



# HISTORY OF CONCRETE BRIDGES IN TEXAS

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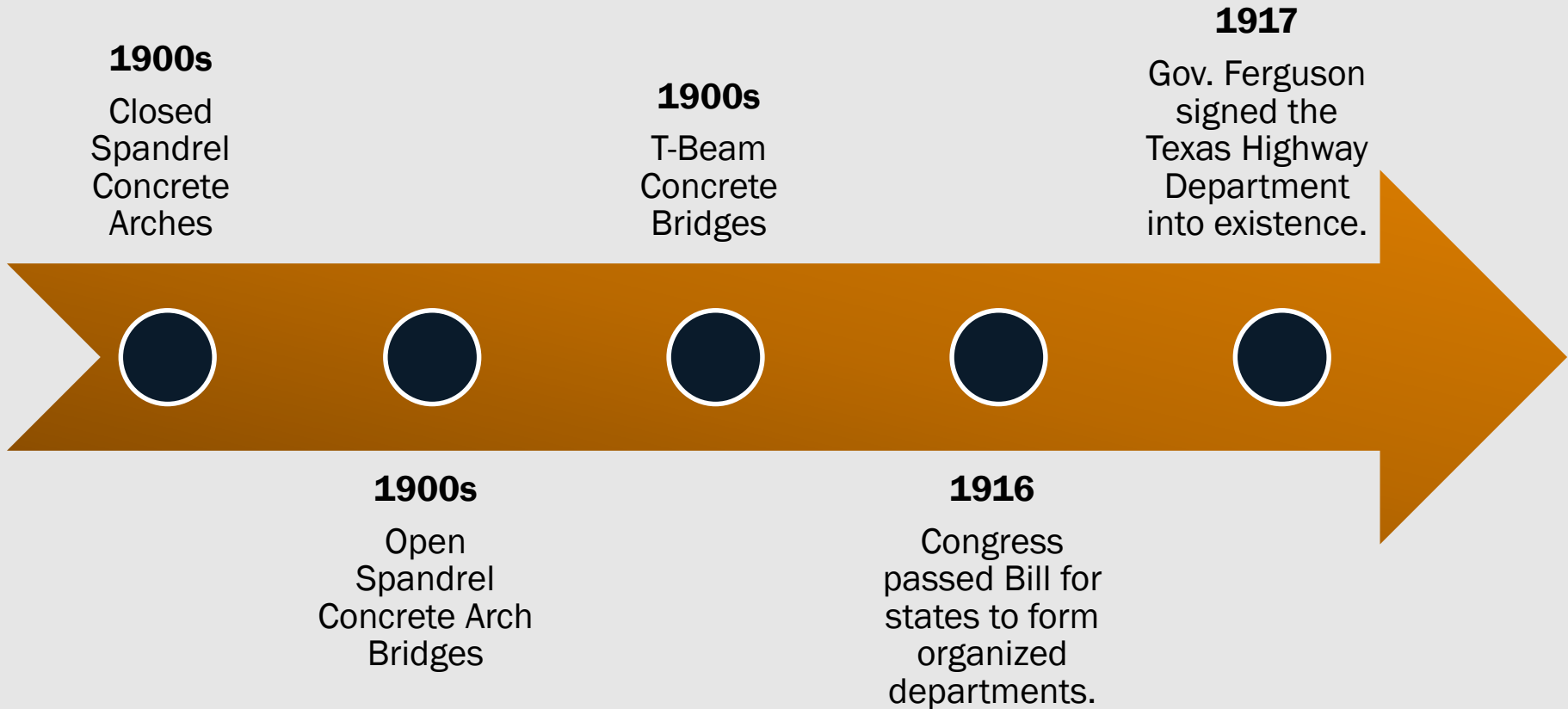
Gregg Freeby, P.E.



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# Timeline



# Timeline

**1929-1940**

Great  
Depression

**1946:** Post-war  
Bridges  
Concrete Slab  
Concrete  
Girder  
Concrete  
Rigid Frame

**1946:** First  
Cast-In-Place  
Segmental  
Bridge Built  
(Germany)

**1972**  
First  
Segmental  
Bridge built  
in Texas  
and USA

**1941-1945**

World War II

**1950**

First  
Prestressed  
Concrete  
bridge built  
in Texas



# **REINFORCED CONCRETE BRIDGES**

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# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas

## Early Concrete Bridges

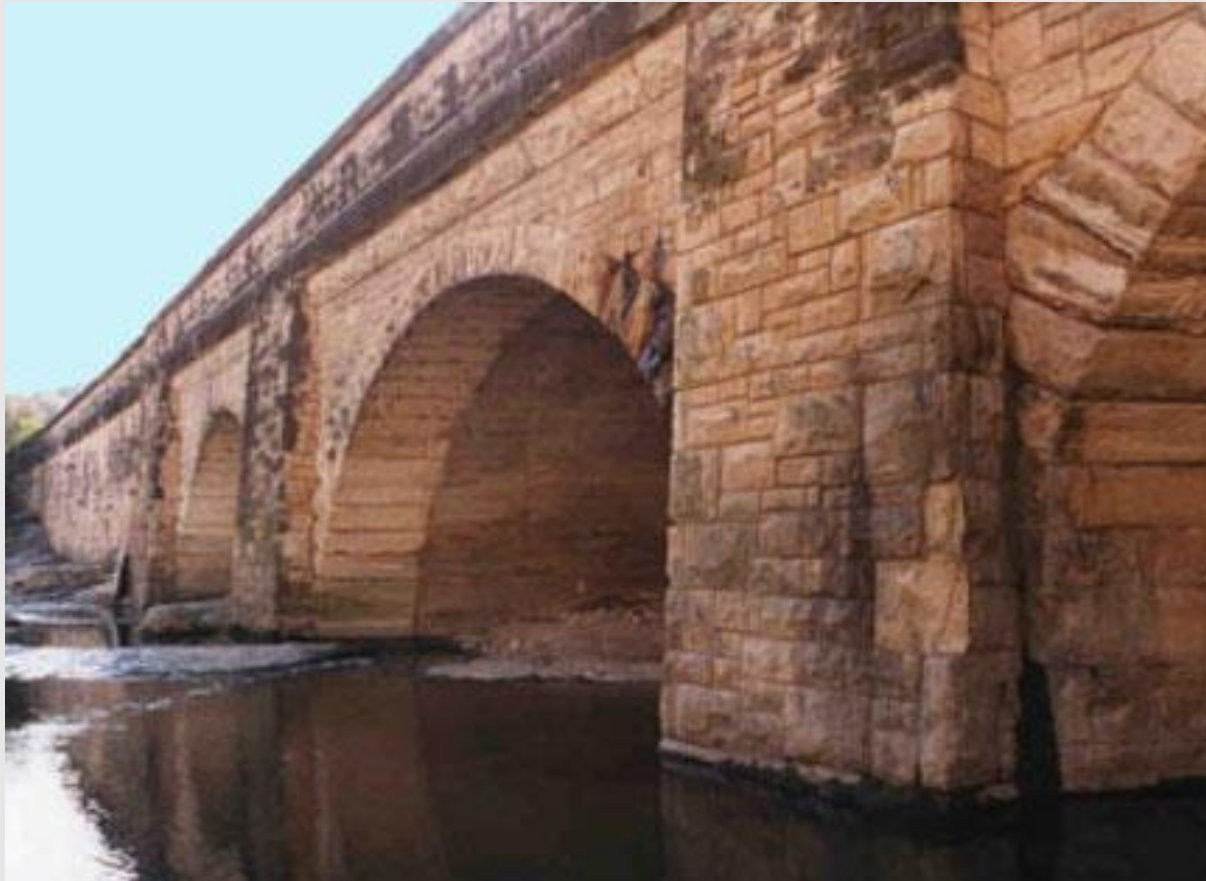
- Invented in the 1840s but not widely used until 1900s
- Result of Good Roads Movement and establishment of the Texas Highway Department in 1917

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



**1900s – Reinforced Concrete Arch Bridges**

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



**1900s - Closed Spandrel Arches**



# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



**1900s - Closed Spandrel Arches**

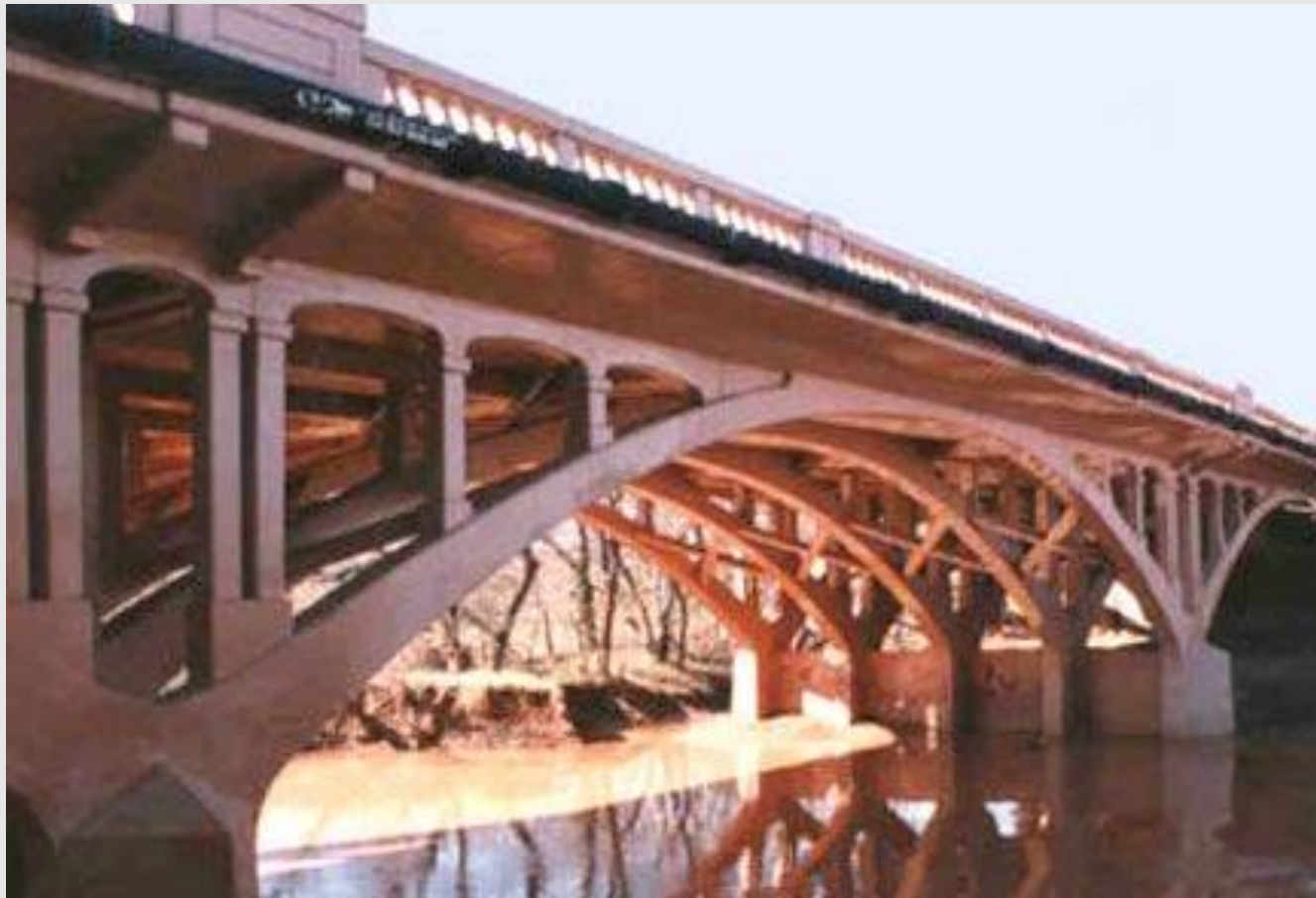
# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas

## 1900s - Open Spandrel Arches



Dallas Oak Cliff Viaduct

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



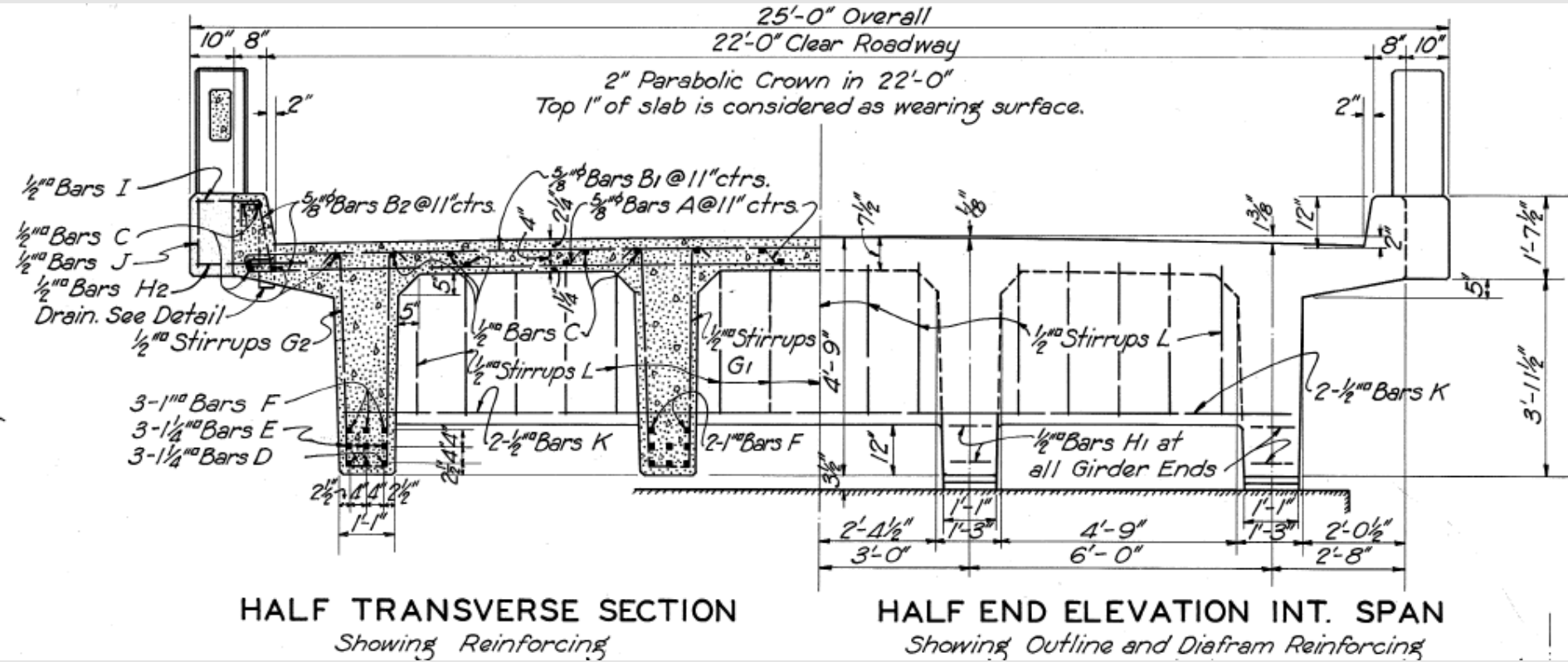
**1900s - Open Spandrel Arches**

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



**1900s - T Beam Bridges**

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



## 1900s - T Beam Bridges

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas

## Post-war Bridges (after 1944)

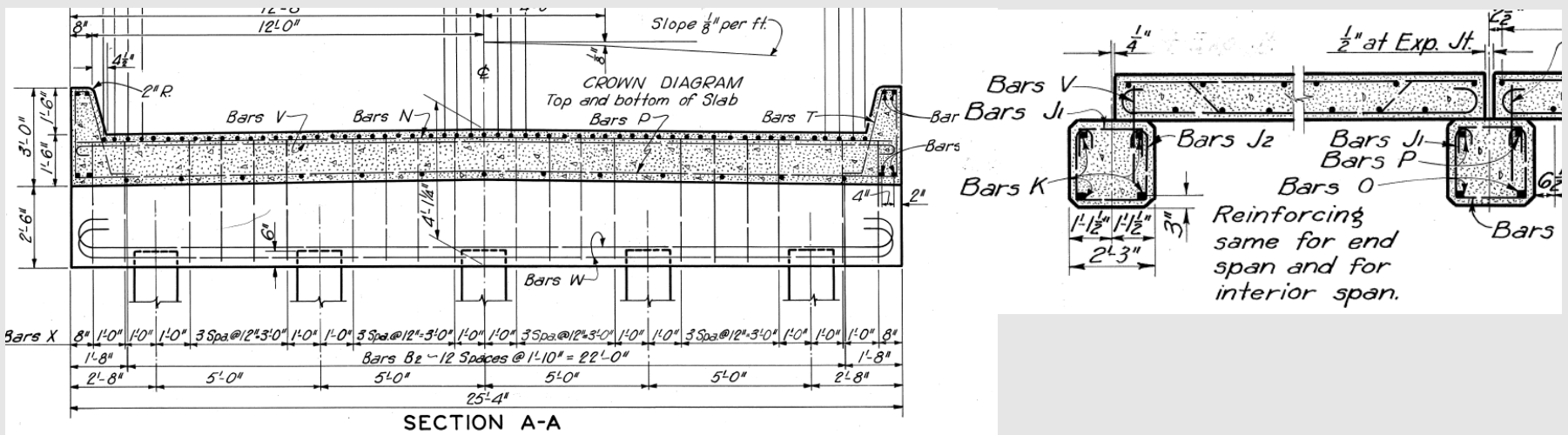
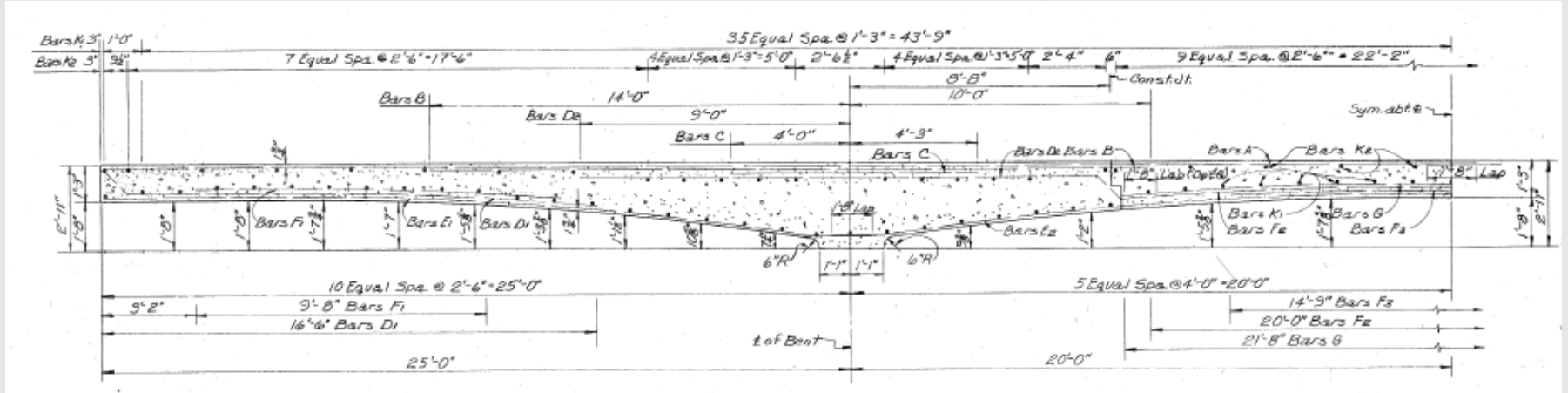
- Texas Highway Department made advancements in bridge design
- Innovations included:
  - Transition from rivets to high-tensile bolts
  - Welding
  - Standardized plans
- 3 common types of Post-war bridges:
  - Concrete slab
  - Concrete girder
  - Concrete rigid frame

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



**After 1944 – Concrete Slab Bridges**

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



## After 1944 - Concrete Slab Bridges

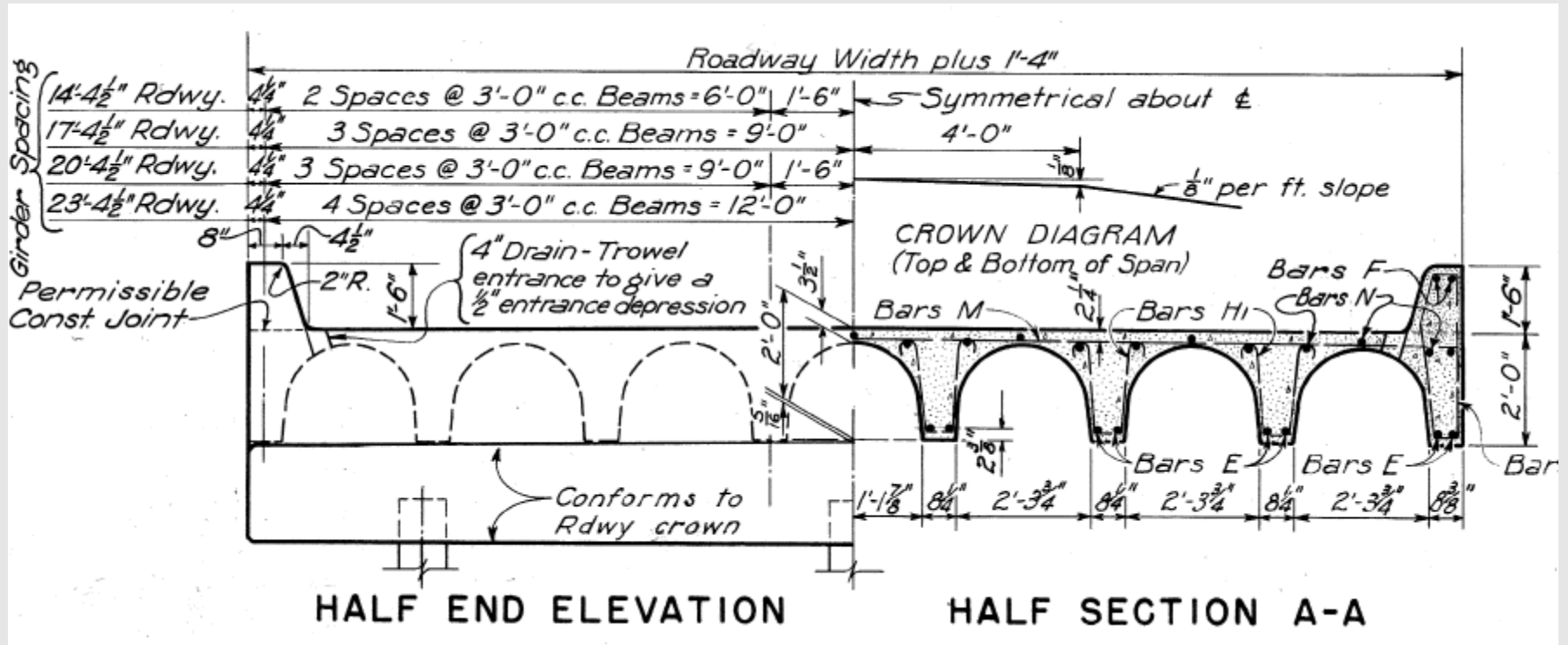


# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



**After 1944 – Concrete Girder Bridges**

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



After 1944 – Concrete Girder Bridges

# Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Texas



**After 1944 – Concrete Rigid Frame Bridges**



# **PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BRIDGES**

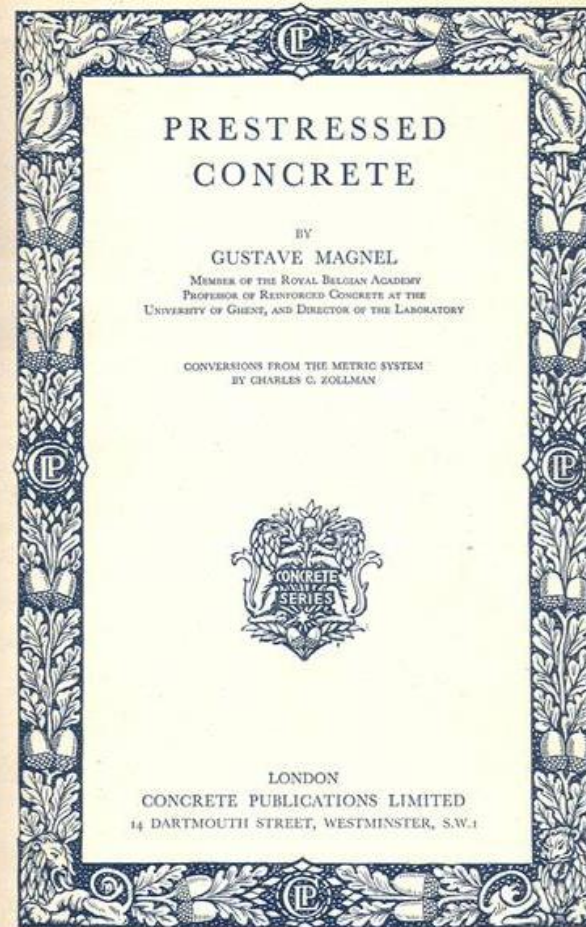
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# Prestressed Concrete in the United States



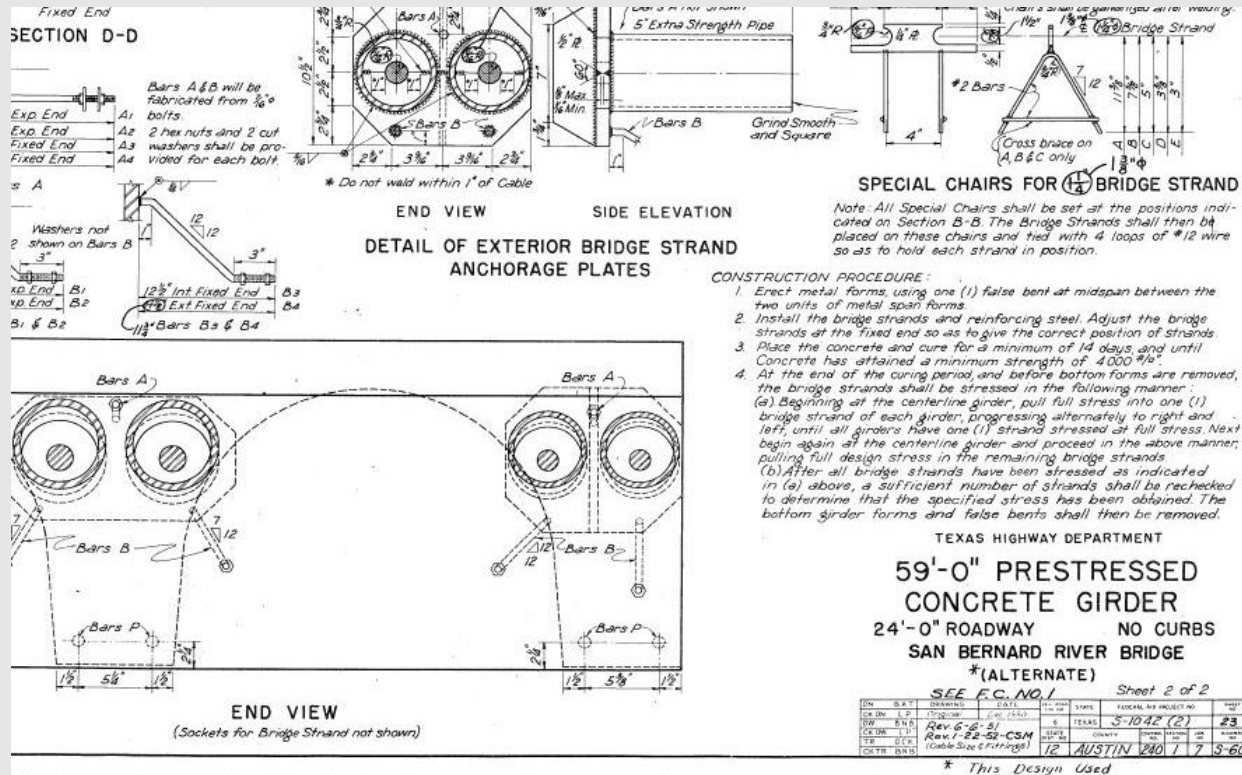
*Fig. 5. Professor Magnel, the lecturer, on his American tour.*

**1946**



**1948**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



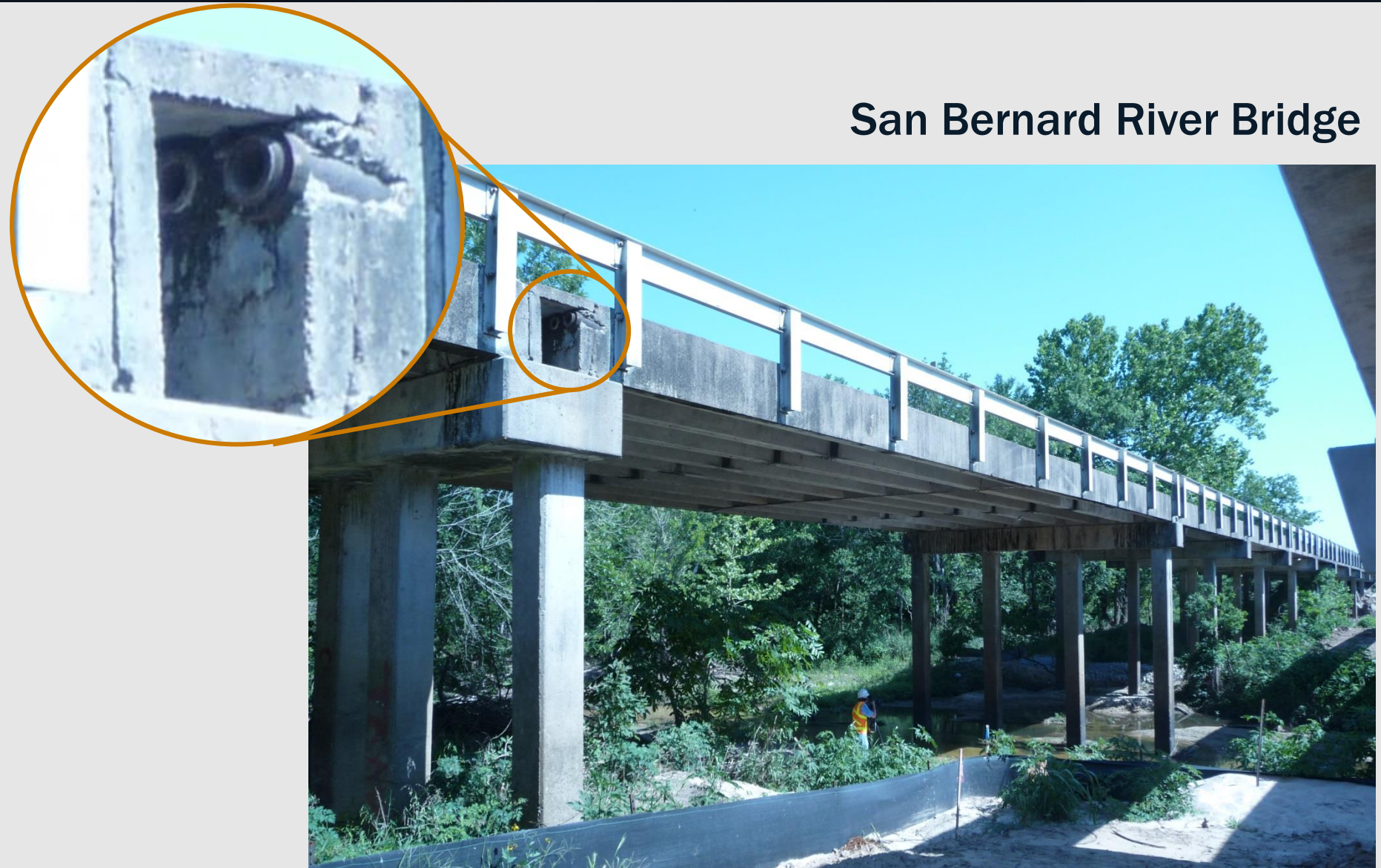
December 1950 – San Bernard River Bridge

Let July 17, 1951 • Opened June 5, 1952


Bernard A. Trice □ James R. Graves • Charles S. Matlock

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas

## San Bernard River Bridge



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**PRESTRESSED  
CONCRETE**

James R. Graves, Senior Designing Engineer  
Bridge Division  
Texas Highway Department  
Austin, Texas

INTRODUCTION: The engineer is being will be given to illustrate this. Assume a introduced to a new structural material. rectanangular concrete beam. used as a simple

**October 1953 – Transportation Short Course**

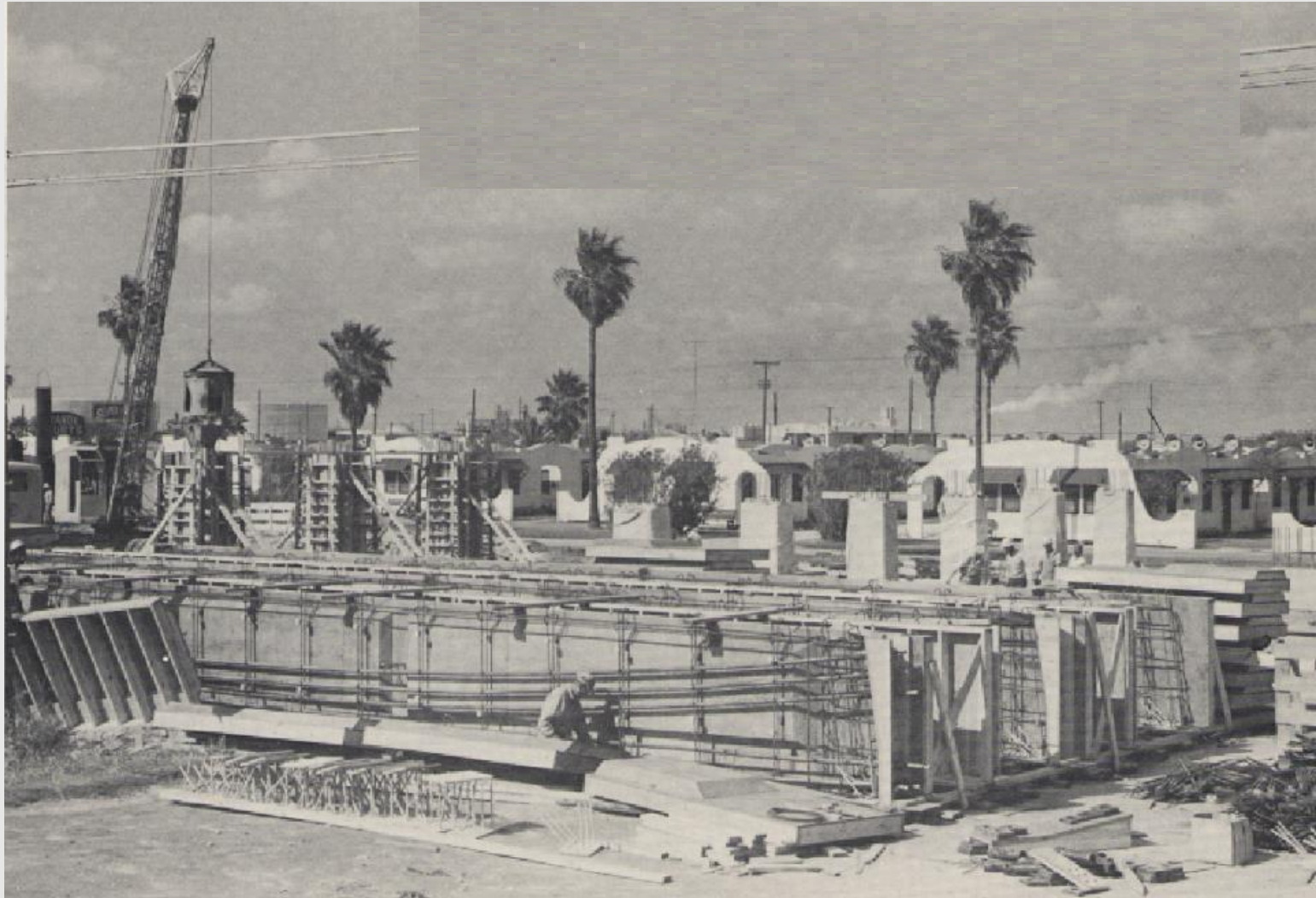


# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



## Design of the Corpus Christi High Bridge – August 1954

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas

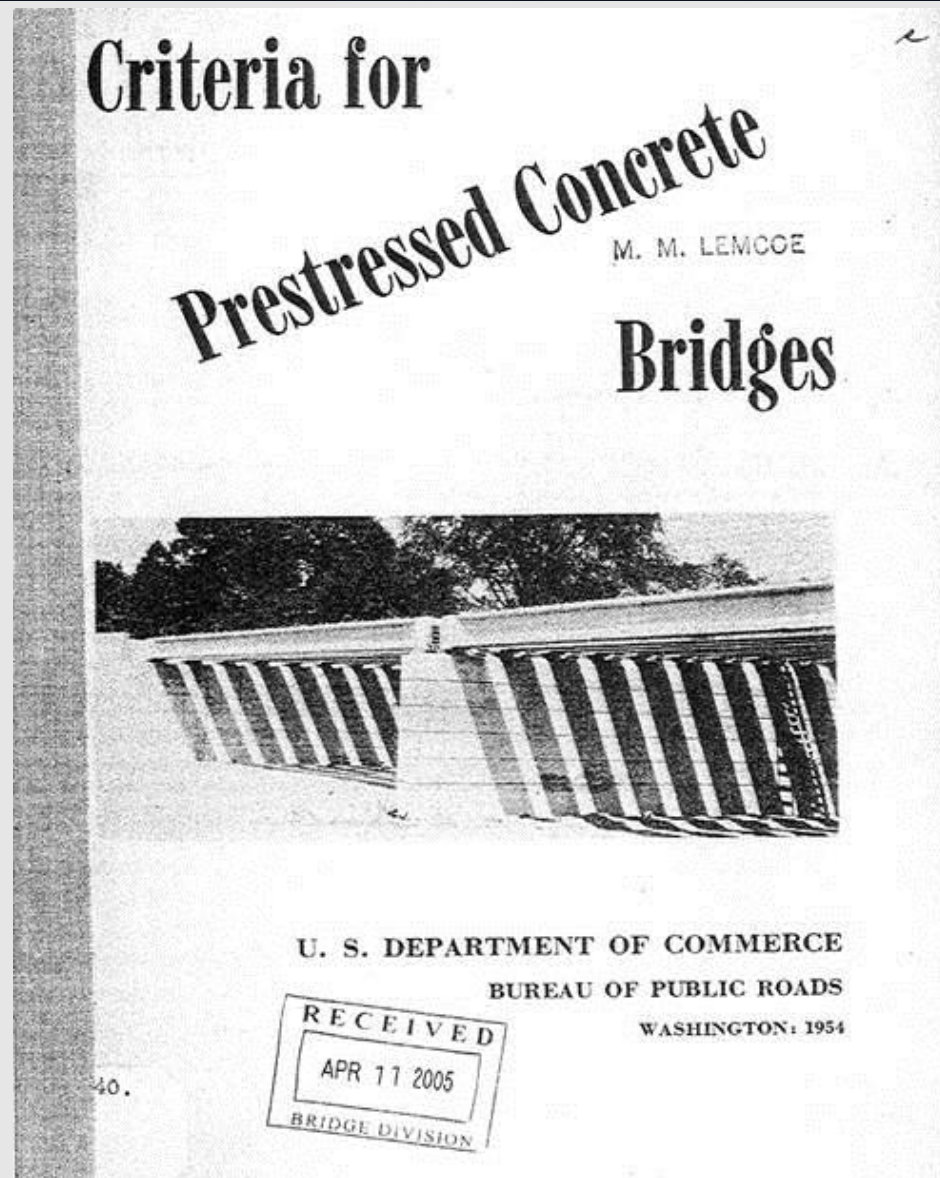


# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



Eric L. Erickson

1954



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



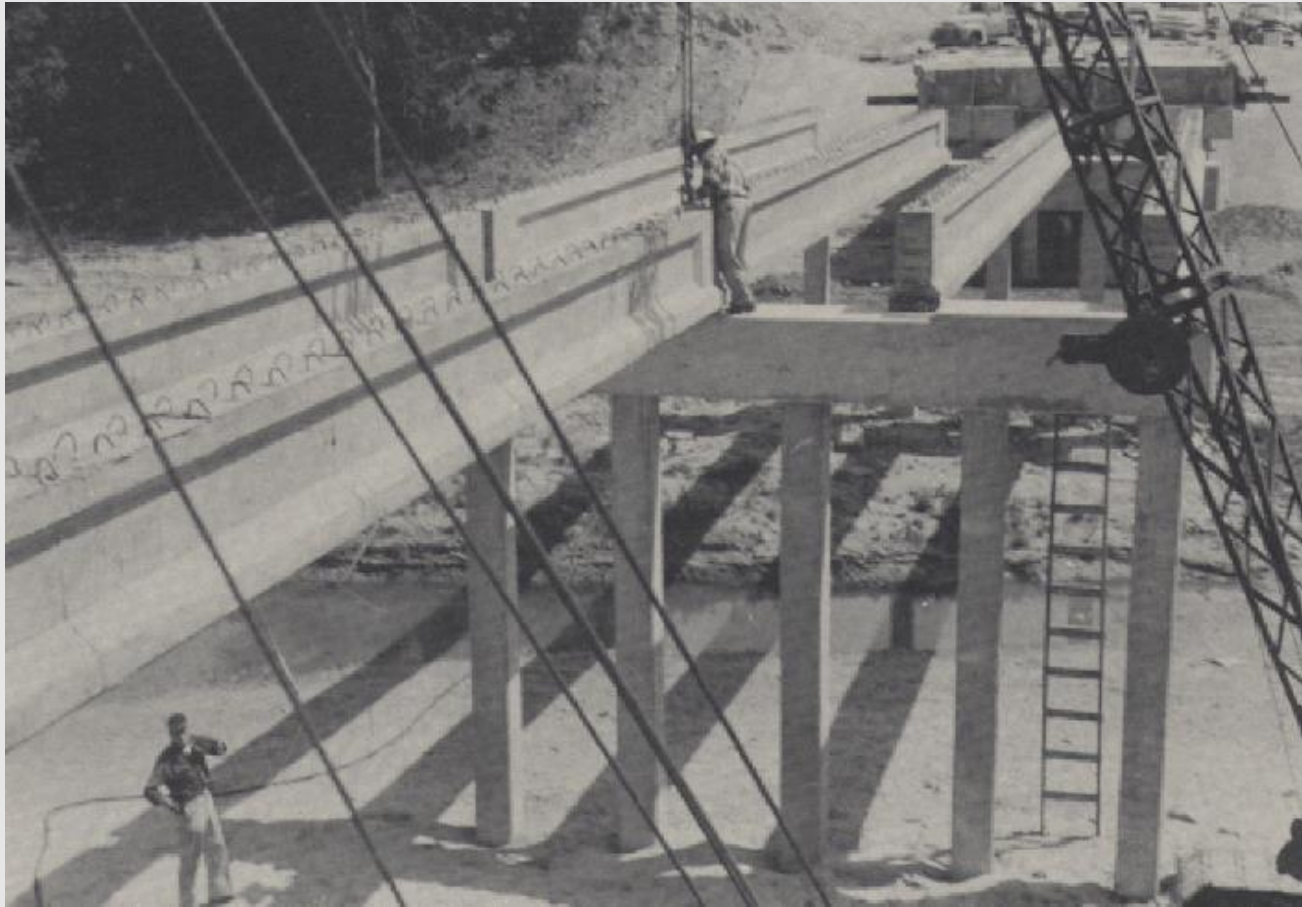
**T&NO Railroad Overpass, Karnes County**  
Let November 1956 • Completed June 20, 1957

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**T & NO Railroad Overpass**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



## **Coletto Creek @ FM 237 – Victoria Co.**

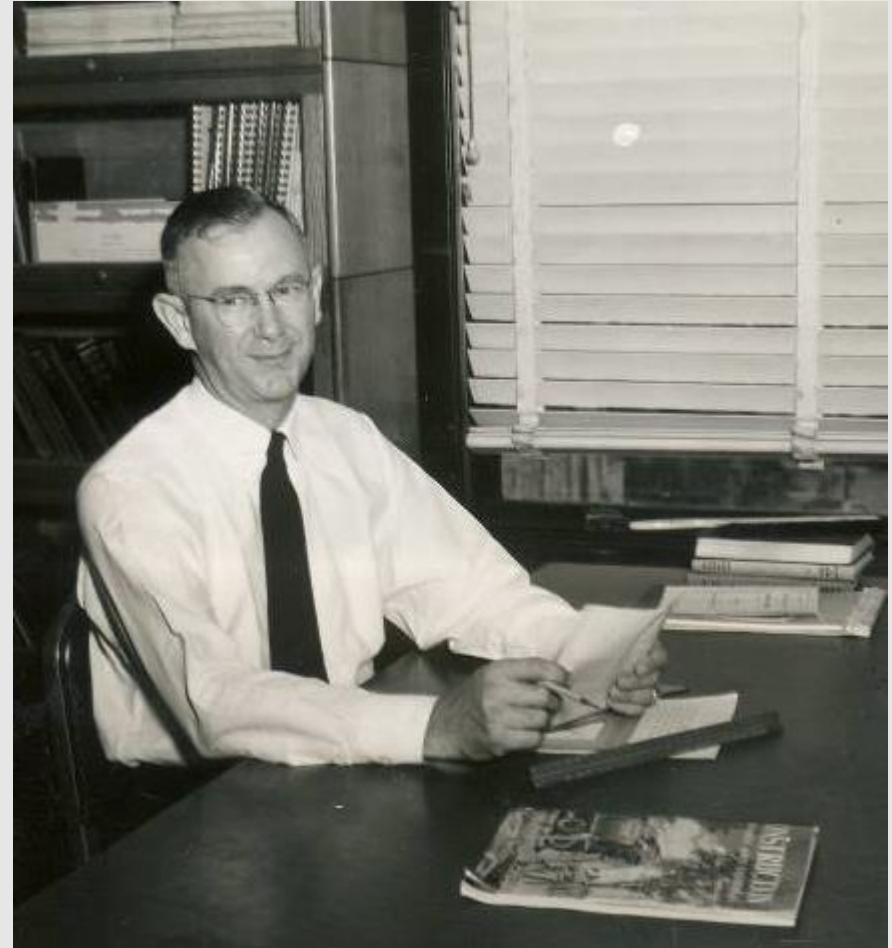
First use of neoprene pads with precast beams in the United States



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**Bob Carr, Texas Concrete  
(with T. Y. Lin)**



**James R. Graves  
SHD Bridge Division**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas

**June 1956**

## **Eisenhower signs Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956**

- Development of Interstate Highway System
- Provided over \$25 Billion over 12 year period

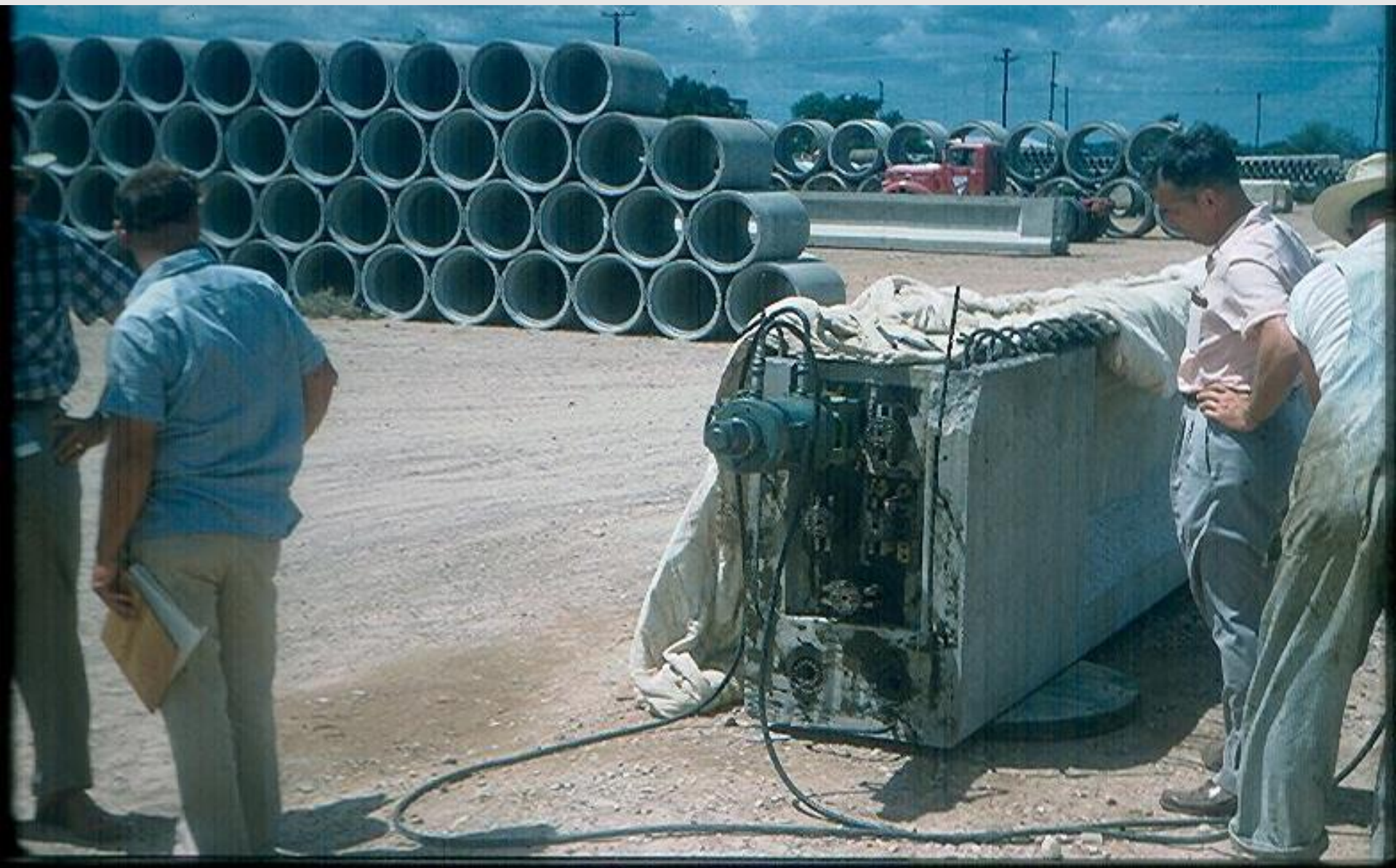


# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**San Antonio Urban Expressway, 1958**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**Angelina River Bridge construction, SH 147, 1958**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**Prestressed concrete plant operations, Lufkin**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**Full scale pretensioned beam tests, 1959**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**UT Austin – Ferguson Structural Engineering Lab, 1984**



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas

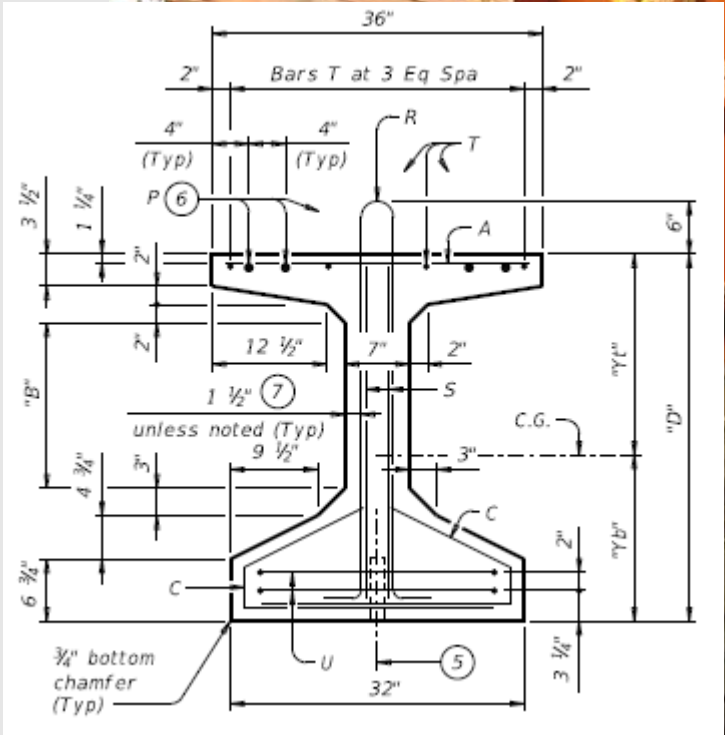
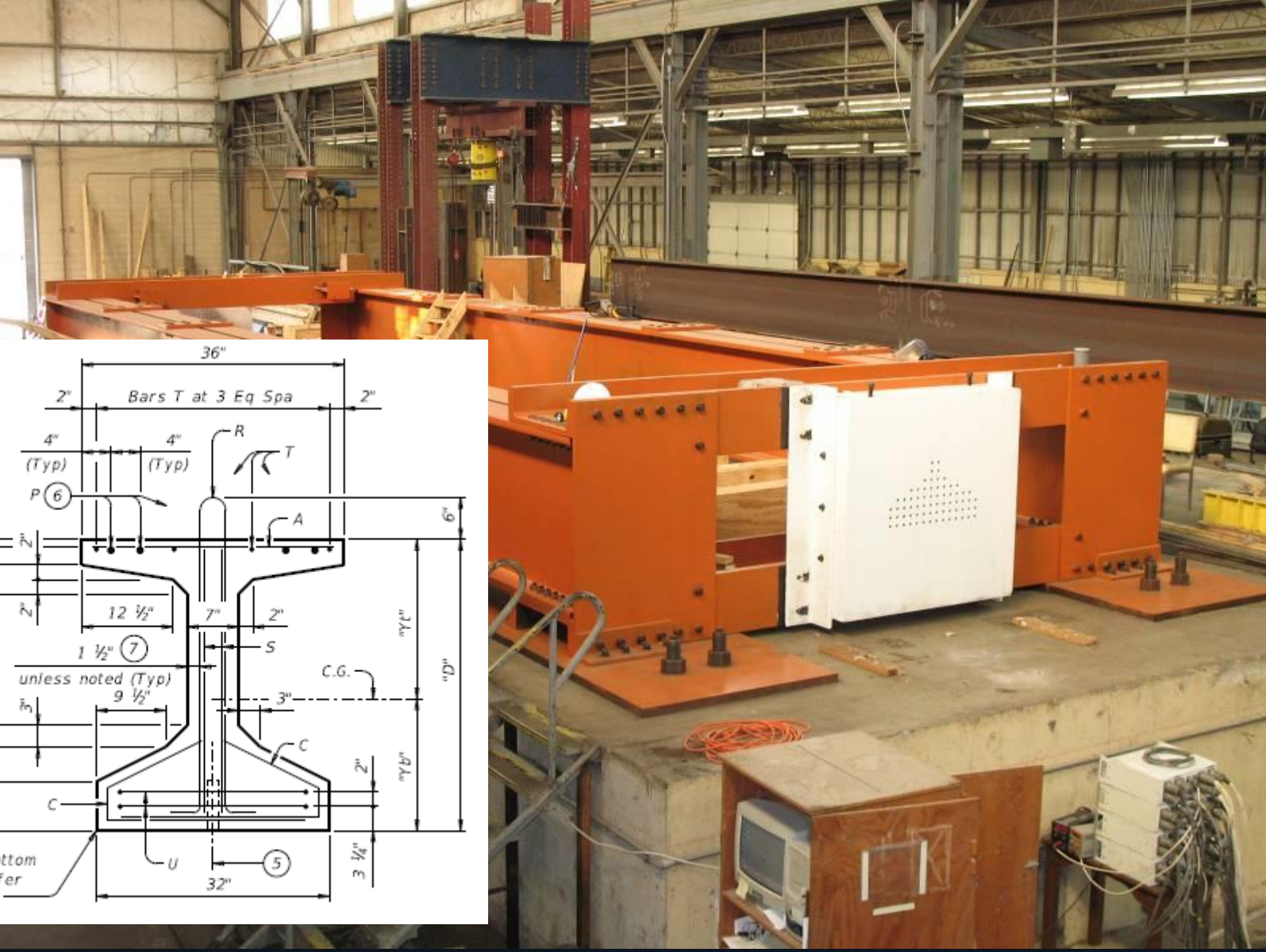


**UT Austin – Ferguson Structural Engineering Lab, 1984**

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



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# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



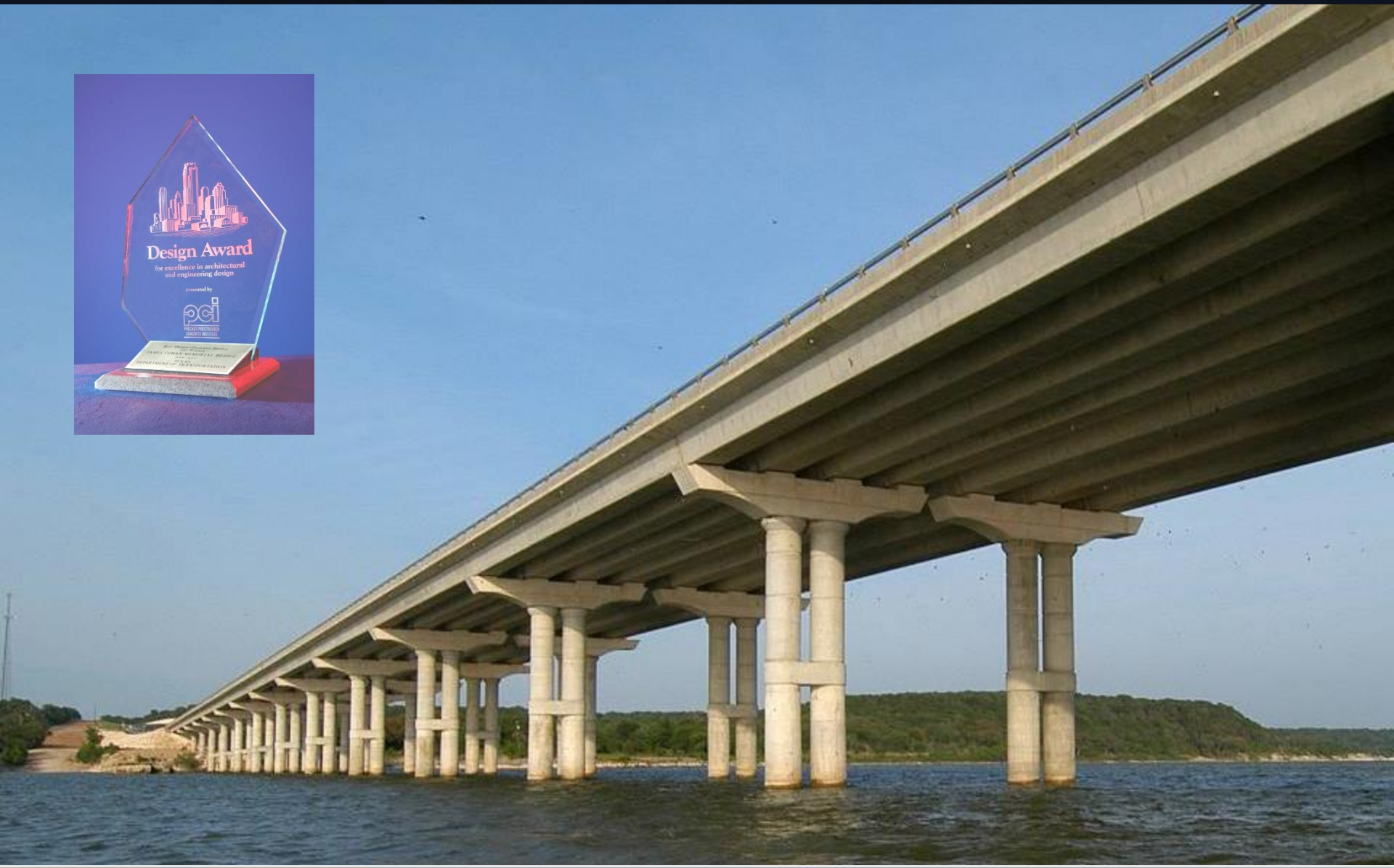
# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas





# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



*Photo courtesy of Texas Concrete Co.*

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas

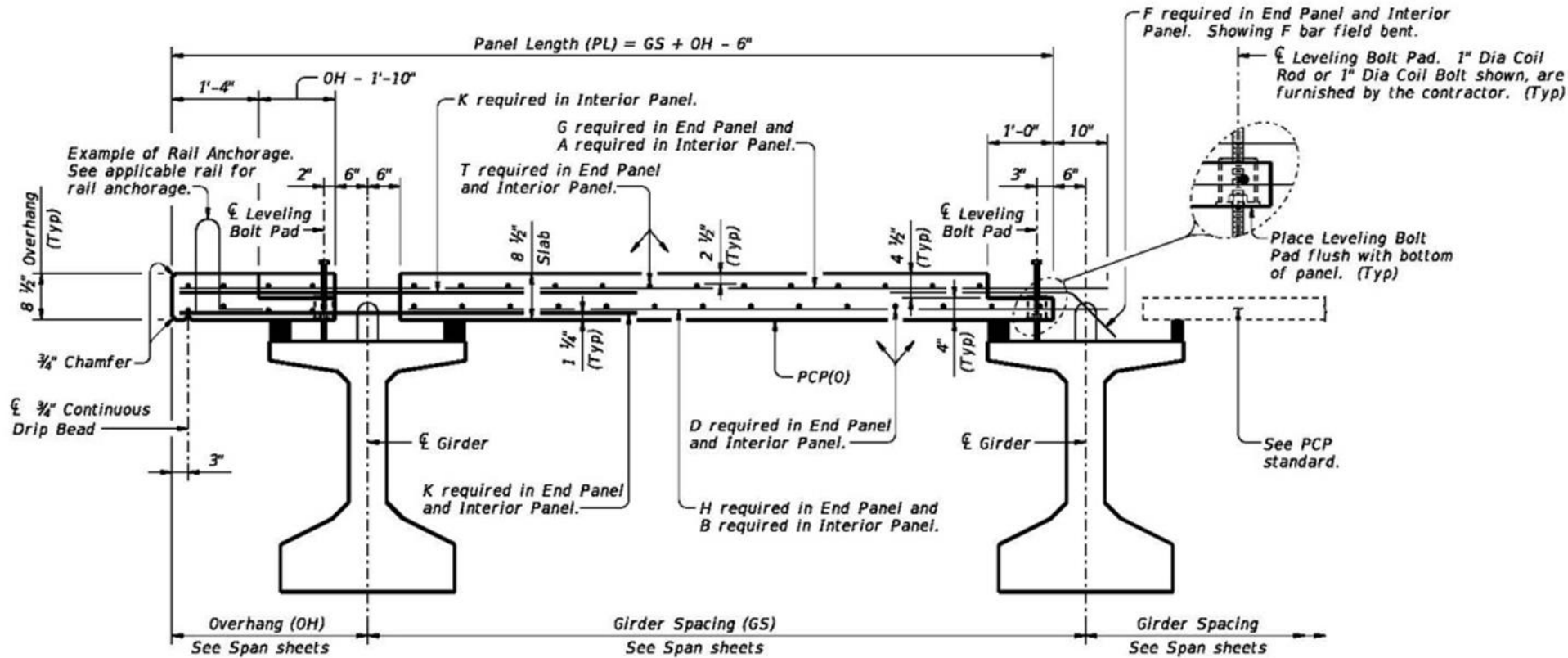


## Precast Concrete Panels

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



## Precast Bridge Deck Overhang Panels

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



Photo Credit: TxDOT

## Precast Bridge Deck Overhang Panels

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



## Precast Concrete Panels to the Ends of the Unit

# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



**Precast Full-depth and Full-width Deck Panels**



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



# Prestressed Concrete in Texas



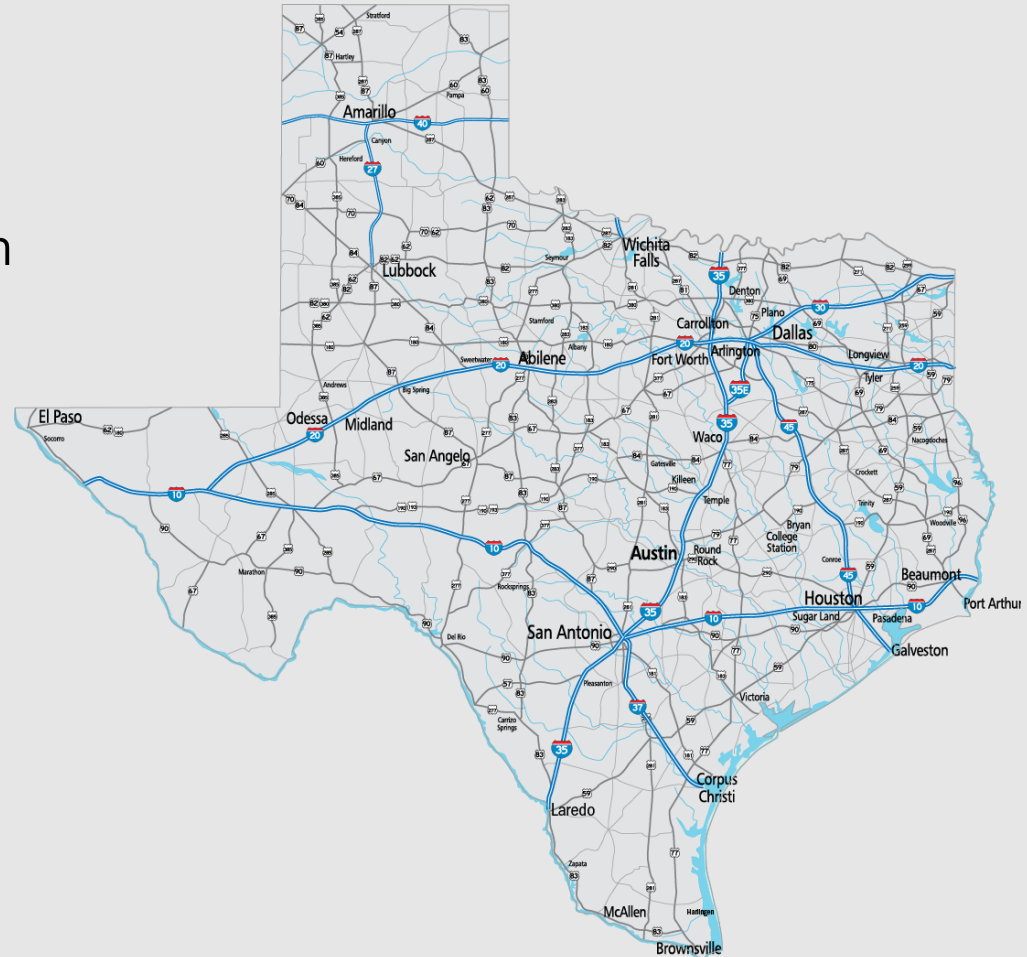


# **SEGMENTAL CONCRETE BRIDGES**

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# Segmental Concrete Bridges

- TxDOT started looking into Segmental Bridge construction in the late 1960's
  - Identified a need for a viable concrete alternate for spans in the 130 ft to 350 ft range
  - Sponsored Research Project 121 “Design Procedures for Long-Span Prestressed Concrete Bridges of Segmental Construction” (1969)
  - Currently there are 61 segmental bridges in Texas (60 on-system and 1 off-system)



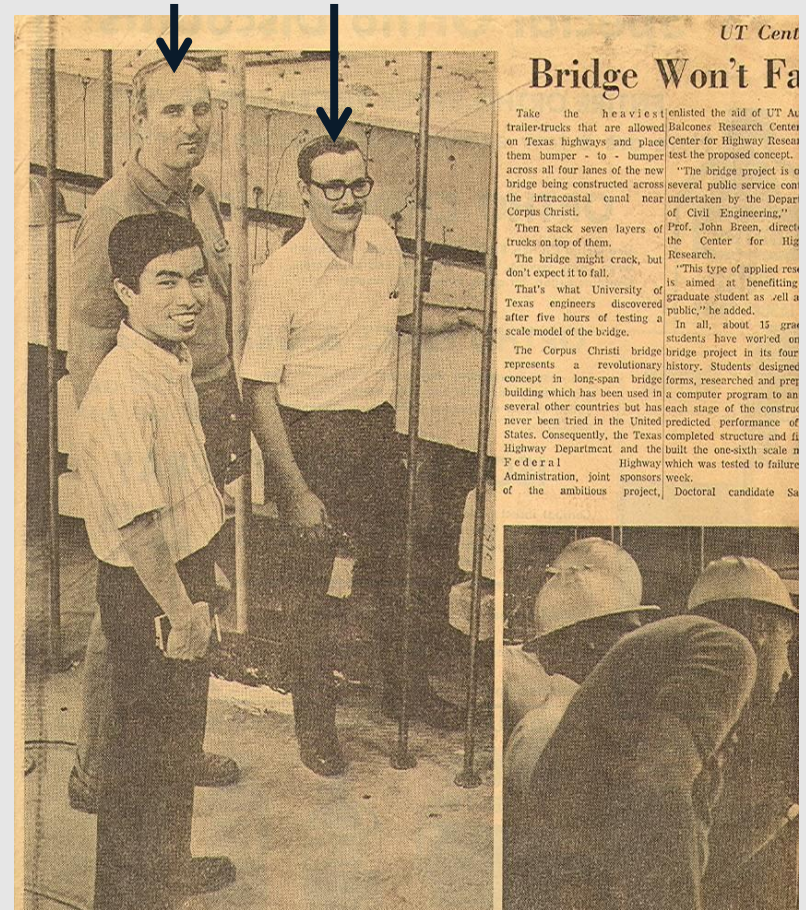
# Segmental Concrete Bridges

- First Precast Segmental Bridge in the USA



Dr. Jack Breen

Alan Matejowsky



## JFK Memorial Causeway, Corpus Christi

# Segmental Concrete Bridges



**JFK Memorial Causeway, Corpus Christi**

# Segmental Concrete Bridges

- Texas Turnpike Authority
- 375 ft – 750 ft – 375 ft Unit
- CIP Variable Depth Balanced Cantilever
- Record Concrete Bridge Span
- Likely Would Be Cable-stayed Now



## Beltway 8 Toll Bridge over Houston Ship Channel (1979-1982)

# Segmental Concrete Bridges



*Photo Credit: Houston Freeways*



# Segmental Concrete Bridges



*Photo Credit: TxDOT*

**Veteran's Memorial Bridge - 1991, Port Arthur**

# Segmental Concrete Bridges



*Photo Credit: TxDOT*

## **Veteran's Memorial Bridge - 1991, Port Arthur**

# Segmental Concrete Bridges



*Photo Credit: Dean Van Landuyt*

## GIWW at Matagorda Bridge – 2009

# Segmental Concrete Bridges



**Lake Marble Falls Bridge – 2014**

# Segmental Concrete Bridges



**Lake Marble Falls Bridge – 2014**

# Segmental Concrete Bridges - Future



©2016 FIGG



# PRECAST CONCRETE NETWORK ARCH

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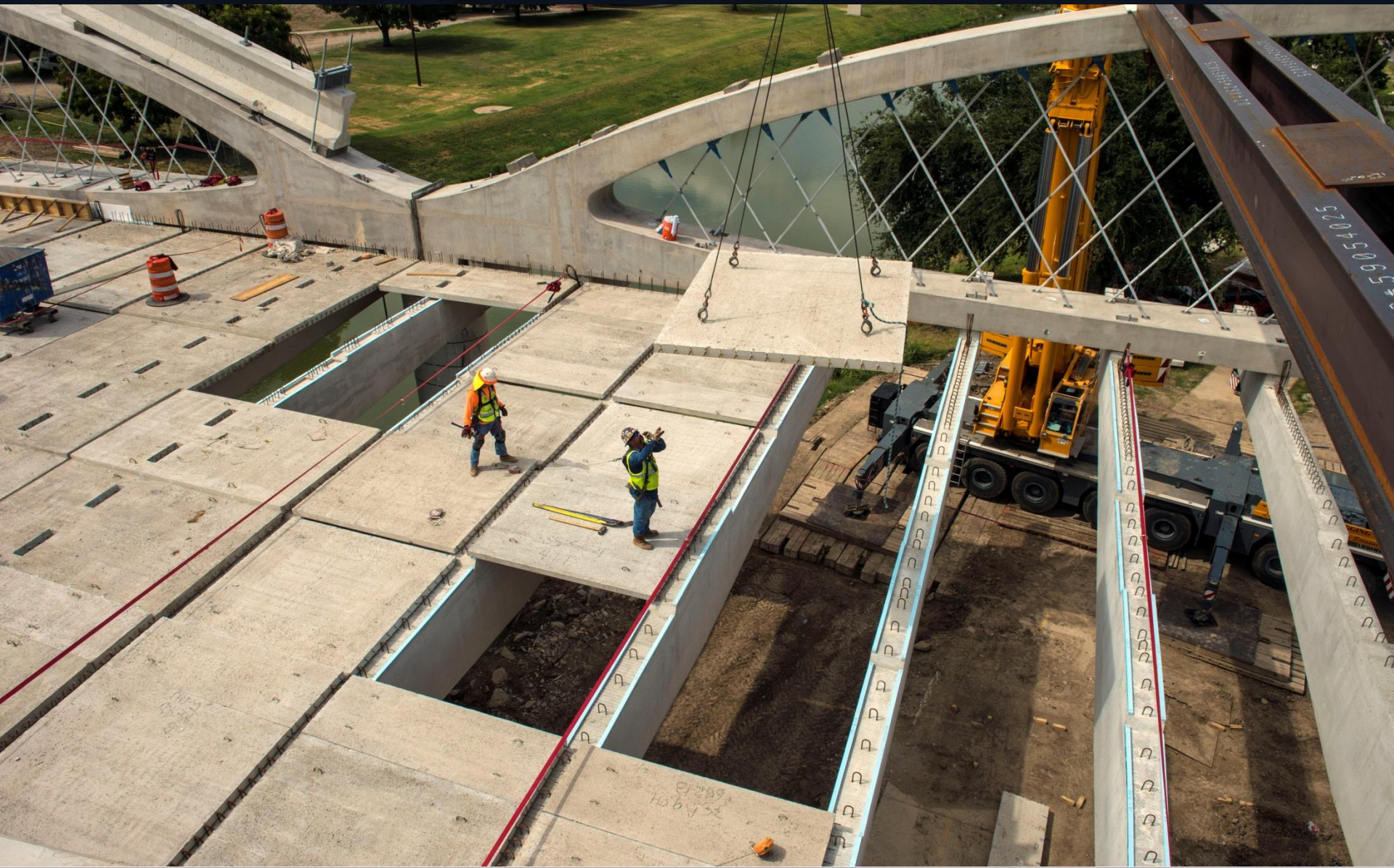


## West 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, Fort Worth – 2013

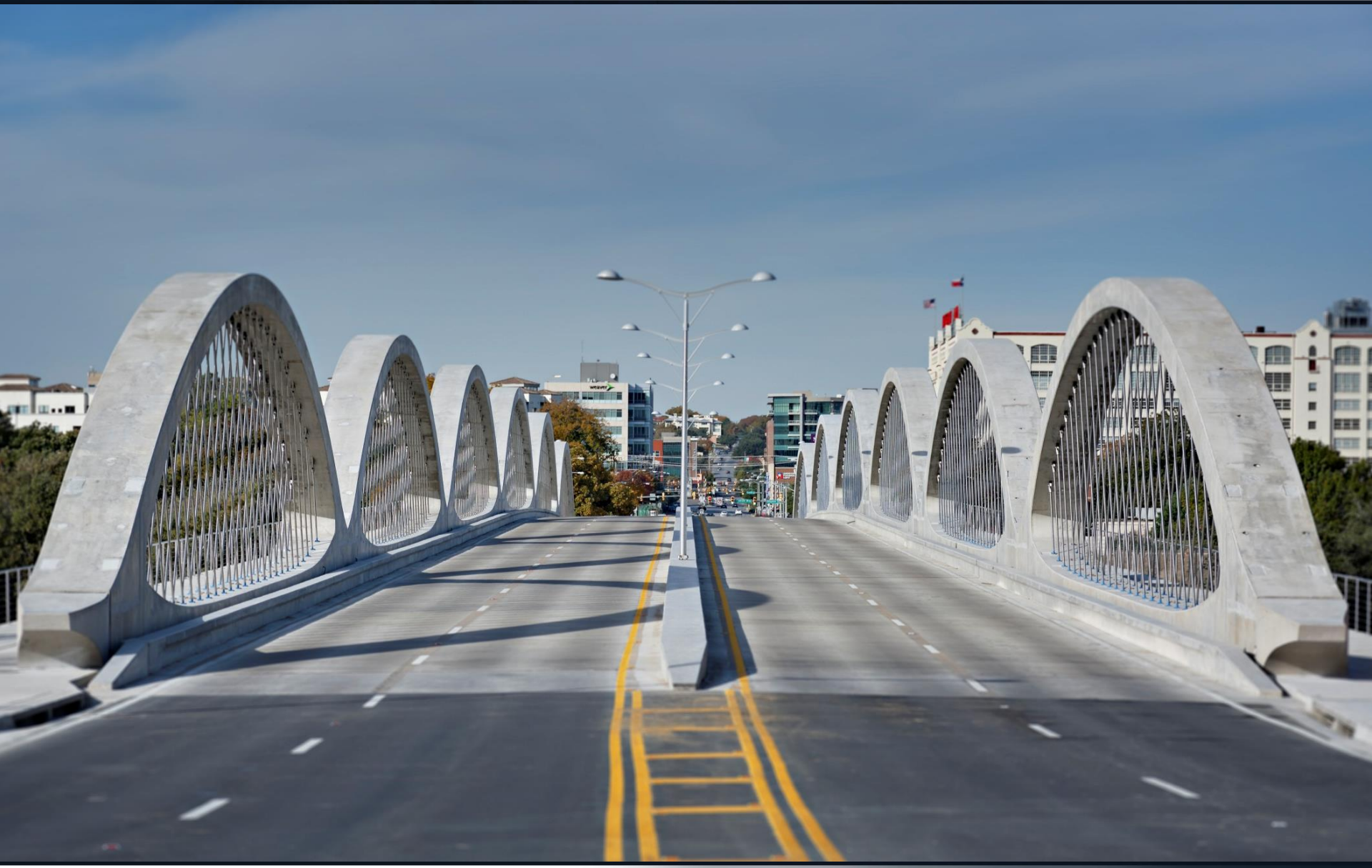












# Acknowledgements

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- TxDOT Researchers
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- Mike Hyzak, TxDOT Bridge Division
- Andrew Lee, TxDOT Beaumont District

# Questions?



# Photo Credits

- **Slide 7**, TxDOT, <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/historic-bridges-texas/texas-bridge-timeline>
- **Slide 8**, TxDOT, Historical Bridge Foundation, <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/historic-bridges-texas/texas-bridge-timeline>
- **Slide 9**, TxDOT, <http://historicbridgefoundation.com/txbridges/hillcountry/hays/bunton.html>
- **Slide 10**, Library of Congress, Historic American Engineering Record, <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/historic-bridges-texas/texas-bridge-timeline>
- **Slide 11**, TxDOT, <http://historicbridgefoundation.com/txbridges/panhandle/wichita/scottave.html>
- **Slide 12**, Library of Congress, Historic American Engineering Record, <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/historic-bridges-texas/texas-bridge-timeline>
- **Slide 15**, TxDOT, Texas Historic Inventory, March 2010, <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/historic-bridges-texas/texas-bridge-timeline>
- **Slide 19**, TxDOT, Texas Historic Bridge Inventory, March 2010, <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/historic-bridges-texas/texas-bridge-timeline>
- **Slide 76**, Sundt Corp.
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