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# Preservation of Pre-Stressed and Post-Tensioned Structures: Using Correct Tools to Save Costs

**Western Bridge Preservation Partnership  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

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# In This Presentation

- Corrosion damage can be quantified using a proper combination of NDT
- Solutions can be designed to cost effectively extend service lives of structures
- Average cost savings for owners: **75-80%** compared to replacement

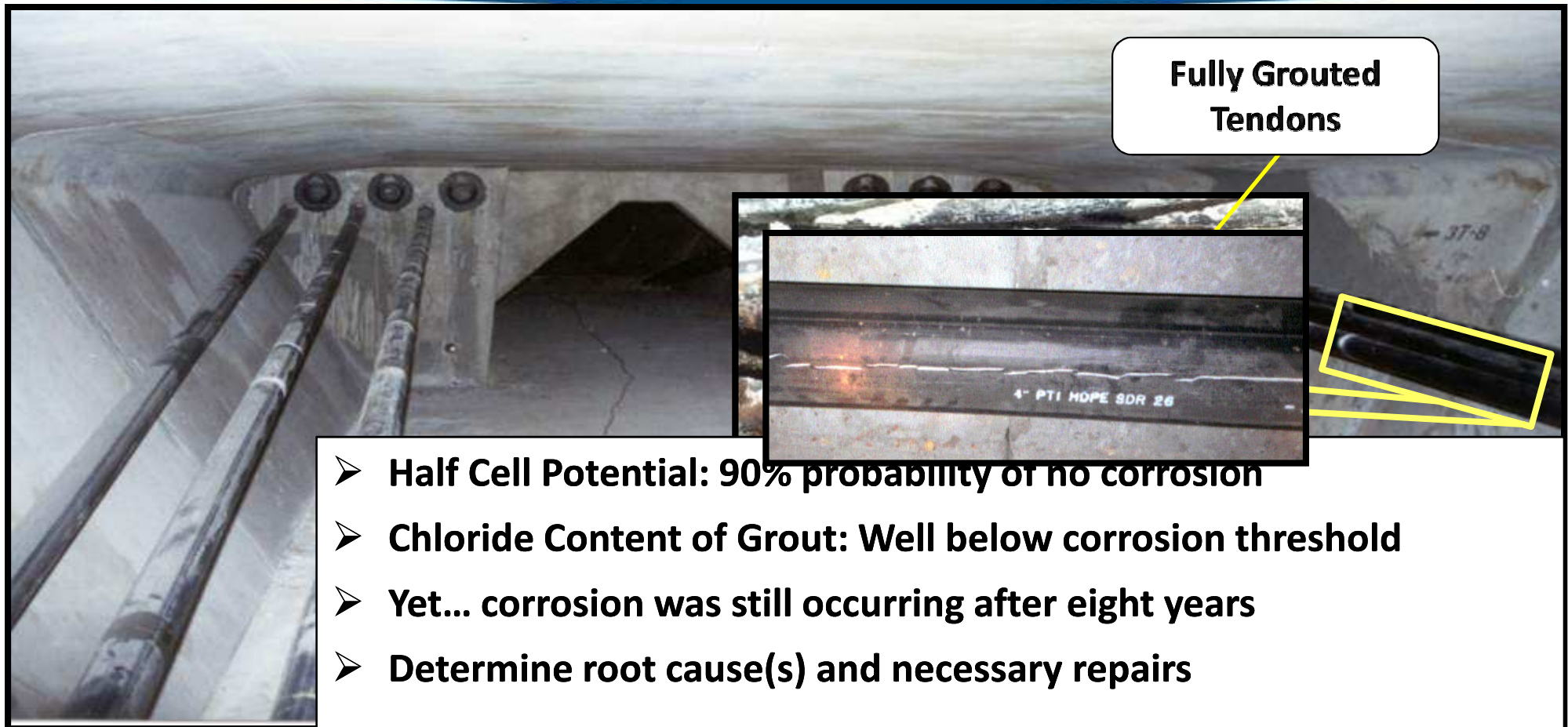


# Problems in PT



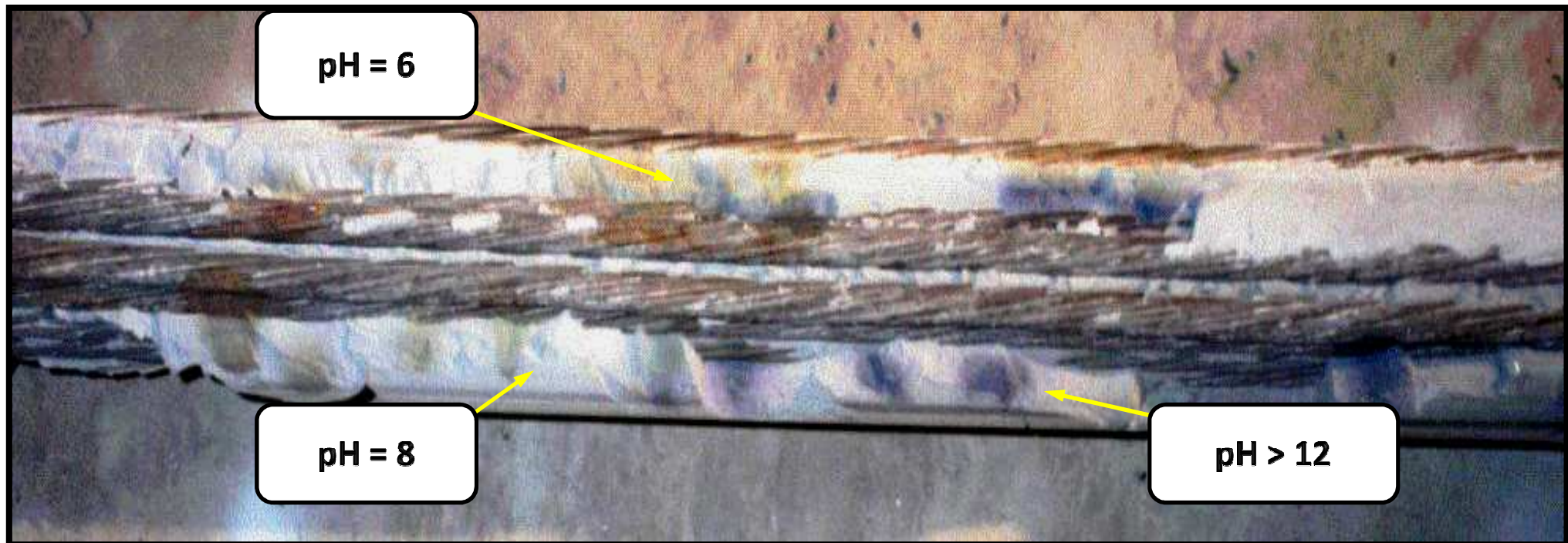
- Visual evaluation cannot quantify problems
- Low pH grout and high chloride content can increase the rate of corrosion of tendons
- Problematic voids need to be identified
- Cancerous corrosion can cause sudden failures as more wires/strands break

# PT Box Girder – External Tendons





# Grout pH Variation



# PT Box Girder – Internal Tendons



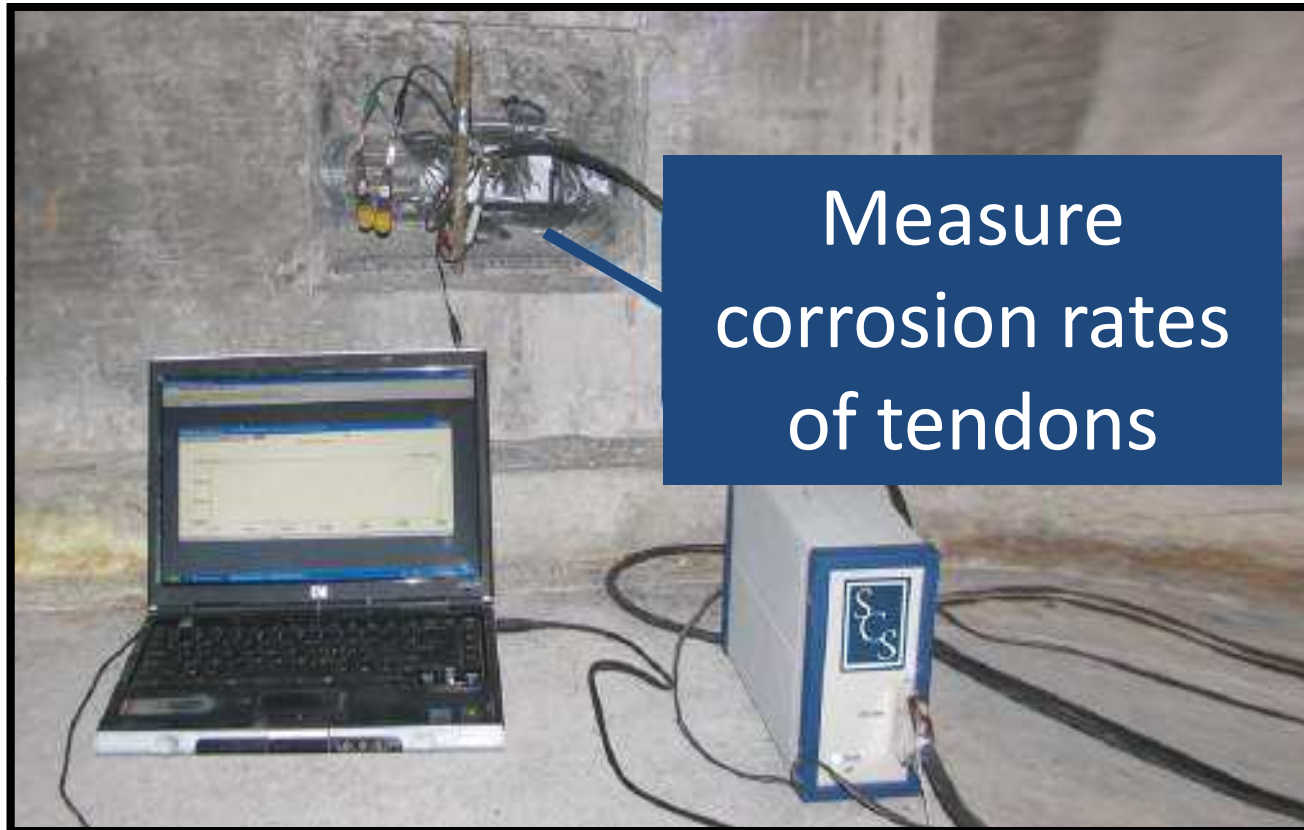








# Computer-Driven Testing



## Quantify:

- Section losses
- Effects of grout
- Time-to-criticality





Laboratory testing to  
quantify grout quality  
and effects on  
tendons

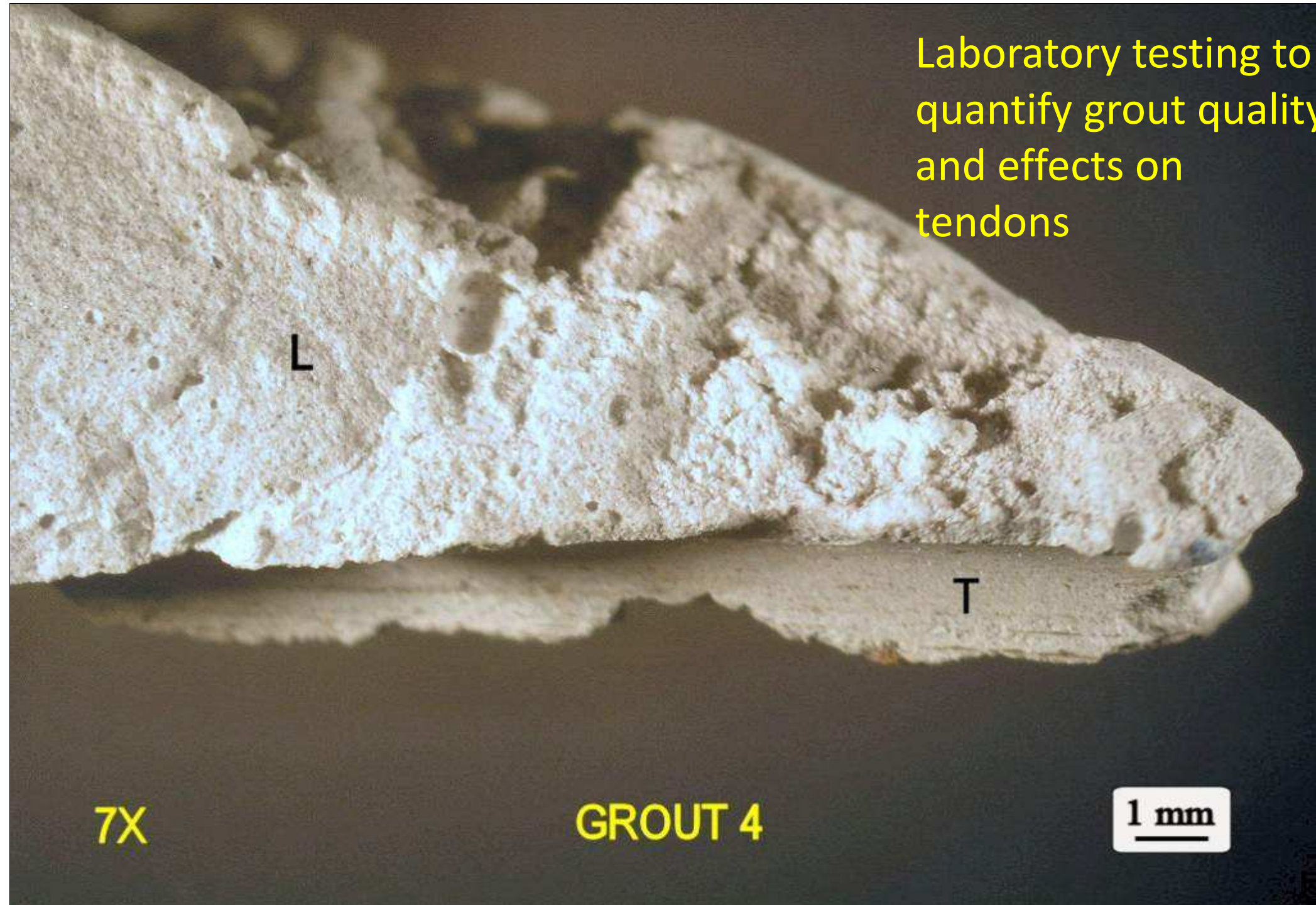
L

T

7X

GROUT 4

1 mm



# Quantifying “Hidden” Corrosion

## ➤ Evaluation:

- GPR to locate tendons
- Computer-driven testing for corrosion rate, present/future section losses, effects of grout, and time-to-criticality
- Laboratory testing for material quality
- Remaining strength (collaborate with structural firm)

Quantify problems early



# Cost Effective Solutions for PT

## ➤ Solutions:

- Address ongoing corrosion
- Corrosion protection (where applicable)
- Targeted structural strengthening
- Exceed service life goals

Sleep well at night

# 9 Bridges in Oklahoma

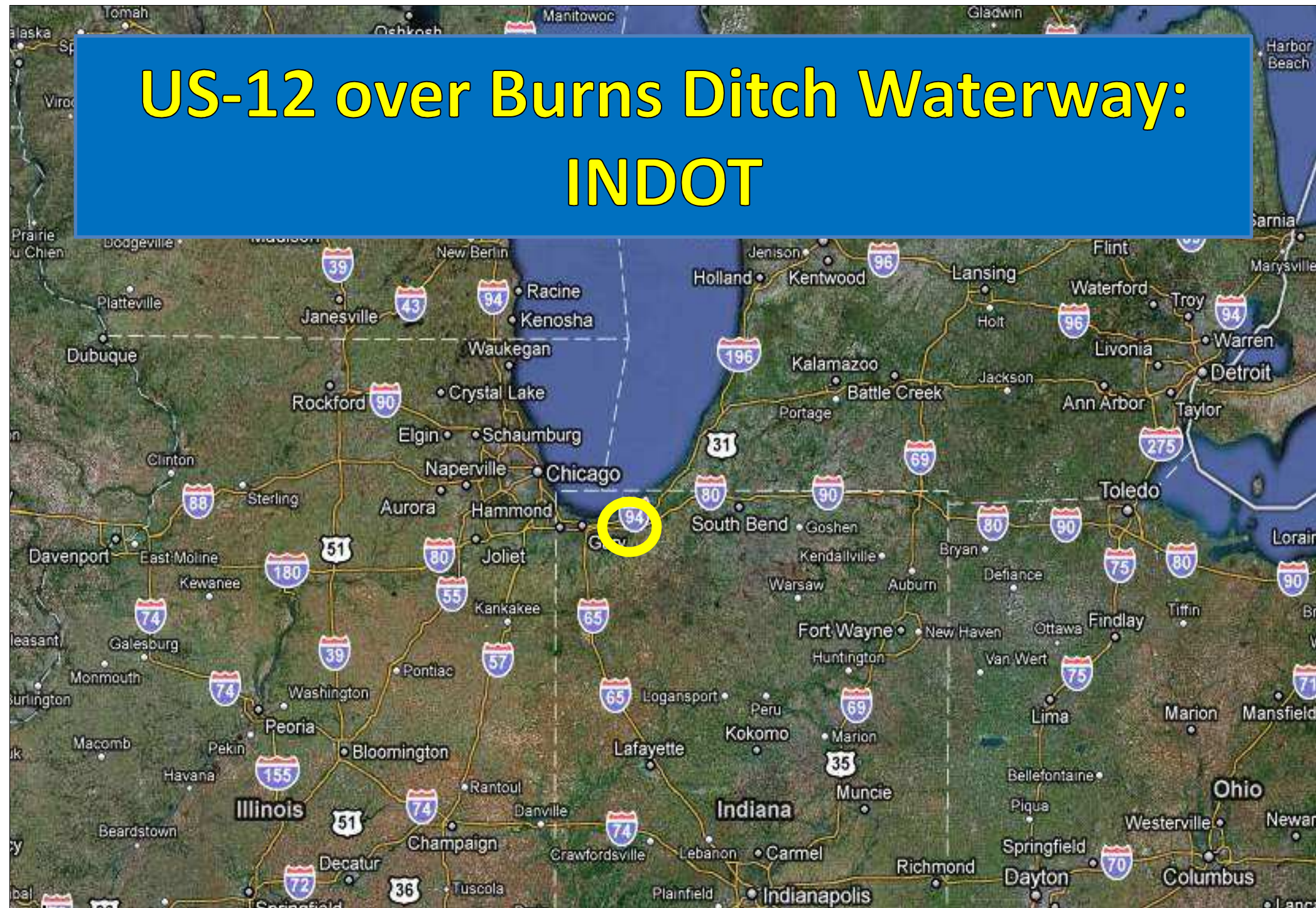


# 9 Bridges in Indiana






# US-12 over Burns Ditch Waterway: INDOT





Spalled concrete &  
broken wires





Suspected Stray  
Current problem  
from nearby  
railroad tracks

1/3 section loss of  
underwater steel  
piles

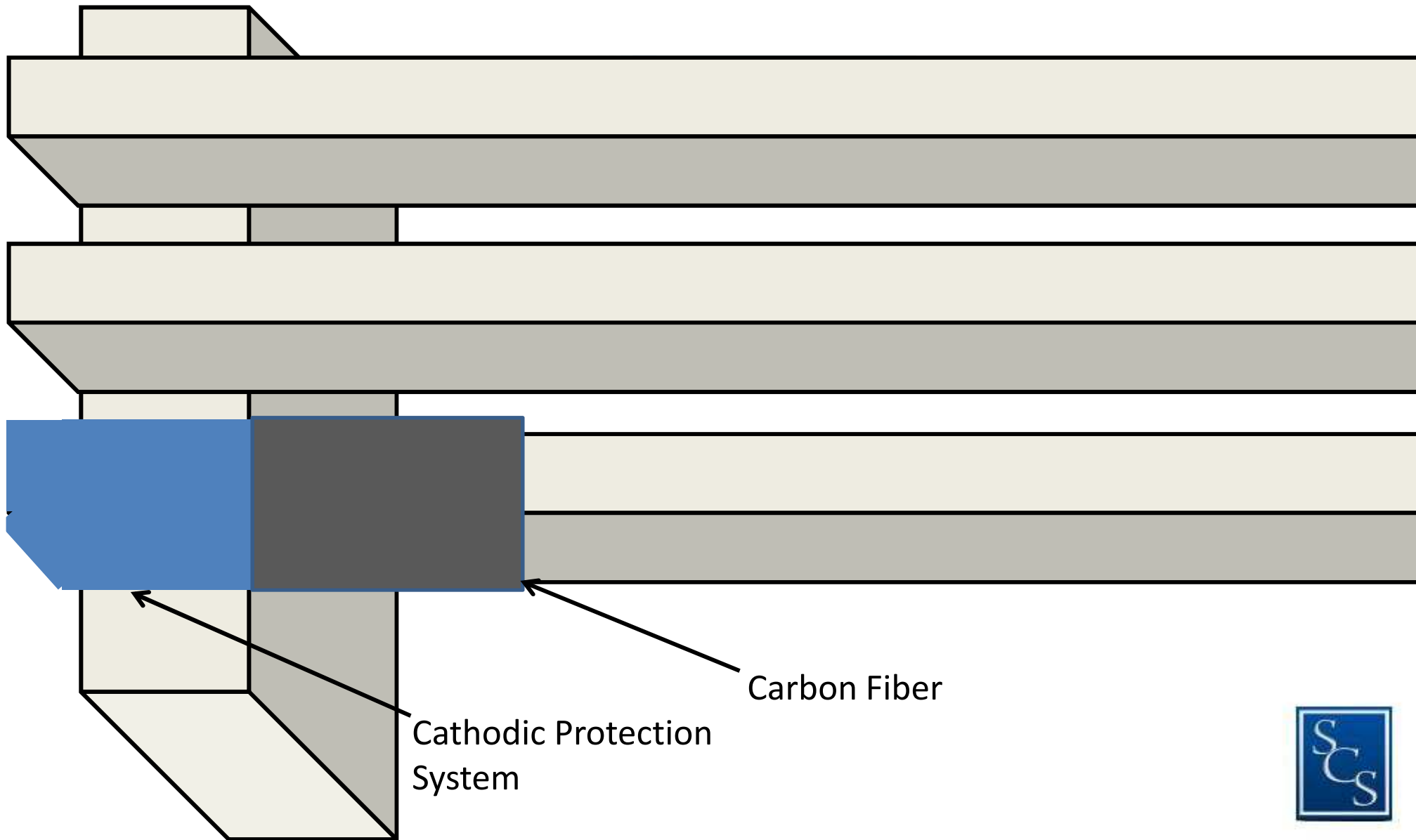


# Solution

- SCS quantified the extent of deterioration at beam ends and steel piles
- We determined that the water and soil were corrosive
- We designed a corrosion mitigation system and developed plans to extend the service lives of pre-stressed beams and steel piles



# Design of Life Extension System





# Benefit

- As an independent firm, SCS selected the most suitable corrosion protection system
- The Department was able to avoid the cost of mitigating the effects of stray current
- The Department was able to save 80% of the replacement cost

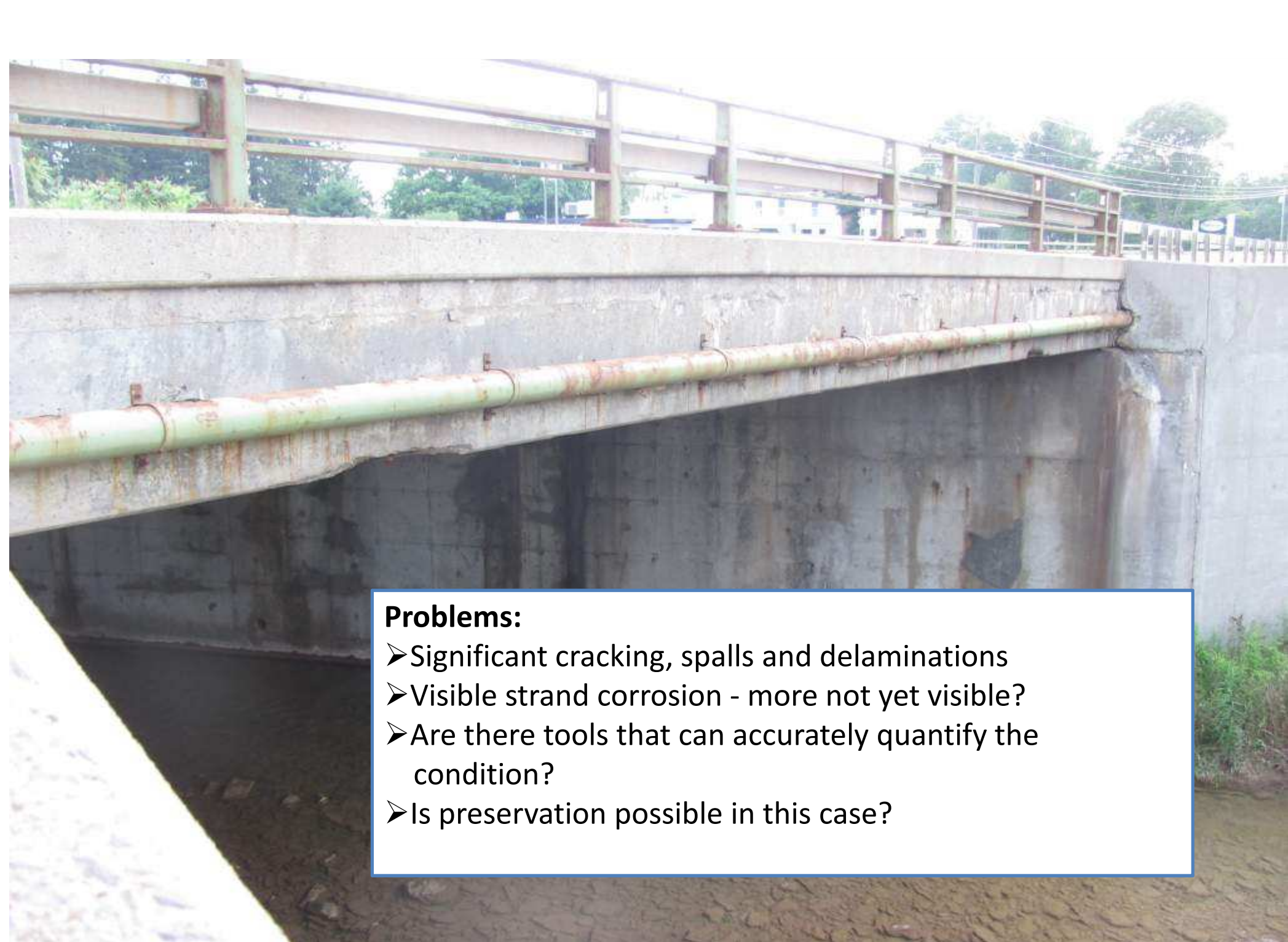




# Sconondoa Creek Bridge: NYSDOT





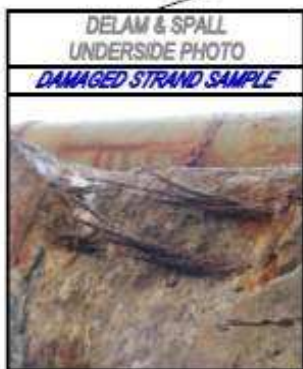


**Problems:**

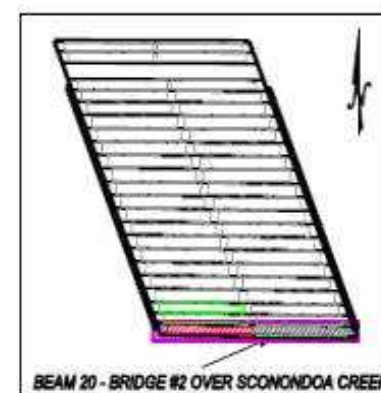
- Significant cracking, spalls and delaminations
- Visible strand corrosion - more not yet visible?
- Are there tools that can accurately quantify the condition?
- Is preservation possible in this case?



31% Concrete  
Damage



*BEAM 20 - UNDERSIDE  
BRIDGE #2 OVER SCONONDOA CREEK  
N.T.S.*





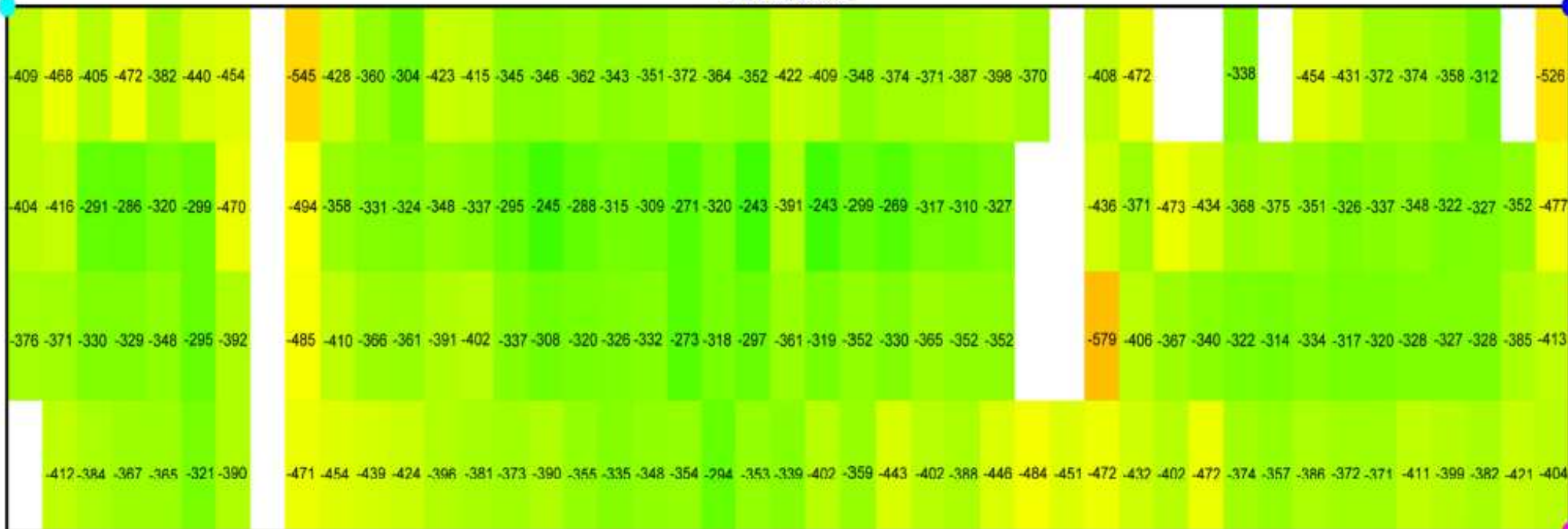
# Strand Section Losses

No.	Test Location	Strand Size (inch)	Measurement (inch)	Difference in Diameter	Section Loss (%)	Note
<b>Beam 20</b>						
1	Location 1 (Strand 1)	0.50	0.45	0.05	19	Spall
2	Location 1 (Strand 2)	0.50	0.43	0.07	26	Spall
3	Location 2 (Strand 13)	0.50	0.48	0.02	8	Chipout
4	Location 2 (Strand 14)	0.50	0.48	0.02	8	Chipout
5	Location 3 (Strand 7)	0.50	0.48	0.02	8	Spall
6	Location 3 (Strand 8)	0.50	0.42	0.08	29	Spall
7	Location 4 (Strand 1)	0.50	0.00	0.50	100	Spall
8	Location 4 (Strand 1)	0.50	0.00	0.50	100	Spall
9	Rebar (Near Strand 1)	0.50	0.33	0.17	56	Spall

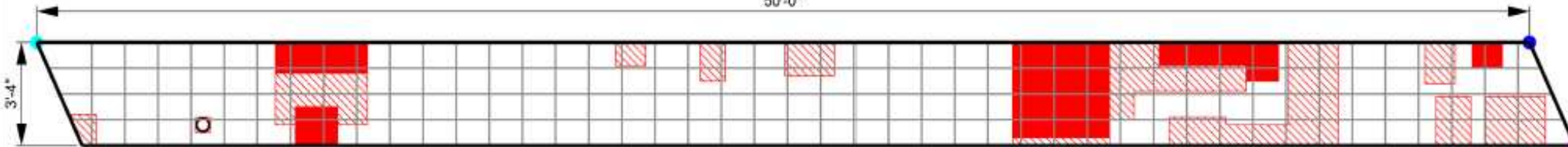


**LEGEND:**

- 1) RED HATCHED AREA REPRESENTS DELAMINATION  
2) RED FILLED AREA REPRESENTS SPALLING

**BEAM 20 - BRIDGE #2 OVER SCONONDOA CREEK****POTENTIAL**

50'-0"

**BEAM 20 - UNDERSIDE  
BRIDGE #2 OVER SCONONDOA CREEK  
N.T.S.**

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**POTENTIAL READING  
BEAM 20**

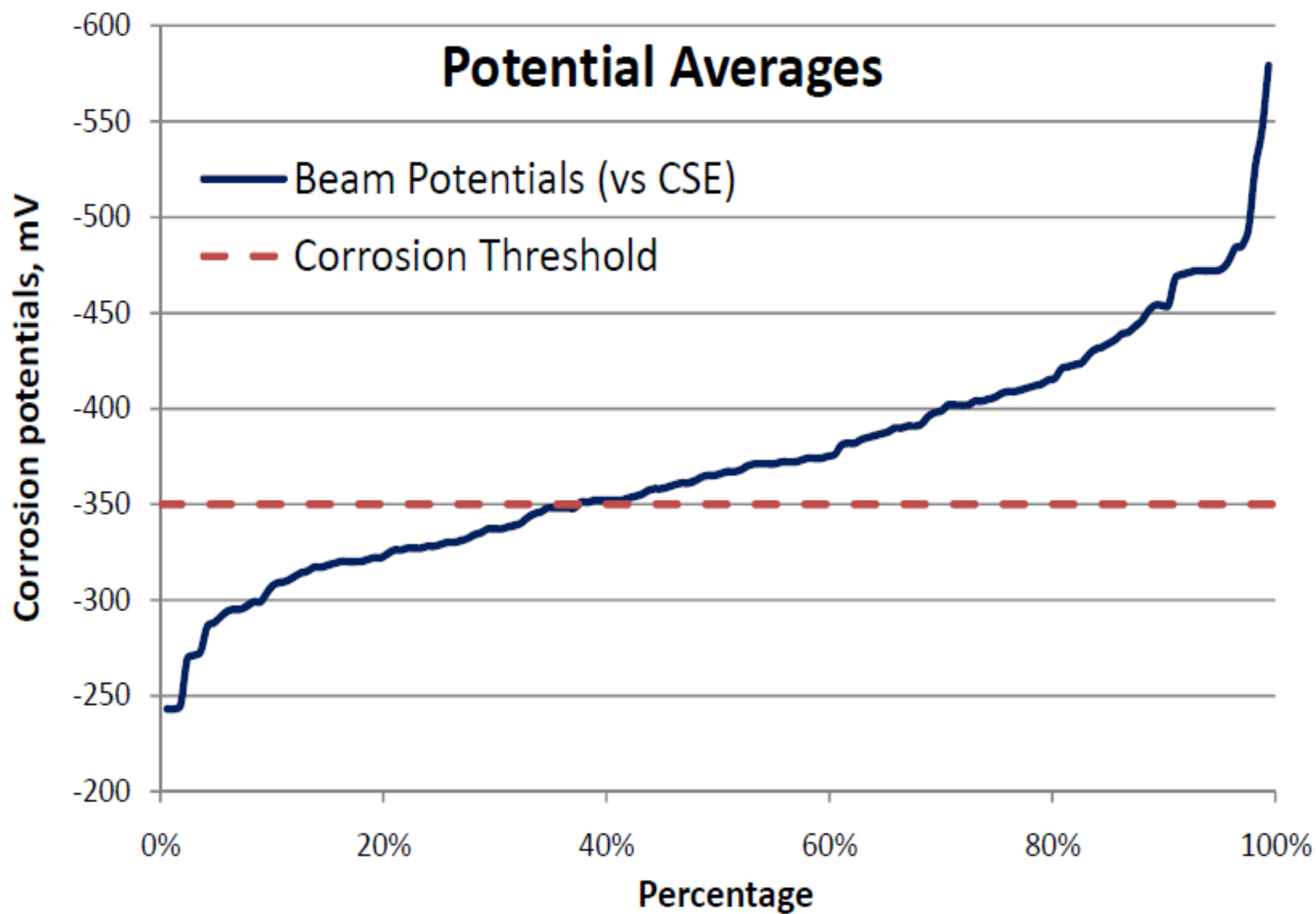
DESIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DRAWN: BJ  
CHECKED: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED: S.V.

**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

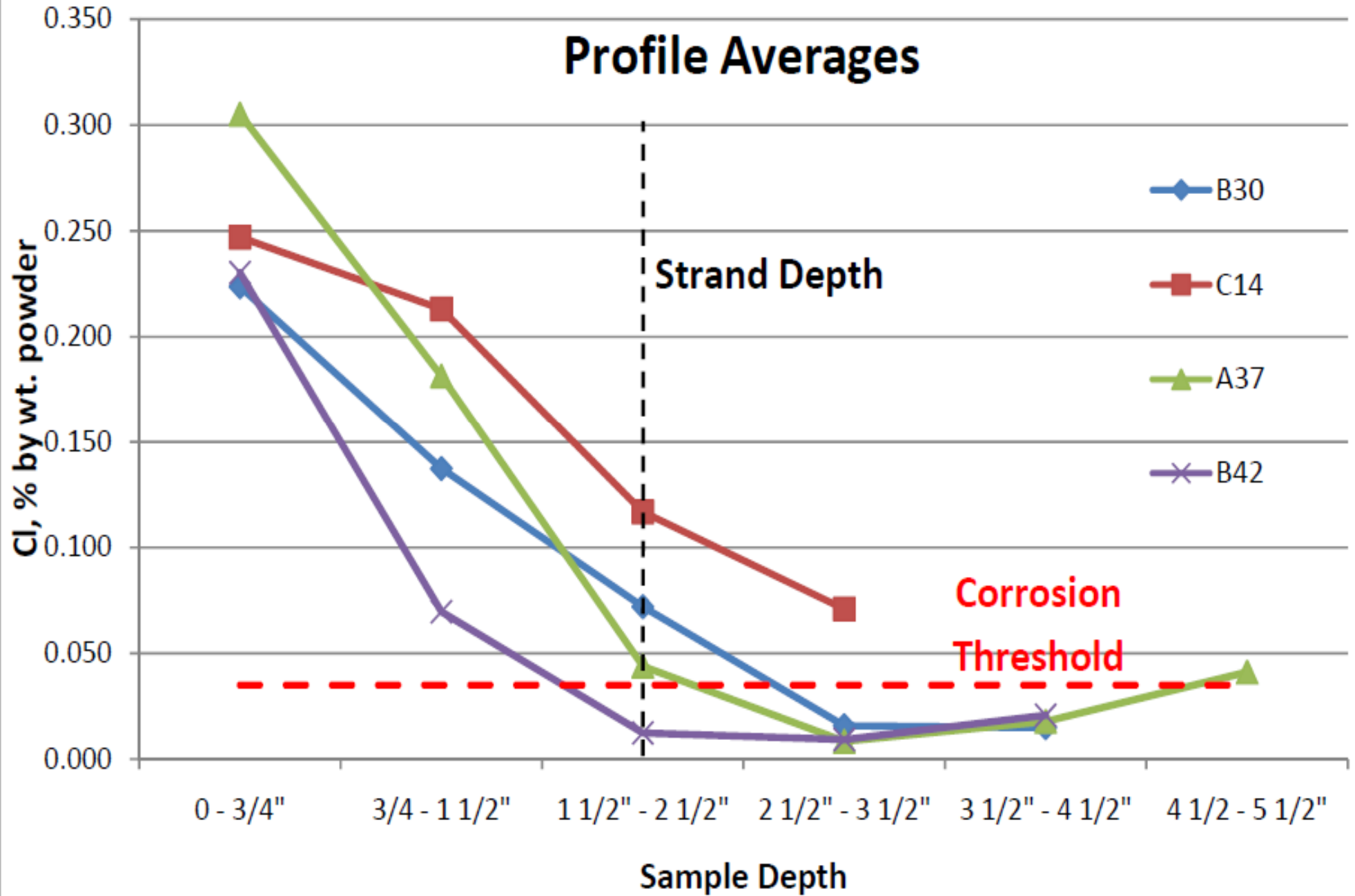
**BRIDGE #2 OVER  
SCONONDOA CREEK**

HORIZONTAL SCALE N.T.S.	DRAWING NUMBER A-3
VERTICAL SCALE N.T.S.	
SURVEY BOOK N/A	SHEETS 1 OF 1
DATE SEPTEMBER 2010	PROJECT 001

## Potential Averages



## Profile Averages





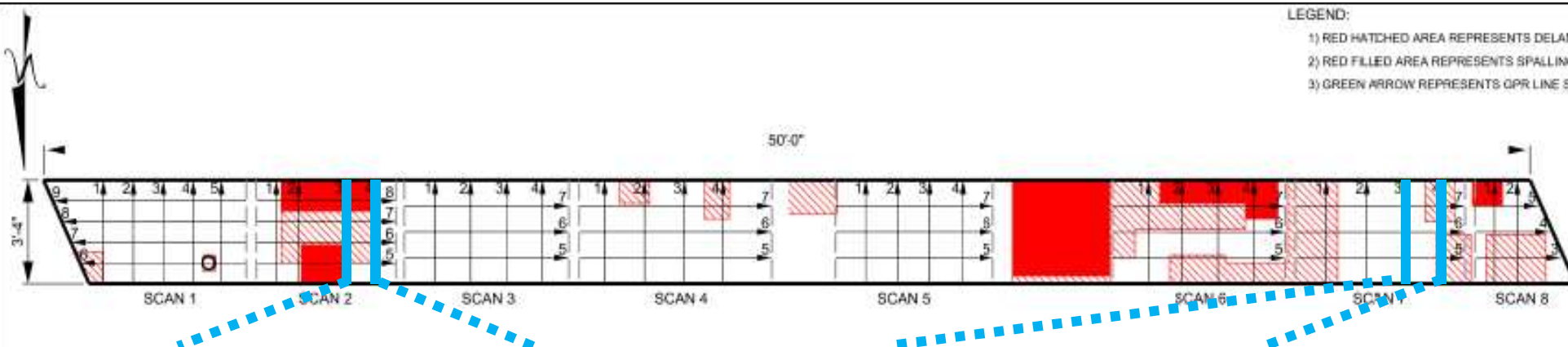
# Water in Beam

- Half-inch hole was drilled
- Water drained for a few hours
- Chloride concentration of the water was very high
- Resistivity of the water was low



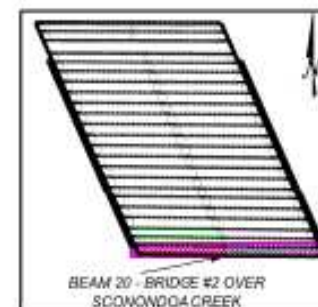
LEGEND:

- 1) RED HATCHED AREA REPRESENTS DELAMINATION
- 2) RED FILLED AREA REPRESENTS SPALLING
- 3) GREEN ARROW REPRESENTS GPR LINE S-10WN



BEAM 20 - UNDERSIDE  
BRIDGE #2 OVER SCONONDOGA CREEK  
 N.T.S.

NOTE: GPR LINE LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.



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GPR SCANS  
 BEAM 20

DESIGNED:            DRAWN: BJ  
 CHECKED:            CHECKED: SL

NEW YORK STATE  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRIDGE #2 OVER  
 SCONONDOGA CREEK

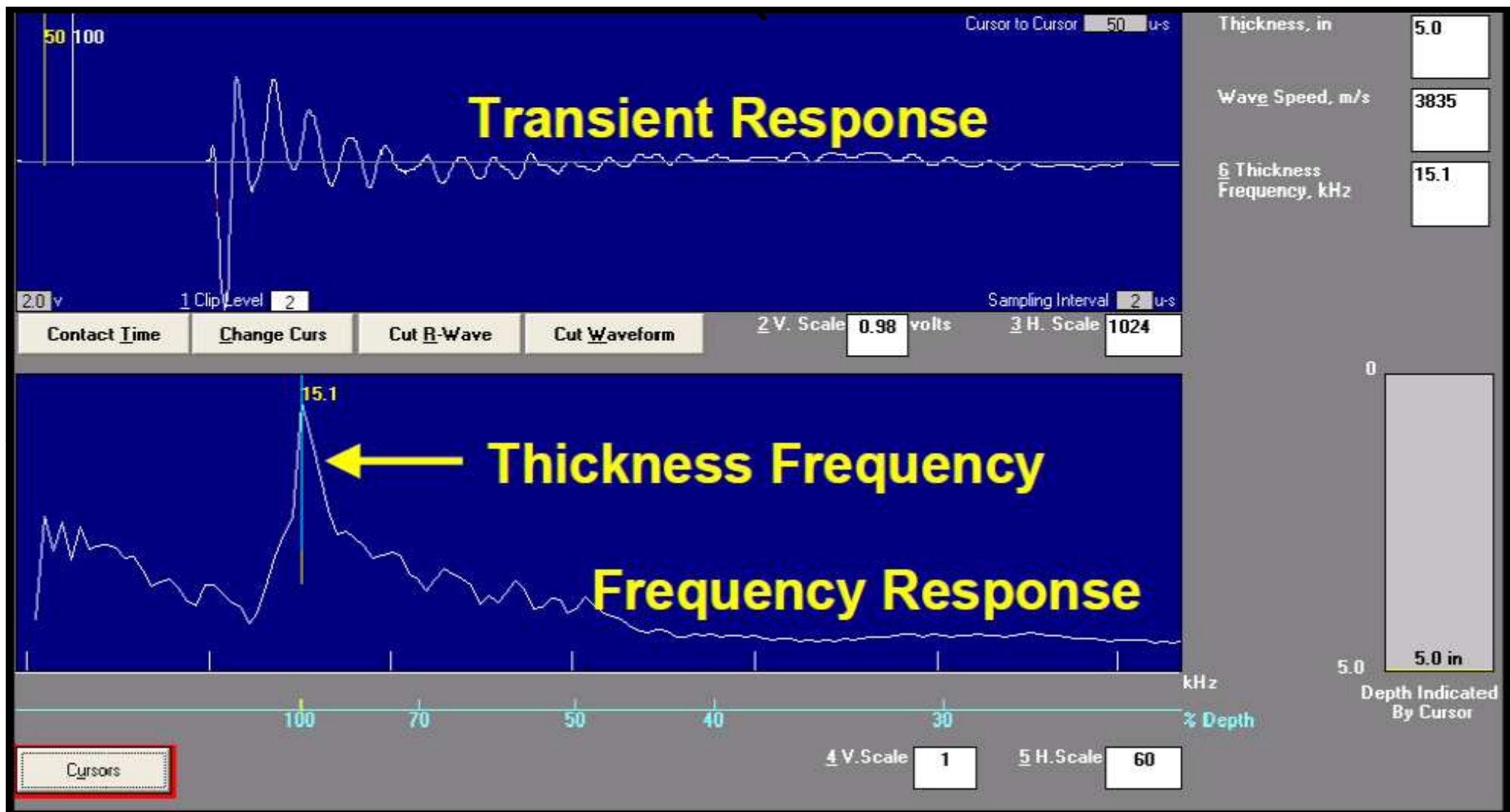
HORIZONTAL SCALE N.T.S.	DRAWING NUMBER
VERTICAL SCALE N.T.S.	A-4
START DATE N/A	DATE 1/20/11
DATE SEPTEMBER 2010	PROJECT 1001

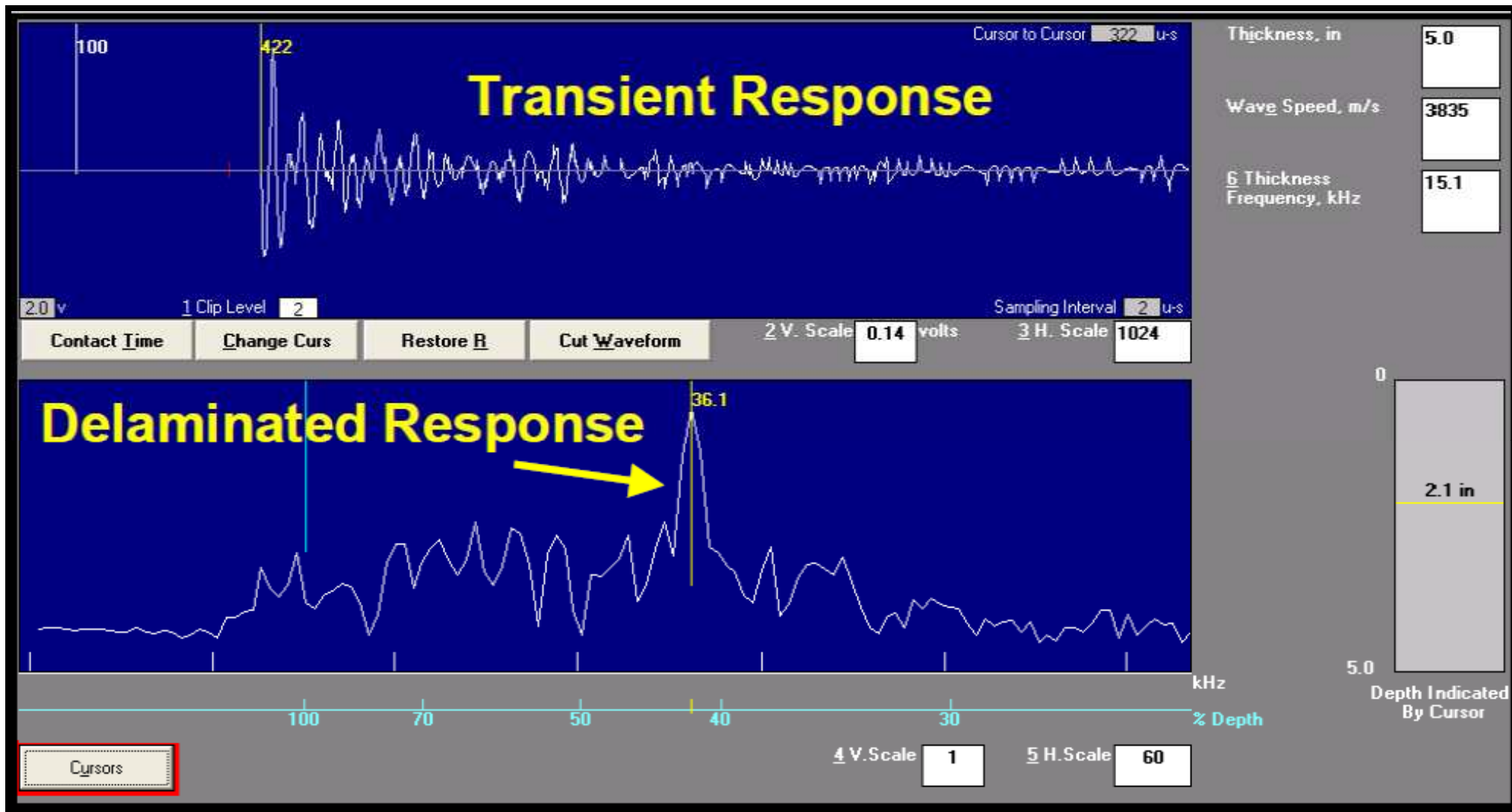
# GPR



- Difficult to identify early stage delaminations by sounding
- GPR can rapidly identify early stage delaminations
- GPR can identify reinforcement location/depth and member dimensions







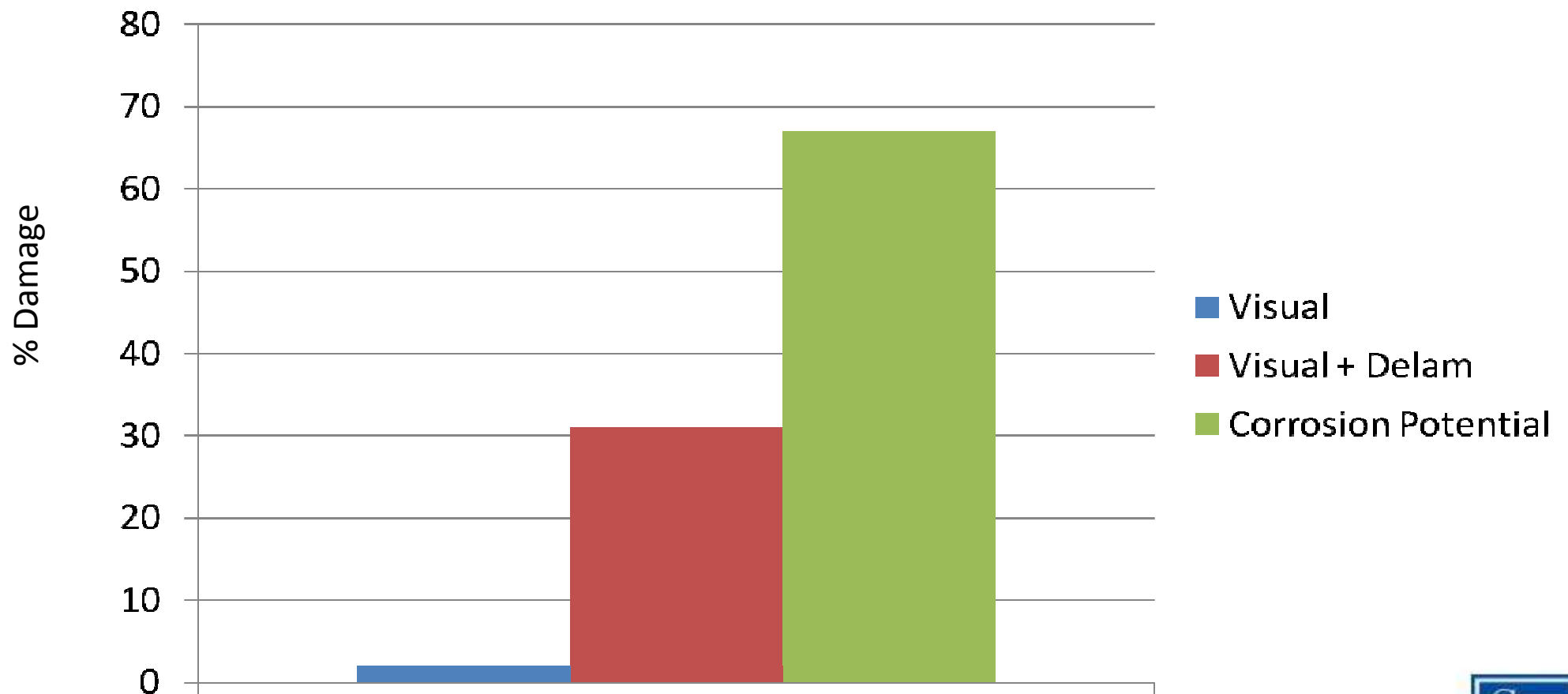


# Impact Echo

- Can find flaws not detectable by GPR and provide more information about those flaws
- Well suited for flaw determination on structures with difficult access or multiple layers of materials (e.g. overlays)



# Visual/Delam/Potential Data





# Visual/Delam/Potential Data

- Visual data – only a small percentage of the beam corroding
- Visual & delam data – 31% of the beam corroding
- Corrosion potential data – 67% of the beam corroding
- Evaluate before visual signs of distress to achieve and exceed service life goals



# Benefits

- The owner better understood proper combinations of NDT tools needed to:
  - Identify existing deterioration
  - Quantify the extent of deterioration
  - Predict future deterioration
- Plan proactive, cost effective preservation instead of expensive replacement
- Service life can be typically extended 10 to 25 years at 20-25% of the cost of replacement



# Preservation is Possible

- SCS develops preservation methodology based on corrosion/NDT data
- NDT is increasingly cost effective
- Use appropriate combination of tools to evaluate and preserve



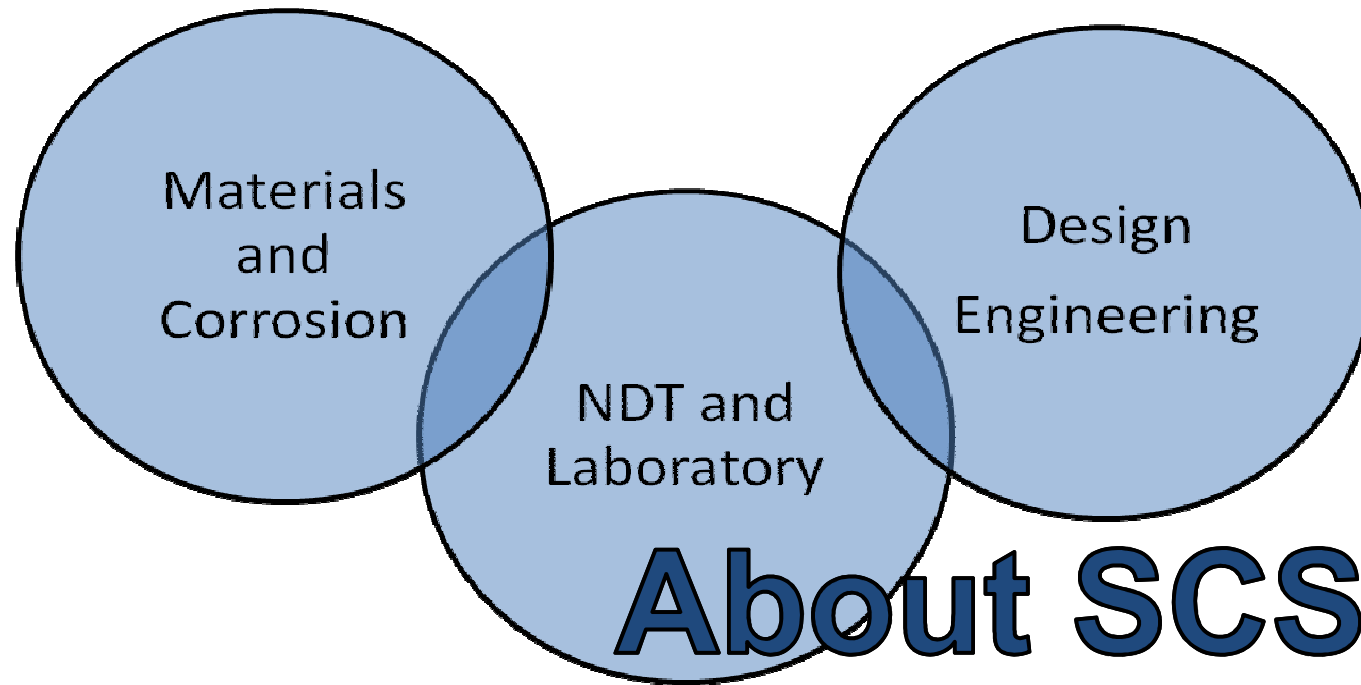


# Preservation Experience



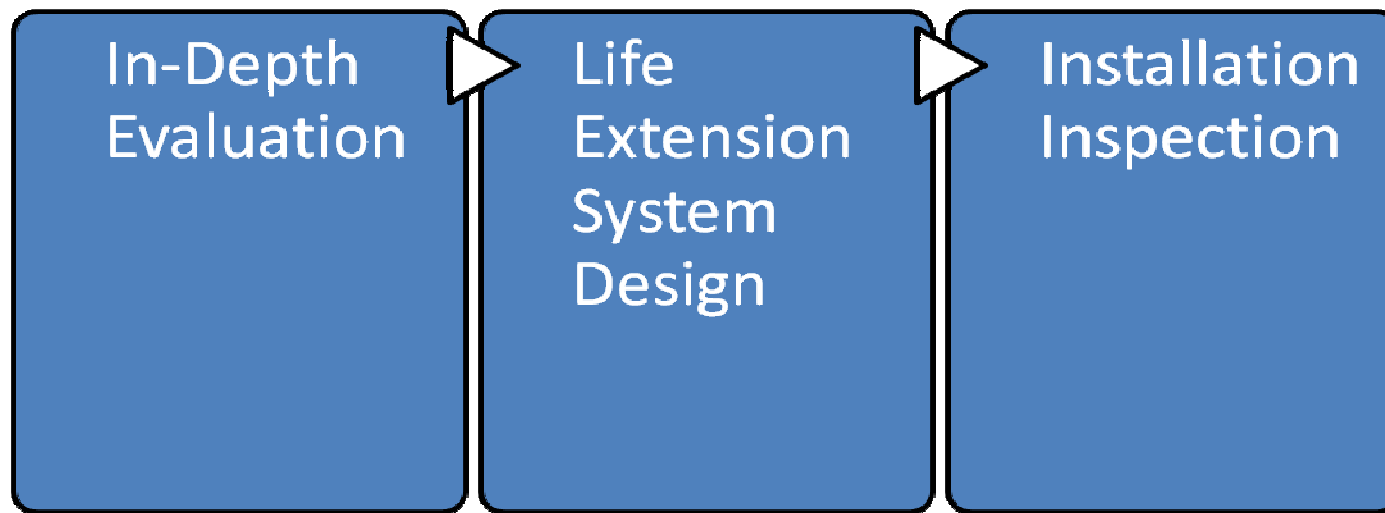
- Reinforced Concrete
  - ✓ ***11 Bridges – 25 year life extension – \$18.5 M savings***
- Simple and Complex Steel Structures
- Decks
- MSE Walls
- Tunnels
- Marine Wharf Structures





### Structure Types:

- Reinforced Concrete
- Steel
- Pre-Stressed
- Post-Tensioned
- Cable Stayed



# An Independent Consultant

- Materials, NDT, and Corrosion Specialist
- Partner with structural firms
- Do not sell or install materials or products
- Address corrosion without financial bias towards a proprietary product





# Thank You

# Questions?

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