



# Short Span Steel Bridge Overview, Design Resources

---

Barron County Workshop & Bridge Tour  
September 6, 2023

Michael Barker, PE  
University of Wyoming  
Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance



# Bridge Industry Statistics – State of our Bridges

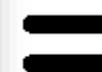
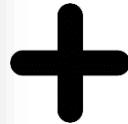


According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, a recent estimate for the nation's backlog of bridge repair needs is \$125 billion through 2025.

# It's a Great Time to Be in the Bridge Industry!

---

## *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*



**\$39.5 Billion**

\$27 billion over 5 years to repair or replace as many as 15,000 bridges

Minimum 15% must be used to build “off-system” bridges

Additional \$12.5 Billion for New Competitive Bridge Investment Program

# Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance – Who We Are

---

*A group of **bridge** and **buried soil structure** industry leaders who have joined together to provide **educational information** on the design and construction of short span steel bridges in installations up to **140 feet in length**.*

Rolled Beam & Plate Girder



Buried Bridges



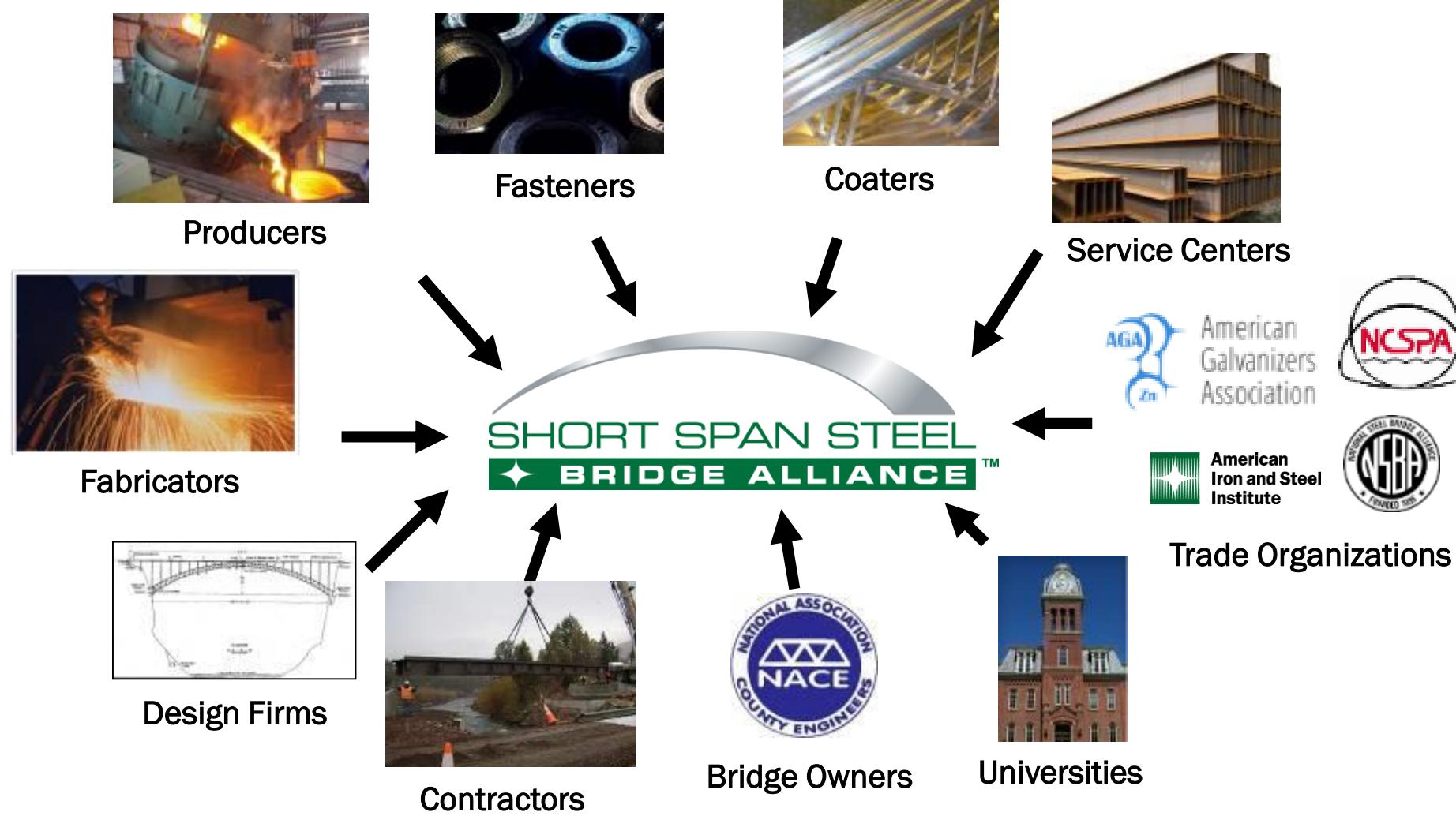
Truss



Press Brake Tub



# SSSBA – Our Members



# SSSBA – What We Do

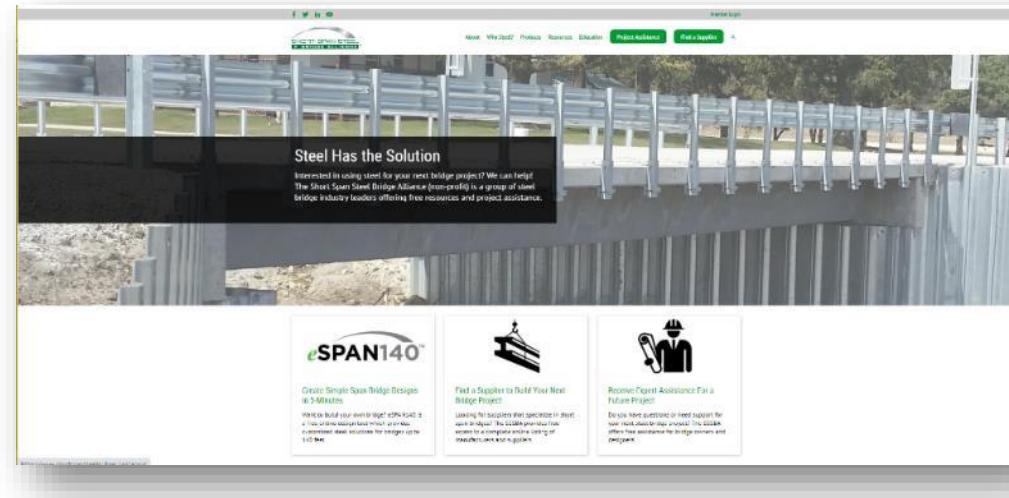
---

- Education (webinars, workshops, forums, conferences)
- Technical Resources (standards, guidelines, best practices)
- Case Studies (economics: steel is cost-effective)
- Simple Design Tools (eSPAN140)
- Answer Questions (Bridge Technology Center)
- Prefabricated Bridge Manufacturers (industry contacts)
- Innovative & ABC Design



# SSSBA Website: [www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

- eSPAN140 Web-based Design Tool
- Bridge Technology Center
- Technical Design Resources
- Catalog of Short Span Steel Solutions
- Project Case Studies
- Video Library
- News Updates & Social Media (Twitter / LinkedIn / Facebook)
- Email Newsletter (sign-up to receive it)
- Calendar of Industry Events



[www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

# Common Simple Span Steel Bridge Types

---



Corrugated Steel Pipe  
(Buried Steel Bridge)



Corrugated Steel Plate  
(Buried Steel Bridge)



Rolled Beam Shape



Plate Girder



Truss



Press-Brake Tub Girder

# Traditional Fabricated Steel Bridges

---

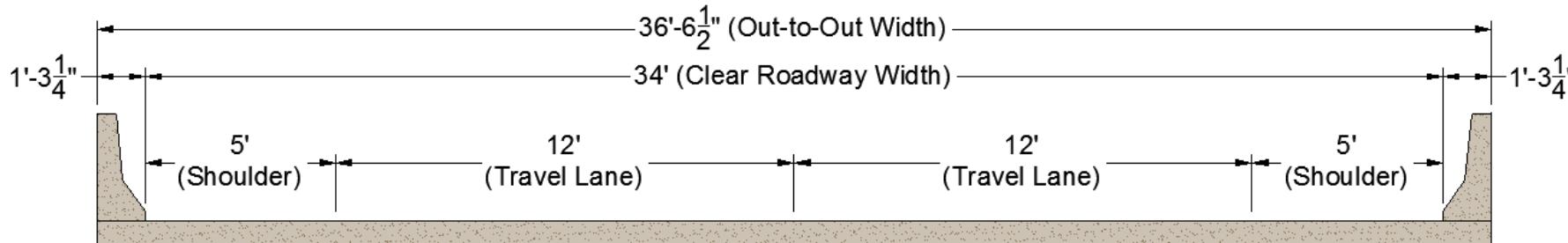
Design Superstructure for Two-Lane, 80 ft Simple Span Bridge



# Bridge Need and Basic Information

---

- Decided by Owner/Engineer:
  - 80 ft Simple Span – Steel Girders
  - Two 12 ft Travel Lanes, ADT = 5600 one direction
  - No Clearance Issues / Can Close for Re-Decking
  - Concrete Riding Surface
  - 34 ft Roadway Width
  - Jersey Barriers (1 ft – 3  $\frac{1}{4}$  in wide)



Need an Initial Design for the Bridge SuperStructure

# eSPAN140 - Standard Designs for Short Span Steel Bridges - [www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

---

## Goal:

- Economically competitive (repetitive details and member sizes)
- Expedite the design process
- Homogeneous plate girders
- Lightest weight rolled beams
- Limited depth rolled beams

## AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design:

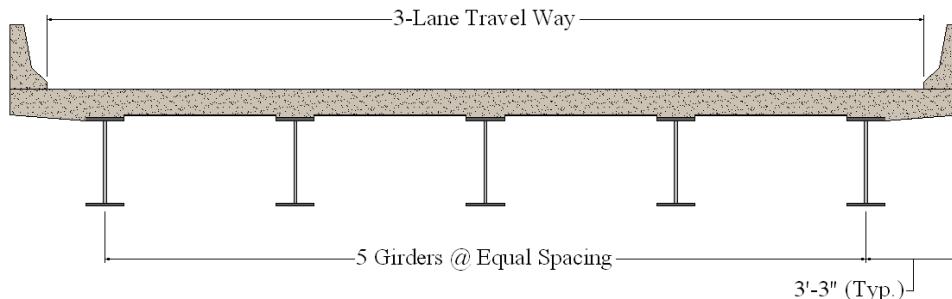
- Strength I,
- Service II,
- Fatigue,
- Constructability,
- L/800 Deflection
- HL-93 Vehicular Live Loading

# eSPAN140 - Standard Designs for Short Span Steel Bridges - [www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

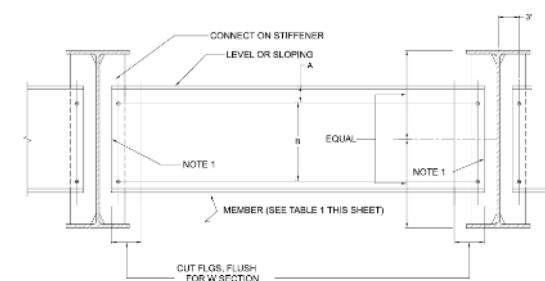
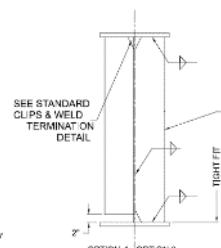
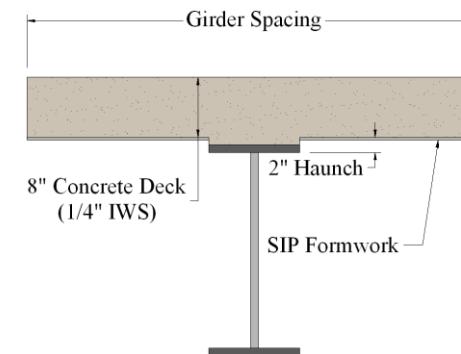
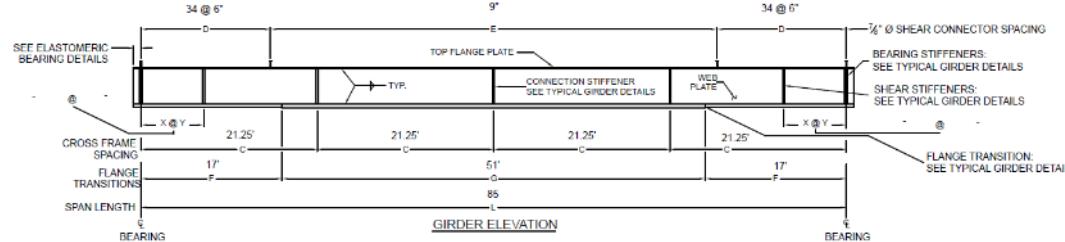
Span lengths 20 ft to 140 ft (in 5 ft increments)

Four girder spacing: 6'-0", 7'-6", 9'-0" and 10'-6",

For each of these increments: Steel girders, Shear stud & stiffener layouts, Welding and fabrication details, Elastomeric bearings, and Concrete deck design



## **COMPOSITE PLATE GIRDER WITH PARTIALLY STIFFENED WEB - 4 GIRDERS AT 8' 10" GIRDER SPACING, HOMOGENEOUS**



# eSPAN140 Preliminary Design

Solution Type*	Bridge Span Length								Skew Angle	Overhang Width
	0'	20'	40'	60'	80'	100'	120'	140'		
Rolled Beam (40' to 100')**									+/- 20 degrees	3'3" or less
Homogeneous Plate Girder (60' to 140')**									+/- 20 degrees	3'3" or less
Press Brake Tub Girders (0' to 80')									+/- 20 degrees	3'3" or less
Buried Bridges (all)***									+/- 35 degrees****	N/A

\* For bridges outside of this range, standard designs will not appear in your solutions book.

\*\* Standard designs for rolled beam and plate girder solutions are rounded in five (5) foot increments.

\*\*\* Depending on project requirements this solution will require multiple spans.

\*\*\*\* Can be greater if site geometry allows.

# eSPAN140 Preliminary Design

Project Name\*  
Example 80 ft Simple Span Bridge

Project Status\*  
Informational Only

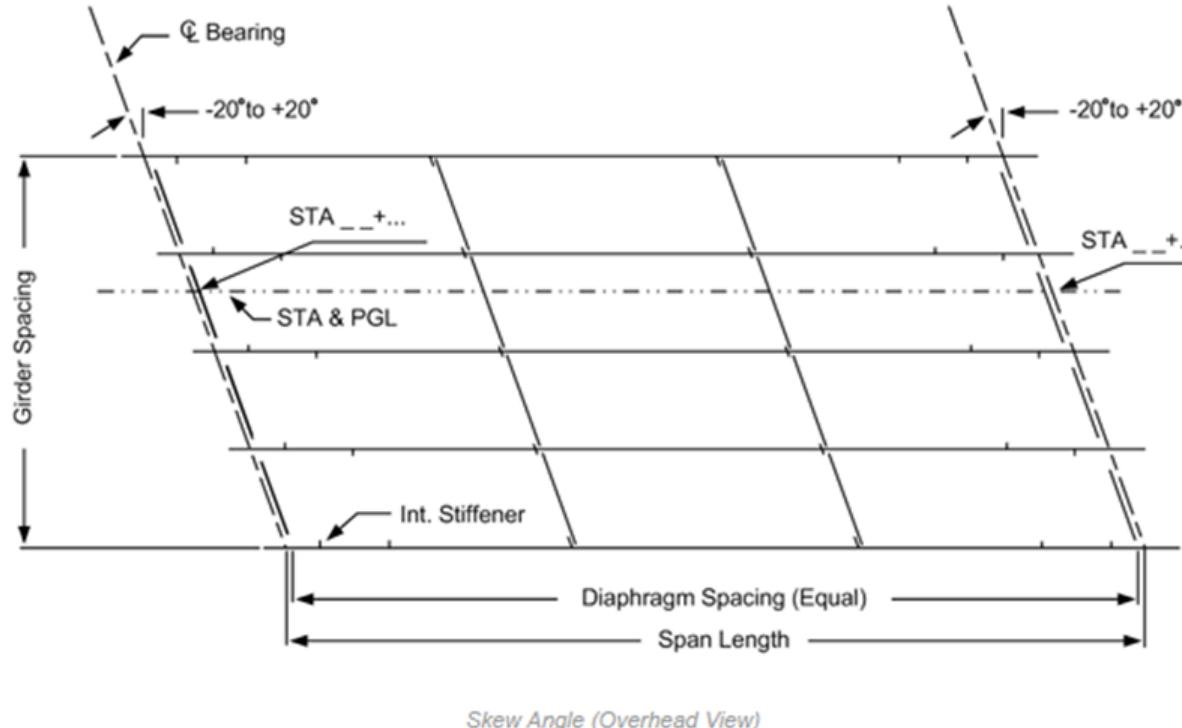
City/County\*  
Laramie

State/Province\*   
Wyoming

Roadway Name  
E 800 South

Bridge Span Length\*   
80   
Feet Inches 

[Next >](#) [Return to Projects](#)



# eSPAN140 Preliminary Design

# of Striped Traffic Lanes\*  ←

Roadway Width\*   ←  
Feet Inches

Individual Parapet Width   ←  
Feet Inches

Individual Deck Overhang Width   ←  
Feet Inches

Pedestrian Access? ?

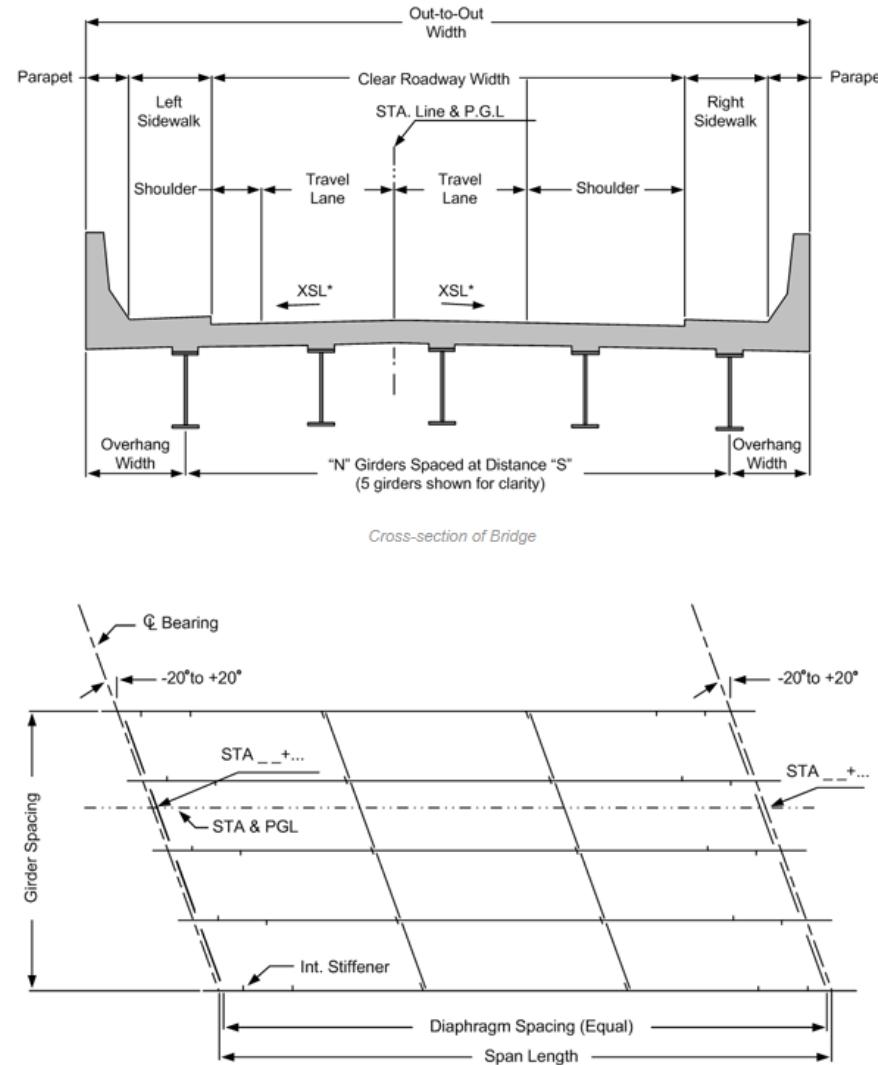
Skew Angle ?  Degrees

Average Daily Traffic ?

Design Speed ?

[< Back](#) [Next >](#) [Return to Projects](#)

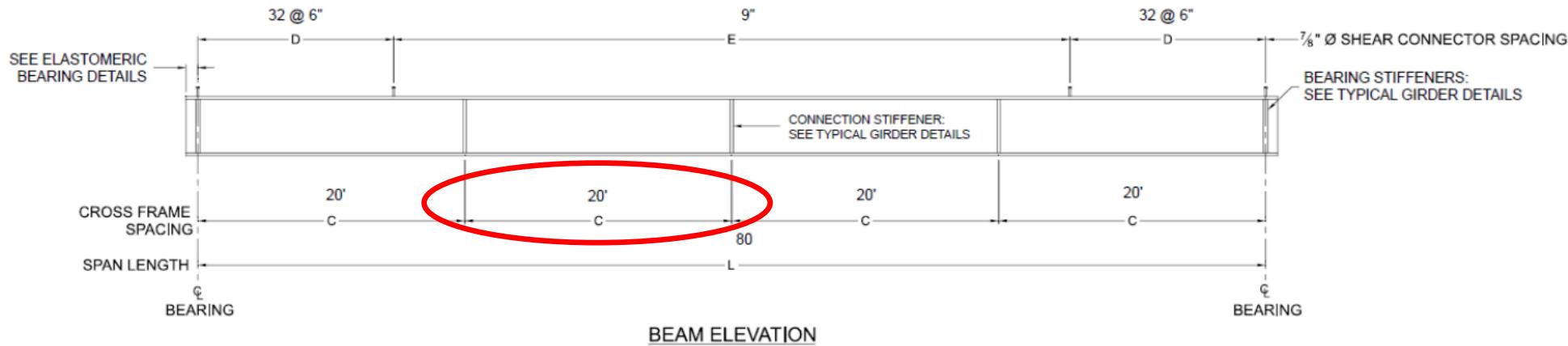
\* Required



# Rolled Beam Recommendation

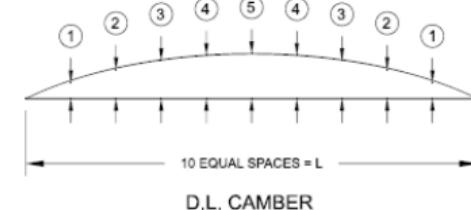
## COMPOSITE ROLLED BEAM WITH PARTIALLY STIFFENED WEB - 4 GIRDERS AT 10' 6" GIRDER SPACING, LIGHTEST WEIGHT

The selected rolled beam section is based on the widest (10'-6") girder spacing used in the development of the standards. The steel industry generally recommends the use of the widest girder spacing possible to reduce the potential number of girder lines for optimum economy.



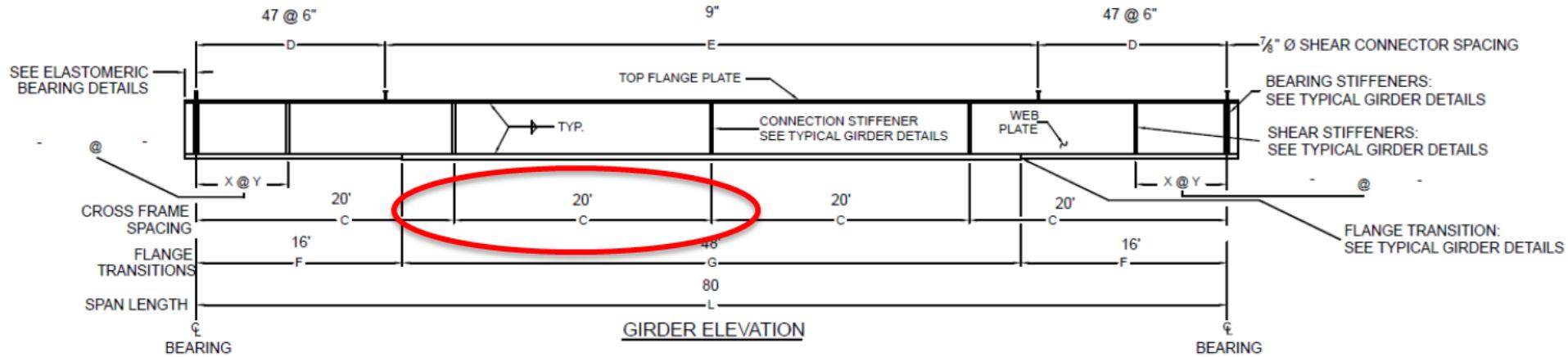
SPAN (L) - ft	ROLLED BEAM	DIAPHRAGM SPACING (C) ft	SHEAR CONNECTOR MAX. SPACING		WEIGHT
			D	E	
80	W36x210	20'	32 @ 6"	9"	16,800 lbs

STEEL D.L. CAMBER - in					TOTAL D.L. CAMBER - in				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
0.178"	0.337"	0.461"	0.540"	0.567"	1.255"	2.375"	3.250"	3.807"	3.997"



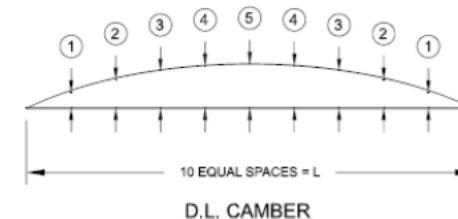
# Homogeneous Plate Girder Recommendation

COMPOSITE PLATE GIRDER WITH PARTIALLY STIFFENED WEB - 4 GIRDERS AT 10' 6" GIRDER SPACING, HOMOGENEOUS

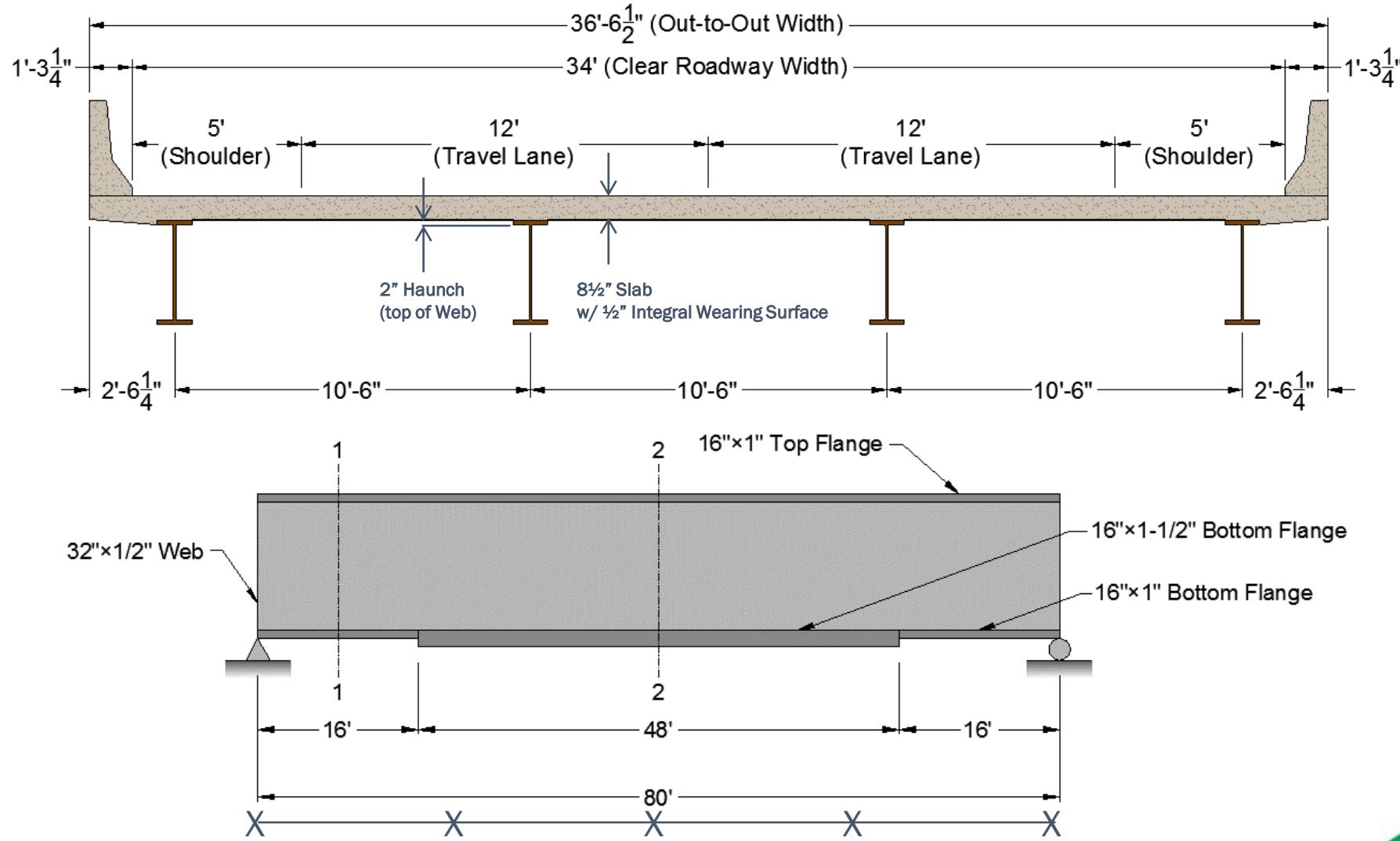


SPAN (L) - ft	PLATE GIRDER SIZE						DIAPHRAGM SPACING (C) - ft	SHEAR STIFFENERS		SHEAR CONNECTOR MAX. SPACING		INDIVIDUAL GIRDER WEIGHT	
	TOP FLANGE - in	BOTTOM FLANGE (F)		BOTTOM FLANGE (G)		WEB PLATE- in		X (NO. REQ'd)	Y - ft. (SPACING)	D	E		
		PLATE - in	LENGTH - Ft	PLATE - in	LENGTH - Ft			X (NO. REQ'd)	Y - ft. (SPACING)	D	E		
80	16 x 1"	16 x 1"	16'	16 x 1 1/2"	48'	32 x 1/2"	20'	-	-	47 @ 6"	9"	14,373 lbs	

STEEL D.L. CAMBER - in					TOTAL D.L. CAMBER - in				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
0.178"	0.334"	0.454"	0.530"	0.557"	1.397"	2.618"	3.554"	4.149"	4.355"



# Design for Homogeneous Plate Girder Bridge



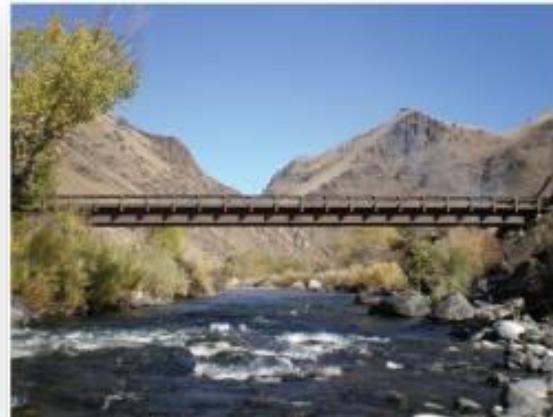
Lateral Bracing at 20 ft

# SSSBA Manufacturer Solutions



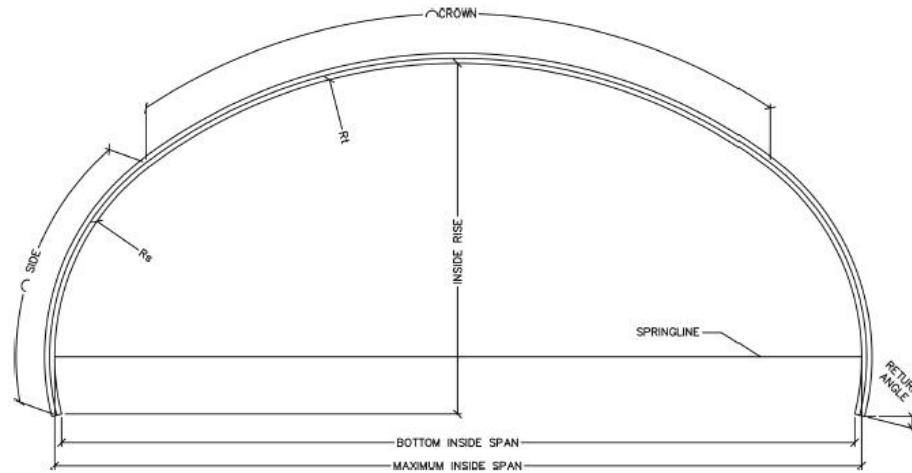
High Quality Beautiful Bridges  
Economical  
ABC

[www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)



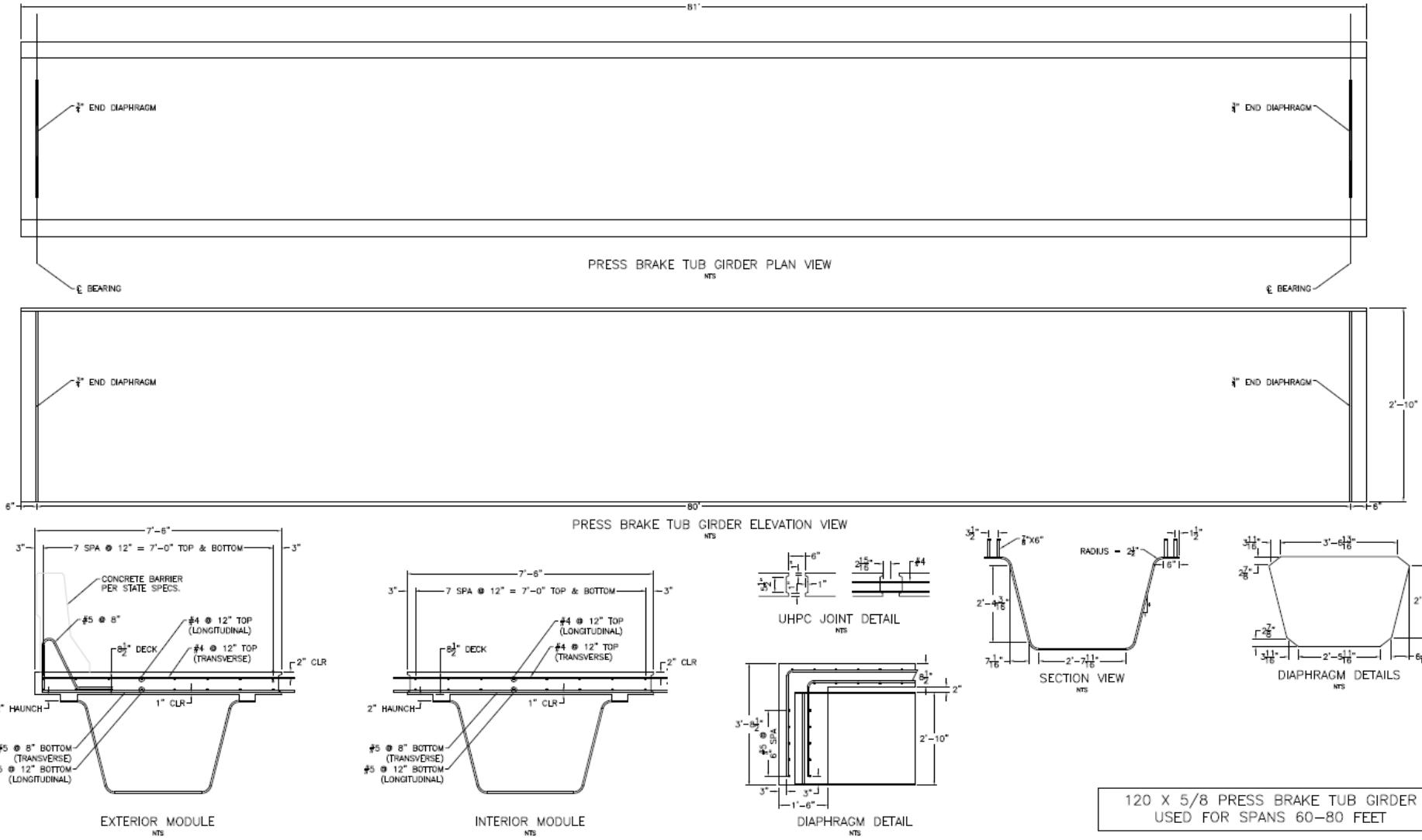
# Buried Steel Bridge Recommendation

Multi-Radius Arch 15x5.5



SPAN - ft - in	RISE - ft - in	BOTTOM SPAN - ft - in	WATERWAY AREA - ft <sup>2</sup>	RADIUS - in		RETURN ANGLE
				R <sub>l</sub>	R <sub>c</sub>	
80' 5"	24' 0"	80' 0"	1545.0'	745"	174"	8.1

# Press Brake Tub Girder Recommendation





# Bridge Economy & Life Cycle Costs

---

**Barron County Workshop & Bridge Tour  
September 6, 2023**

Michael Barker, PE  
University of Wyoming  
Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance



# Initial Costs: Steel & Concrete

---

**Preconception that Concrete is Less  
Expensive than Steel for Typical Bridges**

Many Times Steel is Not Even Considered  
Owners Paying More Than They Could for Bridges  
Unwarranted Lack of Competition Not Good

# Missouri County Bridges – Where the SSSBA Began

## Steel



### Audrain County, MO Bridge 411

Built 2012

Steel 4 Girders

47.5 ft. Span

24 ft. Roadway Width

2 ft. Structural Depth

No Skew

## Concrete



### Audrain County, MO Bridge 336

Built 2012

Precast 6 Hollowcore Slab Girders

50.5 ft. Span

24 ft. Roadway Width

2 ft. Structural Depth

20° Skew

County Crew  
Built Bridges

# Side-by-Side Comparison Total Cost of Structure

Steel



19.3% Total  
Bridge Cost  
Savings with Steel

Concrete



Total Bridge Costs

Material	= \$41,764
Labor	= \$24,125
Equipment	= \$21,521
Guard Rail	= \$ 7,895
Rock	= \$ 8,302
Engineering	= \$ 8,246
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= \$111,853 (\$97.48 / sq. ft.)</b>

Total Bridge Costs

Material	= \$67,450
Labor	= \$26,110
Equipment	= \$24,966
Guard Rail	= \$ 6,603
Rock	= \$ 7,571
Engineering	= \$21,335
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= \$154,035 (\$120.83 / sq. ft.)</b>

# Superstructure Only Comparison

---

## Steel

### Superstructure Costs

#### Material

Girders	= \$ 21,463
Deck Panels	= \$ 7,999
Reinf Steel	= \$ 3,135
Concrete	= \$ 4,180
Labor	= \$ 5,522
Equipment*	= \$ 500
<b>SUPER TOTAL</b>	= \$ 42,799

**SUPER TOTAL** = \$37.54 / sq. ft.

## Concrete

### Superstructure Costs

#### Material

Slab Girders	= \$ 50,765
Deck Panels	= \$ 0
Reinf Steel	= \$ 724
Concrete	= \$ 965
Labor	= \$ 4,884
Equipment*	= \$ 4,000
<b>SUPER TOTAL</b>	= \$ 61,338

**SUPER TOTAL** = \$50.61 / sq. ft.

\*Added cost to use galvanized steel = \$5,453.80 or \$0.22 / lb. (includes est. 10% fabrication fee)

\*\* Cost to use weathering steel is approximately \$0.04 / lb. (already included in cost in example)

\*County Crane (30 Ton) used for Steel, Larger Rented Crane (100 Ton) Required for Concrete  
(Equivalent County Crane Cost is \$1520, would result in Steel Cost of \$38.88 / sq. ft. )

# True Cost Comparison Steel vs Concrete

Steel: Superstructure \$37.54 per sq. ft.



Concrete: Superstructure Cost \$50.61 per sq. ft.



Same bridge conditions:

- Structural Depth = 2 ft. (No Difference in Approaches)
- Roadway Width = 24 ft.
- Same Abutments for Both Can be Used (Steel Could Use Lighter)
- Same Guard Rail System
- Same Work Crew

# Case Study Bridges: Other Bridges in Audrain County

Superstructure	Steel						Concrete				
	Bridge Number	061	140	149	152	710	AVG	028	057	069	520
Year Built	2008	2008	2008	2009	2010	AVG	2009	2010	2011	2006	AVG
Span Length	50	50	40	62	64	53.2	36	36	38	40	37.5
Skew	0	0	0	30	35	13	0	15	20	30	16.25
Cost Summary											
- Labor	\$14,568	\$21,705	\$15,853	\$24,765	\$31,949	\$21,768	\$12,065	\$15,379	\$14,674	\$19,044	\$15,291
- Material	\$56,676	\$53,593	\$46,282	\$92,821	\$69,357	\$63,746	\$51,589	\$54,450	\$50,576	\$46,850	\$50,866
- Rock	\$6,170	\$6,216	\$3,694	\$8,235	\$6,501	\$6,163	\$5,135	\$7,549	\$5,378	\$3,621	\$5,421
- Equipment	\$7,487	\$12,026	\$7,017	\$19,579	\$15,266	\$12,275	\$5,568	\$10,952	\$11,093	\$14,742	\$10,589
- Guardrail	\$4,715	\$7,146	\$3,961	\$7,003	\$7,003	\$5,966	\$4,737	\$4,663	\$5,356	\$3,323	\$4,520
Construction Cost	\$89,616	\$100,686	\$76,807	\$152,403	\$130,076	\$109,918	\$79,094	\$92,993	\$87,077	\$87,580	\$86,686
CONST. COST PER FT <sup>2</sup>	\$74.68	\$83.91	\$80.01	\$102.42	\$84.68	\$86.09	\$91.54	\$107.63	\$95.48	\$91.23	\$96.32

# Missouri DOT State Bridges

---

## Both Bridges Cross US 63 in Boone County

Concrete P/S: 92 ft – 92 ft

Route H (Columbia Airport)

Built 2011



Steel Plate Girder: 98 ft – 98 ft

Discovery Parkway (Columbia)

Built 2007



# Missouri DOT State Bridges

## Both Bridges Cross US 63 in Boone County

Concrete P/S: 92 ft - 92 ft

Route H (Columbia Airport)

Built 2011

Letting Date 5/27/2011					
1800	206-10.00	Class 1 Excavation	85	CUYD	\$1,700.00
1810	702-10.12	Structural Steel Piles (12 in.)	737	LF	\$33,533.50
1820	702-60.00	Pre-Bore for Piling	240	LF	\$9,600.00
1830	702-70.00	Pile Point Reinforcement	22	EA	\$2,420.00
1840	703-20.03	Class B Concrete (Substructure)	76.2	CUYD	\$1,300.00
1850	703-42.13	Slab on Concrete I-Girder			
1860	703-42.15	Safety			
1870	705				
1880	706				
1890	707				
1900	712-3				
1910	715-1				
1920	716-10				
1930	716-10				
1940	725-10	Spacers	10	EA	\$2,480.00
Total Bridge Cost = \$440,632.50					
Cost/ft <sup>2</sup> = \$77.71					

Using ENR CCI Index Increase of 2.7%/yr  
Concrete  
Steel  
For 2017

Steel Plate Girder: 98 ft - 98 ft

Discovery Parkway (Columbia)

Built 2007

Letting Date 9/28/2007					
1560	206100	Class 1 Excavation			
1580	7021012	Structural Steel Piles (12 in.)			
1570					
171001		Vertical Drain at End Bents	12	EA	\$15,029.00
1720	7162000	Laminated Neoprene Bearing Pad	2	EA	\$2,400.00
1710	7161003	Laminated Neoprene Bearing Pad (Tapered)	18	EA	\$6,750.00
1730	7251000	Corrugated Metal Pipe Pile Spacers	20	EA	\$5,000.00
1670	7125365A	Intermediate Field Coat (System G)	22100	SQFT	\$30,940.00
1680	7125370A	Finish Field Coat (System G)	2800	SQFT	\$3,220.00
1690	7129911	Misc. Fab. Struc. Low Alloy Steel (Aesthetics)	24330	LB	\$54,742.50
Total Bridge Cost = \$1,057,538.80					
Cost/ft <sup>2</sup> = \$64.04					
Cost/ft <sup>2</sup> with ENR CCI Adjustment of 1.139 = \$72.94					

# Summary on Initial Costs

SSSBA Conducted Case Studies:

County & State Bridges

Bids & Actual Costs

Case Studies of County Bridges

Others Not Shown Here

## NSBA Cost Study

### County Bridge (Designed by eSPAN140)

- Boone County, Missouri (Local)
  - High Point Lane Bridge
  - 102 feet (2 lane rural road plate girder bridge)
  - 44" weathering steel plate girders (4 lines)
  - Constructed in summer 2013



### Two MoDOT Bridges Crossing US 63 in Boone County

Concrete P/S: 92 ft – 92 ft  
Route H (Columbia Airport)

Letting Date 5/27/2011				
1800	206-10.00	Class 1 Excavation	85	CU/YD
1810	702-10.12	Structural Steel Piles (12 in.)	717	LF
1820	702-60.12	Pre-Bore for Piling	240	LF
1830	702-70.00	Pile Point Reinforcement	22	EA
				\$2,420.00

Using ENR CCI Index Increase of 2.7%/yr

For 2017      Concrete = \$ 91.18/ft<sup>2</sup>  
                    Steel   = \$ 85.58/ft<sup>2</sup>

Total Bridge Cost = \$440,632.50

Cost/ft<sup>2</sup> = \$77.71

Letting Date 9/28/2007				
1590	206100	Class 1 Excavation	130	CU/YD
1590	7021012	Structural Steel Piles (12 in.)	1850	LF
1590	6071006	Pedestrian Fence	470	LF
1590	7027000	Pile Point Reinforcement	60	EA
				\$5,700.00

Total Bridge Cost = \$1,061,538.80

Cost/ft<sup>2</sup> = \$64.04

Cost/ft<sup>2</sup> with ENR CCI Adjustment of 1.15% = \$72.94

Superstructure Bridge Number	Steel						Concrete				
	061	140	149	152	710	AVG	028	057	069	520	AVG
Year Built	2008	2008	2008	2009	2010	AVG	2009	2010	2011	2006	AVG
Span Length	50	50	40	62	64	53.2	36	36	38	40	37.5
Skew	0	0	0	30	35	13	0	15	20	30	16.25
Cost Summary											
- Labor	\$14,568	\$21,705	\$15,853	\$24,765	\$31,949	\$21,768	\$12,065	\$15,379	\$14,674	\$19,044	\$15,291
- Material	\$56,676	\$53,593	\$46,282	\$92,821	\$69,357	\$63,746	\$51,589	\$54,450	\$50,576	\$46,850	\$50,866
- Rock	\$6,170	\$6,216	\$3,694	\$8,235	\$6,501	\$6,163	\$5,135	\$7,549	\$5,378	\$3,621	\$5,421
- Equipment	\$7,487	\$12,026	\$7,017	\$19,579	\$15,266	\$12,275	\$5,568	\$10,952	\$11,093	\$14,742	\$10,589
- Guardrail	\$4,715	\$7,146	\$3,961	\$7,003	\$7,003	\$5,966	\$4,737	\$4,663	\$5,356	\$3,323	\$4,520
Construction Cost	\$89,616	\$100,686	\$76,807	\$152,403	\$130,076	\$109,918	\$79,094	\$92,993	\$87,077	\$87,580	\$86,686
CONST. COST/FT <sup>2</sup>	\$74.68	\$83.91	\$80.01	\$102.42	\$84.68	\$86.09	\$91.54	\$107.63	\$95.48	\$91.23	\$96.32

Case Study Bridges: Audrain County, MO  
Superstructure \$37.54 per sq. ft. Concrete: Superstructure Cost \$50.61 per sq. ft.



25.8%  
superstructure  
cost savings

Same bridge conditions:

- Structural Depth = 2 ft. (No Difference in Approaches)
- Roadway Width = 24 ft.
- Same Abutments for Both Can be Used (Steel Could Use Lighter)
- Same Guard Rail System
- Same Work Crew

### State Bridge (Designed by eSPAN140)

#### Kansas Department of Transportation

- Shawnee County
- 112 feet (5 plate girder bridge)
- Competitive bid process (steel vs. concrete)
- DOT used eSPAN140 for preliminary design
- Constructed in summer 2014

1 Steel Bridge Bid

3 Concrete Bridge Bids



Steel = \$ 1.240 mil

Concrete = \$ 1.243 – \$ 1.425 mil

# Steel Bridges Compete and Win!

---



Preconception is Misconception  
Steel & Concrete Bridges Are Competitive

# What About Life Cycle Costs?

---

As owners replace their bridge infrastructure, the question of Life Service and Life Cycle Costs routinely comes up between concrete and steel bridge options

The bridge industry **does** did not have a good answer:

Both steel and concrete bridge advocates claim an advantage  
Anecdotal information is not convincing

# **Historical Life Cycle Costs of Steel & Concrete Girder Bridges**

Examine Historical Life Service (Performance and Maintenance) and Agency Life Cycle Cost (True Agency Costs for a Bridge) of Steel and Concrete Bridges in Pennsylvania

# Report on ShortSpanSteelBridges.org

## Additional Report on Galvanized Bridges

Thank You to PennDOT professionals for their participation  
Support from AISI, NSBA and AGA

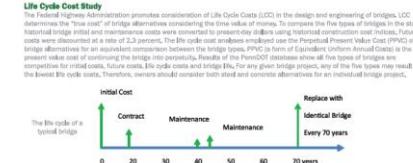


## Steel Offers High Value for Bridge Life Service and Life Cycle Costs

**Introduction**  
Historical Life Cycle Costs of Steel and Concrete Girders bridges research conducted by Michael Barker, Ph.D., P.E., professor at the University of Wyoming, explores the initial costs, life cycle costs, future costs, and bridge life of 1,186 typical steel and concrete state bridges in Pennsylvania built between 1960 and 2010.

Dr. Barker frequently meets with county engineers and other bridge design professionals across the U.S. and takes questions on this topic, but there was no research comparing the two materials, as he undertook the project himself. He compiled a database from PennDOT historical data comparing five types of bridges, including concrete pre-tension, box adjacent, and box spread bridges, and steel rolled beam and welded plate girders. Results showed steel beams have the lowest average deformation rate; have the longest average expected life (83 years); offer the lowest expected initial and life cycle costs for short bridges; and have lower average future

costs compared to initial costs.



**Deterioration Rates**  
 There are 6,587 bridges in the PennDOT inventory built between 1960 and 2010. They were used to determine the average deterioration rates (loss of condition rating per year) for the other types of bridges. To model the deterioration rate, it was assumed the superstructure condition rating decreased linearly over time. Table 3 presents the average deterioration rate for each bridge type. Steel beam bridges have the lowest average deterioration rates.

Bridge Type	Bridge Life	Bridge Type	Number of Bridges	Average Year Built	Average Bridge Life (years)
Steel I Beam	To estimate the remaining life for each bridge, it is assumed that the bridge will be replaced when the superstructure condition reaches 1.0. The bridge life is calculated as the bridge's deterioration rate in Table 3. Table 2 presents the average bridge life for each bridge type based on the bridge's condition in the Life Cycle Cost database. A useful method to analyze bridge life is to compare the probability a bridge has of failing to the probability a bridge has of surviving.	Steel I Girder	200	1977	79.2
Steel T Girder	200	1977	79.2		
Steel Girder	200	1977	79.2		
PCI Girder	200	1977	79.2		
P/C Box Girder	183	1981	79.0		
P/C Girder	183	1981	79.0		
P/C Beam	183	1981	74.5		

Table 8 is the Cumulative Density Function demonstrating the Stedjean-Jensen's probability of 73 percent (the best of the

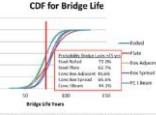
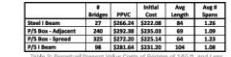
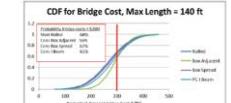


Figure 1: Cumulative Density Function of Bridge Life



TRANSLATION: PRACTICAL USES OF THE CONCEPT OF CULTURE IN ORGANIZATIONS



Philippine Present Value Estimator

The Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance (SSSBA) is the industry resource for information related to short span steel bridges in North America. The SSSBA's objective is to provide essential information to bridge owners and designers on the unique benefits, innovative designs, performance and cost-effectiveness of short span installations up to 140 feet in length. SSSBA partners include bridge and culvert industry leaders, including manufacturers, fabricators and representatives of related associations and government organizations. To learn more, visit [www.associatedbridges.org](http://www.associatedbridges.org) or follow us on Twitter @shortspanbridges.

Download the research report at  
[www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

Rich Tavolatto

# Life Cycle Cost Data Collection

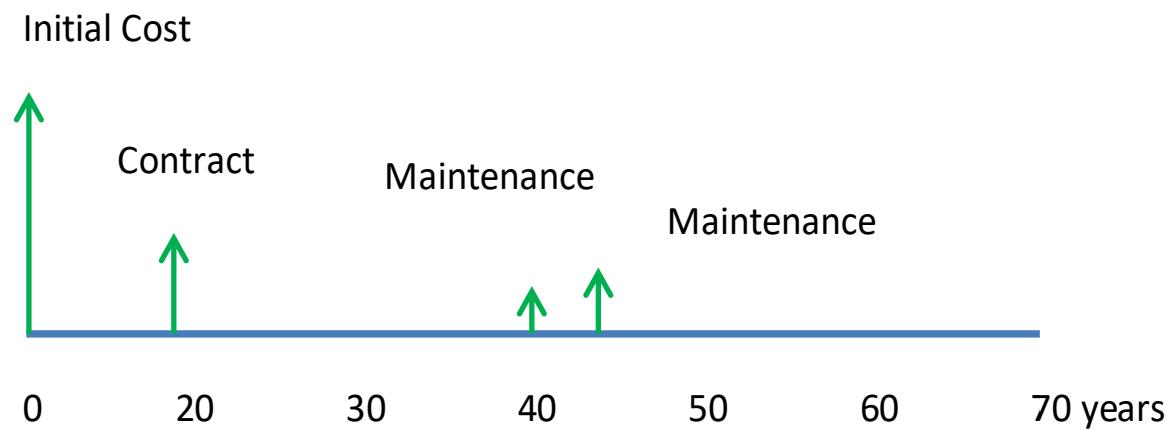
---

Start with a Comprehensive Inventory of Bridges

Initial Costs & Date Built

Maintenance Costs and Date Performed

End of Service Date – End of Life Model



# PennDOT Database Development

---

## Criteria to Develop LCC Bridge Database

Modern typical bridge structures

Precast I-Beam, Box Adjacent, and Box Spread bridges  
Steel Rolled Shape and Welded Plate Girder bridges

Bridges built between 1960 and 2010

Bridges with complete and accurate department maintenance records

Consider any maintenance cost that is equal to or greater than \$0.25/ft<sup>2</sup>

Bridges with known initial costs

Bridges with complete and accurate external contractor maintenance and rehabilitation

Initial cost limitation to bridges with initial cost less than \$500/ft<sup>2</sup> and greater than \$100/ft<sup>2</sup>

Note: Total Recorded Initial and Maintenance Costs Used

# PennDOT Database Development

---

All Bridges in PennDOT Inventory = 25,403

Number of Type Bridges in Inventory = 8,466

Number of Types Built 1960-2010 = 6,587

## Bridges that Meet All Criteria

Bridge Type	Number of Bridges that Meet All criteria	Percentage of 1960 – 2010 database
Steel I Beam	82	14.9%
Steel I Girder	230	22.6%
P/S Box - Adjacent	400	27.8%
P/S Box - Spread	581	26.5%
P/S I Beam	412	29.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1705</b>	<b>25.9%</b>

# PennDOT Database Bridge Life Model

Bridge Life Model uses Average Deterioration Rates of Total PennDOT Inventory

Assume Bridge Replacement at Condition Rating = 3

Super Structure Condition Rating Used

$$\text{Deterioration Rate} = \frac{(2014 \text{ Condition Rating}) - 9}{2014 - (\text{Year Built})}$$

$$\text{Remaining Life} = \frac{3 - (2014 \text{ Condition Rating})}{(\text{Average Deterioration Rate})}$$

$$\text{Bridge Life} = 2014 - (\text{Year Built}) + \text{Remaining Life}$$

Bridge Type	Number of Bridges 1960 - 2010	Deterioration Rate (Condition Rating Loss/Year)
Steel I Beam	550	-0.07114
Steel I Girder	1017	-0.08144
P/S Box - Adjacent	1440	-0.08125
P/S Box - Spread	2196	-0.07988
P/S I Beam	1384	-0.08383

All are “similar” with None “Way Out” of Balance

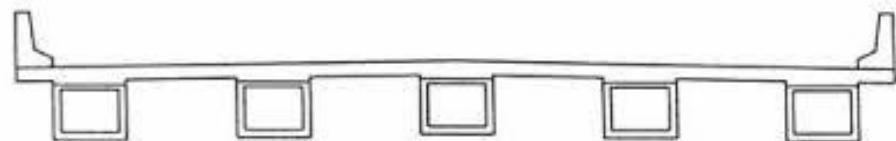
↑ Steel Rolled  
Precast Box Spread

# Agency Life Cycle Costs – An Example

---

## Precast Spread Box-Beam Bridge

BrKey:	30570
Bridge Type:	P/S, Box Beam (Spread)
County:	Shuylkill
Location:	0.75 mi. N of Exit 107(33)
Year Built:	1969
Spans:	3
Length:	176 ft
Deck Area:	7621 ft <sup>2</sup>
Super Cond Rating:	5



Average Precast Box Beam – Spread bridge deterioration rate = -0.07988

$$\text{Remaining Life} = \frac{(3 - 5)}{-0.07988} = 25 \text{ years}$$

$$\text{Bridge Life} = 2014 + 25 - 1969 = 70 \text{ years}$$

# Life Cycle Costs

## Example Bridge Costs

### Actual Costs / Years

Initial Cost:	Year = 1969	Cost = \$141475 (\$18.56/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Work: Bridge Construction
External Contract:	Year = 1988	Cost = \$58401 (\$7.66/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Work: Latex Overlay
Maintenance 1:	Year = 2009	Cost = \$1891 (\$0.25/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Work: Repair Concrete Deck
Maintenance 2:	Year = 2013	Cost = \$2510 (\$0.33/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Work: Repair Concrete Deck

### Equivalent 2014 Costs / Years

Transform the costs to constant 2014 dollars using Construction Cost

ENR Construction Cost Indices

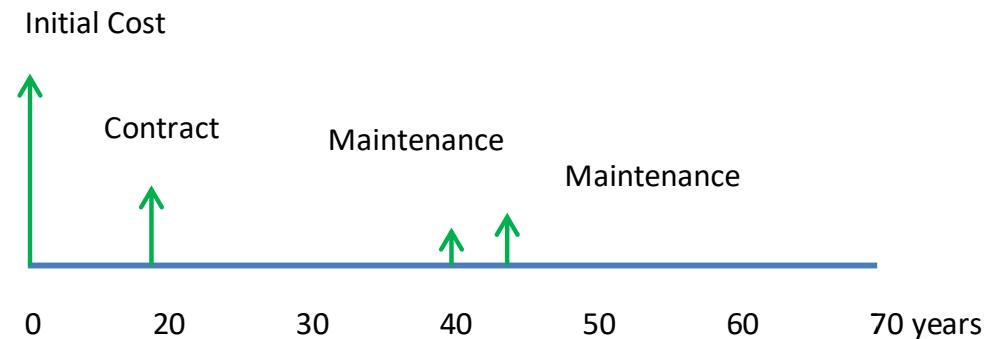
$$2014 \text{ Dollars} = \frac{CCI \ 2014}{CCI \ 19XX} \ 19XX \text{ Dollars}$$

Initial Cost:	Year = 0	Cost = \$18.56/ft <sup>2</sup> (9806/1269)	= \$143.45/ft <sup>2</sup>
External Contract:	Year = 19	Cost = \$7.66/ft <sup>2</sup> (9806/4519)	= \$ 16.63/ft <sup>2</sup>
Maintenance 1:	Year = 40	Cost = \$0.25/ft <sup>2</sup> (9806/8570)	= \$ 0.28/ft <sup>2</sup>
Maintenance 2:	Year = 44	Cost = \$0.33/ft <sup>2</sup> (9806/9547)	= \$ 0.34/ft <sup>2</sup>

# Life Cycle Costs

Example Bridge Life Cycle

OMB Circular A-94 2011 30 yr Discount Rate = 2.3%



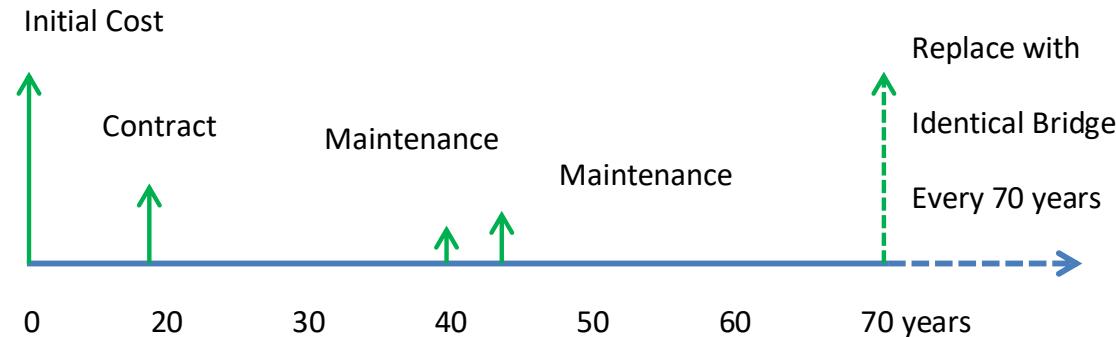
Present Value Cost for 1 Cycle

$$PVC = \$143.45 + \$16.63(1.023)^{-19} + \$0.28(1.023)^{-40} + \$0.34(1.023)^{-44} = \$154.49/ft^2$$

# Life Cycle Costs

## Example Bridge Life Cycle

OMB Circular A-94 2011 30 yr Discount Rate = 2.3%



## Present Value Cost for 1 Cycle

$$PVC = \$143.45 + \$16.63(1.023)^{-19} + \$0.28(1.023)^{-40} + \$0.34(1.023)^{-44} = \$154.49/ft^2$$

Perpetual Present Value Cost = Capitalized Cost

$$PPVC = \$154.49 \left[ \frac{(1 + 0.023)^{70}}{(1 + 0.023)^{70} - 1} \right] = 1.256(\$154.49) = \$193.97/ft^2$$

**With Capitalized Costs, Can Compare Bridges Directly**

# Life Cycle Cost Analyses

# The Steel Plate Girder Bridge Data Base

## General Information

## Maintenance & Contract Work

## Initial & LCC

The full history of the bridge  
Location, year built, spans, length, area, geometry, materials  
Department and contractor maintenance performed  
Initial, perpetual present value, and future maintenance costs

1000 CONC. 0.02			
1000 CONC. 0.05			
1000 CONC. 0.10			
1000 CONC. 0.20			

# LCC Report

---

## Analysis and Variables Examined in Report

Bridge Life

PPVC/Capitalized Costs

Number of Spans

Bridge Length

PVC Future Costs

Department Maintenance

External Contracts

### For Steel Bridges

Curved vs. Straight

Fracture-Critical

Protection (Painted, Weathering, Galvanized)

*For the entire report:*

[www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

*Additional LCC report on Galvanizing:*

[www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

# Bridge Life

---

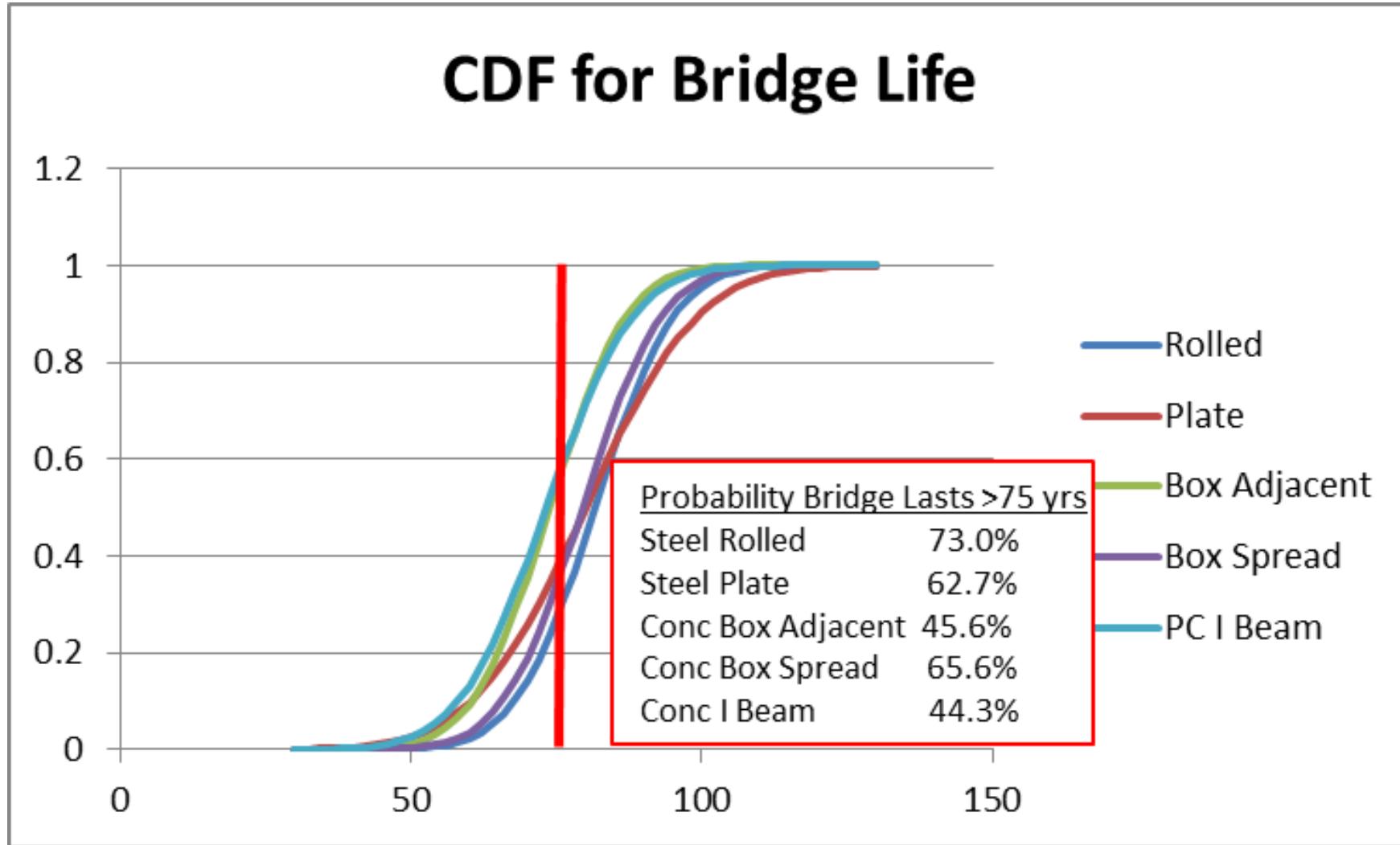
Bridge Type	Number of Bridges in Final LCC Database	Average Year Built	Average Bridge Life (years)
Steel I Beam	82	1981	81.3
Steel I Girder	230	1977	79.2
P/S Box - Adjacent	400	1985	74.0
P/S Box - Spread	581	1984	79.9
P/S I Beam	412	1984	74.5



Steel Rolled  
Precast Box - Spread

All are “similar” with None “Way Out” of Balance

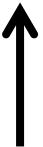
# Bridge Life



# Life Cycle Costs – All Bridges

---

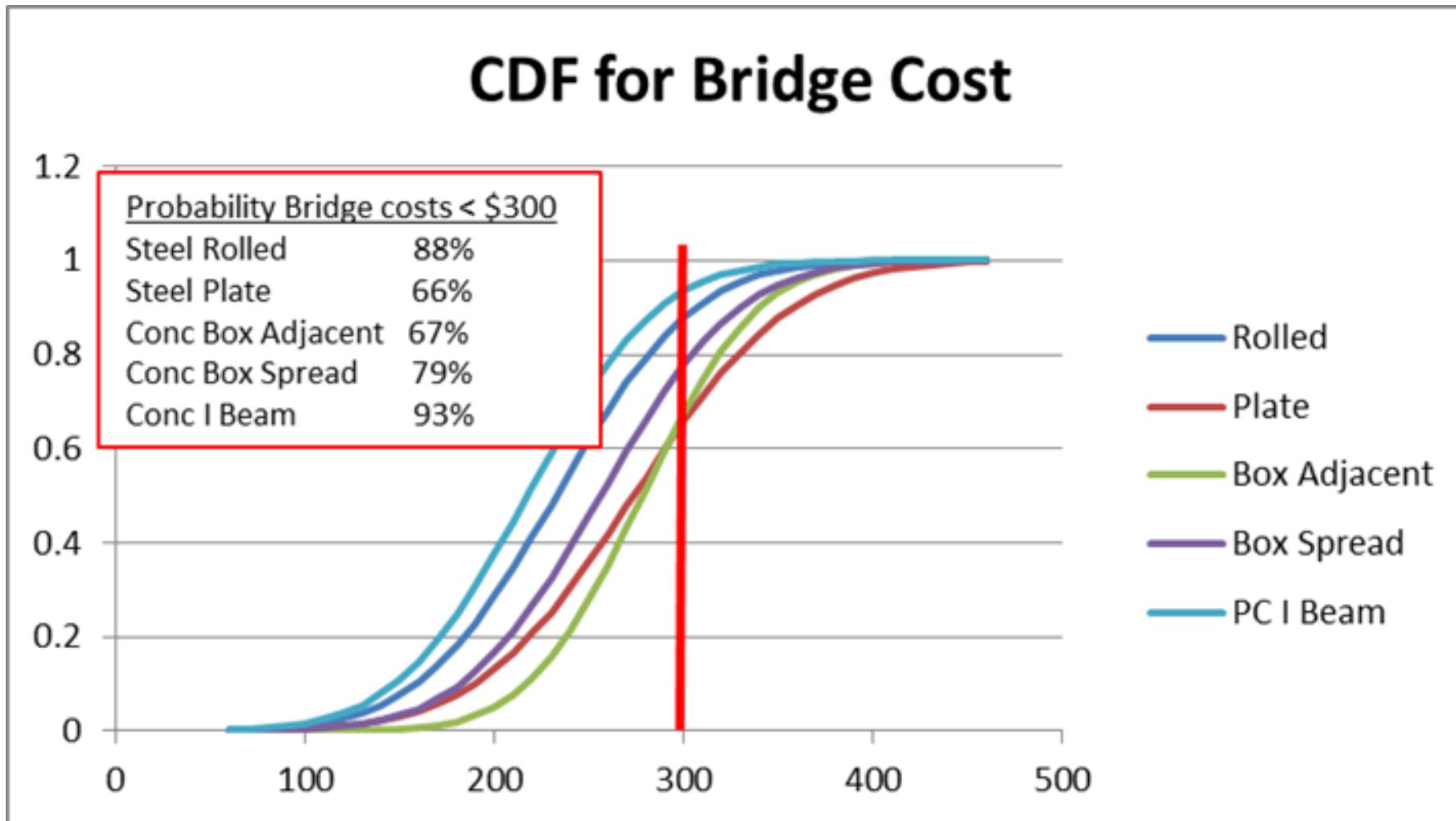
	# Bridges	PPVC	Initial Cost	Future Cost	Avg Length	Avg # Spans	Avg Year Built	Avg Life
Steel I Beam	54	\$232.78	\$194.78	\$0.42	166	2.19	1980	82
Steel I Girder	144	\$273.71	\$226.10	\$0.21	406	4.07	1976	80
P/S Box - Adjacent	282	\$278.30	\$223.74	\$0.96	89	1.31	1987	74
P/S Box - Spread	397	\$256.11	\$210.65	\$2.06	89	1.56	1986	79
P/S I Beam	309	\$217.50	\$174.10	\$0.20	212	2.43	1985	73



Precast I Beam  
Steel Rolled

All are “similar” with None “Way Out” of Balance

# Capitalized Costs – All Bridges



# Life Cycle Costs- Length<140 ft

Short Length Bridges  
Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance

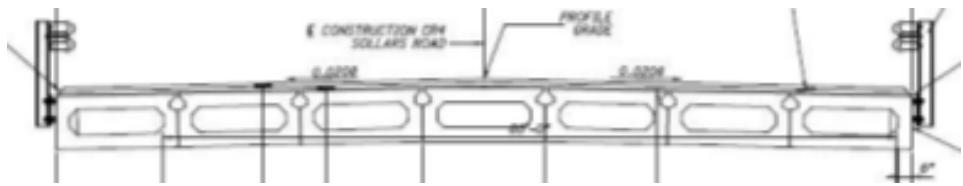
	# Bridges	PPVC	Initial Cost	Future Cost	Avg Length	Avg # Spans	Avg Year Built	Avg Life
Steel I Beam	27	\$266.24	\$222.08	\$0.16	84	1.26	1978	82
Steel I Girder	18	\$311.26	\$257.19	\$0.29	119	1.00	1977	81
P/S Box - Adjacent	240	\$292.38	\$235.03	\$0.95	69	1.09	1987	74
P/S Box - Spread	325	\$272.20	\$225.14	\$2.16	64	1.23	1986	81
P/S I Beam	98	\$281.64	\$231.20	\$0.05	104	1.08	1987	77



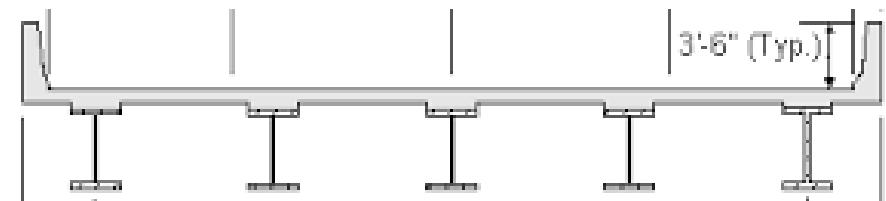
Steel Rolled  
Precast Box Spread

All are “similar” with None “Way Out” of Balance

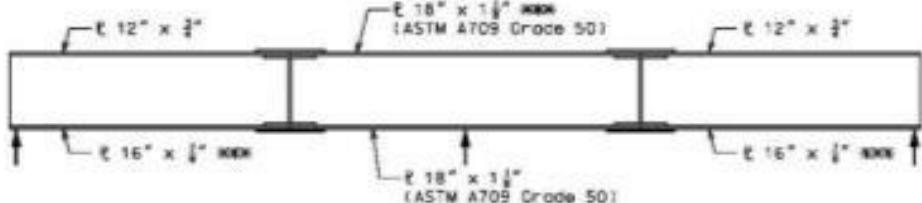
# Which Type of Bridge is Best?



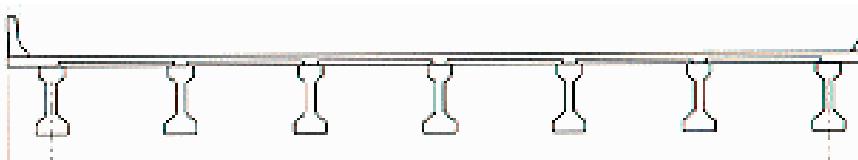
Precast Box Adjacent



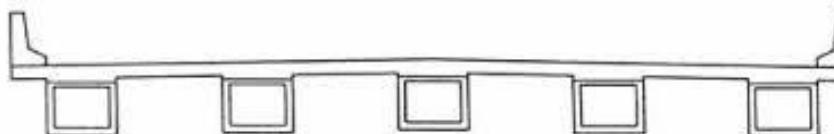
Steel Rolled Beam



Steel Plate Girder



Precast I Beam



Precast Box Spread

# Which Type of Bridge is Best?

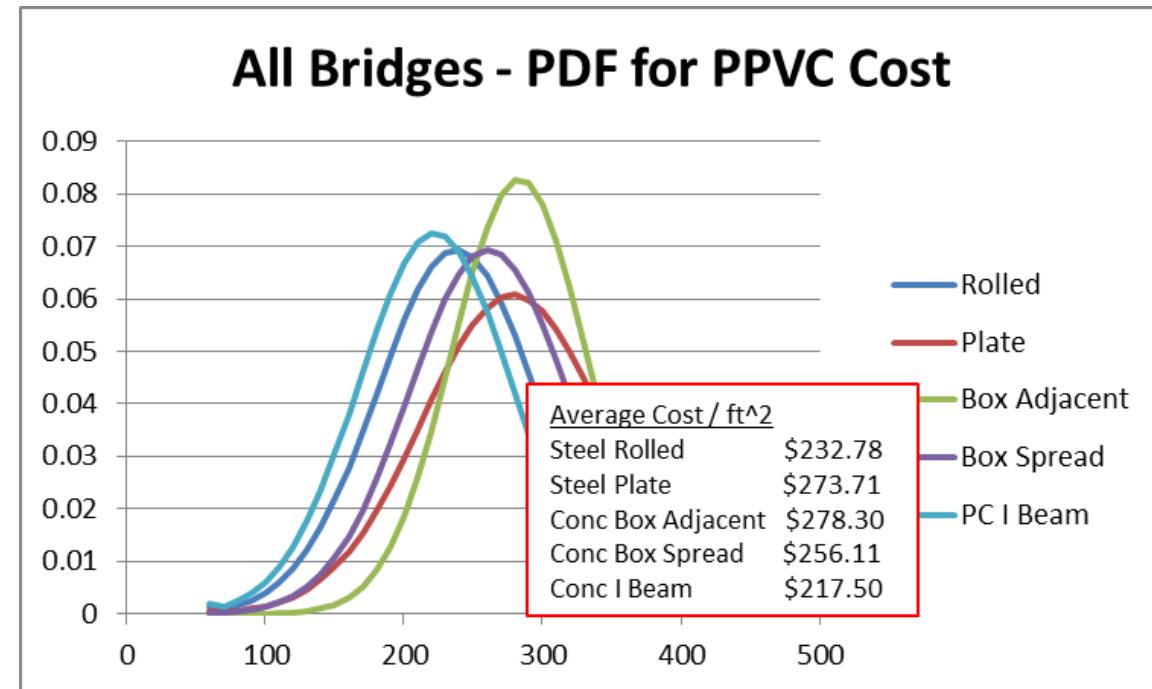
All are “similar” with None “Way Out” of Balance

Overall Weighted Average PPVC = \$252.40/ft<sup>2</sup> – Capitalized Costs

All Bridge Types within 14% of  
Weighted Average

Standard Deviation Range  
\$48.02/ft<sup>2</sup> - \$65.60/ft<sup>2</sup>  
[COV  $\approx$  20% - 25%]

Any One Type of Bridge May Be  
Most Economical for a Given  
Bridge Project



There is No One Type of Bridge That Clearly Beats the Others

# Conclusions

---

Typical Concrete and Steel Bridges are Competitive on Initial Cost, Future Costs, Life Cycle Costs and Bridge Life

Owners Should Consider Both Steel and Concrete Alternatives for Individual Bridge Projects

But, there were no Galvanized Bridges in the Database

# What About Galvanized Steel Bridges?

---

Steel Girder Protection Systems: Painting, Weathering Steel & Galvanizing

Galvanizing has become an economical and effective protection system

- Initial costs about equal to or even less than quality three-coat paint system
- Significantly increases the life of a steel bridge
- Near zero future maintenance

The objective of this study was to develop useful owner information on the effects of galvanizing on the historical Life Cycle Costs for typical bridges

– Sponsored by US Bridge, Cambridge, Ohio

# Galvanized Steel Bridge Database

---

Painted steel bridges in the current database were modified by assuming the steel had been galvanized instead of painted when built

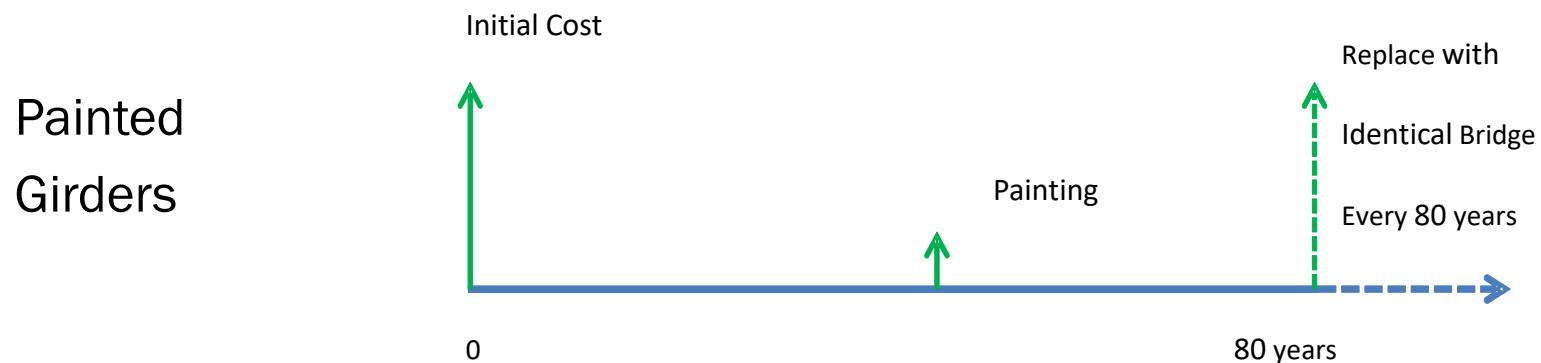
Assumptions:

- Galvanization adds 25 years to each bridge life
- Galvanizing costs are the same as a quality paint system, therefore bridge initial costs do not change
- Future painting costs are removed from the maintenance record
- Corrosion repairs to girders are removed from the maintenance record
- Concrete deck and joint repairs and other maintenance work remain in the maintenance record

# Galvanized Steel Bridge Life Cycle Costs

Benefits:

- Extended Life
- Reduced Future Maintenance



# Rolled Beam vs Concrete – Length<140 ft

## Short Length Bridges

	# Bridges	PPVC	Initial Cost	Future Cost	Avg Length	Avg # Spans	Avg Year Built	Avg Life
Steel I Beam (Painted)	18	\$277.34	\$230.66	\$0.18	81	1.33	1980	82
<b>Steel I Beam (Galvanized)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$254.46</b>	<b>\$230.66</b>	<b>\$0.07</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>107</b>
P/S Box - Adjacent	240	\$292.38	\$235.03	\$0.95	69	1.09	1987	74
P/S Box - Spread	325	\$272.20	\$225.14	\$2.16	64	1.23	1986	81
P/S I Beam	98	\$281.64	\$231.20	\$0.05	104	1.08	1987	77



Steel Galvanized  
Precast Box Spread  
Steel Painted



Steel Galvanized  
Steel Painted  
Precast Box Spread

# Summary

---

Typical Steel & Concrete Bridges are Competitive on First Cost

Typical Steel & Concrete Bridges are Competitive on Life Cycle Costs

Galvanizing:

- Is Economical for First Costs
- Extends the Life of Steel Bridges
- Reduces Future Maintenance Costs
- Can Lower Agency Life Cycle Costs

Owners Should Consider Both Steel and Concrete Alternatives for Individual Bridge Projects

# Today's Steel Bridges

---

## State of the Art

- Light Weight, permits lighter equipment
- Local Crew Installation
- Close Tolerances, more efficient erection
- Longer Spans, minimize disruption underneath



## Durable

- Robust, highly resistant to extreme natural disasters
- Weathering Steel, Galvanizing, Metalizing, Painting and 50CR (Stainless) produce Long Life
- Long Life, many steel bridges well over 100 years old

# Today's Steel Bridges

---

## Speed of Construction – Accelerated Bridge Construction

- Wide Range of Modular/Prefabricated Steel Bridges, install in a weekend
- Lighter Equipment, Ease of Erection

## Cost Effectiveness

- Competitive with Other Bridge Materials
- Whole Project Savings, lighter abutments, smaller equipment, fast installation
- Weathering Steel, Galvanizing, Metalizing & 50CR Steel, can reduce initial costs and life cycle costs



# Today's Steel Bridges

---

## Sustainability

- Steel is North America's #1 Recycled Material – over 90% of steel in a beam is from recycled materials
- Recycled Steel Conserves Energy, enough to power 18 million homes
- Steel's Energy Use Reduced 33% Since 1990
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduced by 45% since 1975

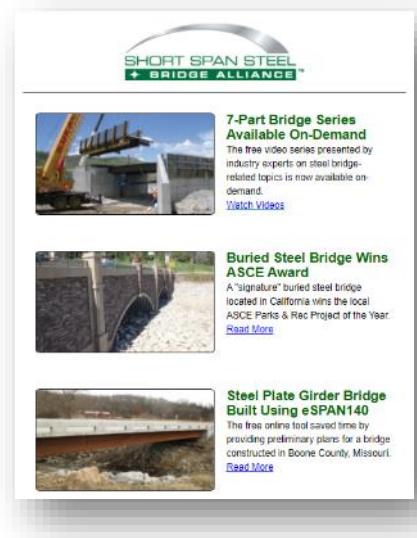
## Resiliency

- Long Service Life
- Ease of Inspection
- Ease of Repair
- Strengthening for Increased Loads
- Recycling & Repurposing
- Habitat Protection

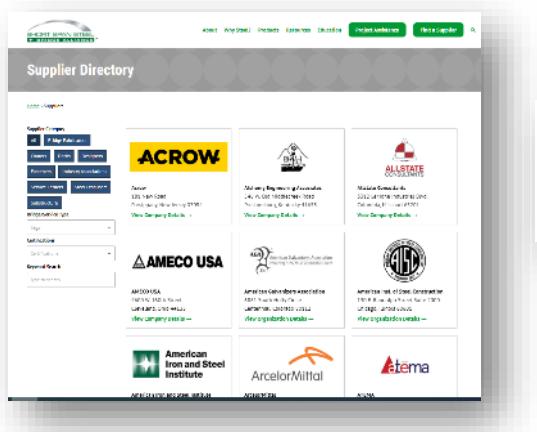


# 5 Ways to Keep Learning About Steel Bridges

## 1. Subscribe to the Weekly Newsletter



## 2. Find a Supplier



## 3. Design a Bridge in 5-Minutes



## 4. Receive Free Project Assistance



## 5. Schedule a Workshop/Webinar



[www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

Questions? Dan Snyder, Director, SSSBA, [dsnyder@steel.org](mailto:dsnyder@steel.org), (301) 367-6179



Website: [ShortSpanSteelBridges.org](http://www.ShortSpanSteelBridges.org)

Twitter: [@ShortSpanSteel](https://twitter.com/ShortSpanSteel)

Facebook: Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance