



Ground Modification Techniques for the Christina River Bridge Approaches

Wilmington, Delaware



DeIDOT Contract T201612101







Site Plan



RKsK

Site History

Leather Tannery – There were 12 tanneries along the Christina River.

- Ship Building Dravo shipyard was located on the Westside of the project site.
- Wilmington Coal and Gas also occupied the Westside of the project site.

Contamination

- Shallow soil contains lead, arsenic, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Groundwater contains arsenic, lead, vanadium and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).





Historic Shore Line







100-year Flood Elevation

Spring High Tide EL +4.53

Peak Tide EL +9.00

- ➢ 470-ft long bridge
- > 180-ft mid-span
- Two 145-ft approach spans
- > 26-ft wide underpass

Bridge Plan – 100-Yr Flood

 \triangleright

- Navigation Channel
 - 150-ft Wide
 - 14-ft Min. clearance at MHW







West Approach Soil Profile



P) R



Pier 1 and Pier 2 Soil Profile





East Approach Soil Profile



-)/?/

Bridge Foundation Alternative Analysis

Drilled Shaft

- 4-ft Diameter for Abutments
- 6-ft Diameter for Piers with Rock Socket

Driven Precast Concrete Piles

- 24-inch Square Piles for East Abutment
- 30-inch Square Piles for Piers and West Abutment



Driven Precast Concrete Pile Foundation







RKsK

Driven Precast Concrete Pile Foundation



Bridge Approach Alternative Analysis <u>Structural Options</u>

- Conventional Abutment with Extended CIP Wingwalls on Deep Foundation
- □ U-Shaped CIP Concrete Wall supported on Deep Foundation
- Bridge Back Spans
- **Geotechnical Options**
- Preloading Embankment and MSE Wall Approach
- Total Load Balance with Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)
- Deep Mixing Method (DMM) with MSE Walls
- Stone Columns/Densified Aggregate Piers



Preloading Embankment – Staged Construction

- **Staged Construction for Shear Strength Gain**
- **5**-Stage Construction for 17-ft high embankment
- PVD's with Quarantine Period 90% Consolidation
- 90-days between Stages for Strength Gain

General Equation: $S_u = 0.25 (OCR)^{0.8} \sigma'_v$ Upper Range: $S_u = 0.4 \sigma'_v$ Calibrated Equation: $S_u = 0.31 (OCR)^{0.8} \sigma'_v$ Power Curve: $S_u = 0.4099 (\sigma'_v)^{1.3207}$ WSDOT Method based on Ladd (1991) Shear Strength Gain: $\Delta S_u = \Delta \sigma_v \tan \varphi_{consol.}$ where : $\tan \varphi_{consol.} = \frac{\sin \varphi_{cu}}{1 - \sin \varphi_{cu}}$



Preloading Embankment – Staged Construction







Roadway Profile







Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Embankment





EPS Construction

EPS Encapsulated with Geomembrane









RK&K



Preliminary Design of DMM

- Bench Scale Testing
- Unconfined Compressive Strength: 120-psi
- Diameter of DMM: 3-ft Min and 5-ft Max

Length of DMM: 40-ft to 50-ft

Area Ratio: 25% to 40%



RK&K



RK&K

LTP Thickness: 3.5-ft and 2.5-ft









Controlled Modulus Column (CMC) Installation





Deep Mixing Method (DMM)

- Bench Scale Testing
- Performance Specification
- Contractor's Design
 - Bench Scale Testing (Optional)
 - **Gineral Design**
 - Preproduction DMM Test
 - Program
 - Production DMM
 - DMM QA/QC Program

<u>Controlled Modulus Column</u> (CMC)

- Performance Specification
- **Contractor's Design**
 - Final Design
 - Static Load Test
 - Production DMM
 - **CMC** Logs for QA/QC
- Minimum Amount of Spoils





15.6-inch Diameter CMC
55-kips Design Load
Center to Center Spacing 3'-6"

12.5-inch Diameter CMC
92-kips Design Load
Center to Center Spacing 6'-o" to 7'-6"

Preloading & Instrumentation
7-ft Embankment
4 Settlement Plates









RKsK

East Approach Embankment and Surcharge



Embankment Surcharge
Height of Embankment: 7-ft
Additional Surcharge: 2-ft
Quarantine Period: 5-months
Total Est. Settlement: 10-inches



East Approach Embankment and Surcharge



Embankment Settlement Plates



References Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)

- NCHRP Web Document 65 (Project 24-11), Geofoam Applications in the Design of Highway Embankments (July 2004)
- NCHRP Report 529, Guideline and Recommended Standard for Geofoam Applications in Highway Embankments

<u>Ground Improvement</u>

- Publication No: FHWA-NHI-16-027, FHWA GEC 013, Ground Modification Methods (April 2017)
- Publication No: FHWA-HRT-13-046, FHWA Design Manual: Deep Mixing for Embankment and Foundation Support (October 2013)
- Collin, J.G., Han, J., and Huang, J., "Geosynthetic-Reinforced Column-Support Embankment Design Guidelines".







Geo³



Thank You





