Rhode Island Demonstration Project: Replacement of Frenchtown Brook Bridge No. 435

> Final Report January 2013









U.S.Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

FOREWORD

The purpose of the Highways for LIFE (HfL) pilot program is to accelerate the use of innovations that improve highway safety and quality while reducing congestion caused by construction. **LIFE** is an acronym for Longer-lasting highway infrastructure using Innovations to accomplish the **F**ast construction of **E**fficient and safe highways and bridges.

Specifically, HfL focuses on speeding up the widespread adoption of proven innovations in the highway community. Such "innovations" encompass technologies, materials, tools, equipment, procedures, specifications, methodologies, processes, and practices used to finance, design, or construct highways. HfL is based on the recognition that innovations are available that, if widely and rapidly implemented, would result in significant benefits to road users and highway agencies.

Although innovations themselves are important, HfL is as much about changing the highway community's culture from one that considers innovation something that only adds to the workload, delays projects, raises costs, or increases risk to one that sees it as an opportunity to provide better highway transportation service. HfL is also an effort to change the way highway community decisionmakers and participants perceive their jobs and the service they provide.

The HfL pilot program, described in Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Section 1502, includes funding for demonstration construction projects. By providing incentives for projects, HfL promotes improvements in safety, construction-related congestion, and quality that can be achieved through the use of performance goals and innovations. This report documents one such HfL demonstration project.

Additional information on the HfL program is at www.fhwa.dot.gov/hfl.

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 10. Abstract As part of a national initiative sponsored by program, the Rhode Island Department of proven, innovative accelerated bridge const than conventional construction. This report details the replacement of the 5 substructure, and foundation systems. The Rhode Island. The accelerated construction allowed the contractor to replace the bridge construction methods. Use of prefabricated bridge systems and in traditional construction by \$47,000. However, project saved road users about \$2 million (experience gained on this successful project). Encouraged by the success of this project, they can be built using accelerated bridge of the success of the success	hway Administration (Fl RIDOT) was awarded a S gies to deliver this \$1.9 ntown Brook Bridge feat ompletely prefabricated novations in this project road closure instead of t s increased the initial bri sive economic analysis in nt of the total project cos T implement these innov ed that it will evaluate all iques.	HWA) under the High \$620,000 grant to den million project in sub uring prefabricated su offsite and installed in increased safety, enha he 6 months required idge construction cost ncluding user costs sh sts for conventional co vations more routinely	aways for LIFE nonstrate the use of ostantially less time operstructure, n place—a first in anced quality, and under traditional compared to ows that the onstruction). The y on future	
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ac	acres	0.405	hectares	ha		
mi ²	square miles	2.59	square kilometers	km ²		
		VOLUME				
fl oz	fluid ounces	29.57	millimeters	mL		
gal	gallons	3.785	liters	L		
ft ³	cubic feet	0.028	cubic meters	m ³		
yd ³	cubic yards	0.765	cubic meters	m ³		
		NOTE: volumes greater than 1000 L shall b	be shown in m ³			
		MASS				
oz	ounces	28.35	grams	g		
lb	pounds	0.454	kilograms	kg		
Т	short tons (2000 lb)	0.907	megagrams (or "metric ton")	Mg (or "t")		
		TEMPERATURE (exact deg	rees)			
°F	Fahrenheit	5 (F-32)/9	Celsius	°C		
-		or (F-32)/1.8		-		
		ILLUMINATION				
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lbf	poundforce	4.45	Newtons	N		
lbf/in ² (psi)	poundforce per square inch	6.89	kiloPascals	kPa		
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um	micrometers	0.039	mil	(none)		
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m	meters	3.28	feet	ft		
m	meters	1.09	vards	vd		
km	kilometers	0.621	miles	mi		
		AREA				
mm ²	square millimeters	0.0016	square inches	in ²		
m ²	square meters	10.764	square feet	ft ²		
m ²	square meters	1.195	square yards	yd ²		
ha	hectares	2.47	acres	ac		
km ²	square kilometers	0.386	square miles	mi ²		
		VOLUME				
mL	milliliters	0.034	fluid ounces	fl oz		
L	liters	0.264	gallons	gal		
m ³	cubic meters	35.314	cubic feet	ft ³ m ³		
	cubic meters	1.307	cubic yards	yd ³		
		MASS				
g	grams	0.035	ounces	OZ		
Kg	Kilograms	2.202	pounds	lb		
Mg (or "t")	megagrams (or "metric ton")		snort tons (2000 lb)	Т		
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N	Newtons	FUNCE AND FRESSURE OF S	nundforce	lhf		
kPA	kiloPascals	0.225	poundforce per square inch	lbf/in ² (nei)		
MPa	megaPascals	0.145	kips per square inch	k/in^2 (ksi)		
	0	01110	1L			

*SI is the symbol for the International System of Units. Appropriate rounding should be made to comply with Section 4 of ASTM E380. (Revised March 2003)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

AASHTOAmerican Association of State Highway and Transportation OfficialsABCaccelerated bridge constructiondB(A)A-weighted decibelDOTdepartment of transportationFHWAFederal Highway AdministrationHfLHighways for LIFEIRIInternational Roughness IndexOBSIonboard sound intensityOSHAOccupational Safety and Health AdministrationPCIPrecast/Prestressed Concrete InstituteSAFETEA-LUSafe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for UsersSIsound intensityVOCvehicle operating cost	AADT	average annual daily traffic
ABCaccelerated bridge constructiondB(A)A-weighted decibelDOTdepartment of transportationFHWAFederal Highway AdministrationHfLHighways for LIFEIRIInternational Roughness IndexOBSIonboard sound intensityOSHAOccupational Safety and Health AdministrationPCIPrecast/Prestressed Concrete InstituteSAFETEA-LUSafe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for UsersSIsound intensityVOCvehicle operating cost	AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
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PCIPrecast/Prestressed Concrete InstituteSAFETEA-LUSafe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for UsersSIsound intensityVOCvehicle operating cost	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
SAFETEA-LUSafe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for UsersSIsound intensityVOCvehicle operating cost	PCI	Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
Legacy for UsersSIsound intensityVOCvehicle operating cost	SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A
SIsound intensityVOCvehicle operating cost		Legacy for Users
VOC vehicle operating cost	SI	sound intensity
	VOC	vehicle operating cost
VPD vehicles per day	VPD	vehicles per day

INTRODUCTION

HIGHWAYS FOR LIFE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The Highways for LIFE (HfL) pilot program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) initiative to accelerate innovation in the highway community, provides incentive funding for demonstration construction projects. Through these projects, the HfL program promotes and documents improvements in safety, construction-related congestion, and quality that can be achieved by setting performance goals and adopting innovations.

The HfL program—described in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)—may provide incentives to a maximum of 15 demonstration projects a year. The funding amount may total up to 20 percent of the project cost, but not more than \$5 million. Also, the Federal share for an HfL project may be up to 100 percent, thus waiving the typical State-match portion. At the State's request, a combination of funding and waived match may be applied to a project.

To be considered for HfL funding, a project must involve constructing, reconstructing, or rehabilitating a route or connection on an eligible Federal-aid highway. It must use innovative technologies, manufacturing processes, financing, or contracting methods that improve safety, reduce construction congestion, and enhance quality and user satisfaction. To provide a target for each of these areas, HfL has established demonstration project performance goals.

The performance goals emphasize the needs of highway users and reinforce the importance of addressing safety, congestion, user satisfaction, and quality in every project. The goals define the desired result while encouraging innovative solutions, raising the bar in highway transportation service and safety. User-based performance goals also serve as a new business model for how highway agencies can manage the project delivery process.

HfL project promotion involves showing the highway community and the public how demonstration projects are designed and built and how they perform. Broadly promoting successes encourages more widespread application of performance goals and innovations in the future.

Project Solicitation, Evaluation, and Selection

FHWA has issued open solicitations for HfL project applications annually since fiscal year 2006. State highway agencies submitted applications through FHWA Divisions. The HfL team reviewed each application for completeness and clarity, and contacted applicants to discuss technical issues and obtain commitments on project issues. Documentation of these questions and comments was sent to applicants, who responded in writing.

The project selection panel consisted of representatives of the FHWA offices of Infrastructure, Safety, and Operations; the Resource Center Construction and Project Management team; the Division offices; and the HfL team. After evaluating and rating the applications and

supplemental information, panel members convened to reach a consensus on the projects to recommend for approval. The panel gave priority to projects that accomplish the following:

- Address the HfL performance goals for safety, construction congestion, quality, and user satisfaction.
- Use innovative technologies, manufacturing processes, financing, contracting practices, and performance measures that demonstrate substantial improvements in safety, congestion, quality, and cost-effectiveness. An innovation must be one the applicant State has never or rarely used, even if it is standard practice in other States.
- Include innovations that will change administration of the State's highway program to more quickly build long-lasting, high-quality, cost-effective projects that improve safety and reduce congestion.
- Will be ready for construction within 1 year of approval of the project application. For the HfL program, FHWA considers a project ready for construction when the FHWA Division authorizes it.
- Demonstrate the willingness of the applicant department of transportation (DOT) to participate in technology transfer and information dissemination activities associated with the project.

HfL Project Performance Goals

The HfL performance goals focus on the expressed needs and wants of highway users. They are set at a level that represents the best of what the highway community can do, not just the average of what has been done. States are encouraged to use all applicable goals on a project:

- Safety
 - Work zone safety during construction—Work zone crash rate equal to or less than the preconstruction rate at the project location.
 - Worker safety during construction—Incident rate for worker injuries of less than 4.0, based on incidents reported on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Form 300.
 - Facility safety after construction—Twenty percent reduction in fatalities and injuries in 3-year average crash rates, using preconstruction rates as the baseline.

Construction Congestion

- Faster construction—Fifty percent reductions in the time highway users are impacted, compared to traditional methods.
- Trip time during construction—Less than 10 percent increase in trip time compared to the average preconstruction speed, using 100 percent sampling.
- Queue length during construction—A moving queue length of less than 0.5 miles (mi) in a rural area or less than 1.5 mi in an urban area (in both cases at a travel speed 20 percent less than the posted speed).

• Quality

- Smoothness—International Roughness Index (IRI) measurement of less than 48 inches per mile.
- Noise—Tire-pavement noise measurement of less than 96.0 A-weighted decibels (dB(A)), using the onboard sound intensity (OBSI) test method.

• User Satisfaction—An assessment of how satisfied users are with the new facility compared to its previous condition and with the approach used to minimize disruption during construction. The goal is a measurement of 4 or more on a 7-point Likert scale.

REPORT SCOPE AND ORGANIZATION

This report details the replacement of the 57-year old Frenchtown Brook Bridge featuring prefabricated superstructure, substructure, and foundation systems. The new bridge was completely prefabricated offsite and installed in place—a first in Rhode Island. The accelerated construction approach and innovations used on this project increased safety, enhanced quality, and allowed the contractor to replace the bridge during a 33-day road closure instead of the 6 months required under traditional construction methods. The report presents project details relevant to the HfL program, including bridge replacement and construction highlights, accelerated bridge construction (ABC) methods and materials, HfL performance metrics measurement, and economic analysis.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND LESSONS LEARNED

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project consisted of replacing a bridge on Davisville Road over Frenchtown Brook in East Greenwich, RI, just north of the East Greenwich–North Kingston boundary. The existing bridge suffered from constant weight reductions. The replacement structure was designed to increase the structural capacity of the bridge, improve roadway conditions, minimize disturbance to the Frenchtown Brook, and minimize inconvenience to users by limiting road closure to less than a third of the period required for conventional construction.

The focus of this demonstration project was the innovation of combining precast bridge elements and incentives to reduce road closure and construction periods. Lessons learned on this project can help guide similar projects in the future. Featured in the project are prefabricated culvert-like three-sided bridge elements (two legs and roof) that span 28 feet (ft) over Frenchtown Brook and are placed on precast concrete footings. Each element is 6 ft wide and 7 ft high at its centerline. The four prefabricated wingwalls consist of wall stems that are also placed on precast concrete footings.

The technologies incorporated into this bridge project have been used successfully around the United States on a limited basis, such as a HfL demonstration project in Washington, DC, featuring a prefabricated substructure and steel and concrete modular superstructure system.¹ Furthermore, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation presented a project that used techniques similar to this project, and its success set the stage for the all-precast method for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT). The fact that several diverse structural systems have been assembled and incorporated into a single project reinforces the concept that innovation does not necessarily mean creating something completely new, but rather facilitating incremental improvements in a number of specific bridge details to fully leverage previously successful work.

Under traditional construction methods, RIDOT estimated the bridge would have been closed for 6 months to accommodate cast-in-place construction. Central to the ABC approach adopted on this project was condensing the bridge closure to only 65 days, which was eventually reduced to 33 days by a \$3,000-per-day contractor incentive capped at \$90,000. This was enough time to facilitate both removal of the old bridge and construction of the new bridge.

Preliminary analysis of alternatives for the replacement bridge showed that the bridge with precast elements would be competitive with a conventional bridge at the site. The conventional bridge would have been a butted prestressed beam superstructure on cast-in-place abutments.

Construction on the project was completed without delays because of offsite fabrication and no handling, transportation, or erection difficulties. Also, user delay costs from roadway closure were reduced by more than 80 percent.

¹ *Reconstruction of Eastern Avenue Bridge Over Kenilworth Avenue in Washington, DC*, August 2011, Federal Highway Administration, www.fhwa.dot.gov/hfl/summary/projects_summary.cfm.

Encouraged by the success of this project, RIDOT announced that it will evaluate all future bridge projects to determine if they can be built using ABC techniques, taking into account factors such as the impact of total road closures that projects of this type normally require and the complexity of utility relocations.

HFL PERFORMANCE GOALS

Safety, construction congestion, quality, and user satisfaction data were collected before, during, and after construction to demonstrate that innovations can be an integral part of a project while simultaneously meeting the HfL performance goals in these areas.

• Safety

- Work zone safety during construction—As expected, no incidents occurred during the entire construction period including the full closure period, which meets the HfL goal of achieving a work zone crash rate equal to or less than the preconstruction rate.
- Worker safety during construction—No workers were injured on the project, so the contractor achieved a score of 0 on the OSHA Form 300, meeting the HfL goal of less than 4.0.
- Facility safety after construction—Normally, 3-year crash rates after construction are determined and compared to the preconstruction crash rates. With no change in roadway width (44 ft) before and after construction, the crash rate attributable to roadway width should be the same. However, traffic volume and flow are likely to affect facility safety after construction. The pre-construction Davisville Road consisted of two lanes and two shoulders carrying one-way traffic north toward Frenchtown Road and the on-ramp to Route 4 North. Post-construction, Davisville Road will no longer be part of Route 403 under the relocated Route 403 project and will serve as a two-way local road with less than 75 percent of its preconstruction traffic volume.

• Construction Congestion

- Faster construction Compressing the time it took to replace the bridge from an estimated 6 months to only 33 days under the ABC approach drastically reduced the impact on motorists and went beyond the HfL goal of a 50 percent reduction in the time traffic is impacted compared to traditional construction methods.
- Trip time Considering the cumulative trip time over the 33-day detour compared to 6 months of detour estimated for traditional construction, motorists experienced a substantial reduction in trip time, meeting the HfL goal of no more than a 10 percent increase in trip time.
- Queue length during construction There were no traffic backups observed along the detour routes. The project, therefore, met the HfL goal of less than a 0.5-mi queue length in a rural area.

• Quality

• Smoothness—Because of the new asphalt surface on the bridge, motorists will notice a smoother ride.

- The quality of the products used was superior because the contract required that the manufacturing plant furnishing precast bridge members be certified by the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) Certification program at a minimum of B3 category. Furthermore, it required that dimensional tolerances not exceed those recommended in the latest edition of the PCI manual for quality control for plants and production of precast and prestressed concrete products. This assessment is based on the products meeting all specifications and the belief that disciplined procedures enforced at certified plants audited by external personnel are likely to yield better quality control than those at a construction site where quality control of concrete cast in place is dispersed among several entities and individuals. These personnel range from those at batch plants proportioning aggregates, cement, and water to drivers transporting the mixes in concrete trucks to inspectors responsible for ensuring that placing, compacting, and curing of concrete conforms to specifications.
- User satisfaction—A formal user satisfaction survey was not conducted on this project. It is, however, evident to the project team that with reduction in roadway closure time by more than 80 percent compared to conventional construction, users are likely to be very satisfied and their responses would easily meet the goal of 4 or more points on a 7-point Likert scale.

In a similar study on the use of ABC on U.S. 6 over Keg Creek² in Iowa, where the roadway closure was reduced from 6 months to 2 weeks through the use of prefabricated bridge elements, user satisfaction was quite positive. 92 percent of respondents to the survey considered using prefabricated components to speed construction as important or somewhat important and 100 percent of the respondents found condensing closure to 2 weeks to be important.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The costs and benefits of this innovative project approach were compared with those of a project of similar size and scope delivered using a more traditional approach. A comprehensive economic analysis that accounted for construction and road user costs revealed that RIDOT's innovative approach realized a cost savings of about \$1.5 million, or 38 percent of the total project cost, over conventional construction practices. A significant amount of the cost savings stemmed from avoiding delay costs to road users through the use of ABC techniques.

LESSONS LEARNED

Through this project, RIDOT gained valuable insights on the innovative techniques and materials—both those that were successful and those that need improvement in future project deliveries. The following are some of the lessons learned on using prefabricated elements:

• The 65-day bridge closure allowed in the contract was adequate for demolition and construction of a bridge of this size. In fact, the contractor completed the work in 33

² *Iowa Demonstration Project: Accelerated Bridge Construction on U.S. 6 Over Keg Creek*, March 2012, Federal Highway Administration, www.fhwa.dot.gov/hfl/summary/projects_summary.cfm.

days, qualifying for the incentive of \$3,000 per day capped at \$90,000. This was enough time to completely remove the existing bridge and set the precast elements in place despite a significant rain event that disrupted operations. The contractor typically did not have to work past dusk during this period.

- A muddy job site would have made moving the heavy bridge elements difficult, but this did not occur.
- By reducing the construction time at the site with accelerated construction using prefabricated elements, the amount of time construction crews and motorists were exposed to the dangers of the work zone was also reduced.
- Onsite construction time is often limited by weather and environmental permitting requirements. Because of prefabrication and accelerated construction, limited available construction time was not a factor and the project was easily completed during the construction season.
- While precast concrete produced at a certified plant has the advantage of being constructed in a controlled environment with higher production and curing standards than normally found in the field, there is debate on the impact this has on costs and the need to evaluate this requirement for simple elements. The positive side of plant certification is that internal quality control is apt to be at least satisfactory, but the negative aspect is that all elements must be shipped from a certified facility that may be a long way from the construction site, increasing transportation cost. Transportation also involves restriction on the size and weight of individual elements. The option of allowing near-site fabrication versus fabrication at a certified facility should be considered on future projects that involve prefabricated elements.
- The incentives in the actual contract helped offset some of the risk in the contractor's bid decision making process.

CONCLUSIONS

RIDOT gained valuable insights on this project on the use of innovative ABC techniques. These innovations were key to successfully achieving the HfL performance goals of increasing safety, reducing traveler inconvenience from construction, and increasing quality at a lower cost.

PROJECT DETAILS

BACKGROUND

Frenchtown Brook Bridge No. 435 carries Davisville Road, an urban minor arterial that starts at Frenchtown Road in the town of East Greenwich and proceeds generally in the southeasterly direction to U.S. Route 1 (Post Road) in North Kingston (shown in Figure 1). RIDOT included replacement of this bridge as part of its relocated Route 403 project, a major undertaking.

The16-ft-wide rectangular slab bridge built in 1955 at a 60-degree skew resembles a culvert (Figure 2). It was functionally obsolete and structurally deficient with a load rating of only 12 tons for a HS-20 vehicle. The concrete abutments that supported the structure had substandard dimensions. RIDOT decided to leave a portion of the existing substructure in place to minimize the impact on Frenchtown Brook, an important tributary of Hunt River.

Under the relocated Route 403 project, Davisville Road is no longer part of Route 403. The two one-way lanes and two shoulders to the north toward Frenchtown Road and the on-ramp to Route 4 North before relocation will serve as lanes for two-way traffic, a lane in each direction. With relocation, traffic volume of 10,200 vehicles per day (vpd) is estimated to drop to 7,300.

The traffic analysis in conjunction with the project indicated that it was feasible to detour traffic because the detour was short and the impacted traffic was primarily local.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RIDOT considered six alternatives to replace the structure, the first two of which appeared the most promising:

- Alternative 1: Precast concrete arch with varying gravel over top and bituminous pavement. The bridge would have a span of 28 ft square with no skew.
- Alternative 2: Butted prestressed concrete box beams with 3-inch (in) minimum pavement. The bridge would have a span of 94 ft for a skew angle of 45 degrees.

It was estimated that alternative 2 would cost \$360,000 more if piling was needed and about \$40,000 more if no piling was needed. Alternative 1 would not require piling because the loads on the footings would be much less because of the shorter span and more uniform bearing pressures.

RIDOT decided to go with option 1 and use precast elements for all segments of the structure for the first time in its project delivery history. This included both the footings and three-sided (roof and two legs) bridge segments for the main structure and precast elements for the footings and the wall stems for the four wingwalls of the bridge. See Figure 3 and Figure 4.

To complete the bridge construction work as quickly as possible and to lessen the impact of the project, RIDOT concluded that it would have to close Davisville Road to traffic. RIDOT further

estimated that by using precast elements for all components, the closure period would be reduced from 6 to 2 months.

RIDOT applied for an HfL grant designed to advance longer-lasting highway infrastructure using innovations to accomplish fast construction of efficient and safe highways and bridges. A grant of \$620,000 was made to RIDOT under the program.



Figure 1. Project location.



Figure 2. Old Frenchtown Brook Bridge.



Figure 3. Typical bridge section.



Figure 4. Conceptual typical wall element.

To ensure that the closure of Davisville Road would be for only a brief period, RIDOT included an incentive/disincentive clause in the contract specifications. For each calendar day that the bridge was fully open to traffic before the allowed 65-calendar day period, an incentive of \$3,000 would be paid to the contractor. The incentive was capped at \$90,000. A disincentive of \$3,000 applied for each day the road was closed beyond the allowed 65-day period.

Other highlights relevant to precast concrete bridge elements included the following:

- Exposed portions of wingwalls and headwalls were to receive a form liner finish. Form liner was to be Pattern No. 1508 "Large Dry Stack Fieldstone" or an approved equivalent.
- Grout requirements included that the material be flowable nonshrink grout capable of achieving a 28-day compressive strength of 11,000 pounds per square inch (psi) from an approved RIDOT source.
- Inserts and hardware were to be of A304 stainless steel unless otherwise approved by the engineer.
- Precast sections were to be manufactured in a RIDOT/PCI-certified facility.
- Precast three-sided bridge sections were to be placed on steel shims about 0.5 in within the keyway.
- The headwall was to be continuous, without joints.
- Precast products were to be handled, moved, or transported only after the 28-day design strength had been attained.

- The butt joint made by two adjacent precast bridge units was to be covered with a piece of preformed bituminous joint sealant.
- The entire top and sides of the precast bridge units were to receive rubberized asphalt liquid membrane to the limits shown on the plans.

The contract was awarded to Aetna Bridge Co. of Pawtucket, RI, which had a low bid of \$1.9 million. The contractor chose Contech Engineered Solutions of Palmer, MA, as its prefabricated elements subcontractor, located about 85 mi from the project site. The consultant designer on the project was Gordon R. Archibald, Inc. Professional Engineers of Pawtucket, RI.

The contractor started the roadway closure on July 30, 2012, for bridge construction. Approved shop drawings for the project are shown in the Appendix. The shop drawing package includes the bridge plan, foundation plan, upstream and downstream elevations, and a variety of connection details and specifications for manufacture and installation.

Construction of the project is highlighted in Figure 5 through Figure 31.

The contractor started with dewatering measures, installation of demolition shield, demolition of wingwalls, and excavation behind the abutments. To minimize impact on Frenchtown Brook, a portion of the existing abutment was left in place (see Figure 7 through Figure 9).



Figure 5. Bridge before closure.



Figure 6. Closure of Davisville Road.



Figure 7. Demolition of old structure in process with stream diversion in place.



Figure 8. Demolition showing slab removal with abutment walls left in place.



Figure 9. Abutment walls of old bridge left in place so work does not impact stream.

Figure 10 shows the plan view of the structure 150 ft long with 25 6-ft elements. The original plans called for concrete and grout subfooting under the precast foundation elements, but the contractor's value engineering proposal to use a crushed stone subfooting wrapped in geotextile was approved instead. The precast foundation units were lifted off a tractor-trailer and placed on the subfooting. See Figure 11 for the construction detail and Figure 12 through Figure 14 for the modular foundation element placement. The interior foundation elements are 23 ft, 11.5 in long, 6 ft wide and 2.5 ft high. The end units are of the same width and height and 26 ft, 11.75 in long. The units were hollow to facilitate transport and handling and were subsequently filled with concrete at the site. See the shop drawings in the Appendix for more details.

The three-sided 6-ft-wide bridge elements with an internal span of 28 ft shown in Figure 15 were lifted off the trucks and placed on the footings (see Figure 16). These elements came with a cable tie. The cables were removed after arch units had been erected and the concrete placed in the foundation units and at the arch unit had been allowed to cure to 2,000 psi. The headwall elements with their counterforts and wingwall elements with anchors were then placed. The butt joints between adjacent bridge elements were filled with preformed bituminous joint sealant and a 9-in-wide continuous joint wrap. A primer compatible with the joint wrap was applied for a minimum width of 9 in on each side of the joint. Other joints between the bridge elements and headwalls and bridge elements and wingwalls were similarly sealed (see Figure 17 through Figure 25).

See the Appendix for grouting requirements at the joints. Minimum 28-day strength of 11,000 psi was required. The specifications for manufacture and installation also required that the lifting and erection anchor recesses be filled with grout.

Approved backfill shown in Figure 26 was rolled into place (Figure 27) and covered by a 5-in modified base course in two 2.5-in lifts followed by a 2-in bituminous surface course (Figure 28).

The road, which once served one-way traffic, was striped for two-way traffic (Figure 29) and opened on Friday, August 31, 2012, in time for the Labor Day weekend, just 33 days after it was closed to traffic. Figure 30 shows the completed structure with guardrail and riprap in place, and Figure 31 shows a view of the bridge opening with riprap placed behind old structure abutment walls.



Figure 10. Plan view of structure.



Figure 11. Bridge element support detail.



Figure 12. Precast foundation units being lifted off tractor-trailer.



Figure 13. Precast foundation unit being placed on subfooting.



Figure 14. Modular prefabricated footings in place.



Figure 15. Main bridge element with cable tie on flatbed.



Figure 16. Modular main bridge elements lowered into place.



Figure 17. All 25 main bridge elements lowered into place.



Figure 18. Modular headwall being lowered into place.



Figure 19. Wingwall support detail.



Figure 20. Modular wingwall being lowered into place.



Figure 21. Another wingwall being lowered into place.



Figure 22. Far end headwall being lowered into place.



Figure 23. Closeup of headwall anchors.



Figure 24. Closeup of wingwall anchors.



Figure 25. Prefabricated structure showing joints sealed and wrapped.



Figure 26. Stockpiled structure backfill.



Figure 27. Gravel backfill being rolled into place.



Figure 28. Bituminous material being rolled into place.



Figure 29. Davisville Road opened to traffic.



Figure 30. Completed structure with guardrail and riprap in place.



Figure 31. Bridge opening with riprap placed behind old structure abutment walls.

DATA ACQUISITION AND ANALYSIS

Data on safety, traffic flow, and quality before, during, and after construction were collected to determine if this project met the HfL performance goals. The primary objective of acquiring these types of data was to quantify project performance to provide an objective basis to determine the feasibility of the project innovations and demonstrate that the innovations can be used to do the following:

- Achieve a safer work environment for the traveling public and workers.
- Reduce construction time and minimize traffic interruptions.
- Produce a high-quality project and gain user satisfaction.

This section discusses how well the RIDOT project met the HfL performance goals related to these areas.

SAFETY

The project included the HfL performance goal of achieving a work zone crash rate equal to or less than the existing conditions. During this project, no crashes occurred, satisfying the HfL goal. Work zone safety was ensured by completely closing the bridge to traffic, accelerating construction, and using prefabricated bridge components. Accelerated construction methods, including the use of prefabricated bridge components, made the brief traffic detour feasible.

The project included the performance goal of achieving an incident rate for worker injuries of less than 4.0 based on the OSHA 300 rate. Not only did closing the bridge to traffic help achieve this goal, but precasting the bridge system at an approved facility eliminated the need for workers to spend most of their time exposed to falling hazards, which would have been required with traditional cast-in-place construction methods. No work-related injuries occurred during construction, resulting in an OSHA Form 300 score of 0.

It is difficult to compare crash data before and after construction at this site because both the traffic volume and flow have changed. Davisville Road under the relocated Route 403 project, a major undertaking of RIDOT of which this project was a part, is no longer part of Route 403. The two one-way lanes and two shoulders to the north toward Frenchtown Road and the on-ramp to Route 4 North before relocation now serve as two-way traffic with a lane and a shoulder in each direction. With relocation, traffic volume of 10,200 vpd was estimated to drop to 7,300 vpd.

CONSTRUCTION CONGESTION

Accelerated construction techniques reduced the time highway users were affected by more than 50 percent. The estimated roadway closure time for bridge construction would have been 6 months under non-accelerated construction. The actual impact on traffic lasted only 33 days, from July 30 to August 31, 2012.

The impact started when Davisville Road was closed to traffic on July 30, 2012, and the traffic was detoured. Figure 32 shows detours that were set in place. The primary detour route used

Route 402 (Frenchtown Road) in East Greenwich and Route 1 (Post Road) and School Street in North Kingston. Motorists on Devil's Foot Road (which turns into Davisville Road) could access the new Route 403 at West Davisville Road using the alternate route and take the exit for Route 4 North. They could also take the exit for Route 4 South to Route 402 (Frenchtown Road).

During the 33-day closure, detours eliminated traffic queuing and congestion at the construction site, allowing efficient installation of the modular bridge components.

The innovative accelerated bridge construction technique enabled reduction of the traffic detour duration by more than 80 percent, from an estimated 6 months for conventional construction to only 33 days.



Figure 32. Traffic management plan.

Researchers collected trip time data before Davisville Road was closed to traffic and during the closure. No queuing was observed on the primary or alternate routes. In general, the traffic flow along the both detour routes was light and flowed freely without backups or congestion at or above the posted speed limits.

The following nodes were established for trip time data collection:

- Node 1—Intersection of Davisville Road and Frenchtown Road
- Node 2—Intersection of Frenchtown Road and Post Road (Route 1)
- Node 3—Intersection of Post Road (Route 1) and School Street
- Node 4—Intersection of School Street and Davisville Road

When Davisville Road was open, the average travel time from Node 1 to Node 4 was 2.59 minutes based on morning, midday, and afternoon runs. Travel along the primary detour from Node 1 to Node 4 increased this average time from 2.59 to 5.26 minutes, an increase of 2.67 minutes. Travel along the alternative route averaged 3.99 minutes, an increase of 1.40 minutes.

The cost associated with the additional time to traverse the detour route is presented later in this report.

QUALITY

The load restrictions on the bridge because of structural inadequacy will no longer be needed. The new bridge meets all current standards for structural adequacy and is open to all traffic. Furthermore, motorists will notice a smoother ride when traversing the bridge because of its new asphalt surface.

The quality of the products used was superior because the contract required that the manufacturing plant furnishing precast bridge members be PCI certified at a minimum of B3 category. Furthermore, it required that dimensional tolerances not exceed those recommended in the latest edition of the PCI manual for quality control for plants and production of precast and prestressed concrete products. This assessment is based on the products meeting all specifications and the belief that disciplined procedures enforced at certified plants audited by external personnel are likely to yield better quality control than those at a construction site where quality control of concrete cast in place is dispersed among several entities and individuals. These personnel range from those at batch plants proportioning aggregates, cement, and water to drivers transporting the mixes in concrete trucks to inspectors responsible for ensuring that placing, compacting, and curing of concrete conform to specifications.

USER SATISFACTION

The September 7, 2012, *AASHTO Journal Weekly Transportation Report*, published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, featured the Frenchtown Brook Bridge. The article includes the following quote from RIDOT Director Michael Lewis:

"Going into this project, we knew it would take only a third of the time to replace this bridge compared with the time it would have taken if we used traditional construction methods. We are pleased to be able to take this approach with the Frenchtown Brook Bridge and reopen it as quickly as possible for drivers in East Greenwich and North Kingston who rely on this bridge on a daily basis."

The article goes on to state, "The project was so successful that RIDOT noted it will evaluate all future bridge projects to see if they could be built using the ABC method."

It is clear from these statements that RIDOT is pleased with the decisions made on this project. It is also evident to the project team that absent formal user satisfaction surveys, based on the data and chart shown in Figure 33 and Figure 34, users of Davisville Road would be quite satisfied with RIDOT's approach to minimizing the impact of construction on this project from 6 months for conventional construction to just 1 month using innovative ABC methods. Figure 33 and Figure 34 show results of a user satisfaction survey on a similar ABC project using precast components in Iowa. Clearly, the responses were positive (very important and important) on a number of decisions made on this project:

- 1. Closing a road or bridge to reduce cost and time (90 percent positive)
- 2. Creating alternative routes while project is underway (100 percent positive)
- 3. Reducing time to complete project through incentives (80 percent positive)

Rate the importance in designing and scheduling projects.

Figure 33. Rating of approaches to design, scheduling, and traffic management on projects.



Figure 34. Chart showing results of user responses on approaches to design, scheduling, and traffic management.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

A key aspect of HfL demonstration projects is quantifying, as much as possible, the value of the innovations deployed. This involves comparing the benefits and costs associated with the innovative project delivery approach adopted on an HfL project with those from a more traditional delivery approach on a project of similar size and scope. The latter type of project is referred to as a baseline case and is an important component of the economic analysis.

For this economic analysis, RIDOT supplied the cost figures for the as-built project and baseline construction. Traditional methods would have involved the use of cast-in-place construction coupled with standard pretensioned precast concrete bridge beams.

CONSTRUCTION TIME

The baseline scenario would have closed the bridge for at least 6 months to accommodate traditional cast-in-place construction methods. The ABC approach allowed the contractor to fabricate the bridge components ahead of time and use a condensed 33-day closure to assemble the bridge.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

The alternative analysis for the Frenchtown Brook bridge project itemized costs for six options, with the following three lowest cost options:

- 1. Precast arch option (\$1,800,000)
- 2. Butted box beam option (\$1,840,000 without piles, \$2,160,000 if piling needed)
- 3. Spread box beam option (\$1,880,000 without piles, \$2,190,000 if piling needed)

Details of the analysis are shown in Table 1.

The precast arch option was estimated to cost \$40,000 less than the conventional alternative of butted box beam and \$360,000 less if piling was needed for the butted box beam structure.

The successful (lowest) bid on the project was \$1,945,063.80.

Assuming that the conventional bridge would have been bid proportionately higher, the difference between the conventional option and the precast arch option is estimated as follows:

\$1,945063.80 * 40,000/1,800,000 = \$43,223.64 or about \$43,000.

However, with the incentive of \$90,000 for completing the project ahead of the time allotted, the innovative option cost **\$47,000** more than the conventional option.

Table 1. Construction cost analysis.

Relocated Route 403 Rooonstrudion of Frenchtown Brook Bridge No.435

ITEM CODE	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	UNITPRICE	AI.TERNATIVE ■ PRECAST ARCH		TIVE ■ ALTERN ARCH BUnED		NATIVE 2 AITERN DBOXE\$ SPREA	
2010409	R&DFIEXBLE PAVEMENT	SY	\$15	1100	\$16,600	1300	\$19,600	1650	\$24,750
203.DIOO	STRUCTURALEXCAVATIONEARTH	CY	\$15	3500	\$52,600	1700	\$25,500	1700	\$25,500
203,0650	CRUSHEDSTONE FILLUNDER STRUCTURES	CY	\$50	170	\$6,500	75	\$3,750	75	\$3,750
203.0700	PERVIOUS FILL	CY	\$50	3200	\$100,000	980	\$49,000	960	\$49000
301.0001	GRAVEL BORROW BASE COURSE	CY	\$23	4 1 0	\$9,430	300	\$6,900	420	S9 ,G60
401.0200	BITUMINOUS PAVEMEI'IT	TOI'I	\$70	400	\$28,000	440	\$30,800	550	\$38,500
803.9901	R & DPORTIONS OF EXISTING BRIDGE	CY	\$200	370	\$74,000	310	\$62,000	310	\$62,000
804.9901	H-PILES	LF	\$100	0	SO	2(i00	\$260,000	2(i00	\$260,000
806.2000	TEMPORARY SHEET PIUNG STEEL FURNISHAND DRIVE	SF	\$90	1400	\$126,000	500	\$45,000	500	\$45,000
808.0322	CONCRETE SUBSTRUCTURE CLASS HP3/4"ENOPOSTS	CY	\$1,400	6	\$6,400	6	\$6,400	6	\$8,400
808.0323	CONCRETE SUBSTRUCTURE CLASS HP 3/4" PARAPETS	CY	\$1,400	26	\$36,400	40	\$84,.400	50	\$70,000
806.0504	CONCRETE SUBSTRUCTURE CLASS HP314'WALL FOOTING	CY	\$850	130	\$84,600	66	\$42,900	77	\$50,050
806.0806	CONCRETE SUBSTRUCTURE CLASS ftP 3/4' WALL STEM	CY	\$6\$0	20	\$13,000	80	\$39,000	6\$	\$55,250
806.0806	CONCRETE SUBSTRUCTURE CLASS HP 3/4'ABUTI.tEHT STEMS	CY	\$6\$0	0	\$0	175	\$113.750	175	\$113,750
808.0508	CONCRETE SUBSTRUCTURE CLASS HP 314" APPROACH SLABS	CY	\$300	0	\$0	55	\$18,500	55	\$18,500
808,0602	CONCRETE SUBSTRUCTURE CLASSHP 3/4"81\CKWALLS	CY	\$1,000	0	\$0	16	\$18,000	24	\$24000
808.1501	CONCRETE SUPERSTRUCTURE CLASS HP 314"BRIDGE DECKS	CY	\$1,000	0	\$0	0	50	120	\$120,000
809.0821	PRESMESSEDCONCRETE AASHTOBEAMSTYPE2 FF&E CLASSHP314"	LF	\$125	0	\$0	0	50	0	SO
809.0924	PRE5mESSEDCONCRETE BOXES 811-48 FF&E CIASSHP 314"	SF	S80	0	\$0	4700	\$376,000	0	SO
8011.0934	PRESTRESSEDCotiCRETE BOXES 811-48 FF&E CLASSHP 314"	SF	\$90	0	\$0	0	SO	2330	\$209,700
809.1012	PRESTRESSEDCONCRETE BULB TEESNE 200 FF&E CLASS HP 314'	LF	\$300	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	SO
809.1 146	PRESTRESSEDCotiCRETE SLABS 18 &FF&E CLASSHP314"	SF	\$75	0	SO	0	SO	0	SO
809.9901	PRECAST CONCRETE ARCH CLASS HP314'	LS	\$400.000	1	\$400,000	0	\$0	0	SO
810.0300	EPOXY COATED BAAS GRADE 80	LBS	\$1	60000	\$60, 0 00	8000	\$85,000	1 1 4000	\$114,000
813.0400	RUBBERIZEDASPHALT LIQUID MEMBRANE (WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE)	SY	S00	690	\$34,500	5 1 5	\$25,750	515	\$25,750
828.0303	ELASTOMERICBEARINGS LAMINATED	EA	\$500	0	SO	24	\$12,000	12	\$6,000
833.0400	GRANITE IDENTIFICATION TABLETS	EA	\$400	4	S1,600	4	\$1.800	4	\$1.800
834.9110 1	VERTICAL FACE GRANITE BRIDGE CURB	LF	\$45	176	\$7,920	200	\$13,050	304	\$13,880
801.0183	STEESEMBRIDGE CONNECTION APPROACH EI'ID (W/0 NESTED RAIL}	EA	\$2,000	2	\$4,000	2	\$4,000	2	\$4,000
901.0184	STEEL BEAM BRIDGE CONNECTION TRAILING END <i>rN</i> /NESTED RA!L)	EA	\$3.000	2	S 6,000	2	\$8,000	2	\$6.000
820.0086	DUI.I?EOSTOtiE RIP-RAP R-1, R-2 ST0.8.3.0	CY	\$40	150	\$6,000	120	\$4,800	120	\$4.800
838.0110	M08wlnoN	LS	\$100,000	I	\$100,000	I	\$100,000	I	\$100,000
937.D200	MAINTENANCE AND MOVEMENT mAFFICPROTECTION	LS	\$300,000	0.5	S150,000	I	\$300,000	I	\$300000
					\$1,798,583		\$2,152,000		\$2,189,550

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User Costs

Generally, three categories of user costs are used in an economic and life cycle cost analysis: vehicle operating costs (VOC), delay costs, and crash- and safety-related costs. Because the bridge would have been closed to traffic under both the baseline and as-built cases, the possible safety hazard to the traveling public from a work zone was eliminated, so safety-related costs were not evaluated. However, VOC and delay costs were compared and are discussed in the following subsections.

VOC

The savings in VOC from using ABC are essentially the difference between the mileage-related VOC applied to the 6 months (183 days) of detour time for the baseline case and the 33 days for the as-built case applied to an average extra detour distance of 2 mi.

Assuming an average unit cost of \$0.81 per mile for commercial vehicles (light and heavy trucks)² and \$0.32 per mile for an average sedan³ for the variable operating costs (including costs for fuel, maintenance and repair, tires, and depreciation) and given the 2012 annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 7,300 with 6 percent trucks for this project, the following VOC is computed:

Baseline Case

VOC (Auto)	= 7,300 (AADT) * 0.94 (percent autos) * 2 (mi) * \$0.32 (per mi) * 183 (days) = \$803,677
VOC Truck	= 7,300 (AADT) * 0.06 (percent trucks) * 2 (mi) * \$0.81 (per mi) * 183(days) = \$129,849
VOC (Total)	= \$803,677+ \$129,849 = \$933,527

As-Built Case

The detour was in effect for 33 days, hence the VOC (total) for the as-built case is as follows:

= 33 * 933,527/183= **\$168,341** VOC _{Differential} = **\$933,527**_{baseline} - **\$168,341**_{As-built} = **\$765,186**

²Barnes and Langworthy, *The Per-Mile Costs of Operating Automobiles and Trucks*, 2003, Report No. MN/RC 2003-19, Minnesota Department of Transportation. Adjusted for fuel price increase and inflation in 2011.

³ American Automobile Association, Your Driving Costs 2012, Both operating costs and per mile depreciation costs were considered. http://newsroom.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/YourDrivingCosts2012.pdf

Delay Costs

The delay time using the primary and alternate detour routes averaged 2.67 minutes (0.0445 hour) and 1.40 minutes (0.0233 hour), respectively, more than travel before closure. RIDOT estimated that traffic would be distributed about 50 percent on each detour route. The average delay time is calculated as follows:

Delay time per vehicle = 0.5 * 0.0445 hour + 0.5 * 0.0233 hour = 0.0339 hour

The savings in delay cost can be determined by applying an hourly value to the extra time needed to traverse the detour and assuming a monetary hourly value of \$19.68 and \$23.57 an hour for autos and trucks, respectively⁴:

Baseline Case

Delay (Auto)	= 7,300 (AADT) * 0.94 (percent autos) * 0.0339(hr/veh) * \$19.68 (per hr) * 183 (days) = \$837,773
Delay (Truck)	= 7,300 (AADT) * 0.06 (percent trucks) * 0.0339(hr/veh) * 23.57 (per hr) * 183(days) = $64,045$
Delay (Total)	= \$837,773 +\$64,045 = \$901,818
As-Built Case	
Delay (Auto)	= 7,300 (AADT) * 0.94 (percent autos) * 0.0339(hr/veh) * \$19.68 (per hr) * 33 (days) = \$151,074
Delay (Truck)	= 7,300 (AADT) * 0.06 (percent trucks) * 0.0339(hr/veh) * 23.57 (per hr) * 33(days) = $11,549$
Delay (Total)	= \$151,074+ \$11,549 = \$162,623

The total saving in delay costs between baseline and as-built scenarios is as follows:

 $\begin{aligned} \text{Delay}_{\text{Differential}} &= \$901,\!818_{\text{Baseline}} - \$162,\!623_{\text{As-built}} \\ &= \$739,\!195 \end{aligned}$

⁴ Mallela and Sadasivam, Work Zone Road User Costs and Applications, Report No. FHWA-HOP-12-005, Federal Highway Administration, 2011. Per hour travel delay cost for autos was adjusted for Rhode Island's 2011 median annual household income of \$49,033.

COST SUMMARY

From a construction cost standpoint, the innovative ABC delivery approach cost RIDOT about \$43,000 less than traditional construction. However, with \$90,000 in incentive for early completion, the construction cost for the ABC delivery approach ended up costing **\$47,000** more.

User costs, however, were substantially lower for the ABC delivery approach. Compared to the conventional (baseline) approach, VOC costs were \$765,186 lower and delay costs were also lower by \$739,195 (see Table 2).

In summary, in terms of total costs, the conventional (baseline) approach would have cost **3,823,409** or about **62 percent** more than the cost of **\$2,366,028** for the innovative ABC delivery method implemented on this project.

This project saved users **\$1,457,381** or about **38 percent** of the total project costs for conventional construction.

Item	Innovative Method	Conventional	Difference
		Method	
Construction Cost	\$1,945,064	\$1,988,064	\$ 43,000
Vehicle Operating Cost (VOC)	\$ 168,341	\$ 933,527	\$ 765,186
Delay Cost	\$ 162,623	\$ 901,818	\$ 739,195
Incentive	\$ 90,000	0	\$ (90,000)
Total	\$2,366,028	\$3,823,409	\$1,457,381

Table 2.	Comp	arison	of	pro	ject	costs.
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APPENDIX: SHOP DRAWINGS





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REPLACEMENT OF FRENCHTOWN BROOK BRIDGE NO. 4: RI CONTRACT NO 2011-CB-077, F.A. NO BRO- EAST GREENWICH, RHODE ISLAND	Image: Construction of the construction of	
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SPECIFICATIONS FOR MANUFACTURE AND INSTALLATION OF CON/SPAN® BRIDGE SYSTEMS (CONT'D)

INSTALLATION PREPARATION
 TO ENSURE CORRECT INSTALLATION OF THE PRECAST CONCRETE
 INSTOLE SYSTEM, CARE AND CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED IN
 FORMING THE SUPPORT AREAS FOR BRIDGE UNITS, HEAVWALL, AND
 WINGWALL LEMENTS. EXERGISION SPECIAL CARE WILL FACILITATE
 THE RAPID INSTALLATION OF THE PRECAST COMPONENTS.

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 SITE SOIL ENGINEER TO REMOVE UNSUITABLE SOIL

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ON SITE. PLACEMENT OF BRIDGE UNITS - THE BRIDGE UNITS SHALL BE PLACED AS SHOWN ON THE ENGINEERS PLAN DRAWINGS. SPECIAL CARE SHALL BE TAKEN IN SETTING THE ELEMENTS TO THE TRUE LINE AND GRADE. THE JOINT WIDTH BETWEEN ADJACENT PRECAST UNITS SHALL NOT EXCEED X.

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REPLACEMENT OF FRENCHTOWN BROOK BRIDGE NO. 435

RI CONTRACT NO 2011-CB-077, F.A. NO BR0-0435(001)

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ROJECT No.: SEQ. No.: DATE: 351166 001 1/17/2012

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REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER