



Bridge Panel One  
Bridge Panel Two



# Fiberglass Composite Products

Bridge decks

- Transverse
- Longitudinal

Bridge superstructure

- Largest structure to date 90m span

Rigid Span Bridges

Abutments

Wing walls

Approach slabs



# Bridging the Gap

Restoring and Rebuilding  
the Nation's Bridges



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS  
**AASHTO**  
THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION

July 2008

## 140 BILLION (24%)

The U.S. Department of Transportation's 2006 *Conditions and Performance Report* notes that \$8.7 billion in capital investment annually is needed to maintain bridge conditions at current levels and \$12.4 billion would be needed to actually improve "conditions" to a level that would help relieve congestion and reduce accidents.

According to data from the FHWA, it would cost \$140 billion in 2006 dollars to immediately repair every bridge that is deficient in the country. This estimate is based upon the amount of bridge area considered deficient as of December, 2007, multiplied by the cost per square meter for bridge replacement, estimated at \$1,550 per square meter.

Quote from page 30 of AASHTO 2008 REPORT BRIDGING THE GAP



## Innovation and Technology Are Adding to Bridge Safety

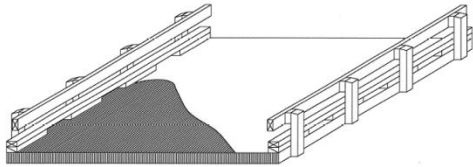
To ensure the safety of the nation's bridges, every state conducts a thorough and continual bridge inspection and rehabilitation program. Federal regulations require that, with some exceptions, bridges over 20 feet in length be inspected every 24 months by trained and qualified bridge inspectors. States often develop more detailed programs appropriate to unique circumstances.

Advances in technology such as electronic gauges are also enhancing the ability of inspectors to assess bridge conditions. New materials are now available for bridge building such as high-strength steel, high-performance concrete, rustproof components, and fiber-reinforced polymer composites.

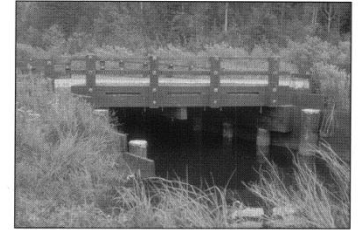
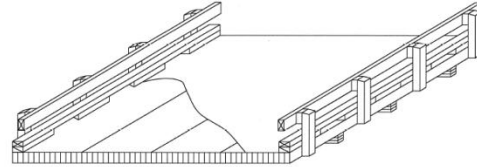
The nation's departments of transportation face a frustrating contradiction. They have better engineering, materials, and construction techniques than ever before, ensuring that a new generation of safe and longer-lasting bridges can be built for the future. Without a national commitment to bridge investment, however, states will face painful trade offs to keep the nation's bridges safe and the American public moving.



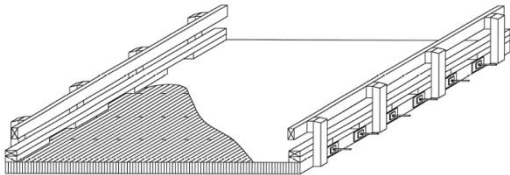
## Longitudinal Deck Systems: Nail-Laminated Decks



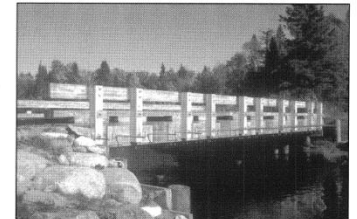
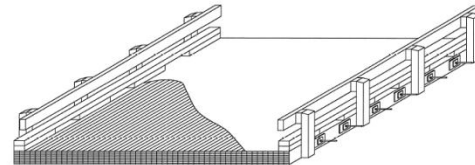
## Longitudinal Deck Systems: Spike-Laminated Decks



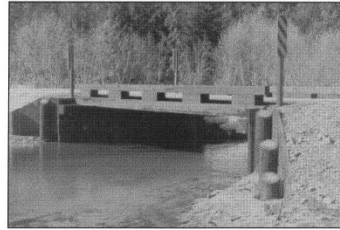
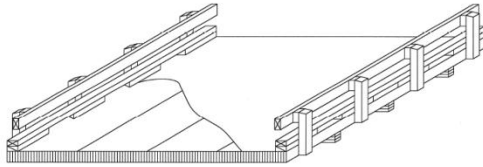
## Longitudinal Deck Systems: Stress-Laminated Sawn Lumber Decks



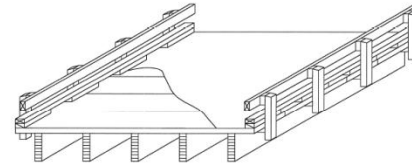
## Longitudinal Deck Systems: Stress-Laminated Glulam Decks



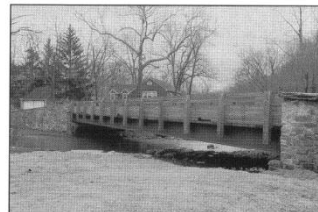
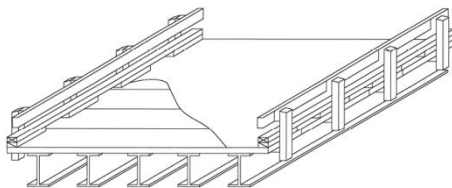
## Longitudinal Deck Systems: Longitudinal Glulam Panel Decks



## Beam Systems: Glulam Stringer and Transverse Glulam Deck



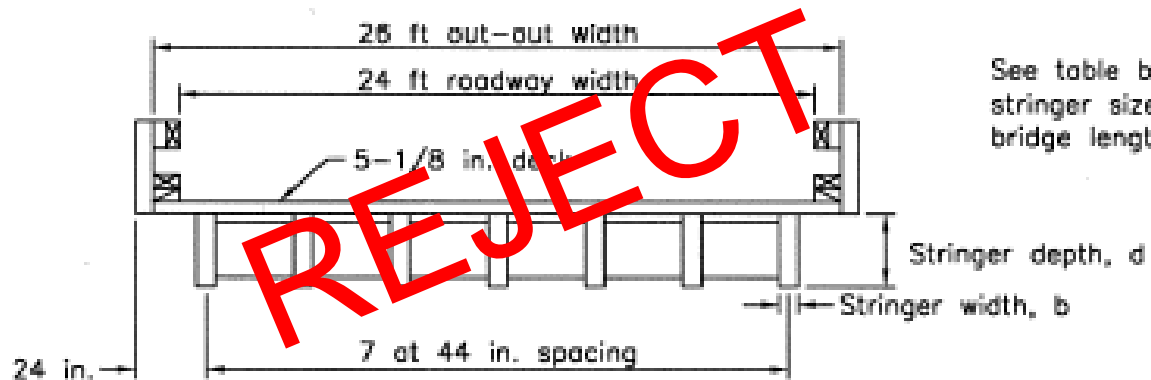
## Beam Systems: Transverse Glulam Decks for Steel Beam Bridges



## Stringer Configuration and Size - 24-ft Roadway Width

Glulam  
beams

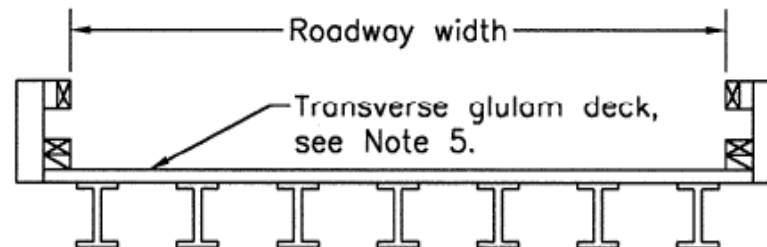
37" H



See table below for  
stringer size based on  
bridge length

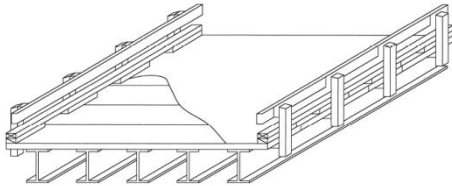
Steel  
beams

24" H



## Beam Systems:

### Transverse Glulam Decks for Steel Beam Bridges



The bridge superstructures depicted on these drawings were developed under a cooperative research agreement between the Federal Highway Administration, the USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, and Laminated Concepts, Inc.



Glulam Decks for Steel Beam Bridges

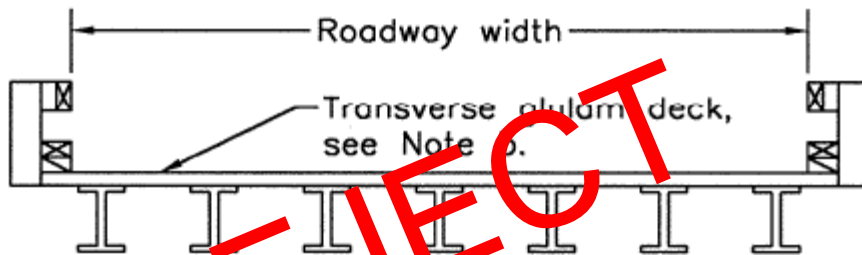
Title Page

Standard Plans for Timber Bridge Superstructures

December 2000

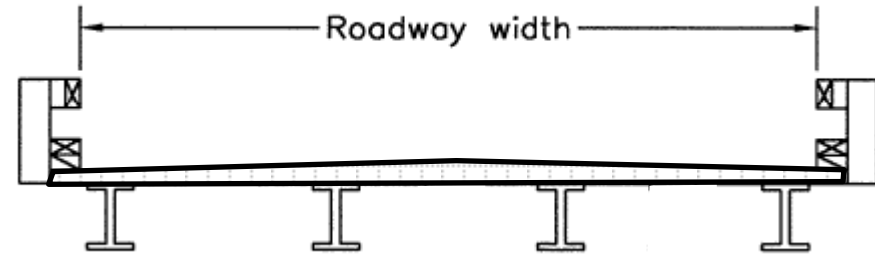
Sheet 1 of 7

## Wood deck

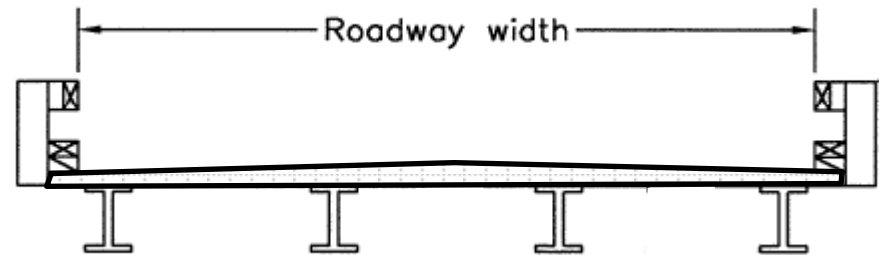


Durability issues  
Not compositely acting  
No 2% cross slope  
More steel superstructure costs (2x more)  
Design Service Life 5 years then penalized

## Fiberglass Composite deck



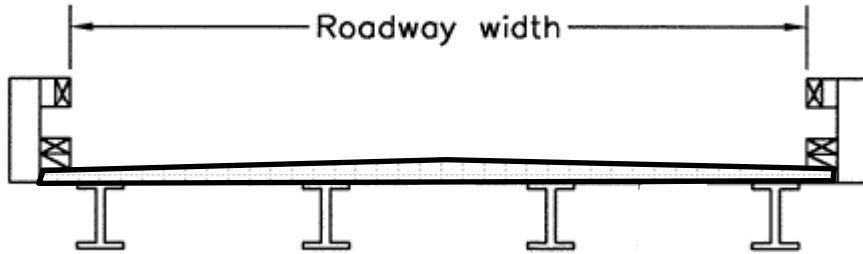
## Concrete deck



Durability issues  
Compositely acting  
2% cross slope, super elevate, longitudinal slope  
Effective steel design  
Design Service Life 75 years then penalized



## Fiberglass Composite deck



Span 15m

### Depth of Section

Girders 610

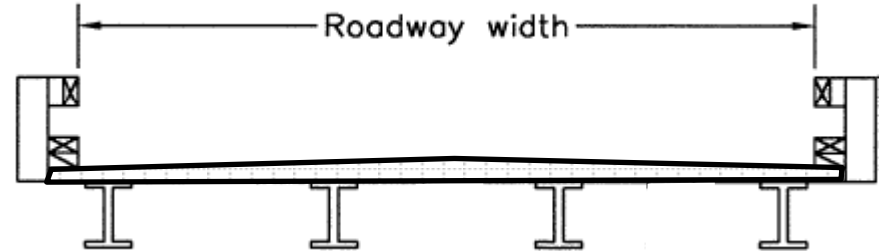
Deck 205

Asphalt 55

870

70mm less

## Concrete deck



Span 15m

### Depth of Section

Girders 660

Deck 225

Asphalt 55

940

**REJECT**



 **Guardian Bridge**  
RAPID CONSTRUCTION

# *Bridge applications comparison...*

Concrete Bridge Deck



Design not good

- Internally reinforce

Durability and capacity

Glue Laminated Timber Bridge

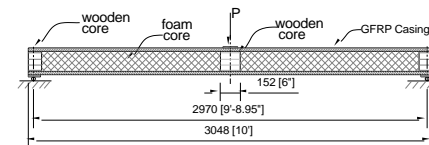
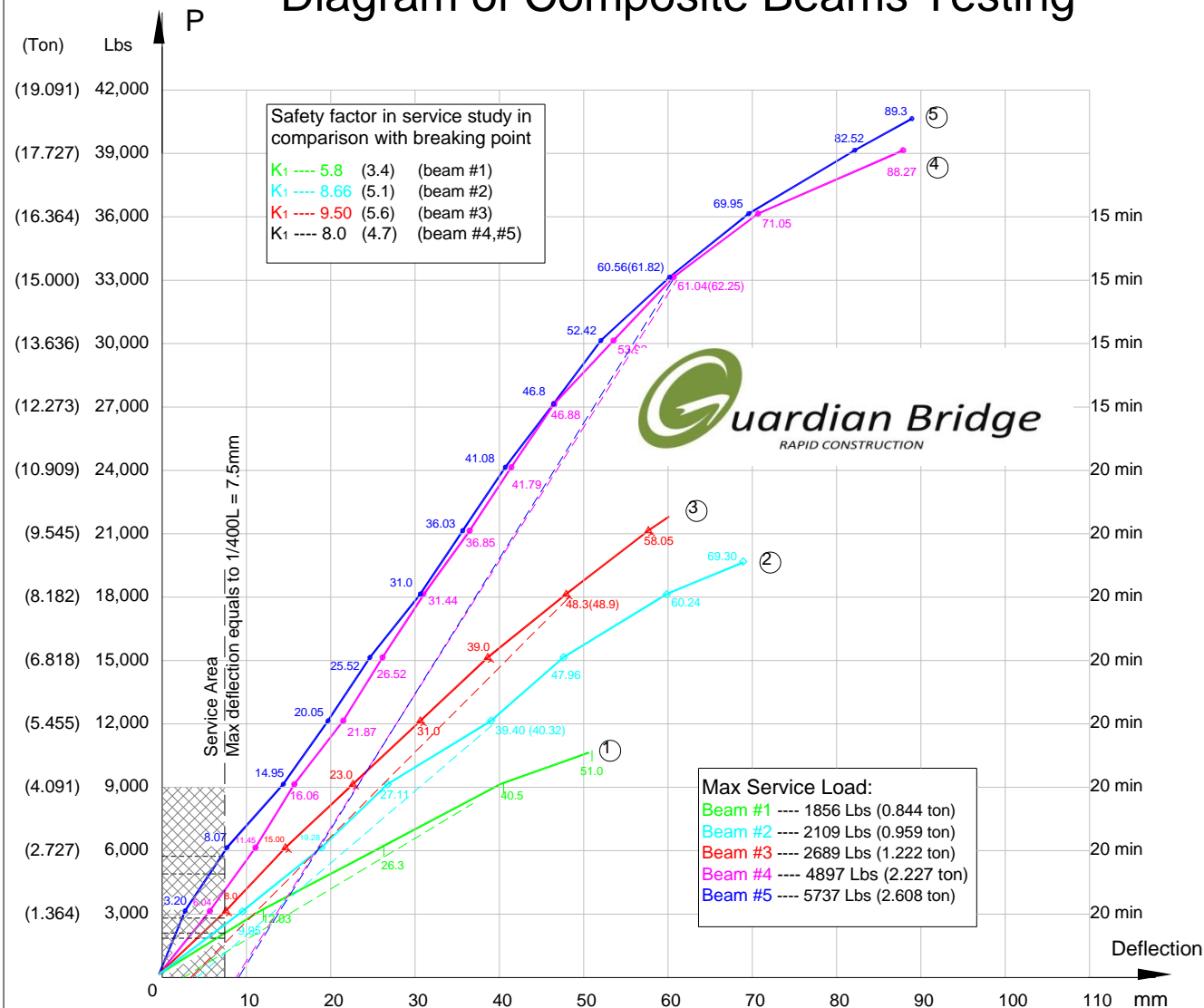


Design not good

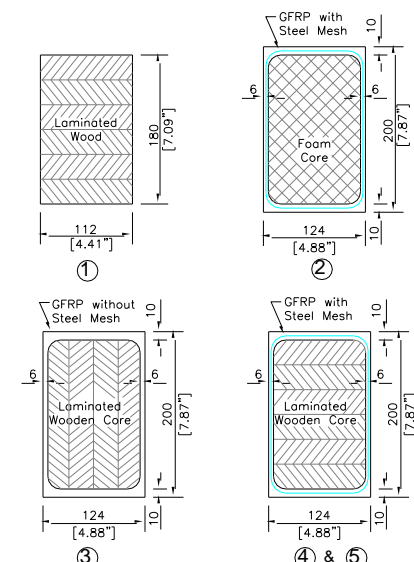
- Externally reinforce

Durability and capacity

# Diagram of Composite Beams Testing



Testing Scheme



Beam Sections

## Legend:

- Beam #1 ----- Laminated wooden beam
- Beam #2 ----- GFRP beam with foam core  
(GFRP casing reinforced with steel mesh)
- Beam #3 ----- Composite beam with laminated wooden core  
(GFRP casing without reinforced steel mesh)  
(Shear perpendicular to wooden grains)
- Beam #4, #5 -- Composite beams (GFRP casing with steel mesh and wooden core)

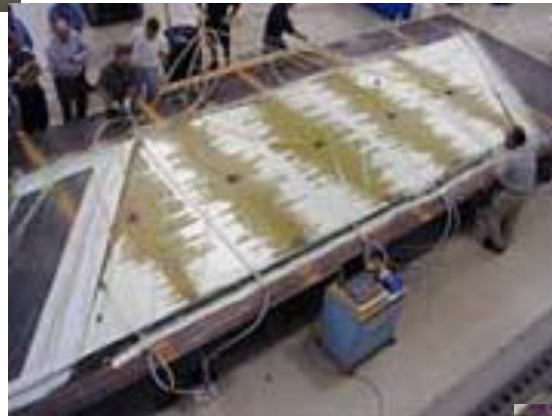
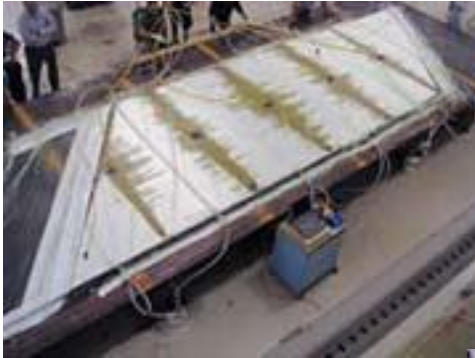
## Note:

Values in diagram are deflections of testing beams



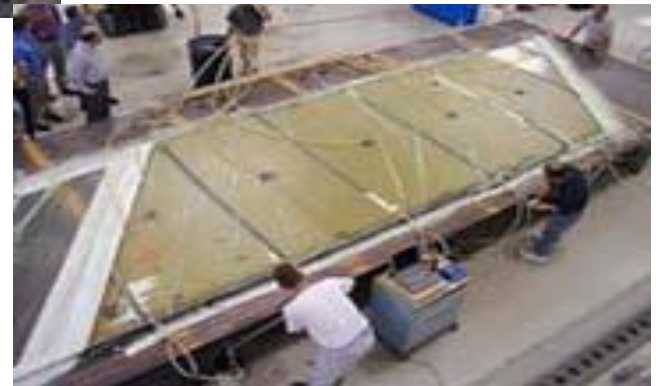
13m long x 3m wide x .495mm deep





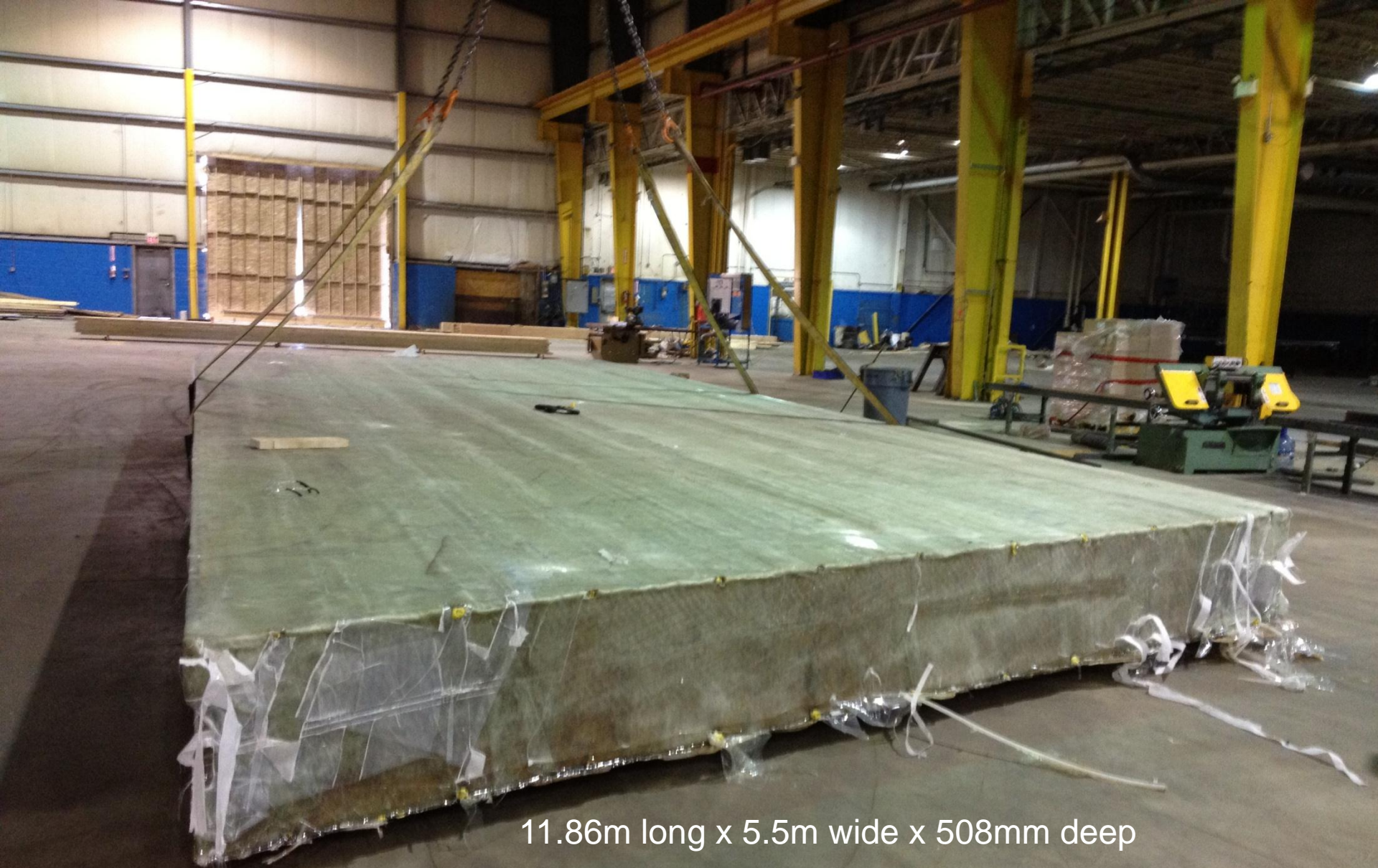
Engineered Wood core

Encapsulated with Epoxy Fiberglass reinforcement



Canadian , U.S., International Patents





11.86m long x 5.5m wide x 508mm deep

92mm less than concrete rigid span







# Robust & Durable



**Blackwell**













# Modular Panel 40 feet long x 18 feet wide



# Modular Panel 40 feet long x 18 feet wide



Panel Two

Panel One



Longitudinal Joint

Panel one

Panel two 29









New prefab bridge panel 50 feet long x 20 feet wide











# New prefab deck







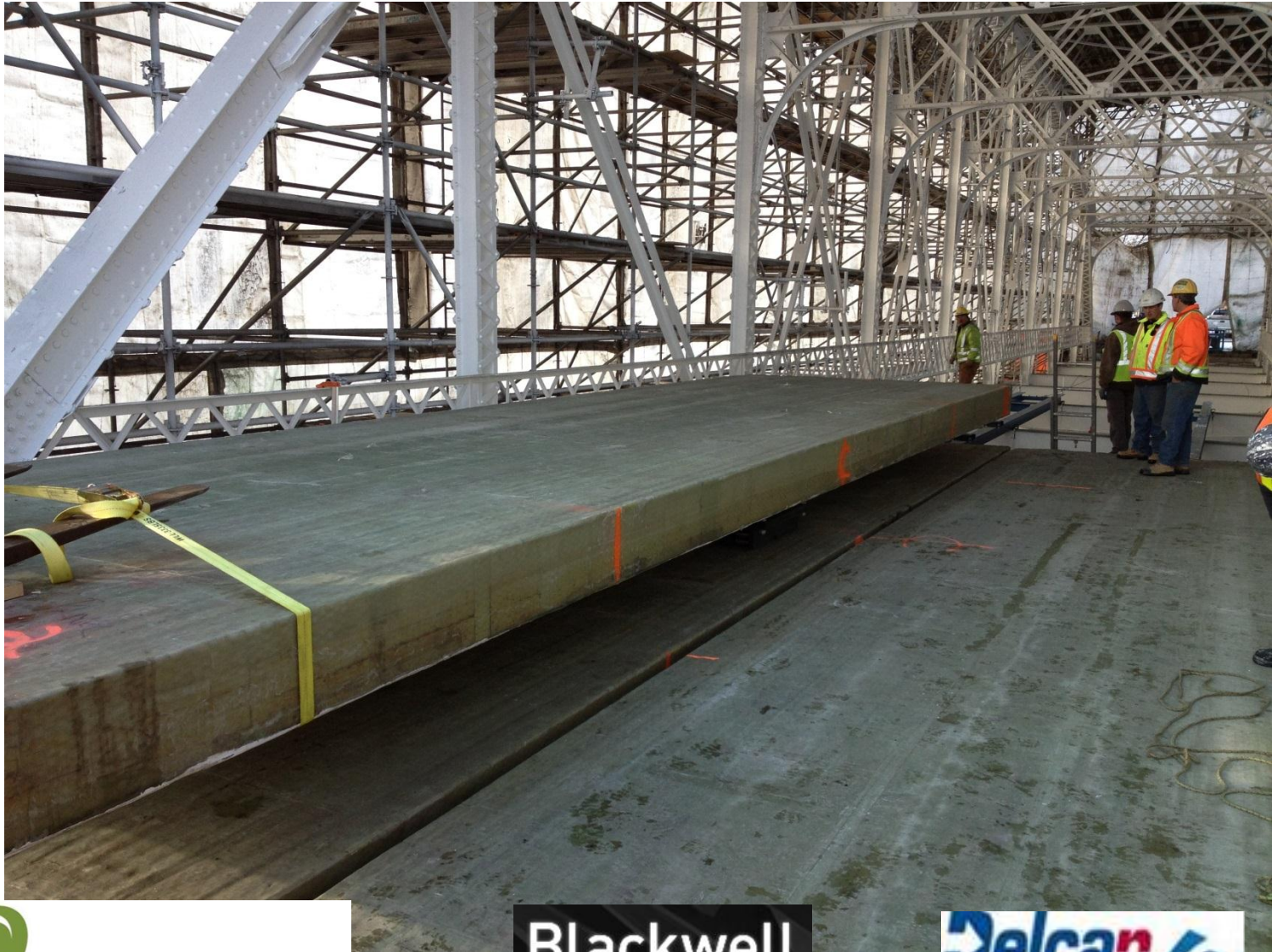




Blackwell







**Blackwell**







**Blackwell**









Lowest concrete bid 566,000.00  
Guardian bid 294,000.00  
Savings over 200,000.00  
Plus dead load savings of 190,000 pounds  
Plus time from concrete at 90 days reduced to 10 days on site.





Concrete deck and steel floor beams removed  
Bridge painted before deck removed  
And after







3 Prefabricated bridge decks  
delivered on one truck to site  
31,00 pounds total



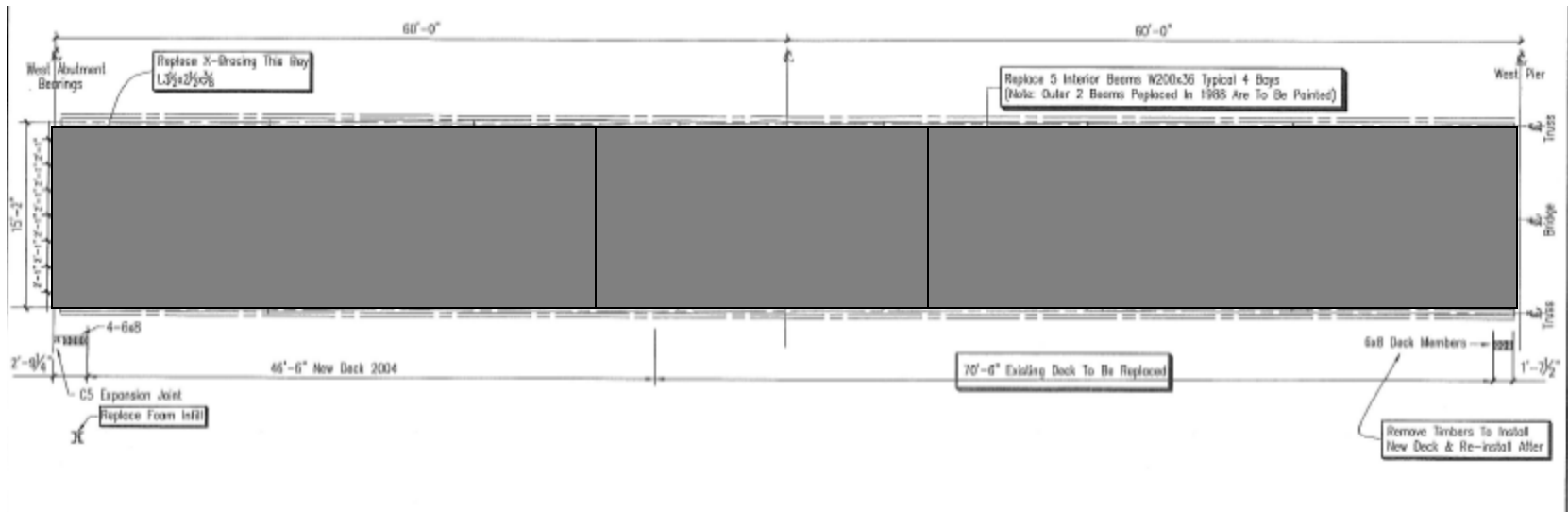


3 Prefabricated bridge decks  
Removed by crane





# Launching three bridge deck panels





















# Increased live load

## from 4 t to 22 t



Bridge paved with HL4 Asphalt

Bridge was proof loaded using  
Tri-axle loaded dump truck, weighed at  
scale with load ticket.

Pulled middle axle, loaded section by  
section with back two axles.

Deflection measured using digital  
indicators.

Result posted 22 tonne limit.

# Tweed



Double lane bridge delivered in two panels



10m long x 8m wide



# Centre Hastings



# Callander





# Double lane bridge

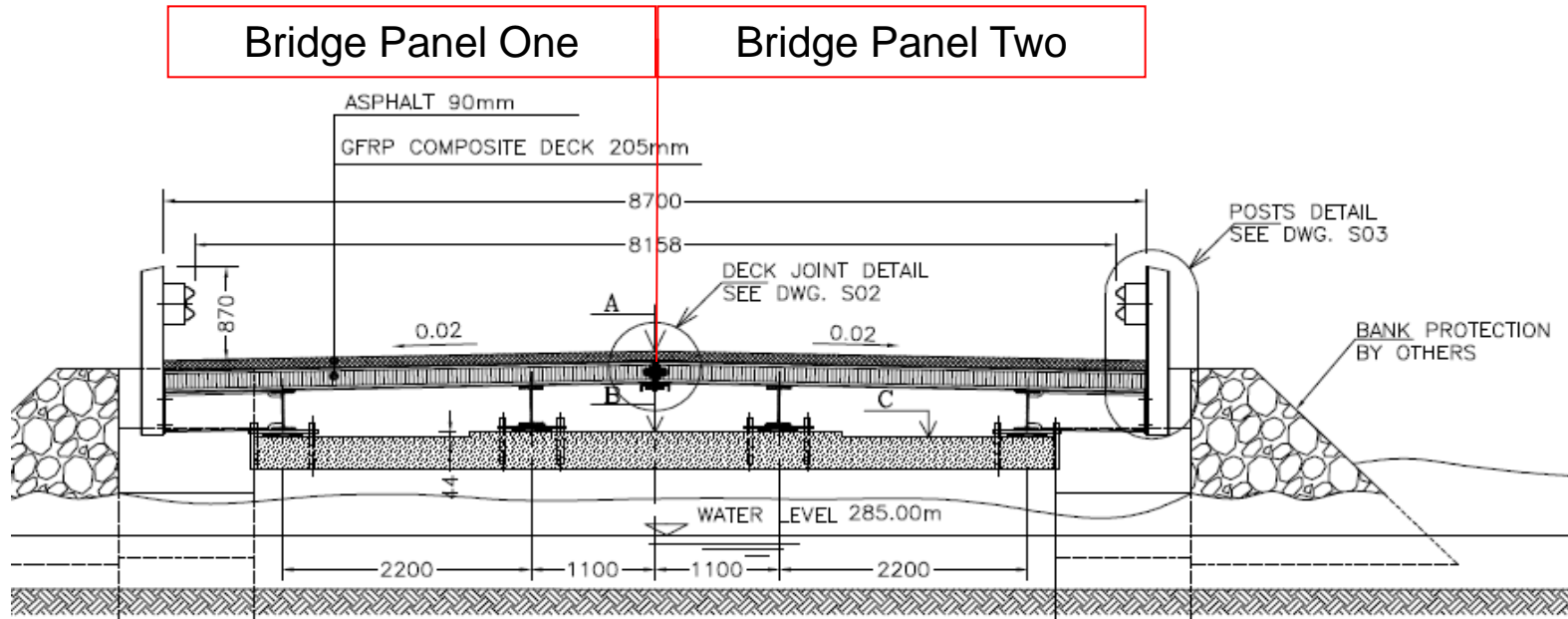


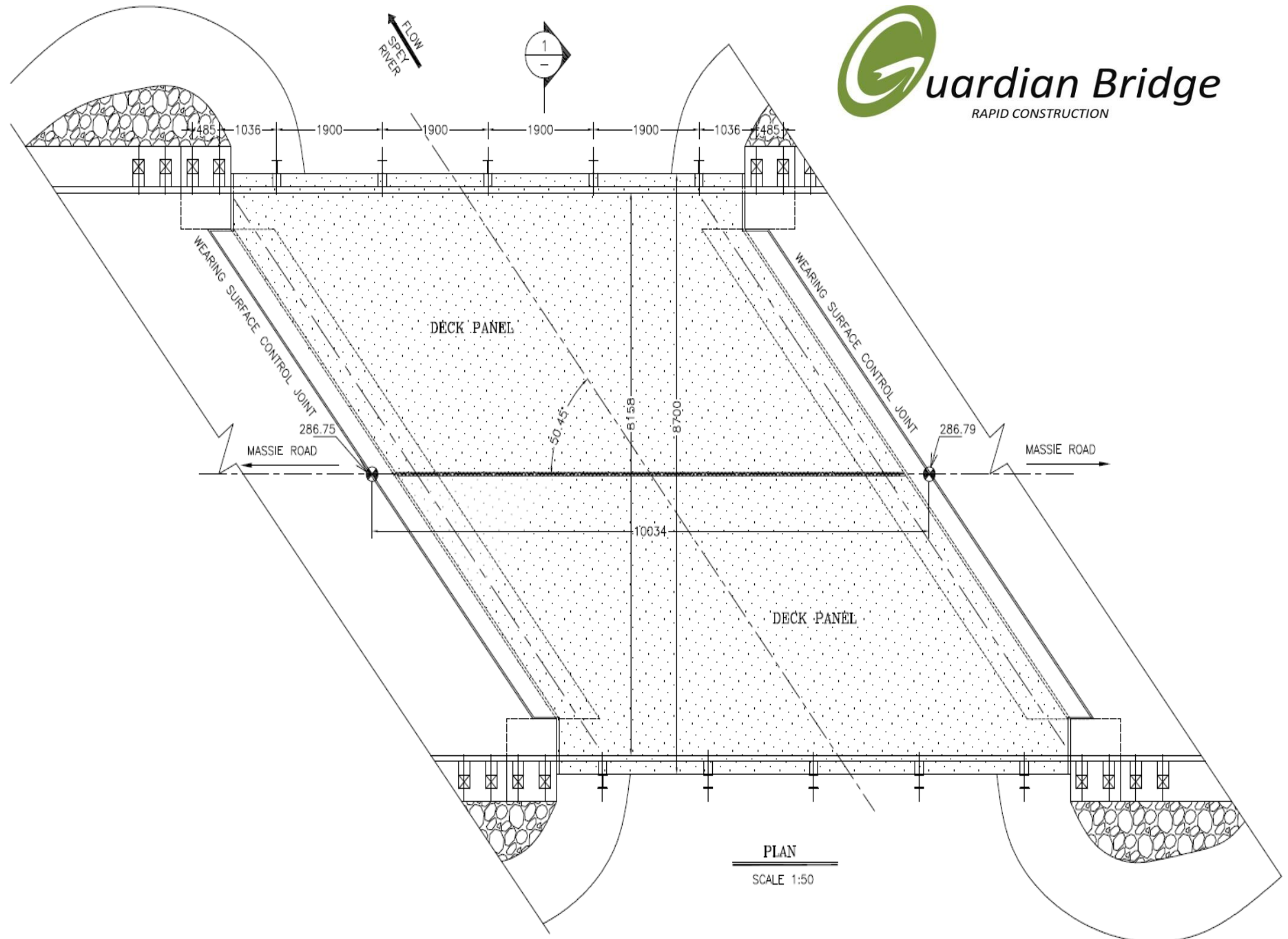
Prefitted at shop before shipping to site





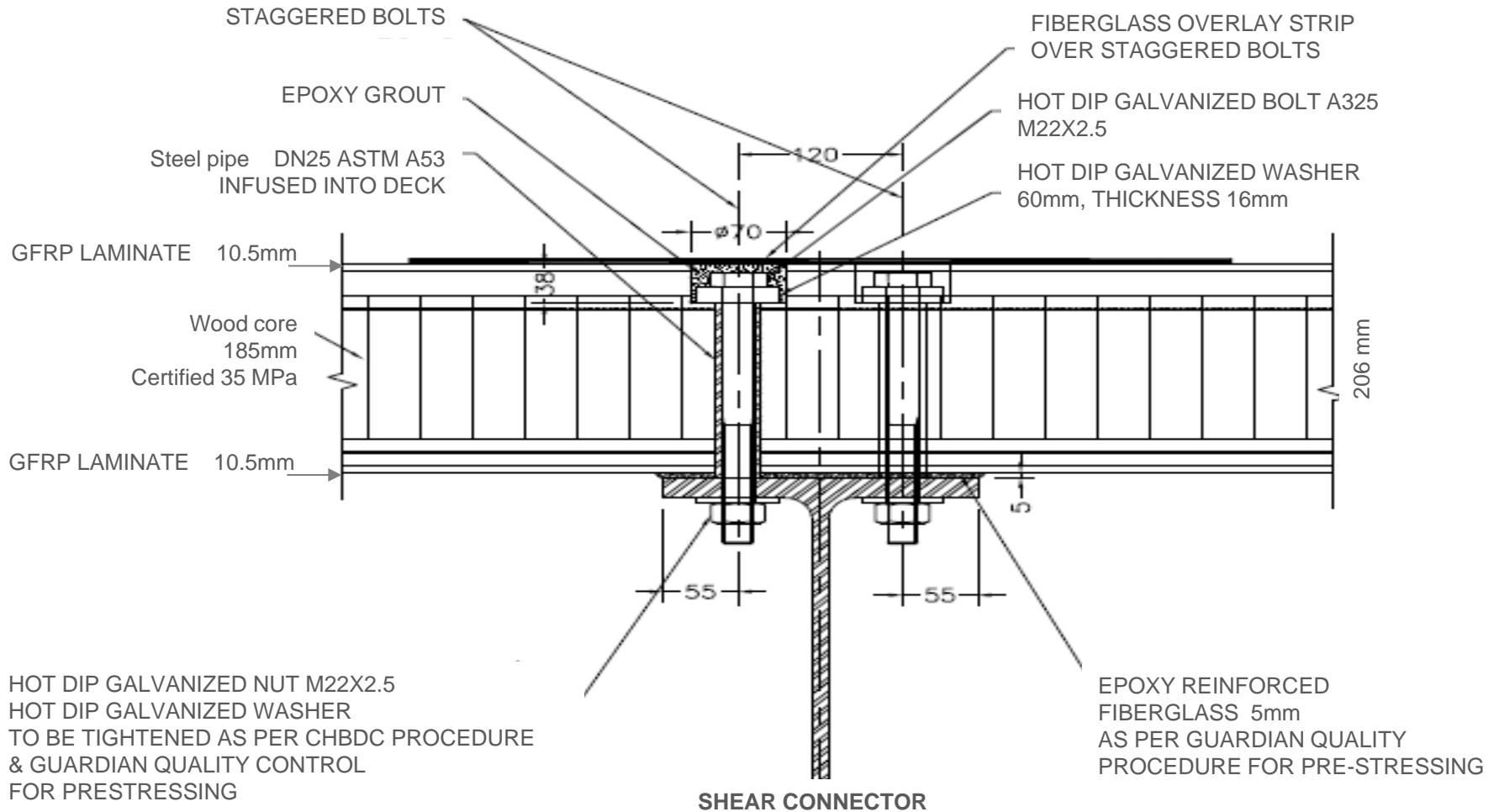
## Massie Road Bridge 9.0m span x 8.158m wide







# Typical Deck to steel girder connection



Bridge  
Delivered by truck  
8:30am







Bridge Panel One  
Rigging completed  
9:00am





Bridge Panel One  
Rigging completed  
9:00am





Panel One

Set in place

9:09am





Panel Two

Rigged

9:19am





Panel Two

Rigged

Lifted into place

9:20am





Panel Two

Set in place

9:25am

Weight of each GFRP bridge panel 17,700 pounds

Old concrete bridge was 167,700 pounds- single lane

Reduced dead load on rehab abutments

Increases capacity and longevity.



Panel Two  
Secure in place  
9:43am











Semi Integral

 **Guardian Bridge**  
RAPID CONSTRUCTION





Protection Board installed





10 days on site from mobilization to completion

- Removed single lane bridge
- Rehab existing abutments and re-certified
- New double lane bridge
- PL1 Rails
- Approach's Granular B & A
- Asphalt























2006/06/01







44 meters long x 10.86 meters wide (two lanes+sidewalk)

CHBDC CL625

5 steel girders 1.7m high

10 GFRP bridge decks transverse to be field installed

































# Panel to Panel Connection





















161 feet long x 26 feet wide



10,000 vehicles per day



83' long x 28' wide





221' long x 32' wide





182' long x 28' wide





241' long x 32' wide





125' long x 25' wide



10,000 vehicles per day



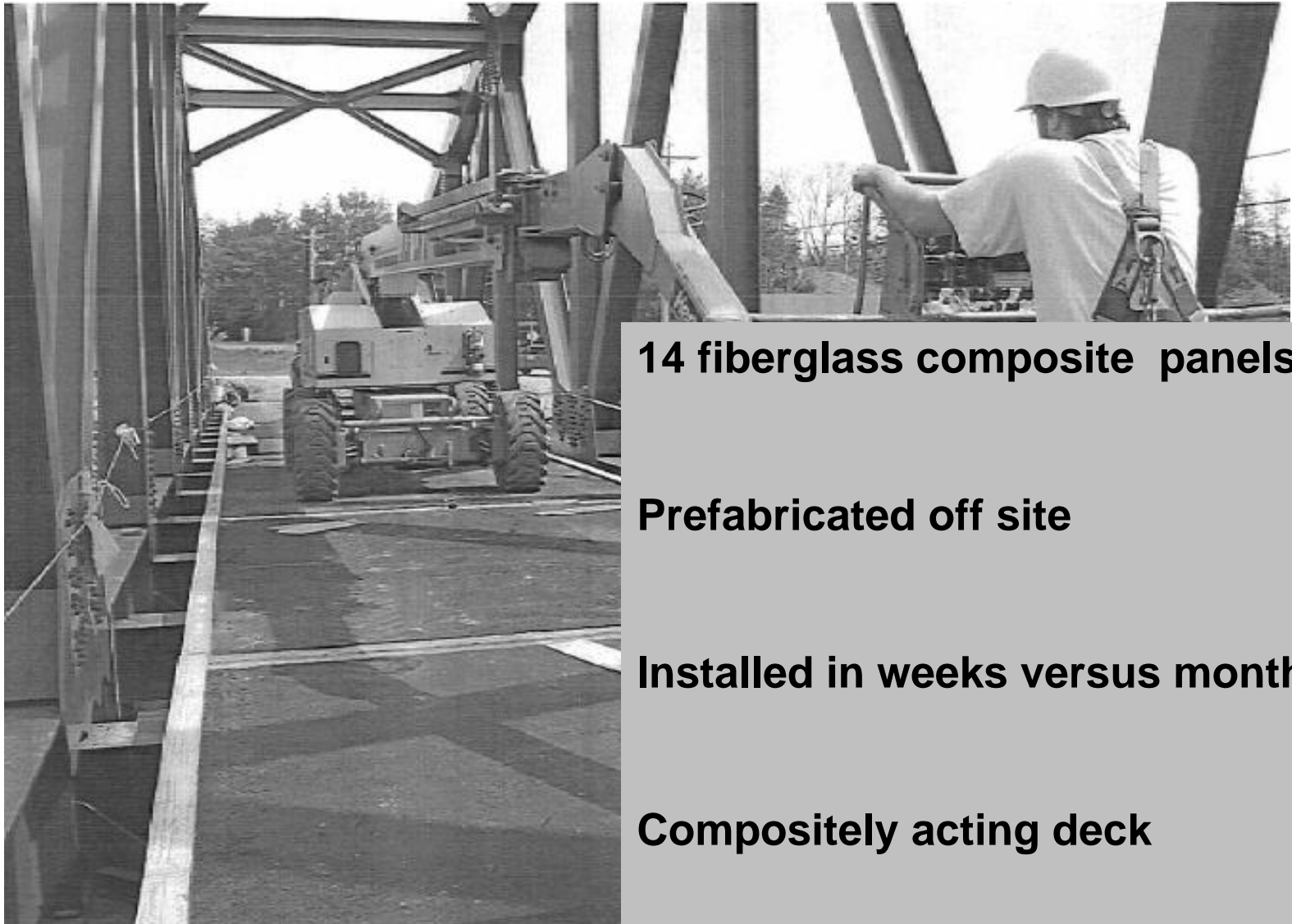
# Port Clyde



**90 m long x 5.5 m wide**

**CHIEF ENGINEER JIM FRANCIS**

**DEPARTMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TRANSPORTATION**



**14 fiberglass composite panels**

**Prefabricated off site**

**Installed in weeks versus months**

**Compositely acting deck**





**Cheaper, faster, longer lasting...what's not to like?**

## Innovative Approach to Port Clyde Bridge

### Transportation and Public Works

May 31, 2005 15:35

Residents of the Port Clyde area on the Lighthouse Route (Route 309) will have their new bridge in place sooner than anticipated.

"The Port Clyde bridge will have an innovative decking system that will reduce construction costs and even more importantly for residents, reduce the amount of time a detour will be in place," said Ron Russell, Minister of Transportation and Public Works. "Cheaper, faster, longer lasting -- what's not to like?"

The new bridge will span the river without the need for in-water piers. This reduces environmental concerns. The bridge's fibreglass wrapped deck will provide added protection against road salt and require less maintenance than a traditional bridge. Cost of the replacement will be \$2.1 million as opposed to the cost of a traditional bridge, estimated at more than \$3 million.

Traditional bridge construction would require the immediate placement of the panel bridge with a permanent bridge to be built in 2006, taking five months to complete.

Mr. Russell said his department will be consulting with the local community, including organizations like the fire department, about the best time to schedule a two-month closure while the new bridge is constructed on site.



# CLYDESDALE

CHIEF ENGINEER JIM FRANCIS  
DEPARTMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TRANSPORTATION



BRIDGE PANEL NUMBER ONE

27 m long x 4.75m wide

# CLYDESDALE

CHIEF ENGINEER JIM FRANCIS  
DEPARTMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TRANSPORTATION



BRIDGE PANEL NUMBER ONE

27 m long x 4.75m wide



# CLYDESDALE

CHIEF ENGINEER JIM FRANCIS  
DEPARTMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TRANSPORTATION



BRIDGE PANEL NUMBER ONE

27 m long x 4.75m wide

# CLYDESDALE

CHIEF ENGINEER JIM FRANCIS  
DEPARTMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TRANSPORTATION



TWO BRIDGE PANELS INSTALLED  
BRIDGE 9.5M WIDE



# CLYDESDALE

CHIEF ENGINEER JIM FRANCIS  
DEPARTMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TRANSPORTATION



27 m long x 9.5 m wide bridge

Delivered in two panels

Installed in weeks versus months

790K Project costs

08/03/06 4:27 pm

# Compare Superstructure Timelines

25 meters long x 9.5 meters wide

## Guardian

1. New bridge panels
  - A. First panel
  - B. Second Panel
2. Semi Integral or Integral
3. Asphalt HL3 90mm

YES

NO

5 days

## Concrete

1. New concrete beams
  - A. First Beam
  - B. Second Beam
  - C. Third Beam
  - D. Fourth Beam
2. Install forming
3. Install Rebar
4. Pour Concrete Deck
5. Wait 28 days
6. Waterproofing
7. Asphalt HL3 90mm

60 days

















11/28/06 9:25 am















# Recognize

Nancy Dewar

Joshua Dewar, Ben Dewar, Natascha Dewar

International Timber Bridge Conference Scientific Committee

International Timber Bridge Conference Planning Committee

USDA Forestry Lab

Wood Works

Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code

Canadian Wood Council Jasmine Wang Ph.D P.Eng

Blackwell – Cory Zurell Ph.D P.Eng

Delcan – Sylvain Montminy P.Eng & Patrick Mergel P.Eng

Stantec – Reed Ellis Ph.D P.Eng & Jim Francis P.Eng

ISIS Canada – Dr. Mufti, Dr. Baidar Bakht

MTO – Bala Tharmabala Ph.D P.Eng

