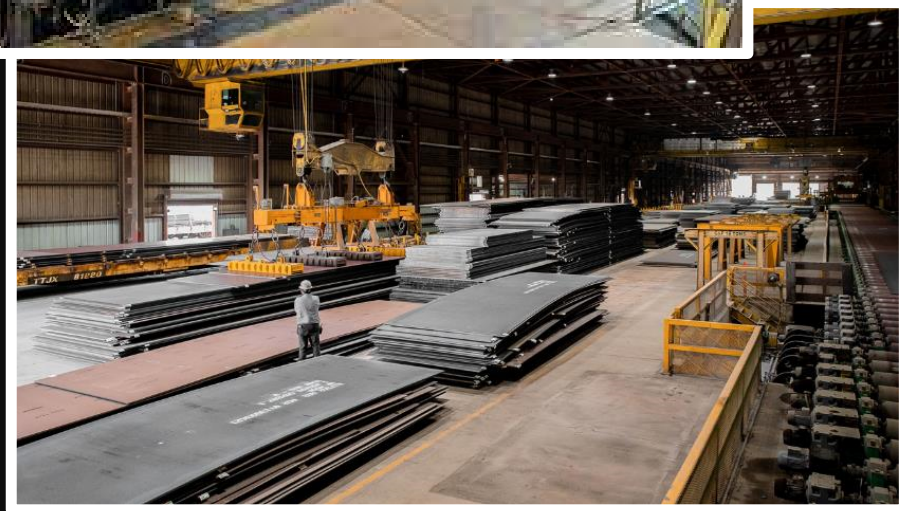


WABASH 

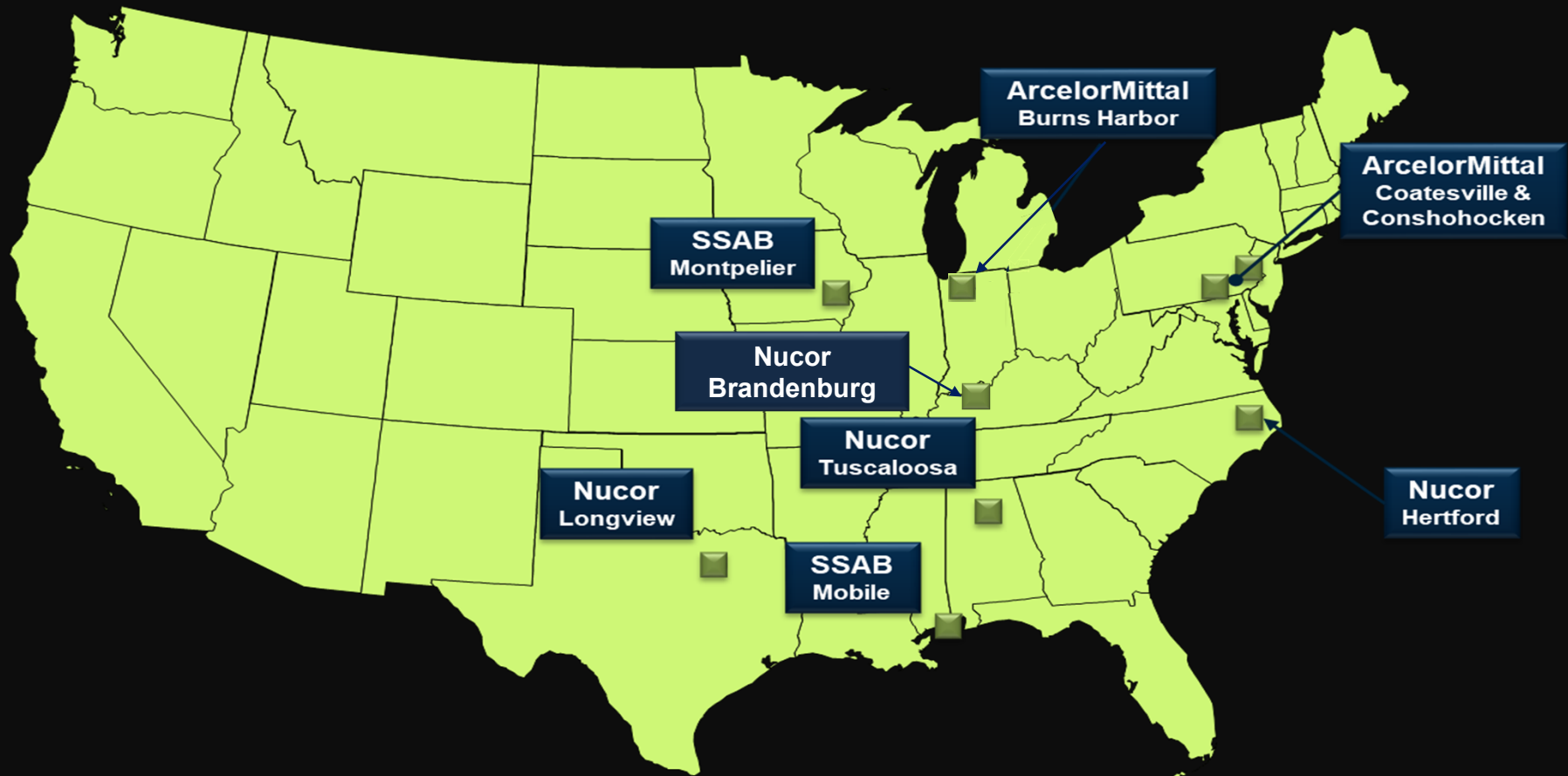
WHERE?



WHERE IT ALL BEGINS – STEEL MILLS



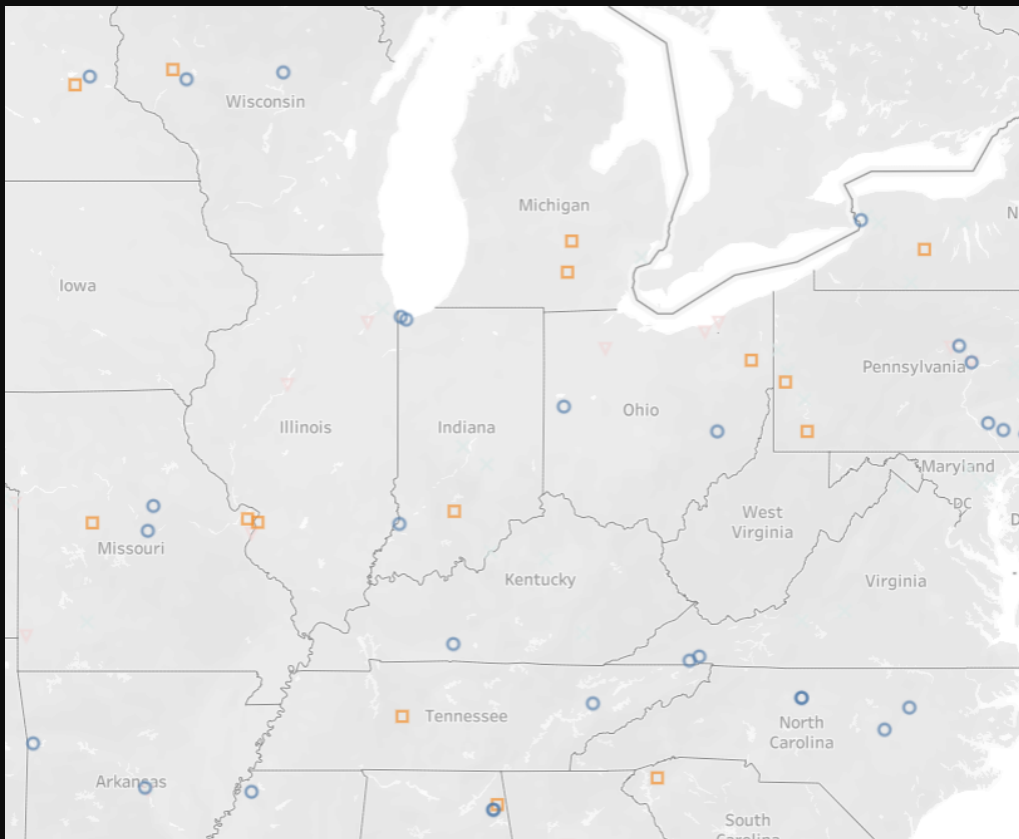
STEEL MILLS – Structural Plate



STEEL MILLS – Structural Shape



FABRICATORS IN THE AREA



Located in Indiana

***Indiana Steel & Engineering Corporation
Industrial Steel Construction, Inc.
Munster Steel Company, Inc.
Wabash Steel Company, LLC***

Nearby that Service Indiana

***Delong's, Inc.
High Steel Structures, Inc.
Kard Welding, Inc.
Stupp Bridge Company
Veritas Steel
W&W/AFCO Steel
Others....***

Certified Bridge Fabricati...

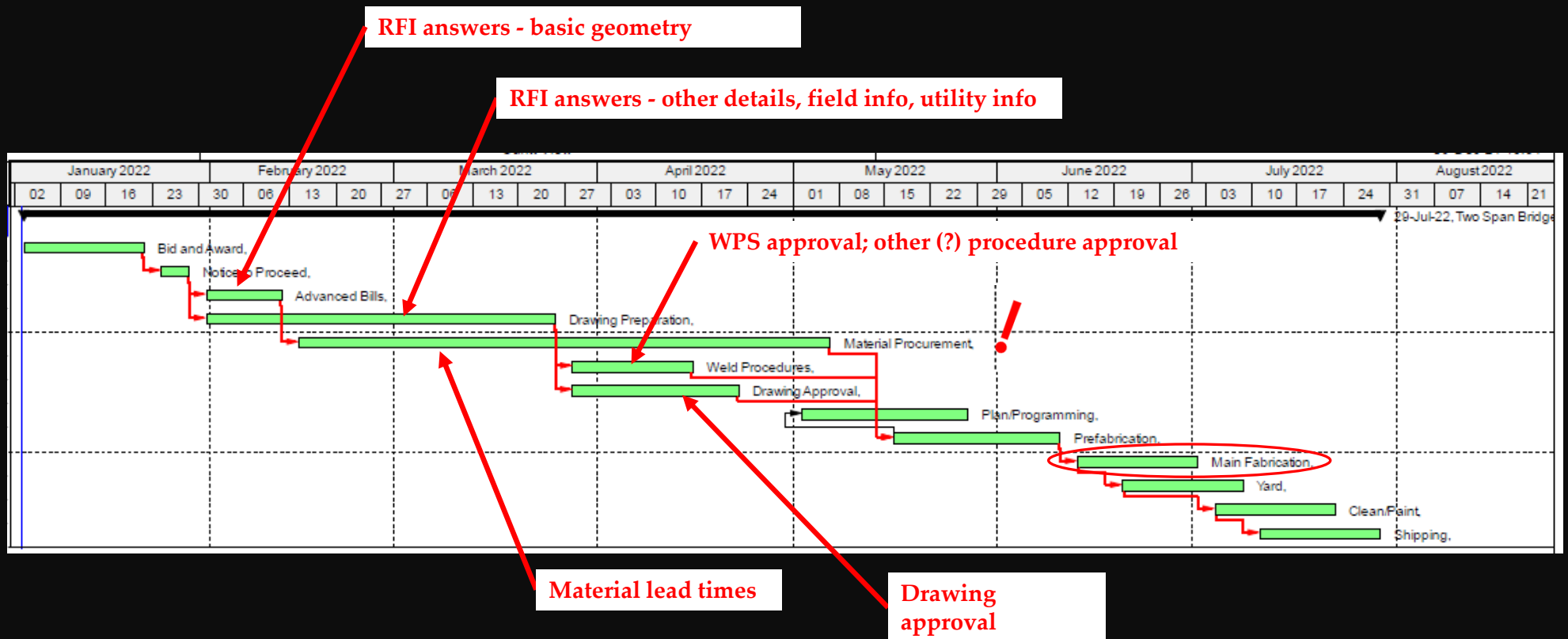
- Advanced
- Intermediate
- Simple
- Other

<https://www.aisc.org/nsba/get-involved/certified-bridge-members/>

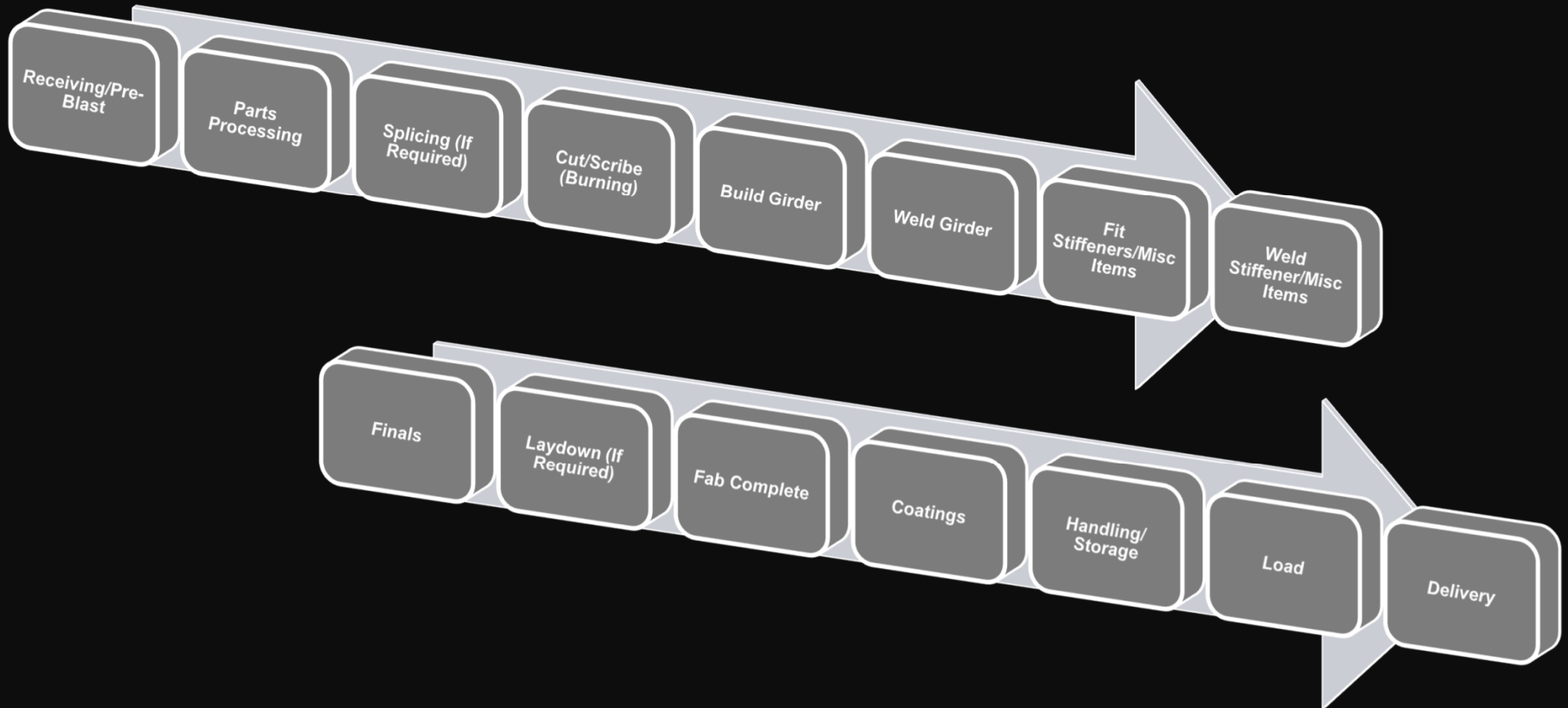
A close-up photograph of a welder's hands holding a torch, creating a bright orange and yellow flame and a shower of sparks. The welder is wearing a dark jacket. A large white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered over the image, containing the text "How It's Made" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background is dark, and the sparks are bright and numerous.

How It's Made

PROJECT LIFE CYCLE (NTP TO DELIVERY)



FABRICATION - PLATE GIRDER EXAMPLE





RECEIVING

➤ ***Media Blast Raw Material Immediately Prior to Fabrication***



PRE-BLAST



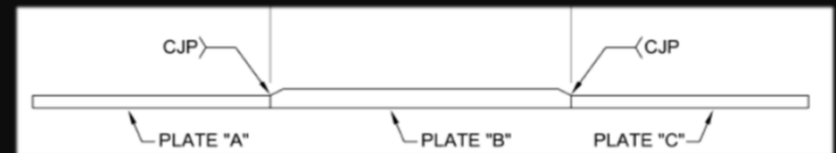
PARTS PROCESSING – Misc Parts

- *Plasma & CNC programming is used to process many miscellaneous parts within a Bridge project*
- *Stiffeners, splice plates, gusset plates, XF parts, etc.*



PARTS PROCESSING – Misc Parts

- *Most commonly butt welds which are required where girder lengths exceed mill rolling limits*
- *Also required when thicknesses vary along the girder*
- *CJP Weld is used and subjected to NDT*



SPLICING (AS REQUIRED)



➤ *Occasionally required due to Girder Shape*

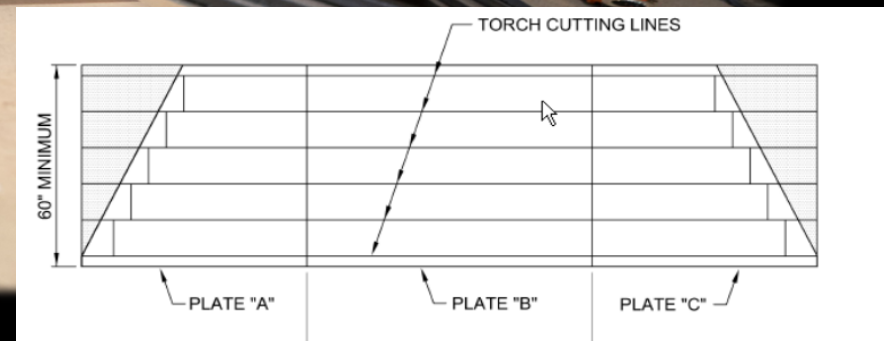


SPLICING (AS REQUIRED)



➤ *Plasma Cut Webs with Required Design Camber*

CUT/SCRIBE (BURNING) - Webs



➤ *Cut Flanges with Oxy-Fuel Torches*

CUT/SCRIBE (BURNING) - Flanges



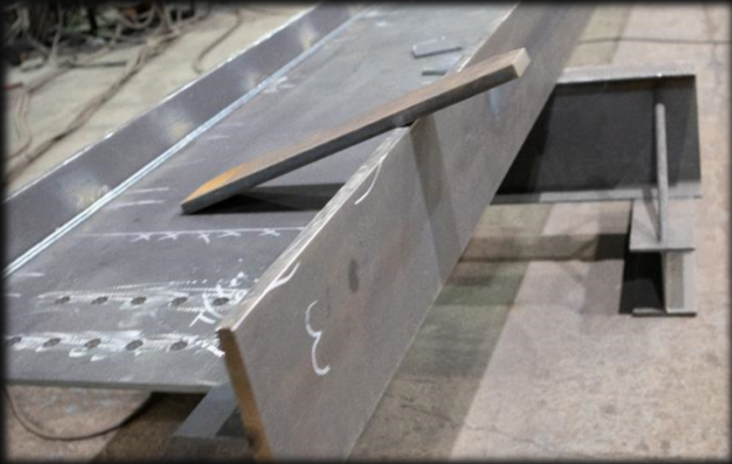
- *Properly position the Web & Flanges and tack weld in place to create the Girder shape*
- *Not only are the Web & Flange pieces heavy, but they are also flexible. It is only after the girder is assembled that some rigidity is attained.*

BUILD GIRDER

➤ *After girder is assembled, they are welded together with Submerged Arc Welding (SAW)*



WELD GIRDER



- *Stiffeners are placed at their appropriate position and tacked into place.*
- *Certain fit conditions (tight fit or mill to bear) will be accomplished at this stage*

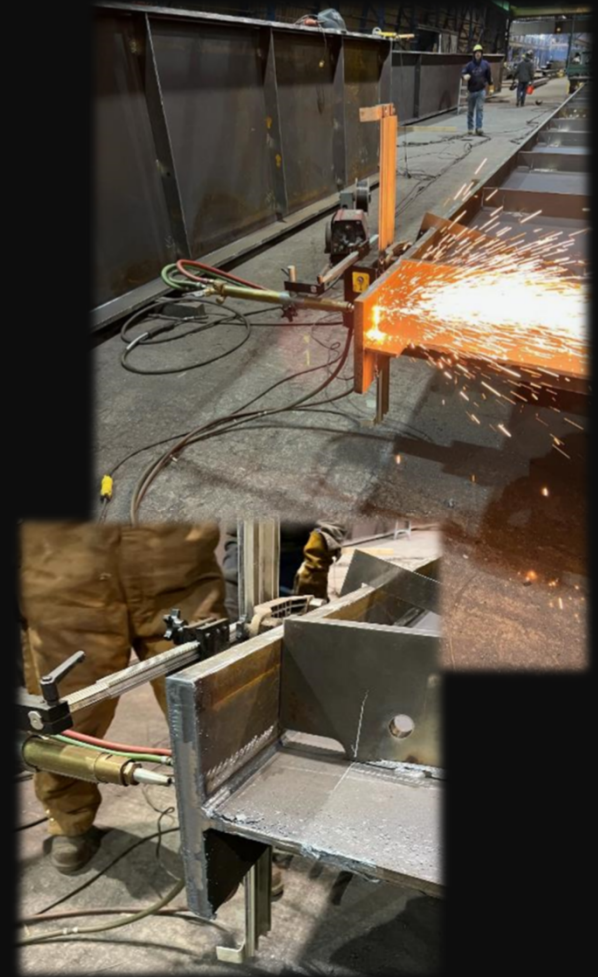
FIT STIFFENER/MISC ITEMS

➤ *After all stiffeners are in place, the required design welds are performed.*



WELD STIFFENER/MISC ITEMS

- *After stiffeners have been welded, any ancillary pieces are added to the girder. Girder ends are trimmed to final geometry.*
- *Often includes holes in webs for connections for abutment reinforcing and fabrication associated with bearing connections.*
- *Taller girders may have handrail installed.*
- *Once all fabrication and NDT is completed, a final geometry check is performed. Commonly includes Camber/Sweep checks*



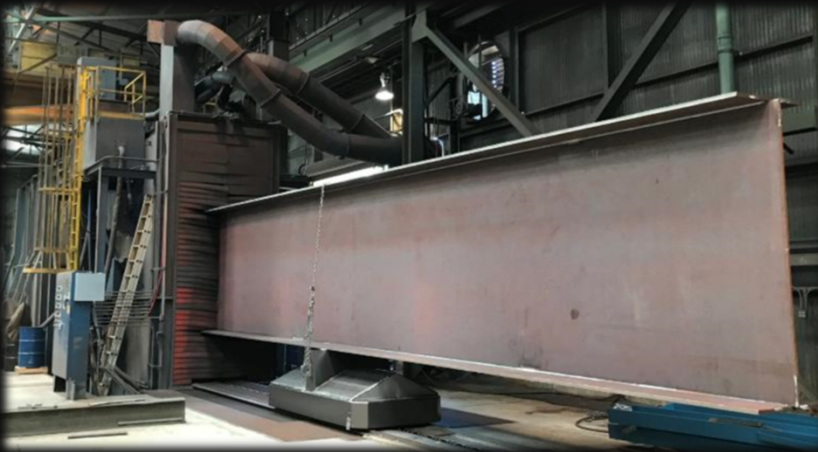
FINALS



➤ *Laydown is one method used to ensure proper fit of field splices. (Methods vary by fabricator's equipment)*

LAYDOWN (AS REQUIRED)

- *After fabrication is completed, steel superstructure will receive surface preparation.*
- *Blast cleaning is most commonly utilized, but grinding is used where appropriate*
- *Surface preparation parameters are dependent on final coating*



FAB COMPLETE

- *INDOT projects most commonly require shop applied primer coat.*
- *Some Owner's request entire paint system to be applied in the fabrication shop with field applied touch-up procedure.*
- *Coatings may also include Galvanization or Metalizing.*



Note: Most fabricators prefer to minimize painting efforts, so Weathering Steel (UWS) is strongly encouraged and traditionally most cost effective for the owner

COATINGS (AS REQUIRED)



HANDLING/STORAGE



LOADING & DELIVERY



WHY STRUCTURAL STEEL?

Resilience



100-year steel bridges have been built for over 100 years. Many notable, historic, and revered bridges have been built with steel: Golden Gate Bridge, Eads Bridge, and the Brooklyn Bridge to name a few. With appropriate maintenance, these 100-year bridges have proven their resiliency to harsh environmental conditions and extreme events. Steel bridges of today are built with steel materials, coatings, and fabrication techniques that have the potential to be even more resilient than bridges built 100 years ago.

In-Service Inspectability



Steel bridges can be visually inspected, as all major load-carrying components are easily accessible by bridge inspectors to efficiently evaluate their in-service condition. Main-load carrying components are not hidden from the bridge inspector's eyes, and typically do not require costly specialized equipment or non-destructive testing methods to determine their condition. Bridge inspectors are able to touch the main load-carrying components and obtain physical measurements of any possible deterioration, providing evaluators the data necessary to appropriately load rate the structure.

Accelerated Construction Schedule



Fabricated off-site with geometrically controlled equipment, structural steel has the advantage of being ready to erect as soon as it reaches the bridge site. Reinforcement and formwork installation is not required. Structural steel erection is not limited to a specific temperature range. Structural steel is often lighter than other materials for the same span, resulting in smaller or fewer erection cranes. The use of structural steel for a bridge project accelerates construction and reduces on-site labor requirements and overall project costs.

Complex Geometries



Steel girders and other bridge components can meet the challenges for numerous complex geometrical configurations, from the simple to the complex. Steel bridges have the advantage of being able to handle tight curves, large skew, variable width decks, single-point urban interchanges, as well as entrance and exit ramp bifurcations that are a necessity within limited owner right-of-way spaces.

Unmatched Span-to-Depth Ratio



The recommended minimum depth for a continuous steel girder is 33% shallower than the recommendation for precast concrete. Combine these shallower girders with the fact that steel can span crossings well over 500 feet, and you have enormous benefits--in the form of lower initial construction costs now and lower maintenance and inspection costs in the future.

Reduced Waste and Pollution



On average, structural steel produced in the U.S. contains at least 93% recycled content, and 100% of a structural steel frame can be recycled into new steel products. Steel's high strength-to-weight ratio coupled with a low carbon footprint-1.16 tons of CO₂ per ton of fabricated hot-rolled steel-results in an overall reduction of the embodied carbon of a typical structure compared to other framing materials. Simply stated, waste and environmental impacts are minimized when steel is used.

Reliability and Redundancy



Steel bridges achieve reliability through redundant design and construction practices. Effective and efficient redundancy can be achieved through system or member-level mechanisms using engineered damage tolerances that can be coupled with the inspection interval of the bridge. Additionally, exposed tension elements of in-service steel bridges improve the probability of damage detection during routine visual inspections, further increasing safety and reliability.

Lightweight Superstructure



Superstructures for steel bridges are generally lighter than other building materials which typically result in smaller and less costly foundations. Also, lighter superstructures typically result in reduced seismic forces which can be a major advantage in high seismic regions.

Future Modification and Adaptability



Structural steel bridge components can be strengthened and adapted if the need arises in the future to address increased live loadings, new live loadings, roadway widenings, or other changes in configuration. Other materials do not have the same adaptability and oftentimes require replacement for new loadings or changes in configuration.

Maintainability and Repairability



When necessary, steel bridges can be efficiently repaired and remain in service, and not require complete replacement. Components can be strengthened with additional steel, or components can be removed and replaced without removing the bridge permanently from service. Impacts and damage from over height vehicles below the bridge are often easily corrected with well-documented heat-straightening techniques. Maintenance, repairs, and rehabilitation of a steel bridge can often occur with all or a portion of traffic maintained on the structure, while extending the in-service usefulness of the existing bridge.

Workhorse Bridges



Steel bridges offer owners opportunities in the short span, typical overpass, workhorse bridge market as well. Steel bridges can provide a cost-effective solution for short spans, utilizing standard rolled sections or standard plate girders, as well as modern coating systems. When a quick replacement is necessary for a shorter span, steel offers the ability to be modular in construction, and rolled sections can be made readily available.

Quality and Predictability



Off-site fabrication allows for controlled conditions, ensuring a higher quality product configured to precise tolerances. While all bridges experience some type of movement, a structural steel bridge behaves in a predictable manner to provide comfort to the traveling public.

Railroad and Transit Applications



stringent live load deflection and operational requirements of rail and transit loading.

Steel bridges are well suited for railroad and transit applications due to the high strength and stiffness that steel can provide as deck girder, through-girder, or truss type bridges. Steel's high strength to weight ratio is ideal for supporting rail live loads which are nearly five times as heavy as traditional highway live loads. The stiffness characteristics provided by steel bridges can be exploited to meet the more

Long-Lasting and Durable



protect structural steel and add longevity to the bridge. A durable and nonporous material, steel provides value and a significant return on investment.

Stiffness, strength in both tension and compression, and the ability to bend without cracking or breaking are inherent advantages of structural steel. Compared to all other materials, structural steel has the greatest ability to maintain strength and integrity during extreme events. Steel bridges are not subject to shrinkage or creep under load over time. Even in corrosive environments, applied coatings



HOW MUCH DOES STRUCTURAL STEEL COST?

What did the audience think?

11. In your experience, how does 2023 steel pricing compare to 2022 steel pricing?

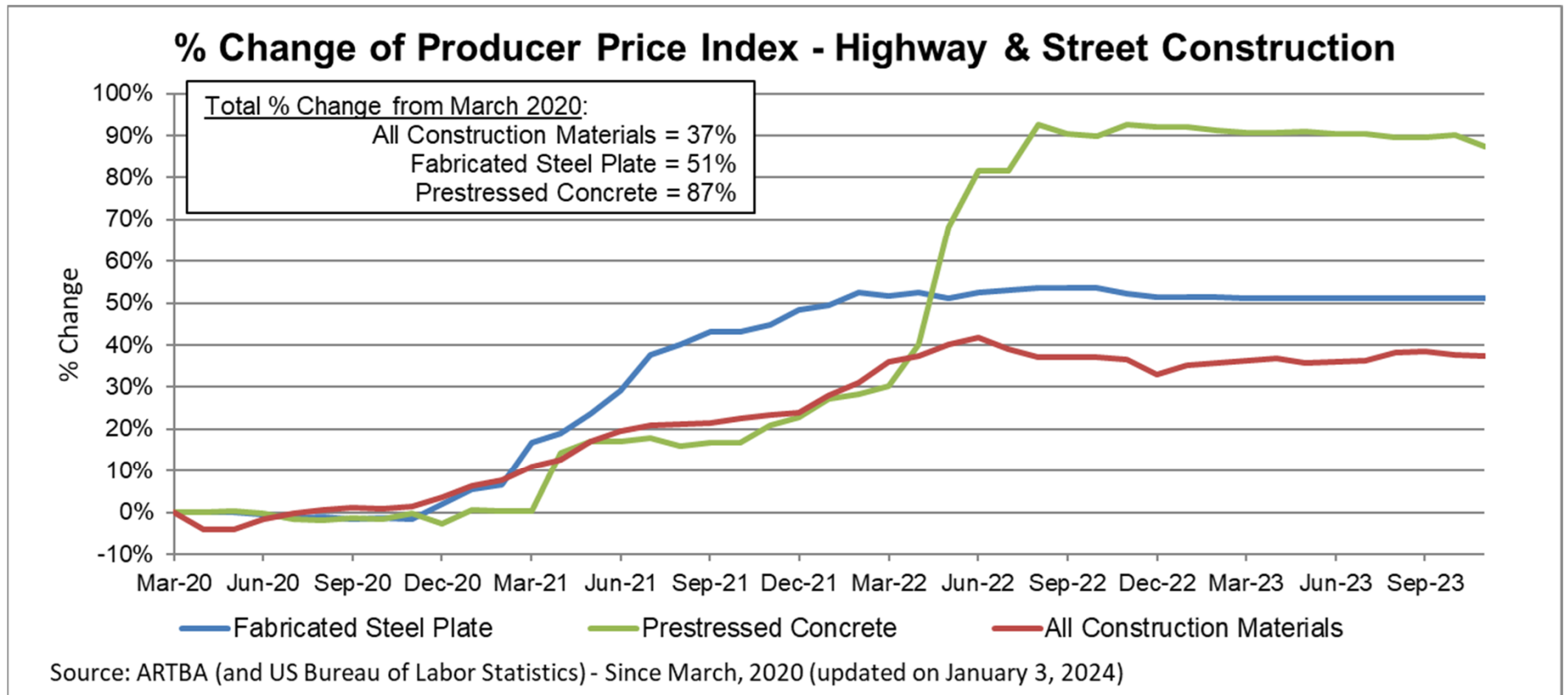
[More Details](#)

Higher	166
Lower	22
Minimal Change	72



Fabricator Pricing for Furnish Only of similar scope indicated Minimal or Lower

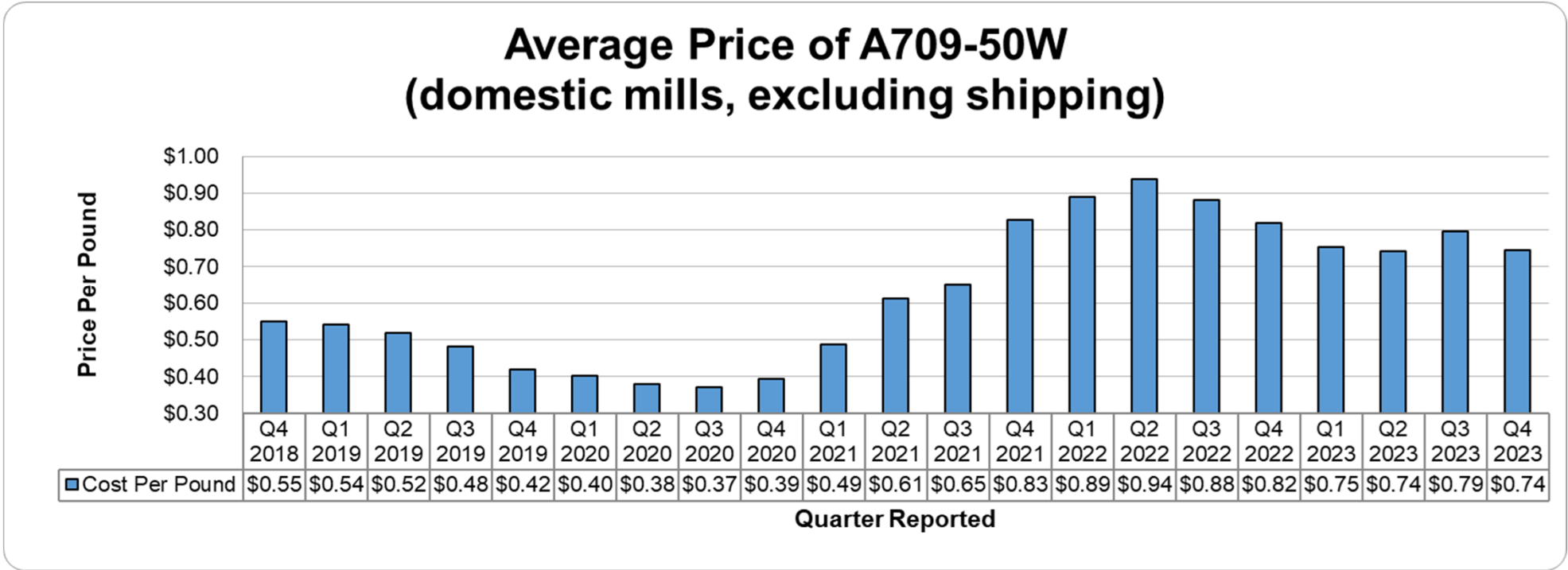
Historical Fabricated Steel Costs



Also available at artba.org/economics/materials-dashboard/

Average Mill Price of A709-50W

Ex) Size 1 ½ in. thick x 96 in. wide x 636 in. long



Raw material pricing presented in this chart is a small snapshot of a limited time and is not representative of long term historical and future trends.

General Cost Guidelines

- *Total cost to owner – General Breakdown (Approx.)*
 - *Raw material - 33%*
 - *Fabrication Labor - 33%*
 - *Erection & construction - 33% (Verify w/ contractors)*
- *Saving material (designing for least weight). Pay attention because some methods of weight reduction can result in a greater fabrication labor cost.*
- *Reduce labor to improve cost and lead times.*
- *Designers should talk with bridge fabricators about their design before finalizing it. (the devil is in the details)*
- *Don't overcomplicate it*

Not All Structural Steel is Created Equal



When in doubt, talk to a Fabricator!

WABASH >



WHO CAN HELP?



Smarter.
Stronger.
Steel.

<https://www.aisc.org/nsba/>

AISC's Need For Speed Initiative

Guide to Navigating Routine Steel Bridge Design - Completed

- **Motivation:**

- AASHTO Bridge Design Specification has, become overly complicated.
- Design and checking of routine steel I-girder bridges has become more difficult, time-consuming and error prone.

- **Objective:**

- Develop a tool for engineers to make steel bridge design an easier and simpler task than designing.



Navigating Routine Steel Bridge Design

AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design
Specifications, 9th Edition



Smarter.
Stronger.
Steel.

aisc.org/streamlineddesign

AISC's Need For Speed Initiative

Bolted Field Splice for Flexural Members - Completed

- **Motivation:**

- Completely new design procedure introduced in 8th Edition Bridge Design Specification.
- Designers found previous method vexing.
- Resulted in oversized splices.

- **Objective:**

- Develop reference guide that describes new design procedure in detail and provide easy to follow examples.
- Allows designer to quickly analyze various bolted splice connections to determine the most efficient bolt quantity and configuration.



Bolted Field Splices
for Steel Bridge
Flexural Members
Overview and Design Examples



Smarter.
Stronger.
Steel.

aisc.org/nsba-splice

AISC's Need For Speed Initiative

Lean-on Bracing Reference Guide - Completed

- **Motivation:**

- Cross-frames are one of the costliest elements in a steel bridge on a per-pound basis.
- Lean-on reduces the number and complexity of cross-frames.
- Significantly impact speed of fabrication, speed of erection, and overall bridge cost.

- **Objective:**

- Develop reference guide for implementing in routine bridge designs with confidence and with minimal computational effort.



Lean-on Bracing
Reference
Guide



Smarter.
Stronger.
Steel.

aisc.org/leanonbracing

AISC's Need For Speed Initiative

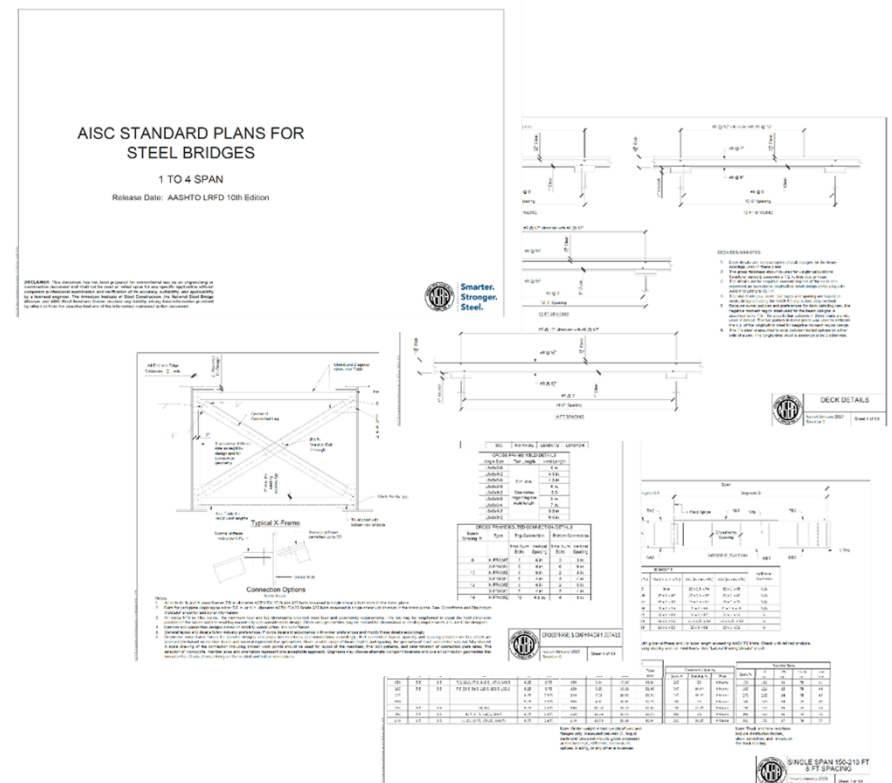
Standard Designs for Straight I-Girder Bridges – In Progress

- **Motivation:**

- Steel provides great flexibility in design.
- Engineers are routinely confronted with repetitive design decisions regarding material thickness and sizes for the routine steel I-girder bridges.

- **Objective:**

- Develop designs for 1, 2, 3, and 4 span arrangements.
- Optimize and standardize web, flange, stiffener, and field splice plate sizes from typical mill plate widths and thicknesses.
- Provide cost-efficient diaphragm and cross-frame standards.



AISC's Need For Speed Initiative

Achieving Speed in Steel Bridge Fabrication - Completed

- **Motivation:**

- Simplifying design, detailing and fabrication.
- Delays can stem from ambiguity regarding roles and responsibilities.

- **Objective:**

- Develop guide to streamline steel bridge projects that represents best practices.
- Clearly outline roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.
- Minimize misunderstandings on the project.



Accelerated
Steel
Achieving Speed in
Steel Bridge Fabrication

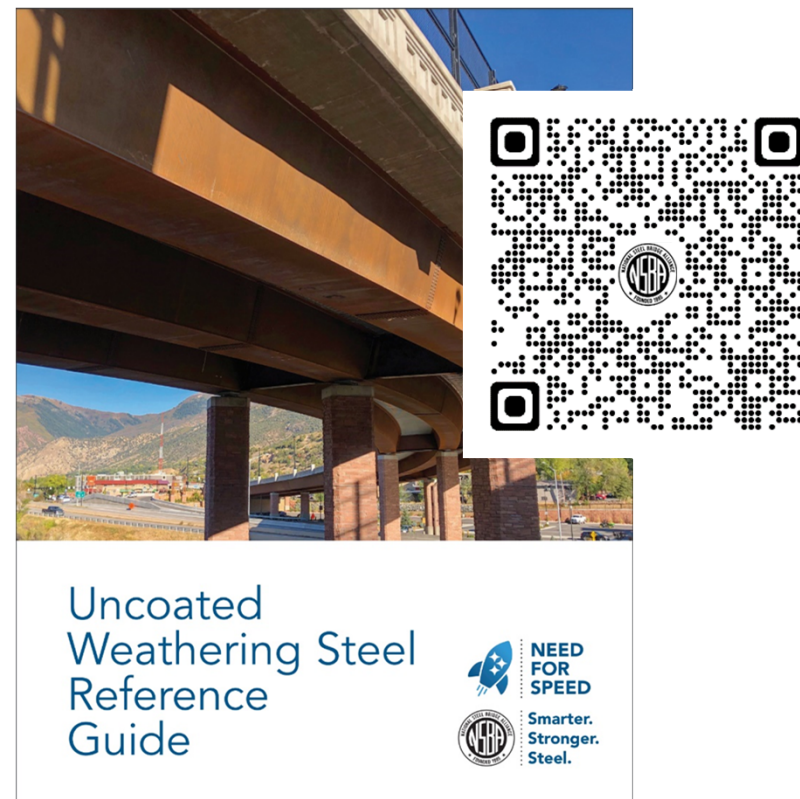


aisc.org/fasterbridgefab

AISC's Need For Speed Initiative

Guide to the use of Uncoated Weathering Steel - Completed

- **Motivation:**
 - Uncoated Weathering Steel (UWS) is a durable material providing cost-effective solutions.
 - UWS requires no further painting or protection, resulting in faster fabrication and installation.
- **Objective:**
 - Develop reference guide compiling all current research, resources and best practices.
 - Provide recommendations for design, detailing and maintenance of UWS bridges.



aisc.org/uwsguide







Short span steel bridge design standards

[HTTP://WWW.ESPAN140.COM/](http://www.ESPAN140.COM/)

FREE ONLINE DESIGN TOOL FOR SHORT SPAN STEEL BRIDGES

UTILIZES STANDARD SHORT SPAN STEEL BRIDGE DESIGNS

Standards for Short Span Steel Bridge Designs

Goals:

- Economically competitive
- Expedite & economize the design process
- Simple repetitive details & member sizes.

Bridge Design Parameters:

- Span lengths: 40 feet to 140 feet (5-foot increments)
- Girder spacing: 6 feet, 7.5 feet, 9 feet and 10.5 feet
- Homogeneous & Hybrid plate girders with limited plate sizes
- Limited Depth & Lightest Weight Rolled Beam Sections
- Selective cross-frame placement/design (AASHTO/NSBA)

Primary value is use as an estimating tool!

- Now have the ability to produce a valid steel bridge design in minutes
- Obtain a cost estimate from a fabricator within a day
- Can directly compete with concrete alternate
- Design can then be further optimized



One-stop shop for customized steel bridge and culvert solutions!

eSPAN140 provides:

Standard designs and details for short span steel crossings

- Rolled Beam and Plate Girders
- Corrugated Steel Pipe and Structural Plate

Manufacturers' Steel Solutions (SSSBA Partners)

Coatings Solutions

Industry Contacts

- Contacts can provide budget estimates and pricing information

Free and easy to use!!!

<http://www.espan140.com/>



Step 1.

Create a User's Account



Step 2.

Input Your Specific Project Details



Step 3.

View Your Instant Customized Solutions Boo



Tanner Genenbacher
tannerg@delongsinc.com
(573) 635-6121 Ext. 1308



Tom Wandzilak
twandzilak@high.net
(717) 399-4103



Adam Demargel
apdemargel@stupp.com
(314) 544-7575



Justin Cowan
justin.cowan@wabashsteel.biz
(317) 741-7780

Fabricators

