Strengthening of an Impacted PC Girder on Bridge A10062, St. Louis County, Missouri

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   Strengthening of an Impacted PC Girder on Bridge A10062, St Louis County, MO

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Abstract

This project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of externally bonded FRP reinforcement for the flexural strengthening of a damaged prestressed concrete (PC) girder. A PC girder of Bridge A10062, located at the interchange of Interstates 44 and 270 in St. Louis County, Missouri, was impact-damaged by an overheight truck. Removal of the loose concrete showed that two prestressing tendons were fractured due to the impact. This resulted in approximately 10% reduction in flexural moment capacity. In this case study, it was decided to use carbon FRP laminates to restore the original structural capacity of the girder. It was demonstrated that CFRP bonded reinforcement could be an effective repair technique in terms of installation as well as design.

The demonstration consists of design and field construction. The project leads to a bridge strengthening protocol for consideration by MoDOT.
STRENGTHENING OF AN IMPACTED PC GIRDER
ON BRIDGE A10062,
ST LOUIS COUNTY, MO

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IN COOPERATION WITH
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AND

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FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

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The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the principal investigators. They are not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. This report does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An exterior prestressed concrete (PC) girder of Bridge A10062, located at the interchange of Interstates 44 and 270 in St. Louis County, Missouri, USA, was impact-damaged by an overheight truck. Removal of the loose concrete showed that two prestressing tendons were fractured due to the impact. This resulted in approximately 10% reduction in flexural moment capacity. There has been limited research on the repair of PC bridge girders damaged by vehicular impact. Due to the repetitive nature of highway loading, repair methods such as internal strand splices and external post-tensioning were found to be questionable because they could not restore the ultimate strength to the damaged member. In this case study, it was decided to use carbon FRP (CFRP) laminates to restore the original structural capacity of the girder. It was demonstrated that CFRP bonded reinforcement could be an effective repair technique in terms of installation as well as design. If the present trend in growing availability of FRP materials and design information were to continue, a sharp increase in FRP application could be forecast.
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

There has been relatively limited research on the damage assessment and repair of prestressed concrete (PC) bridge girders subjected to vehicular impact. From a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) perspective, two publications (Shanafelt et al. 1980 and 1985) address this topic. Researchers at Iowa State University have recently published a comprehensive report (Klaiber et al. 1999). This document includes an extensive annotated bibliography as well as results from experiments conducted in the field and in the laboratory. With respect to experience in the United States, in addition to Iowa, Departments of Transportation of other states such as Georgia (Aboutaha et al. 1997), Minnesota (Olson et al. 1992), and Texas (Zobel et al. 1997) have supported work in this area.

Under the repetitive nature of highway loading, repair methods such as internal strand splices and external post-tensioning were found to be only partially satisfactory because they could not restore the ultimate strength to the damaged member (Olson et al. 1992; Zobel et al. 1998).

Strengthening of reinforced concrete (RC) and PC structures using externally bonded steel plates and composite laminates has proven to be an effective method for increasing or restoring structural capacity (Dolan et al. 1999). Fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) composites come in the form of pre-cured laminates or fiber sheets to be installed by hand lay-up. The application of the latter offers several advantages such as ease of bonding to curved or irregular surfaces, lightweight, and the fact that fibers can be oriented along any direction. Strengthening of impact-damaged girders with FRP laminates has already been explored (Nanni 1997). In this case study, it was decided to use carbon FRP (CFRP) laminates installed by manual lay-up to restore the original structural capacity of the girder.

1.2. FRP COMPOSITES

FRP material systems, composed of fibers embedded in a polymeric matrix, exhibit several properties, which make them suitable for their use as structural reinforcing elements (Nanni et al. 1993). FRP composites are characterized by excellent tensile strength in the direction of the fibers and by negligible strength in the direction transverse to the fibers. This illustrates the anisotropic nature of these materials. FRP composites do not exhibit yielding, but instead are elastic up to failure. They are also characterized by a range of low to high modulus of elasticity in tension and low compressive properties. FRP composites are corrosion resistant and are expected to perform better than other construction materials in terms of weathering behavior.

The FRP matrix consists of a polymer, or resin, used as a binder for the reinforcing fibers. The matrix has two main functions: to enable the load to be transferred among fibers and, to protect the fibers from environmental effects. In a composite material, the fibers have the role of the load-bearing constituent. Fibers give the composite high tensile strength and rigidity.
along their longitudinal direction. Several types of fibers have been developed for use in FRP composites. For structural applications, research and development has been conducted using carbon, aramid and glass fibers. In the order listed, these fibers exhibit an ultimate strain range of 1 to 4%, with no yielding occurring prior to failure. The ultimate strength range is approximately 830 to 480 ksi (5,700 to 3,300 MPa) and elastic moduli range from 10,000 to 39,000 ksi (70 to 270 GPa). Carbon fibers are the strongest, stiffest, and most durable.

FRP composites are used in the construction industry in various forms and systems:

- Sheets of fibers are thin, flexible fabric-like materials. The sheets can either be dry and have the resin applied to them in place, or pre-impregnated “prepreg” with uncured B-stage resin, which requires special storage and handling.
- Laminates are formed from sheets by stacking one or more layers of the sheet and resin to consolidate them into the desired thickness. By adjusting the orientation and stacking sequence of the layers, a variety of physical properties can be achieved.
- Unidirectional sheets having fibers that are all aligned in a common direction.
- Multidirectional sheets are similar to unidirectional sheets except that fibers running in multiple directions are woven together. The fibers used can be of a variety of materials (carbon and aramid, for example) to create hybrid FRP laminates.

As a point of reference, the thickness of an installed ply (which includes fibers and adhesive) is in range of 0.039 to 0.118 in. (1 to 3 mm). The process followed for the field installation of externally bonded FRP reinforcement consists of the basic following steps: concrete surface preparation (e.g., cleaning, crack sealing, rust-proofing existing steel reinforcement, smoothing, etc.), primer coat application, resin (undercoat) application, adhesion of the sheet(s), resin application, curing, and finish coat application.

Other cured systems include FRP grids (2D and 3D) and FRP reinforcing bars for concrete. High-strength FRP rods can be used for prestressing concrete (either in new construction or in external post-tensioning). Several tendon/anchor systems for concrete prestressing are available worldwide (Nanni 1993).

1.3. EXTERNALLY BONDED REPAIR

Structural retrofit work has come to the forefront of industry practice in response to the problem of aging infrastructure and buildings worldwide. This problem, coupled with revisions in structural codes to better withstand natural phenomena, creates the need for structural retrofit technologies. Some important characteristics of repair work are: labor cost, shut-down costs, material costs, scheduling constraints, long-term durability, difficulty in selection of repair method, and evaluation of effectiveness.

An effective method for upgrading RC members (prestressed and non-prestressed) is plate bonding. This method originates from the strengthening of steel beams by means of adding steel plates. It began in South Africa and France, where steel plates bonded with epoxy resins were used for strengthening of concrete members (L’Hermite et. al 1967), and was followed by more than 10 years of research until it became an accepted field practice. Experiments have
investigated the influence of factors such as plate thickness, type of adhesive and anchoring conditions (Swamy et al. 1987). Roberts et al. (1989) published a theoretical study of the behavior of RC beams bonded with steel plates that has become a landmark paper. This study was aimed at developing a simple analytical model capable of predicting the effect of a steel plate on the distribution of strain and stress in the RC beam.

In Germany and Switzerland during the mid 1980's, replacement of steel with FRP plates began to be viewed as a promising improvement in externally bonded repair (Meier et al. 1987 and 1991, Rostasy et al. 1992). Kaiser (1989) load tested carbon FRP composites and showed the validity of the strain compatibility method (i.e., classical approach for RC sections) in the analysis of repaired members. In the United States, Ritchie et al. (1991) and Saadatmanesh et al. (1991) studied the static behavior of RC beams with externally bonded glass FRP plates and developed analytical methods also based on strain compatibility. Later, Triantafillou et al. (1992) added concepts of fracture mechanics to this classical method. Berset (1992) investigated the use of externally bonded composites to strengthen RC beams in shear. In Saudi Arabia, Sharif et al. (1994), using both Roberts’ theory and strain compatibility, developed a theoretical algorithm for predicting the flexural strength and the plate separation load of repaired beams.

For bridge structures subjected to cyclic loading, fatigue becomes an important issue that needs to be addressed by the designer. The fatigue behavior of FRP as a stand-alone material has been under investigations for almost 40 years in the context of aerospace, marine and mechanical applications (Broutman, 1974). Over this period of time, fatigue data have been generated for a variety of composite materials under axial and flexural fatigue loading. More recently, research has been carried out on the fatigue behavior of FRP for infrastructure applications (Demers, 1998). In the past decade a remarkable amount of research has focused on the static behavior of RC beams strengthened with externally bonded FRP laminates. However, little has been done on the fatigue performance of RC beams strengthened with externally bonded FRP sheets. The available literature includes publications by Shahawy et al. (1998), Nishizaki et al. (1997) and Demers (1998).

Of all countries, Japan has seen the largest number of field applications using bonded FRP composites. Two large manufacturing industries (Tonem and Mitsubishi Chemical) have aggressively pursued this technology. A joint venture of Mitsubishi Chemical and Obayashi Corporation (one of the largest Japanese contracting companies) was the first partnership to propose and execute column and chimney repair by FRP wrapping. Japanese manufacturer's literature (Tonem 1994, Mitsubishi Chemical 1994) also proposes the adoption of the working stress design method based on the classical flexural theory. The primary assumption remains that of perfect bond between FRP and concrete (and between concrete and steel). Allowable stress for the FRP sheets is set at one-third of the ultimate tensile capacity. This means that the allowable strain in the FRP, even in the case of low-elongation fibers, is larger than five times the strain at yield of conventional Grade 60 steel.

The advantages of FRP versus steel for the reinforcement of concrete structures include lower installation costs, improved corrosion resistance, on-site flexibility of use, and small changes in member size after repair. An additional advantage in terms of industry acceptance is due to the fact that building code enforcement for repair-type application is not as stringent as for
new construction. Widespread implementation in structural repair is ultimately contingent upon availability of codes and familiarity of owners, engineers, and contractors with the performance of the new materials and technology.

### 1.4. PREVIOUS APPLICATION IN DAMAGE REPAIR

Figure 1.1 illustrates the effect of a vehicular impact on the four girders of the bridge overpass on highway Appia near Terracina, Rome (Nanni 1997). This is a short bridge, 34.48 ft (10.5 m) in span, made of four prestressed concrete girders having cross sectional dimensions of 3.28 by 4.92 ft (1.0 by 1.5 m). The conventional reinforcement (prestressing tendons and reinforcing bars) is clearly visible in the photograph after the loose concrete was removed.

![Damage](image1.png)

Figure 1.1. Girder Damage due to Vehicular Impact

The concrete cross section was restored with non-shrink mortar and, after surface preparation, CFRP sheets were adhered as shown in Figure 1.2. The objective of the CFRP strengthening was to make up for the loss of prestress. For each beam, three sheets, 1.08 ft (0.33 m) wide and 9.84 ft (3.0 m) long, were bonded to the soffit (0° fiber direction), and four strips, 0.52 ft (0.16 m) wide and 9.84 ft (3.0 m) long, were wrapped around the three sides (90° fiber direction). The total amount of CFRP material used was approximately 215.27 ft² (20 m²).

![Pattern of CFRP Strips](image2.png)

Figure 1.2. Pattern of CFRP Strips
1.5. OBJECTIVE

Bridge A10062 is located at the interchange of the Interstates 44 and 270 in St. Louis County, Missouri, USA. Elevation and plan details are shown in Appendix A. The bridge has a relatively low roadway clearance of 14.9 ft-10 in. (4.52 m), and it was impact-damaged by an overheight truck in one of its exterior PC girders. Removal of the loose concrete showed that two prestressing tendons were fractured due to the impact (see Figure 1.3).

(a) Overall View of the Damage                      (b) Fractured Prestressing Tendons

Figure 1.3. Fractured Tendons after the Removal of the Damaged Concrete
2. MATERIAL PROPERTIES

2.1. PC GIRDER AND DECK

The damaged girder was prestressed by 20 low-relaxation 7-wire steel strands with a tensile strength of 270 ksi (1862 MPa). According to a MoDOT requirements the effective slab thickness was considered as 7.5 in. Following AASHTO provisions (Sections 9.8.1 and 8.10.1), the effective flange width was estimated as 47.5 in. Since the existing deck and the PC girder have different compressive concrete strengths, the effective width was modified by multiplying it by the modular ratio of elasticity \( n = \frac{E_{cl}}{E_c} \) (\( E_{cl} \) = modulus of the topping concrete and \( E_c \) = modulus of the precast concrete). For an \( n \)-value equal to 0.82, the modified flange width was 38.8 in. The modulus of elasticity of concrete can be estimated as \( E_c = w_c^{1.5} \times 33.5 \times \sqrt{f_{c}'} \), where \( w_c \) is the weight of concrete (for calculation purposes, it was considered to be 150 lb/ft\(^2\) in both topping and precast concrete). The cross section of the damaged girder and prestressing details are shown in Fig. 2.1. Material properties used in the analysis are shown in Table 2.1.

![Girder Dimensions and Prestressing Details](image)

Table 2.1. Material Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prestressing Tendons</th>
<th>Strand Type</th>
<th>Low Relaxation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strand Tensile Strength, ksi (MPa)</td>
<td>270 (1862)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal Diameter, in. (mm)</td>
<td>0.5 (12.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strand Area, ( \text{in}^2 ) (( \text{mm}^2 ))</td>
<td>0.153 (98.71)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modulus of Elasticity, ksi (GPa)</td>
<td>2800 (19.31)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td>( f_{c}' ) – Existing Concrete Deck, psi (MPa)</td>
<td>4000 (27.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( f_{c1}' ) – PC Girder, psi (MPa)</td>
<td>5100 (35.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( f_{c}' ) – PC Girder, psi (MPa)</td>
<td>6000 (41.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2. FRP LAMINATE

A commercially available CFRP strengthening system was selected for its high strength and excellent performance under sustained and cyclic loading. In this system, carbon fibers are initially dry, unidirectionally oriented, and supported by a paper backing for ease of installation by manual lay-up. According to manufacturer’s literature, the FRP tensile strength is 620 ksi (4,275 MPa), the modulus of elasticity is 33,000 ksi (4.8 GPa), and the design thickness is 0.0065 in. (0.165 mm). Note that, tensile strength and elastic modulus of the saturant is neglected in computing the strength of the system. Therefore, FRP laminate properties are calculated and reported (see Table 2.2) using the net fiber area. In tension, the CFRP laminate has a linear elastic behavior up to failure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Strength, ksi (MPa), $f_{pu}$</td>
<td>620 (4,275)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Strength, ksi (MPa), $f_{fc}$</td>
<td>550 (3,792)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tensile Modulus, ksi (GPa), $E_f$</td>
<td>33000 (4.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness, in. (mm), $t_f$</td>
<td>0.0065 (0.165)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Strain, %, $\varepsilon_{fu}$</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. CFRP DESIGN CALCULATIONS

3.1. PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS

The ultimate limit state analysis calculates the capacity of the section at failure by combining force equilibrium, strain compatibility, and the constitutive laws of the materials. As an example the stress and strain distributions at ultimate for a rectangular cross section are illustrated in Figure 3.1. The non-linear stress-strain behavior of concrete may be replaced for computational ease by a rectangular stress block with dimensions $\alpha f'_c$ by $\beta_1 c$.

![Figure 3.1. Strain and Stress Distribution in a RC Section at Ultimate](image)

It should be noted that the recommendations provided by American Concrete Institute (ACI) - Committee 318, ($\alpha=0.85$ and $\beta_1=0.85$ for compressive strengths up to 4000 psi) are not valid when the concrete strain falls below 0.003 in/in (mm/mm). However, from the parabolic concrete stress-strain distribution shown in equation 3.1, the coefficient $\alpha$ and $\beta_1$ that bound the equivalent compressive block can be determined from the relationships shown in equations 3.1b and 3.1c:

\[
f'_c = f'_c \left[ 2 \left( \frac{e_c}{e_o} \right) - \left( \frac{e_c}{e_o} \right)^2 \right]
\]

\[
\alpha \beta_1 = \left( \frac{e_c}{e_o} \right) - \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{e_c}{e_o} \right)^2
\]

\[
\alpha \beta_1 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \beta_1 \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{e_c}{e_o} \right) - \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{e_c}{e_o} \right)^2
\]

where $f'_c$ and $e_c$ are particular stress and strain, respectively; and $e_o$ is the strain at the peak stress $f'_c$. 

-8-
Other common representations of the stress-strain curve of concrete are the Modified Hognestad and Todeschini approximations. The Todeschini approximation (Todeschini et al. 1964) is the easiest to use and is readily adaptable to computer applications (Mac Gregor 1997).

The general equation for the nominal moment capacity, $M_n$, of an RC or PC section strengthened with FRP flexural reinforcement is given in equation 3.2.

$$M_n = A_s f_s \left( d - \frac{\beta c}{2} \right) + \psi_f A_f f_{fe} \left( h - \frac{\beta c}{2} \right)$$

(3.2)

where $h$ is the section height, $d$ is the depth of the steel reinforcement, $c$ is the depth of the neutral axis, $A_s$ is the amount of internal steel reinforcement, $A_f$ is the amount of FRP reinforcement, and $f_{fe}$ is the effective strain in FRP. $f_{fe}$ is the product of the effective strain, $\varepsilon_{fe}$, in FRP and the FRP modulus of elasticity, $E_f$:

$$f_{fe} = \varepsilon_{fe} E_f$$

(3.3a)

$$\varepsilon_{fe} = 0.003 \left( \frac{h - c}{c} \right) - \varepsilon_{bi} \leq \kappa_m \varepsilon_{bi}$$

(3.3b)

$$\kappa_m = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{nE_t t_f}{2,400,000} & \text{for } nE_t t_f \leq 1,200,000 \\ \frac{600,000}{nE_t t_f} & \text{for } nE_t t_f > 1,200,000 \end{cases}$$

(3.3c)

The committee 440 of ACI defines $\varepsilon_{bi}$ as strain level in the concrete substrate at the time of the FRP installation, $\kappa_m$ as the bond dependent coefficient for flexure, $n$ as the number of plies of FRP, and $t_f$ as thickness of FRP.

The term $f_s$ in equation 3.2 indicates that the reinforcing mild or prestressing steels is not necessarily at its yield stress. Addition of FRP may result in over-reinforcement for moment capacity thus the concrete may crush before the steel yields. A partial reduction factor, $\psi_f$, is applied to the flexural strength contribution of the FRP reinforcement. This partial reduction factor is meant to account lower reliability of the FRP reinforcement compared to internal steel reinforcement. For flexural strengthening, a partial reduction factor of 0.85 ($\psi_f = 0.85$) is recommended by ACI-440.

There is discussion within the technical community and in particular within ACI-440 to arrive to a scientifically based expression of the reduction factor to be applied to the ultimate strength of FRP. The current thinking is that the material properties reported by manufacturers should be considered as initial properties that do not consider long-term exposure to environmental conditions. Because long-term exposure to various types of environments can reduce the tensile properties and creep rupture and fatigue endurance of FRP laminates, the material properties used in design equations should be reduced based on the environmental exposure condition. The modulus of elasticity is unaffected by environmental conditions.
Therefore, the design ultimate tensile strength, $f_{u}$, should be determined using the environmental reduction factor given in Table 3.1 for the appropriate fiber type and exposure condition.

$$f_{u} = C_{E} f_{u}^{*}$$  \hfill (3.4)

Similarly, the design rupture strain, $\varepsilon_{fu}$, must also be reduced for environmental exposure conditions.

$$\varepsilon_{fu} = C_{E} \varepsilon_{fu}^{*}$$  \hfill (3.5)

where $C_{E}$ is the environmental reduction factor, $f_{u}^{*}$ and $\varepsilon_{fu}^{*}$ are the values for ultimate tensile strength and rupture strain provided by the manufacturer.

The environmental reduction factors given in Table 3.1 are conservative estimates based on the relative durability of each fiber type. It is expected that with continued research, these values will become more accurate. However, the methodology regarding the use of these factors will remain unchanged. For the design of the FRP strengthening of Bridge A10062, the $C_{E}$ factor was taken equal to 0.85 (Unenclosed exposure condition and Carbon/Epoxy system).

Table 3.1. $C_{E}$ Values for Various FRP Systems and Exposure Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure Condition</th>
<th>Fiber Type</th>
<th>Environmental Reduction Factor, $C_{E}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed Conditioned Space</td>
<td>Carbon/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glass/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aramid/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unenclosed or Unconditioned Space</td>
<td>Carbon/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glass/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aramid/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggressive Environment</td>
<td>Carbon/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glass/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aramid/Epoxy</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The stresses in each of the materials will depend on the strain distribution and the governing failure mode. Because of the number of variables involved, there is no direct procedure for determining the strain distribution and failure mode. Instead, a trial and error procedure is necessary. This procedure involves first estimating the depth to the neutral axis, $c$, and determining the failure mode based on this estimate. The estimated depth to the neutral axis may be confirmed or modified based on strain compatibility, the constitutive laws of the materials, and internal force equilibrium.
3.2. DESIGN CRITERIA

The nominal moment capacity of the PC girder plus concrete deck was determined by the conventional rectangular stress block approach. The stress in the tendons at ultimate was determined according to standard equations (PCI, 1999). The moment capacities were calculated using a computer program developed by UMR. Considering a reduction factor $\phi$ equal to 1.0 for factory produced precast prestressed concrete members (AASHTO, Section 9.14), the computed factored moment capacity before damage was $\phi M_{n(original)} = 2237$ ft-k (3031 kN-m). As a result of the impact-damage, the capacity of the member was reduced to $\phi M_{n(damaged)} = 2047$ ft-k (2774 kN-m). Thus, strengthening had to restore a loss of about 190 ft-k (257 kN-m) of moment capacity.

The parameters that affect the design of the strengthening of concrete flexural members have been investigated and used for many applications (Nanni et al. 1998). Included in the design protocol are the effects of initial strain, FRP/steel reinforcement ratios, material properties, steel reinforcing stress at working loads, deflections under working loads, and failure mechanisms. Pseudo-ductility can also addressed by considering the failure mechanism and the strain in the steel reinforcement at ultimate. The input requirements for the design of an FRP strengthened and/or stiffened concrete flexural member include existing concrete section, imposed loads (at installation and service), global geometry, and material properties. It is further assumed that the FRP laminate is externally bonded to the concrete surface when the concrete surface itself is subjected to a given level of strain and that perfect bond exists between FRP and concrete. The fundamental steps of the adopted design procedure are listed below:

- Calculate critical section moment and curvature at yield of reinforcing steel
- Calculate tensile strain in existing member at the level where FRP is to be applied
- Calculate the area of FRP required to resist ultimate projected moment
- Check stress/strain at working loads
- Determine overall length of the FRP plies and laminate

The rehabilitation of this impact–damaged girder called for concrete repair and application of CFRP laminates. The flexural strengthening consisted of two 18 in. (45.7 cm) wide plies with lengths of 9 ft-4 in. and 10 ft-8 in. (285 and 325 cm), respectively, applied to the bottom of the girder with fibers aligned along its longitudinal axis. The double ply-laminate was centered over the damaged area (see Figure 3.2). Sixteen strips, 4 in. (10.2 cm) wide and spaced at 8 in. (20.4 cm) on centers, were then U-wraped around the bulb of the girder over the previous installation (see Figure 3.3). The purpose of the U-wrap is to prevent the delamination of the FRP plies applied to the bottom surface of the girder. After repair, the factored capacity of the girder was computed to be $\phi M_{n(repaired)} = 2223$ ft-k (3012 kN-m), which basically matches the original capacity. Appendix B shows the supporting calculations for the flexural capacity of the original, damaged and repaired sections. The calculations were carried out in U.S customary units.
Figure 3.2. Two-Ply CFRP Laminate

Figure 3.3. CFRP Strips U-Wrapped around the Girder Flange
4. INSTALLATION

Before carrying out the CFRP laminate installation, the damaged area of the girder was restored with a rapid setting, no-shrinkage, cementitious mortar. The sequential installation procedure was as follows:

**Surface Preparation:** the bottom edges of the girder were rounded for proper wrapping. Next, the concrete surface was sandblasted until the aggregate was exposed and the surface of the concrete was free of loose and unsound materials.

**Application of primer:** a layer of epoxy-based primer was applied to the prepared concrete surface using a short nap roller to penetrate the concrete pores and to provide an improved substrate for the saturant.

**Application of putty:** after the primer became tack-free, a thin layer of putty was applied using a trowel to level the concrete surface and to patch small holes.

**Application of first layer of saturant:** the first layer of saturant was rolled on the putty using a medium nap roller. The functions of the saturant are: to impregnate the dry fibers, to maintain the fibers in their intended orientation, to distribute stress to the fibers, and to protect the fibers from abrasion and environmental effects.

**Application of fiber sheet:** after the fiber sheet was measured and pre-cut, it was placed on the concrete surface and gently pressed into the saturant. Prior to removing the backing paper, a trowel was used to remove any air void. After the backing paper was removed, a ribbed roller was rolled in the fiber direction to facilitate impregnation by separating the fibers.

**Application of second layer of saturant:** a second layer of saturant was applied and worked into the fibers with a ribbed roller. After this, the second fiber sheet could be installed by repeating the described procedure.

Figure 4.1 illustrates the MoDOT crew at work. The installation of the FRP systems, including surface preparation, was performed in two hours.
Figure 4.1. Installation Crew at Work

(a) Overall View                                                (b) Surface Sandblasting

(c) Application of Putty                             (d) Application of Saturant

(e) Manual Lay-up of CFRP Sheet                     (f) Strips Manual Lay-up
5. DEFECT DETECTION AND REPAIR

5.1. DEFECT DETECTION

A routine inspection detected a blister in the repaired area. The blister dimensions were 33-in. (83 cm) long, 9.5-in. (24 cm) wide, and 0.75-in (1.9 cm) high. Its formation was caused by the run-off of excess of saturant (see Figure 5.1). Excessive saturant was applied and cross-polymerization did not increase viscosity rapidly enough to prevent flow. No excess saturant should be present on the concrete surface after placement of a fiber sheet. It should be noted that the temperature and weather prior and after installation were within the acceptable ranges. The manufacturer recommends a temperature at installation of 40 °F (4.4 °C), and that the concrete surface was dry.

It was recommended to epoxy-inject the bubble at the time of painting of the FRP repair. UMR provided required material and assisted a MoDOT maintenance crew in this effort.

(a) Excess of Saturant 
(b) Blister in the repaired area

Figure 5.1. Installation Defect

5.2. DEFECT REPAIR

One lane of traffic on highway I-44 at the intersection of highway I-270 was closed for the injection of blister. A crew from MoDOT first cleaned the surface of FRP laminate where the blister was located. After marking the first injection point at the center of blister and 9 outlets around its edge (see Figure 5.4), the drilling of marked points was executed. No water and obstruction were found in the blister.
Through the first injection point a general purpose gel epoxy adhesive was used to inject the blister. Once the epoxy started to flow through outlets 1 to 6, these were taped. To complete the blister injection, a second injection point was then determined and drilled, the epoxy in this case flew through outlets 7, 8, and 9. All holes were taped when the injection was completed. Then the surface of entire patch where FRP reinforcement was applied was cleaned up and tapes on the blister were removed when epoxy adhesive was set. The entire patch was then painted with two coats of a polymer-based coating. After the protective coating was set, three red lines were marked on the top coat at the edge of outlets 5, 6, and 5 as the reference of any further blister growth. Figure 5.3 illustrates the aforementioned process.

(a) Injection of Blister  
(b) Coating

Figure 5.3. Repair of the Installation Defect
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. CONCLUSIONS

Traditional techniques used to repair concrete structures may be expensive, time consuming, and of limited effectiveness. Due to the inherent physico-mechanical properties of non-metallic composites and their ease of installation, it may be possible to develop new repair methods that are externally adhered to the concrete member. This report describes a case study where an impact-damaged PC girder was upgraded using FRP laminates installed by manual lay-up. It can be concluded that:

- Based on analytical computations the original ultimate flexural capacity of the impact-damaged girder was restored. The analysis and design was conducted in compliance with AASHTO and ACI provisions.
- The nature of the FRP repair work resulted in a limited economical impact since minimum traffic disruption was caused. The FRP installation was completed in a time period of two hours.

Although, the described strengthening technique offers an efficient option for the repair/retrofit of bridge girders, its successful and widespread implementation will ultimately depend on the engineers’ materials and structural knowledge as well as contractors’ quality installation. The widespread use of FRP laminates as external reinforcement for concrete also depends on the availability of national or international standards for design, testing, and inspection.

6.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Excess of saturant used to impregnate the reinforcing fibers caused the formation of a blister in the repaired area. Thereby, prescriptive installation procedures need to be strictly followed to ensure a good performance of the FRP reinforcement.

To inspect for void or delaminations, a visual and acoustic tap test inspection should be performed after allowing at least 24 hours for initial resin cure to occur. Large delamination shall be marked for repair. For small delaminations, which are typically less than 2 in² (13 cm²) and which are not localized, corrective action is not required. Also, direct pull-off tests can be performed to verify the tensile bond between the FRP system and the concrete substrate. Failure at the bond line at tensile stress below 200 psi (1.4 MPa) should not be acceptable. Delaminations can be repaired by epoxy resin injection or replacing of FRP laminate in the affected area.

Finally, structural testing, either in a laboratory environment or on a decommissioned bridge could be used for the final validation of the effectiveness of the FRP reinforcement for the strengthening of impact-damaged concrete members.
REFERENCES


American Concrete Institute (ACI), Committee 318, “Building Code Requirements for Reinforced Concrete and Commentary,” American Concrete Institute, Detroit, Michigan, 1999.


APPENDIX A: BRIDGE DRAWINGS
APPENDIX B: SUPPORTING CALCULATIONS

FRP Flexural Strengthening Design for RC and PC Sections

Project: Strengthening of Bridge A10062
Condition: Original
Designed by: AN
Date: 11/99

Required Information about the Existing Structure

Select Units
System := 1
Selected system
1 -- US Customary
2 -- SI

Refer to the following figure

Section Dimensions

\[ h = 39.5 \]  \quad \text{Total section height, [in] or [mm]}
\[ bw = 8 \]  \quad \text{Width of web, [in] or [mm]}
\[ bft = 38.8 \]  \quad \text{Width of top flange (zero for rectangular sections), [in] or [mm]}
\[ dft = 9.3 \]  \quad \text{Thickness of top flange (zero for rectangular sections), [in] or [mm]}
\[ bfb = 19 \]  \quad \text{Width of bottom flange (zero for rectangular or T sections), [in] or [mm]}
\[ tfb = 8 \]  \quad \text{Thickness of bottom flange (zero for rectangular or T sections), [in] or [mm]}

Reinforcement Layout

\[ As = 0 \]  \quad \text{Area of mild tension steel, [m}^2\text{] or [mm}^2\text{]}
\[ d = 38 \]  \quad \text{Depth to the mild tension steel centroid, [in] or [mm]}
\[ As' = 0 \]  \quad \text{Area of mild compression steel, [m}^2\text{] or [mm}^2\text{]}
\[ d' = 0 \]  \quad \text{Depth to the mild compression steel centroid, [in] or [mm]}
\[ Ap = 3.06 \]  \quad \text{Area of prestressing steel, [m}^2\text{] or [mm}^2\text{]}
\[ dp = 35.3 \]  \quad \text{Depth to the prestressing steel centroid, [in] or [mm]}
\[ Bond = 1 \]  \quad \text{Type of tendon installation (Enter 1 for bonded, 0 for unbonded)}
Load and Span Information

- Mu = 0: Factored moment to be resisted by the strengthened element, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- Ms = 0.6 Mu: Service moment to be resisted by the strengthened element, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- Mip = 0.55 Ms: Moment in place at the time of FRP installation, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- Ln = 0: Clear span (Only if unbonded prestressing steel is used), [ft] or [m]
- Lr = 0: Ratio of loaded spans to total spans (e.g., 0.5 for alternate bay loading)

Material Property Specifications

- f_c = 6000: Nominal compressive strength of the concrete, [psi] or [MPa]
- f_{cu} = 0.003: Maximum compressive strain for concrete, [inch/in] or [mm/mm]
- f_y = 60: Yield strength of the mild steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- E_s = 29000: Modulus of elasticity of the mild steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- f_{pu} = 250: Ultimate strength of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]

- E_p = 28500: Modulus of elasticity of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- f_{pe} = 200: Effective stress in the tendons due to prestress, [ksi] or [MPa]
- f_{py} = 250: Yield strength of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]

Required FRP Design Information

- q = 30: Number of requested iterations (30 recommended, higher number increase precision and time computation)

Refer to the following figure

FRP Sheets

FRP Material Properties

Bottom (B):
- Producer_B := [None, Fyfe, MAPEI, MBT]
- Type_B := [MBrace CF130, MBrace CF530, MBrace AX60, MBrace EG900]
- Fiber_B := [Carbon, Aramid, Glass]
- Exposure_B := [Interior Exposure, Exterior Exposure, Aggressive Exposure]
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Bottom  | Lateral  |
--------|----------|
$f_{tu,B} = 0$ | $f_{tu,L} = 0$ | Ultimate tensile strength of the FRP, [ksi] or [MPa] |
$e_{tu,B} = 0$ | $e_{tu,L} = 0$ | Ultimate rupture strain of the FRP, [in/in] or [mm/mm] |
$E_{t,B} = 0$  | $E_{t,L} = 0$  | Tensile modulus of elasticity of the FRP, [ksi] or [GPa] |
$t_{f,B} = 0$  | $t_{f,L} = 0$  | Nominal design thickness of one ply of the FRP, [in] or [mm] |
$C_{cr,B} = 0$ | $C_{cr,L} = 0$ | Creep rupture stress limit (Table 9.1 ACI 440F) |
$C_{e,B} = 0$  | $C_{e,L} = 0$  | Reduction factor for environmental exposure (Table 8.1, ACI 440F) |

Layout of the FRP Reinforcement (Skip this section if FRP is NOT present)

$w_B = 0$  | Width of FRP Bottom sheets [in] or [mm]. |
$N_B = 0$  | Number of FRP Bottom sheets. Enter 0 if Bottom sheets are NOT present. + |
$w_L = 10$ | Width of FRP Lateral sheets, [in] or [mm] |
$N_L = 0$  | Number of FRP Lateral sheets. Enter 0 if Lateral sheets are NOT present. |
$d_L = 6$  | Depth to the top fiber of FRP Lateral sheets, [in] or [mm] |
$p = 30$   | Number of divisions for lateral strengthening (30 recommended; higher number increase precision and time computation) |
$\psi_f = 0.85$ | Additional reduction factor for FRP (Eq. (9-2), ACI 440F) |
Result of the Flexural Strengthening Analysis

Design Ultimate Moment Capacity

\( d = 1.0 \)  \( M_{\text{u}} = 2237.2 \)  Design moment capacity [k-ft] or [k-N-m]

\[
\begin{align*}
\gamma_0 &= 2.151 & \text{Depth to the neutral axis for balanced failure, [in] or [mm]} \\
\gamma &= 5.439 & \text{Depth to the neutral axis, [in] or [mm]} \\
\varepsilon_c &= 0.003 & \text{Maximum strain in the concrete} \\
\varepsilon_s &= 0 & \text{Strain in the compression steel} \\
\varepsilon_p &= 0.0165 & \text{Strain in the prestressing steel} \\
\varepsilon_S &= 0.018 & \text{Strain in the tension steel} \\
\varepsilon_T &= 0 & \text{Strain in the NSM rods} \\
\varepsilon_f &= 0 & \text{Strain in the bottom layer of FRP}
\end{align*}
\]
FRP Flexural Strengthening Design for RC and PC Sections

Project: Strengthening of Bridge A10062
Condition: Impact-Damaged
Designed by: AN
Date: 11/99

Required Information about the Existing Structure

Select Units
System: 1
Selected system
1 - US Customary
2 - SI

Refer to the following figure

Section Dimensions
- \( h = 39.5 \) Total section height, [in] or [mm]
- \( b_w = 8 \) Width of web, [in] or [mm]
- \( b_{ft} = 38.8 \) Width of top flange (zero for rectangular sections), [in] or [mm]
- \( t_{ft} = 9.3 \) Thickness of top flange (zero for rectangular sections), [in] or [mm]
- \( b_{fb} = 19 \) Width of bottom flange (zero for rectangular or T sections), [in] or [mm]
- \( t_{fb} = 8 \) Thickness of bottom flange (zero for rectangular or T sections), [in] or [mm]

Reinforcement Layout
- \( A_s = 0 \) Area of mild tension steel, [in²] or [mm²]
- \( d = 38 \) Depth to the mild tension steel centroid, [in] or [mm]
- \( A_{s'} = 0 \) Area of mild compression steel, [in²] or [mm²]
- \( d' = 0 \) Depth to the mild compression steel centroid, [in] or [mm]
- \( A_p = 2.754 \) Area of prestressing steel, [in²] or [mm²]
- \( d_{p} = 35.6 \) Depth to the prestressing steel centroid, [in] or [mm]
- Bond = 1 Type of tendon: installation (Enter 1 for bonded, 0 for unbonded)
Load and Span Information

- \( M_u = 0 \)  Factored moment to be resisted by the strengthened element, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- \( M_s = 0.6M_u \)  Service moment to be resisted by the strengthened element, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- \( M_{ip} = 0.55M_s \)  Moment in place at the time of FRP installation, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- \( L_n = 0 \)  Clear span (Only if unbonded prestressing steel is used), [ft] or [m]
- \( L_r = 0 \)  Ratio of loaded span to total span (e.g., 0.5 for alternate bay loading)

Material Property Specifications

- \( f_c = 6000 \)  Nominal compressive strength of the concrete, [psi] or [MPa]
- \( \varepsilon_{cu} = 0.003 \)  Maximum compressive strain for concrete, [in/in] or [mm/mm]
- \( f_y = 60 \)  Yield strength of the mild steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- \( E_s = 29000 \)  Modulus of elasticity of the mild steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- \( f_{pu} \)  Ultimate strength of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]

- \( f_{pe} = 200 \)  Effective stress in the tendons due to prestress, [ksi] or [MPa]
- \( f_{py} = 250 \)  Yield strength of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- \( E_p = 28500 \)  Modulus of elasticity of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]

Required FRP Design Information

- \( q = 30 \)  Number of requested iterations (30 recommended, higher number increases precision and time computation)

Refer to the following figure

**FRP Sheets**

FRP Material Properties

**Bottom (B)**

- **Producer_B**
  - None
  - Fyfe
  - MAPEI
  - MBT

- **Type_B**
  - MBrace CF130
  - MBrace CF330
  - MBrace AK30
  - MBrace EG900

**Fiber_B**

- Carbon
- Aramid
- Glass

**Exposure_B**

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### Layout of the FRP Reinforcement (Skip this section if FRP is NOT present)

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<td>$\psi_f = 0.35$</td>
<td>Additional reduction factor for FRP (Eq. (9.7), ACI 440F)</td>
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Result of the Flexural Strengthening Analysis

Design Ultimate Moment Capacity

$\phi = 1.0$  \hspace{1cm} $\Delta M_{u} = 2047.5$  \hspace{1cm} Design moment capacity [k-ft] or [kN-m]

Failure Mode = "Concrete Crushing"

$c_{0} = 2.151$  \hspace{1cm} Depth to the neutral axis for balanced failure, [in] or [mm]

c = 4.904  \hspace{1cm} Depth to the neutral axis, [in] or [mm]

$\varepsilon_{c} = 0.003$  \hspace{1cm} Maximum strain in the concrete

$\varepsilon_{p} = 0$  \hspace{1cm} Strain in the compression steel

$\varepsilon_{p} = 0.0188$  \hspace{1cm} Strain in the prestressing steel

$\varepsilon_{t} = 0.0202$  \hspace{1cm} Strain in the tension steel

$\varepsilon_{z} = 0$  \hspace{1cm} Strain in the NSM rods

$\varepsilon_{f} = 0$  \hspace{1cm} Strain in the bottom layer of FRP
FRP Flexural Strengthening Design for RC and PC Sections

Project: Strengthening of Bridge A10062
Condition: Repaired
Designed by: AN
Date: 11/99

Required Information about the Existing Structure

Select Units
System: 1

Selected system
1 - US Customary
2 - SI

Refer to the following figure

Section Dimensions
- $h = 39.5$  Total section height, [in] or [mm]
- $bw = 8$  Width of web, [in] or [mm]
- $bft = 38.8$  Width of top flange (zero for rectangular sections), [in] or [mm]
- $tf = 9.3$  Thickness of top flange (zero for rectangular sections), [in] or [mm]
- $bfb = 19$  Width of bottom flange (zero for rectangular or T sections), [in] or [mm]
- $tbf = 8$  Thickness of bottom flange (zero for rectangular or T sections), [in] or [mm]

Reinforcement Layout
- $As = 0$  Area of mild tension steel, [in$^2$] or [mm$^2$]
- $d = 38$  Depth to the mild tension steel centroid, [in] or [mm]
- $As' = 0$  Area of mild compression steel, [in$^2$] or [mm$^2$]
- $d' = 0$  Depth to the mild compression steel centroid, [in] or [mm]
- $Ap = 2.754$  Area of prestressing steel, [in$^2$] or [mm$^2$]
- $dp = 35.6$  Depth to the prestressing steel centroid, [in] or [mm]
- Bond = 1  Type of tendon installation (Enter 1 for bonded, 0 for unbonded)
Load and Span Information

- $M_u = 0$: Factored moment to be resisted by the strengthened element, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- $M_s = 0.6M_u$: Service moment to be resisted by the strengthened element, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- $M_p = 0.5M_s$: Moment in place at the time of FRP installation, [k-ft] or [kN-m]
- $L_c = 0$: Clear span (Only if unbonded prestressing steel is used), [ft] or [m]
- $L_r = 0$: Ratio of loaded spans to total spans (e.g., 0.5 for alternate bay loading)

Material Property Specifications

- $f_c = 6000$: Nominal compressive strength of the concrete, [psi] or [MPa]
- $f_{cu} = 0.003$: Maximum compressive stress for concrete, [ksi] or [mm/mm]
- $f_y = 60$: Yield strength of the mild steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- $E_s = 29000$: Modulus of elasticity of the mild steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- $f_{pu} = \begin{cases} 250 & \text{Ultimate strength of the prestressing steel, [ksi]} \end{cases}$ or [MPa]
- $f_p = 200$: Effective stress in the tendons due to prestress, [ksi] or [MPa]
- $f_{py} = 250$: Yield strength of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]
- $E_p = 28500$: Modulus of elasticity of the prestressing steel, [ksi] or [MPa]

Required FRP Design Information

- $q = 30$: Number of requested iterations (30 recommended, higher number increase precision and time computation)

Refer to the following figure

FRP Sheets

FRP Material Properties

- Bottom (B):
  - Producer_B:
    - None
    - Fyfe
    - M&PEI
    - ACL
  - Type_B:
    - NBrace CF130
    - NBrace CF530
    - NBrace AK60
    - NBrace EG300
  - Fiber_B:
    - Carbon
    - Aramid
    - Glass
  - Exposure_B:
    - Interior Exposure
    - Exterior Exposure
    - Aggressive Exposure
Lateral (L)

Producer_L :=

None
Fyle
MAPEI
MBT

Fiber_L :=

Carbon
Aramid
Glass

Type_L :=

MBrace CF130
MBrace CF530
MBrace AK60
MBrace EG900

Exposure_L :=

Interior Exposure
Exterior Exposure
Aggressive Exposure

Bottom

f_{u_B} = 550
f_{u_L} = 0
Ultimate tensile strength of the FRP, [ksi] or [MPa]

e_{u_B} = 0.017
e_{u_L} = 0
Ultimate rupture strain of the FRP, [in/in] or [mm/mm]

E_f_B = 33000
E_f_L = 0
Tensile modulus of elasticity of the FRP, [ksi] or [GPa]

t_f_B = 0.0065
t_f_L = 0
Nominal design thickness of one ply of the FRP, [in] or [mm]

C_{cr_B} = 0.55
C_{cr_L} = 0
Creep rupture stress limit (Table 9.1 ACI 440F)

C_{e_B} = 0.85
C_{e_L} = 0
Reduction factor for environmental exposure (Table 8.1, ACI 440F)

Layout of the FRP Reinforcement (Skip this section if FRP is NOT present)

w_B = 13
Width of FRP Bottom sheets [in] or [mm].

N_B = 2
Number of FRP Bottom sheets. Enter 0 if Bottom sheets are NOT present.

w_L = 10
Width of FRP Lateral sheets, [in] or [mm].

N_L = 0
Number of FRP Lateral sheets. Enter 0 if Lateral sheets are NOT present.

d_L = 6
Depth to the top fiber of FRP Lateral sheets, [in] or [mm]

p = 30
Number of divisions for lateral strengthening (30 recommended; higher number increase precision and time computation)

\psi_F = 0.85
Additional reduction factor for FRP (Eq. (9-2), ACI 440F)
Result of the Flexural Strengthening Analysis

Design Ultimate Moment Capacity

$\phi = 1.0 \quad \phi M_n = 2222.7$  Design moment capacity [kip-ft] or [kN-m]

\[ \text{Failure Mode} = "\text{Tension Controlled}" \]

- $c_0 = 3.572$  Depth to the neutral axis for balanced failure, [in] or [mm]
- $c = 5.839$  Depth to the neutral axis, [in] or [mm]
- $\varepsilon_c = 0.0019$  Maximum strain in the concrete
- $\varepsilon_p = 0$  Strain in the compression steel
- $\varepsilon_p = 0.0096$  Strain in the prestressing steel
- $\varepsilon_t = 0.0103$  Strain in the tension steel
- $\varepsilon_z = 0$  Strain in the NSM rods
- $\varepsilon_f = 0.0108$  Strain in the bottom layer of FRP