



Use of Large Mobile Shakers in Bridge Evaluations: Structural Identification, Dynamic Soil-Structure Interaction Effect Assessment, and Unknown Foundations

Nenad Gucunski¹, Sharef Farrag¹, Franklin Moon¹, Brady
Cox², and Farnyuh Menq³

¹Rutgers University

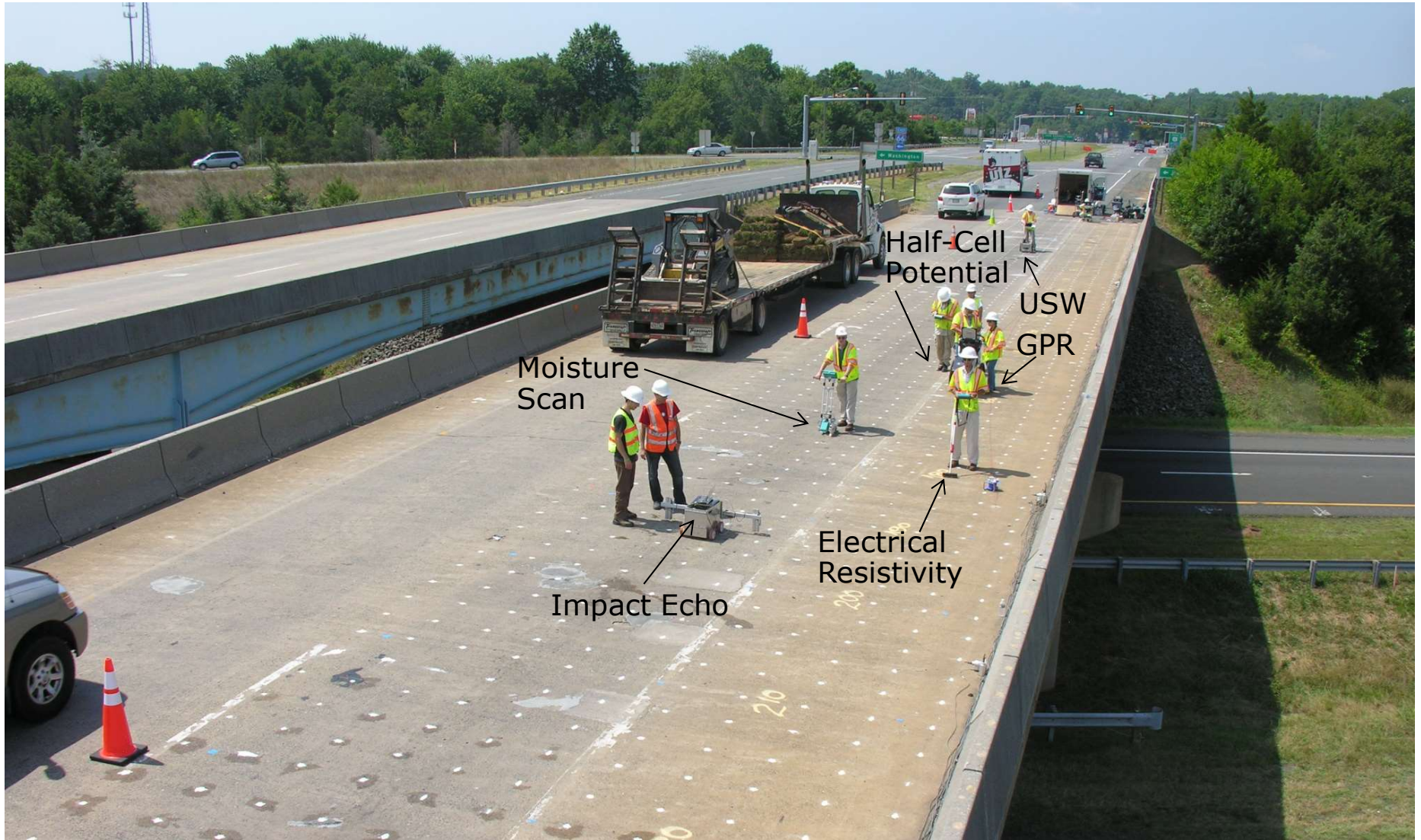
²Utah State University

³University of Texas, Austin

Use of Large Mobile Shakers in Evaluation of Bridges and Other Structures

- Structural identification (St-Id) to:
 - Evaluate and/or monitor the condition/performance of existing infrastructure systems
 - Improve the design of future infrastructure
- Evaluation of the significance of dynamic soil-structure interaction (DSSI) on the dynamic response of bridges to traffic and other loads
- Evaluation of unknown bridge foundations

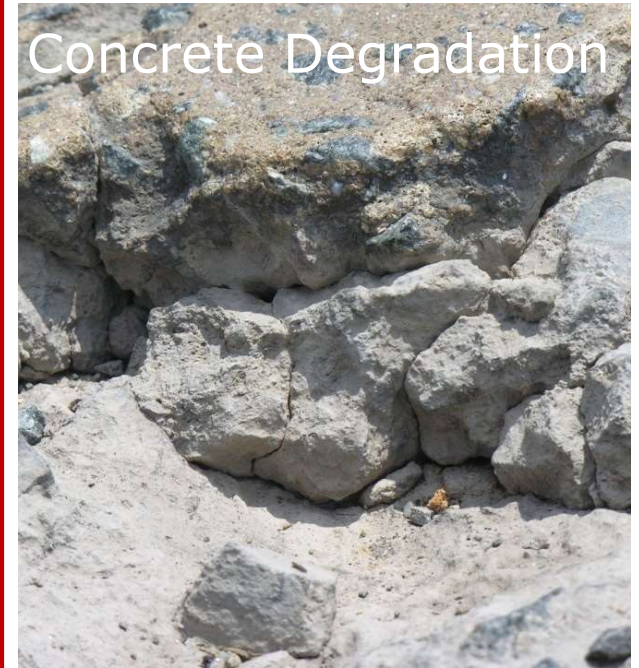
Manual NDE Data Collection on Bridge Deck



Robotic NDE Data Collection on Bridge Deck



Reinforced Concrete Deterioration Types of Primary Interest

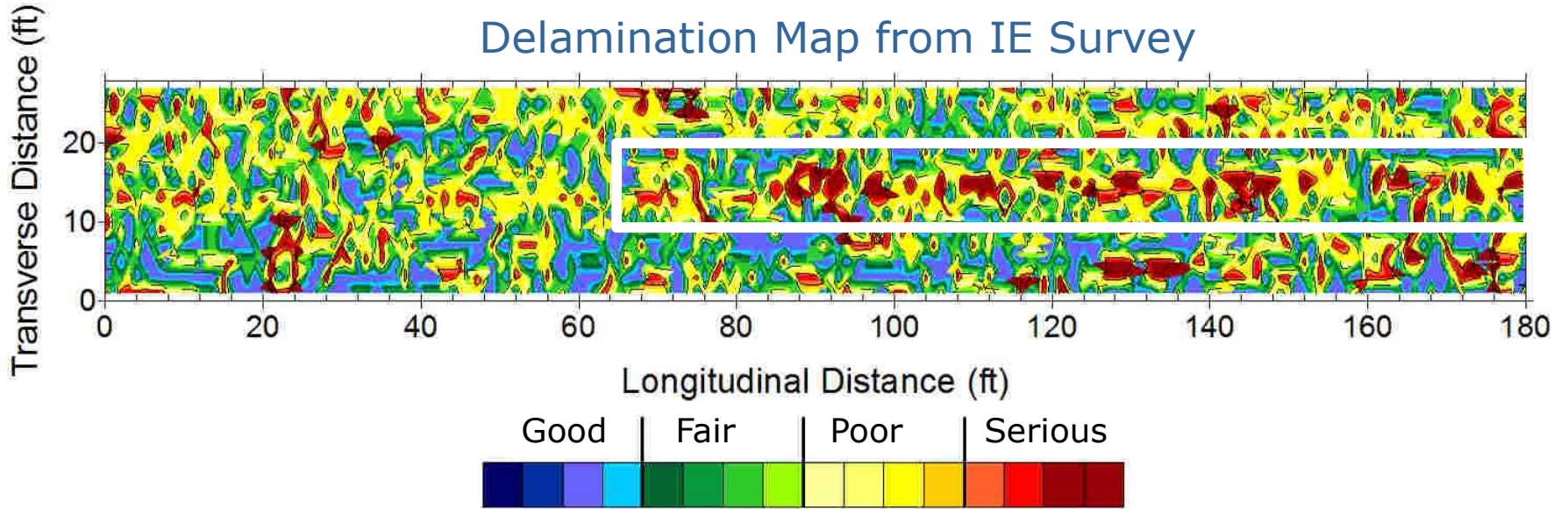


NDE Survey of Deck of Bridge O1, Iowa

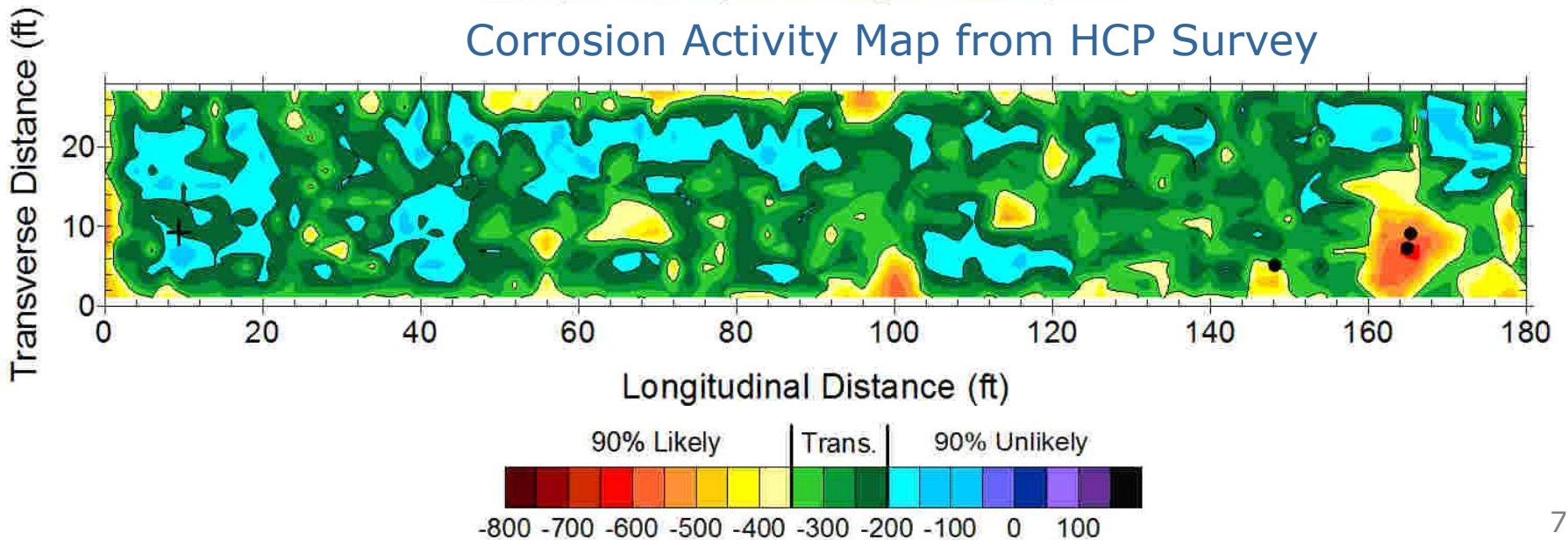


Comparison of NDE Technology Results for O1 Bridge, Iowa

Delamination Map from IE Survey



Corrosion Activity Map from HCP Survey





St-Id and Evaluation of Significance of DSSI on the Dynamic Response of Bridges Using Large Mobile Shakers

Hobson Avenue Bridge, Hamilton, NJ, Testing

Main objectives:

- Carry out low to moderate magnitude shaking of a bridge using a large mobile shaker (T-Rex) and evaluate the response
- Capture and develop better understanding of the significance of DSSI effects on the bridge dynamic response
- Compare the bridge response for a fixed-base assumption and when the DSSI effects are incorporated (through parametric studies and numerical modeling)
- Evaluate the effect of superstructure characteristics on bridge deck performance

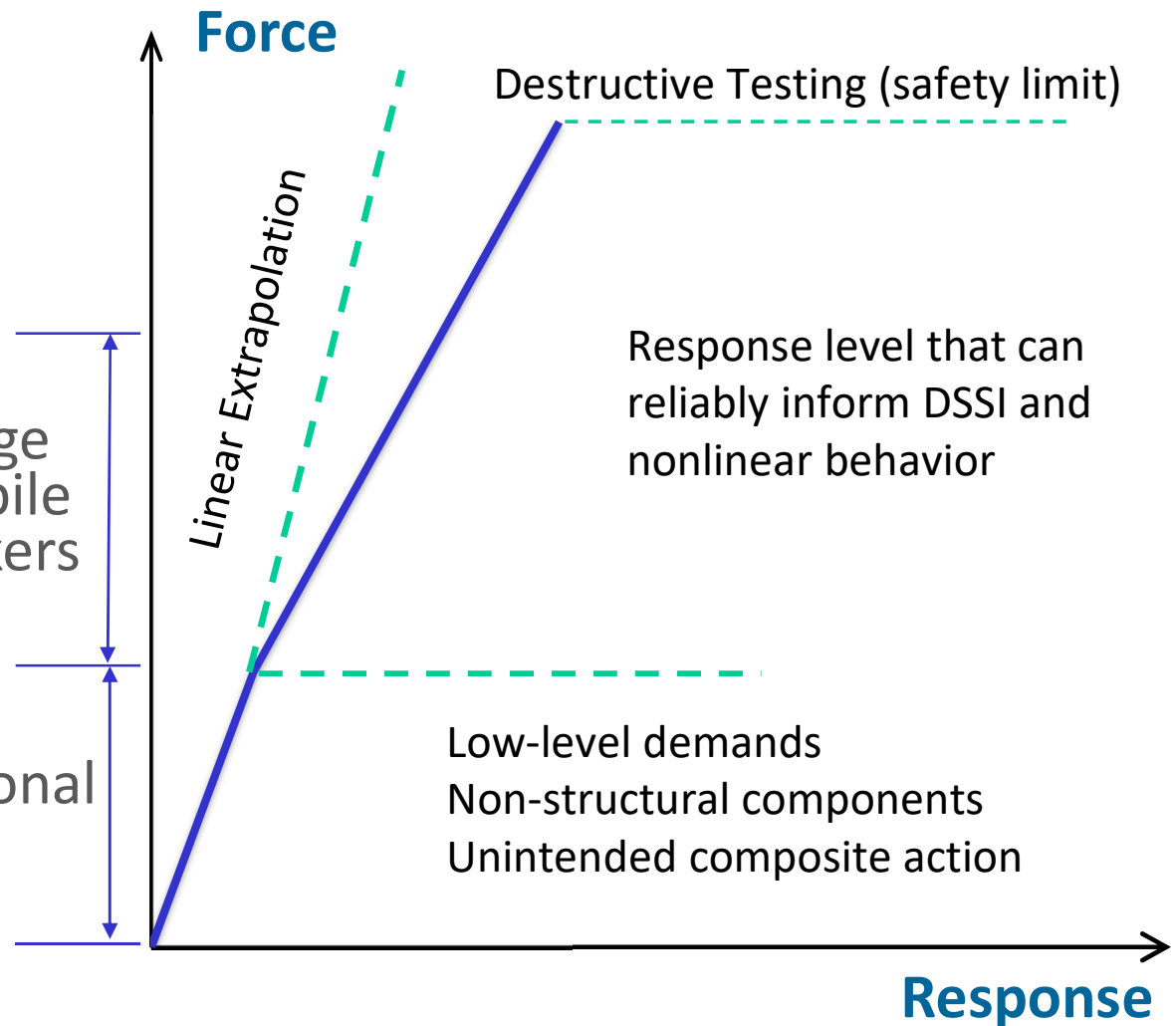
Load Levels during Conventional St-Id vs. NHERI T-Rex Shaking



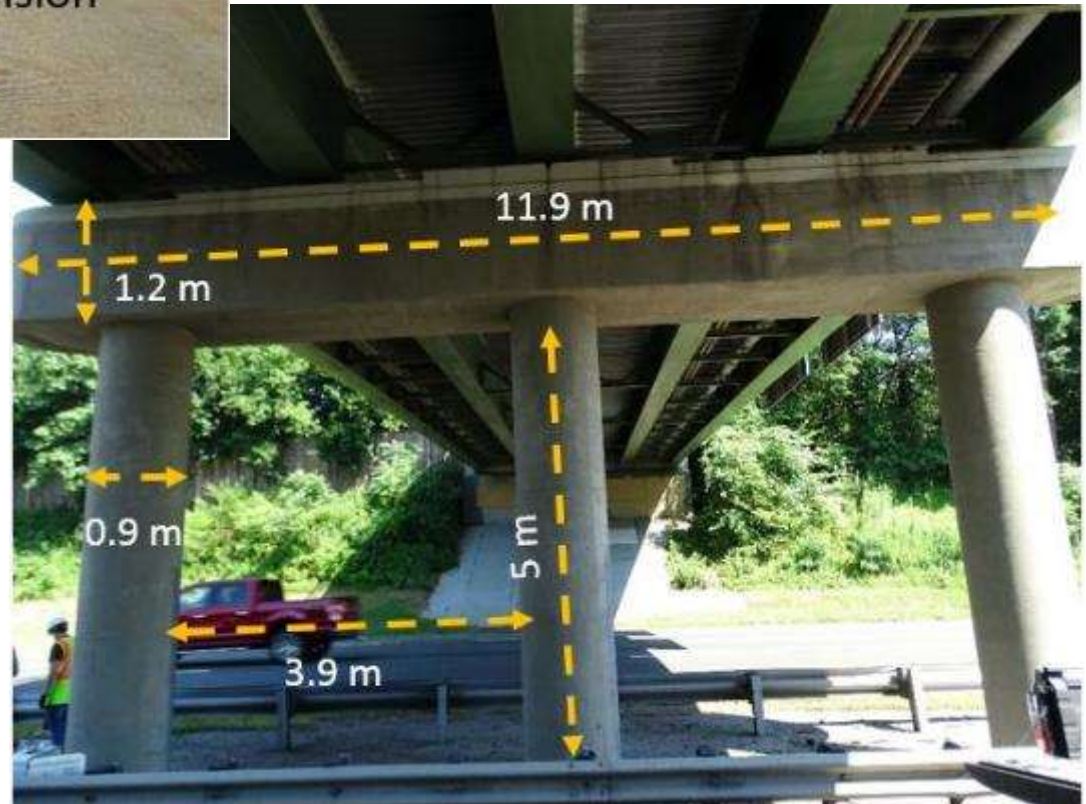
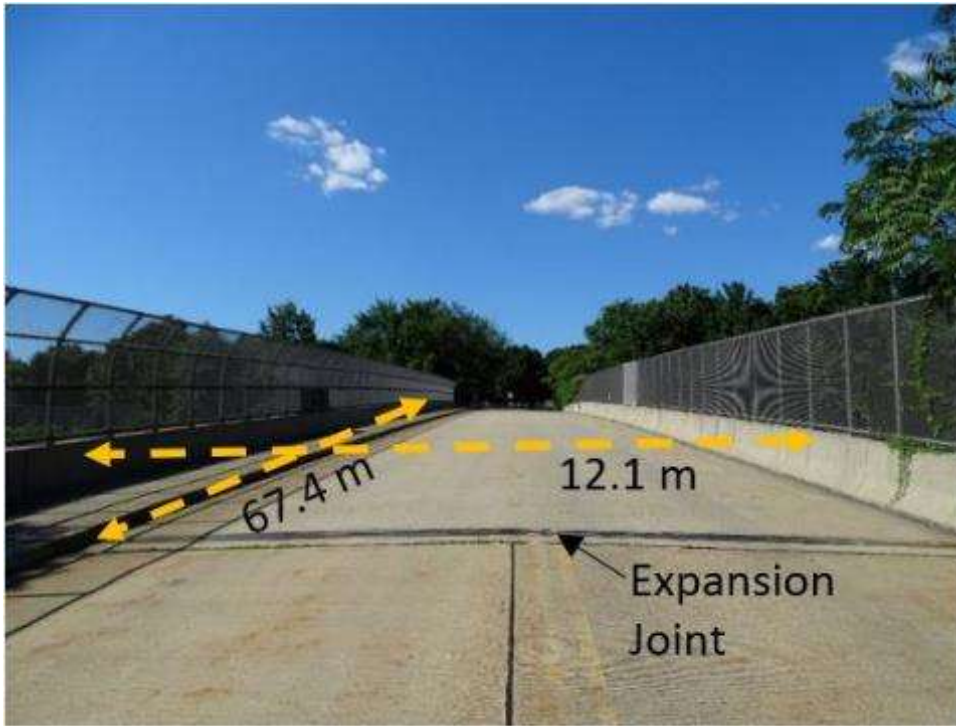
Large Mobile Shakers



Conventional St-Id



Hobson Avenue Bridge Deck and Pier



T-Rex on Hamilton Avenue Bridge

- Transverse, longitudinal, and vertical shaking under varying load magnitudes above pier and above mid span
- Linear chirp applied from 15 Hz to 2 Hz
- Load varied from 3 to 21 kips (14.5 to 94.5 kN)



Hobson Avenue Bridge Sensor Placement

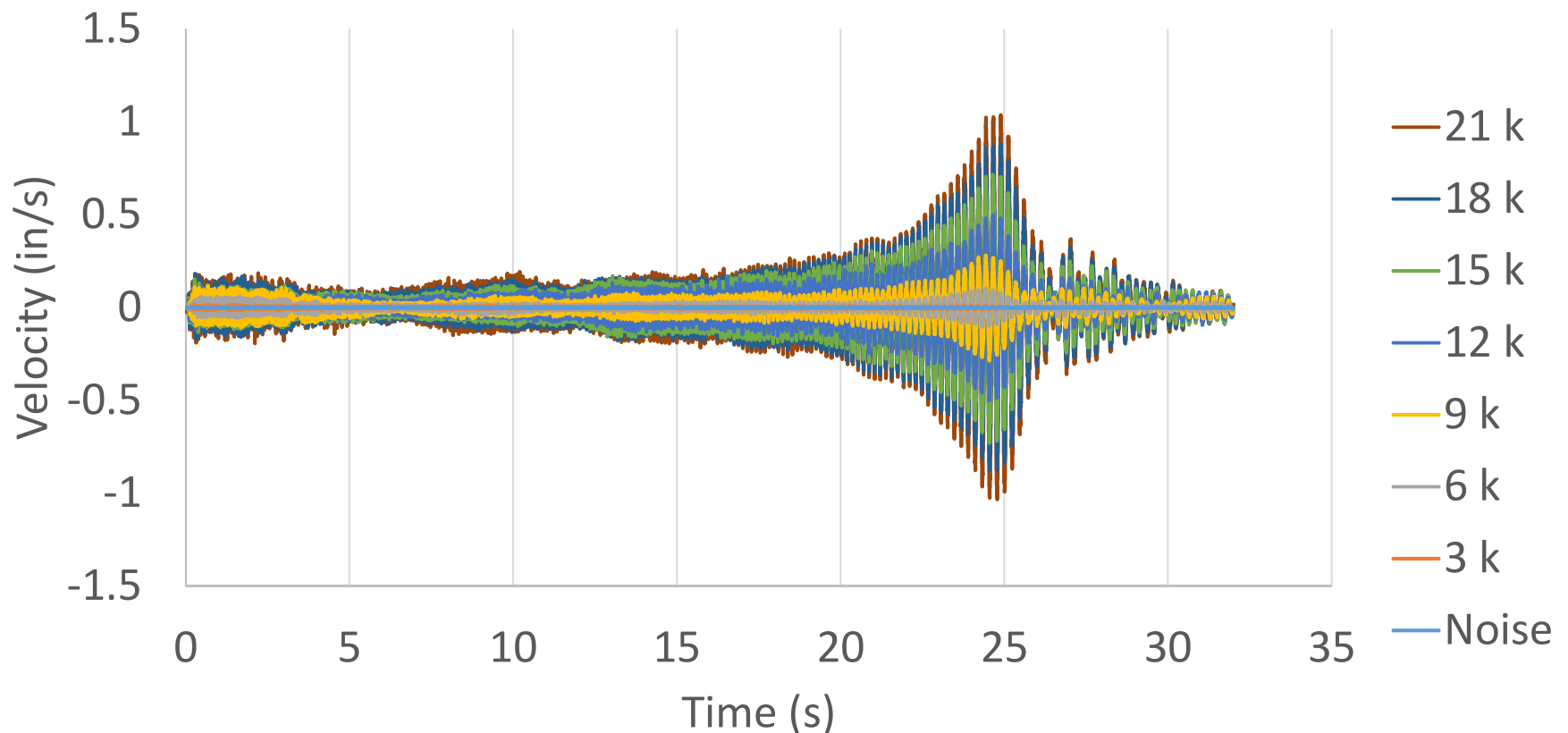


T-Rex on Hobson Avenue Bridge



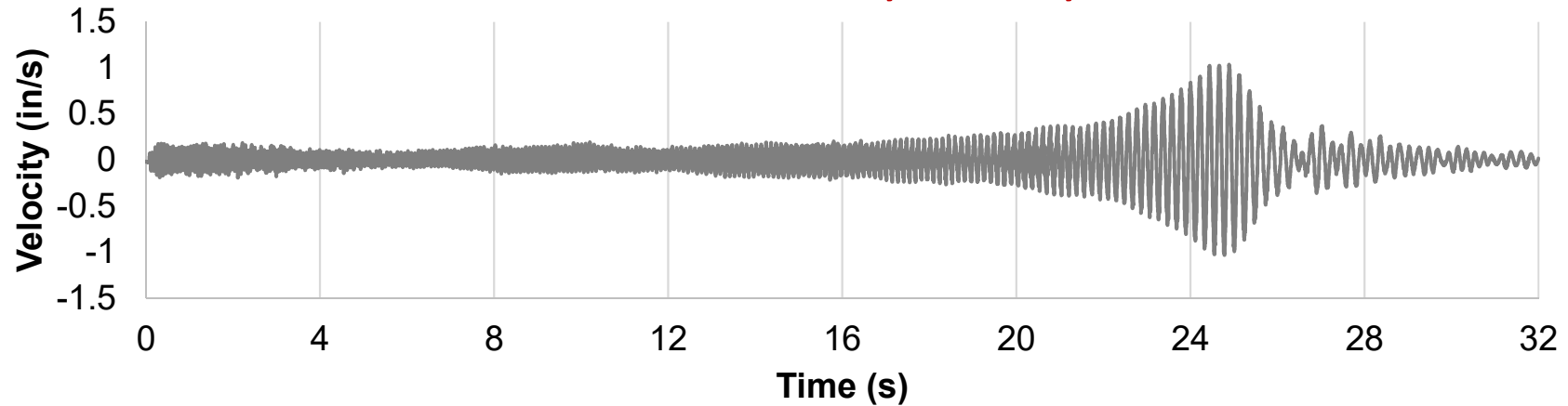
Sample Hobson Avenue Bridge Response to T-Rex Shaking

- Horizontal transverse deck response under different horizontal load magnitudes (linear chirp, 15 to 2 Hz)
- Nonlinear response → **double load \neq double response**



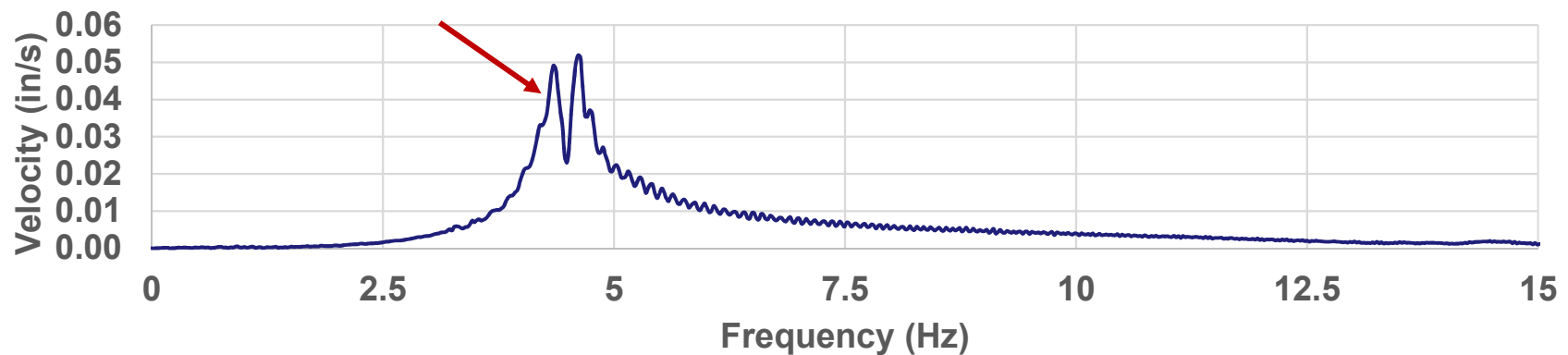
Hobson Avenue Bridge Deck Transverse Response to Horizontal Shaking

Velocity history: Deck-West side

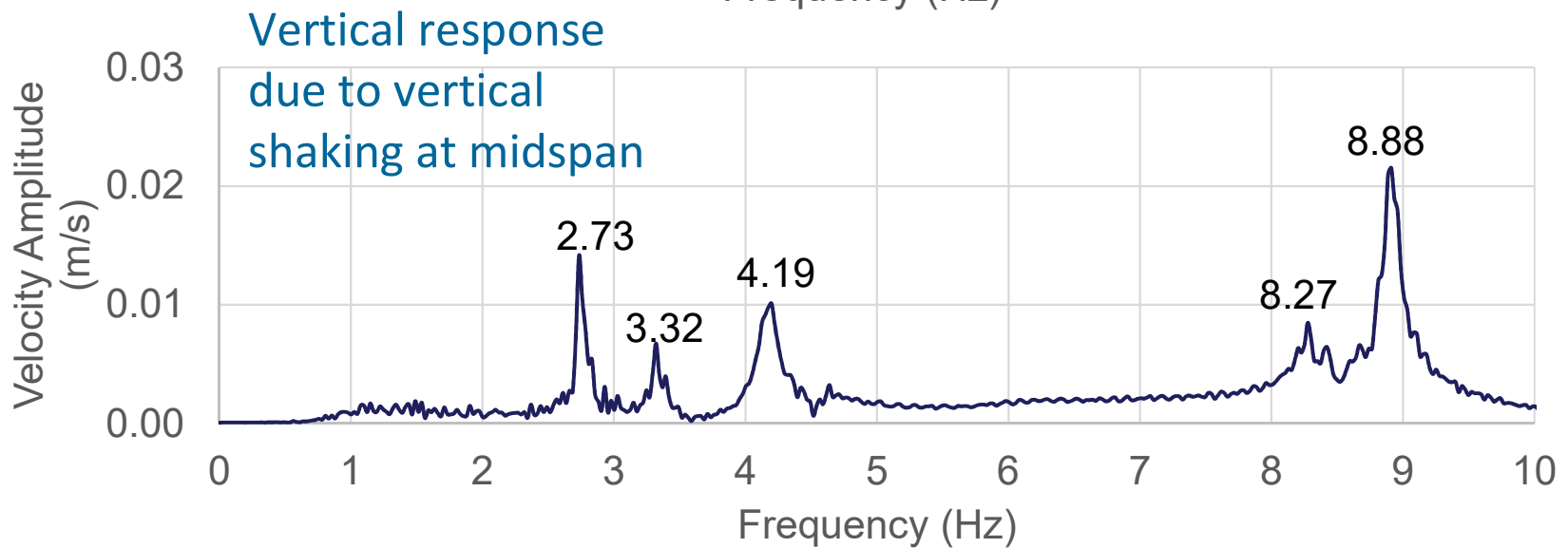
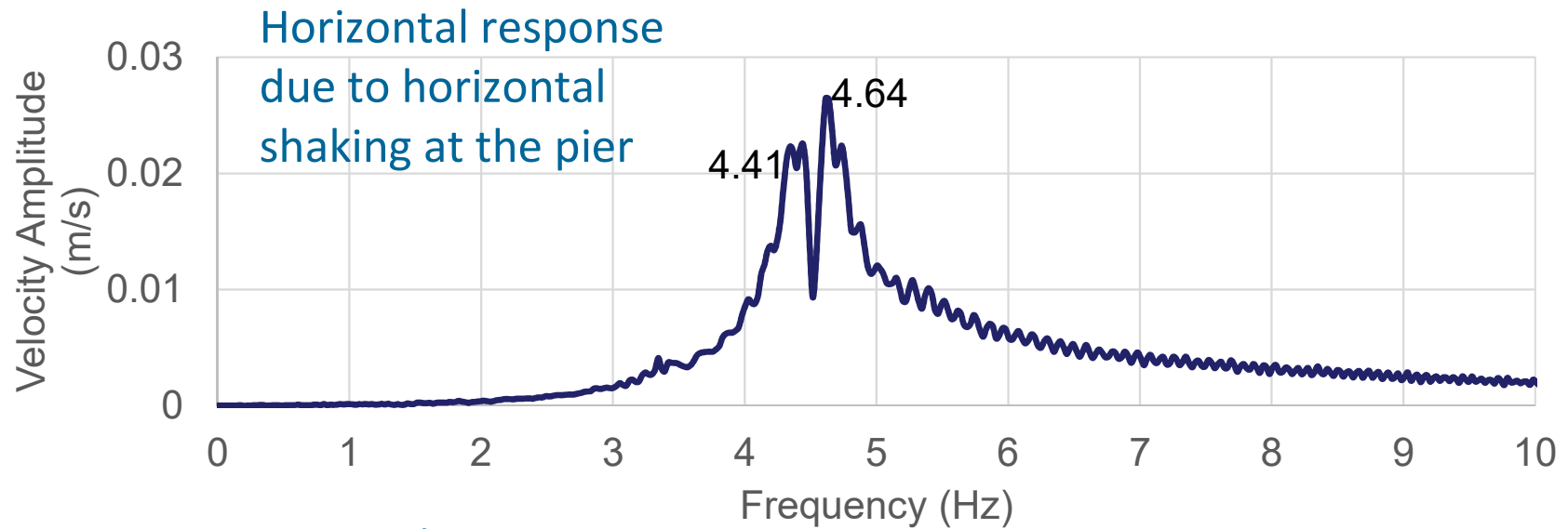


2 resonant peaks @
4.41 and 4.64 Hz

Velocity Spectrum: Deck-West side

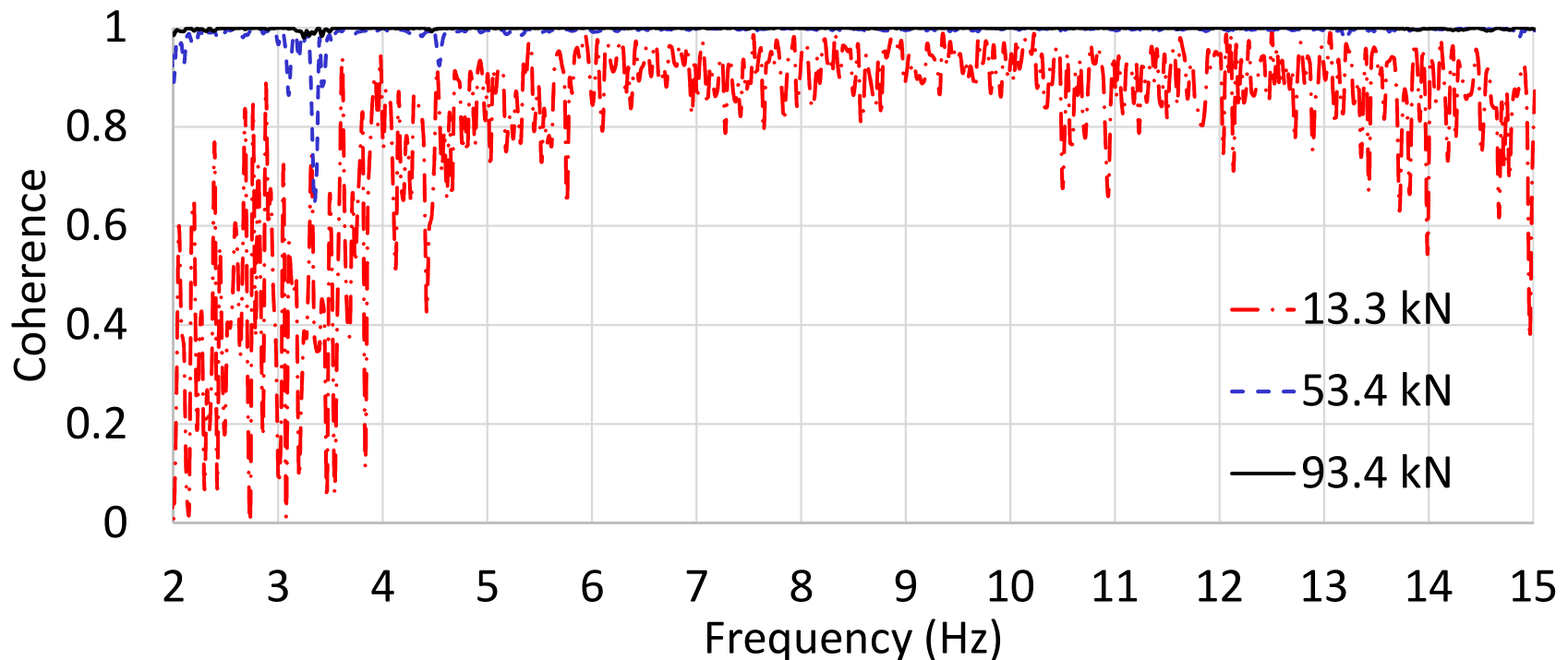


Comparison of Horizontal (Transverse) and Vertical Response Spectra of Hobson Avenue Bridge



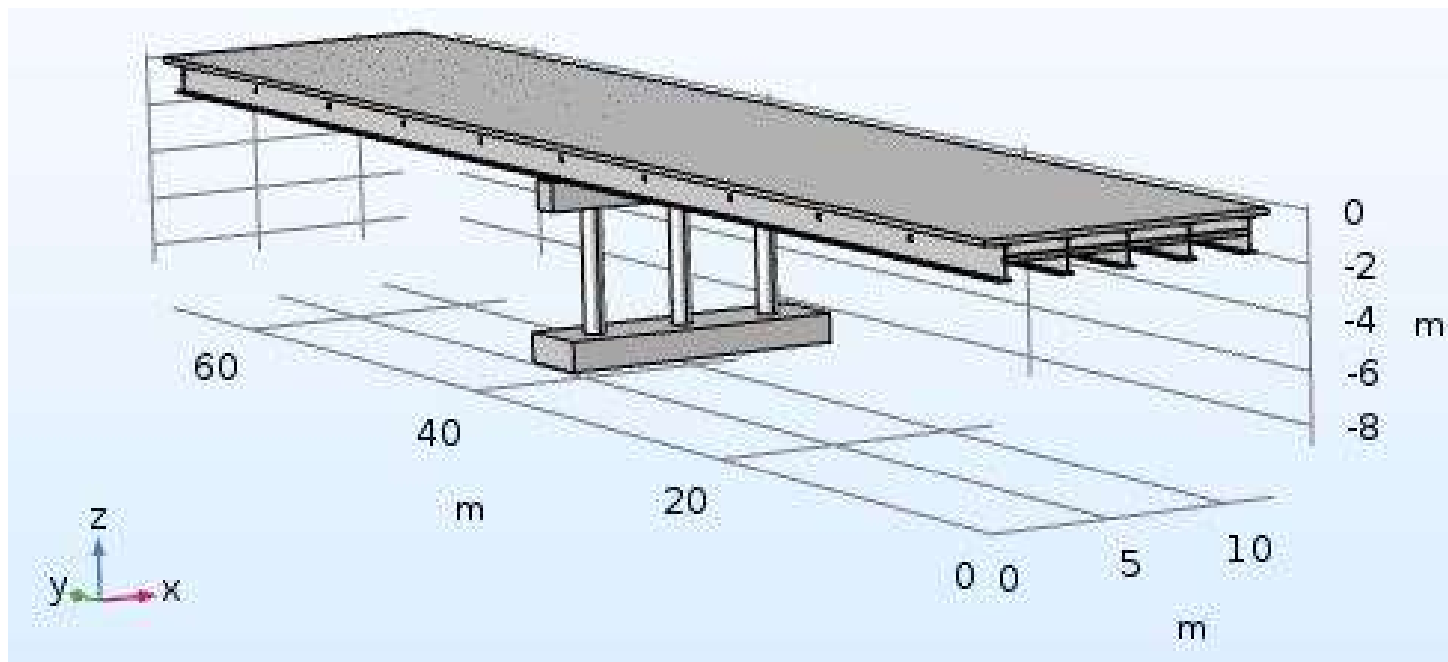
Significance of T-Rex Load Intensity – Coherence Vs. Load

- **Coherence** - Relationship between the response and excitation
- Substantial loss of coherence across the entire sweep at the lowest load, almost 100% coherence across the entire frequency range for the highest load



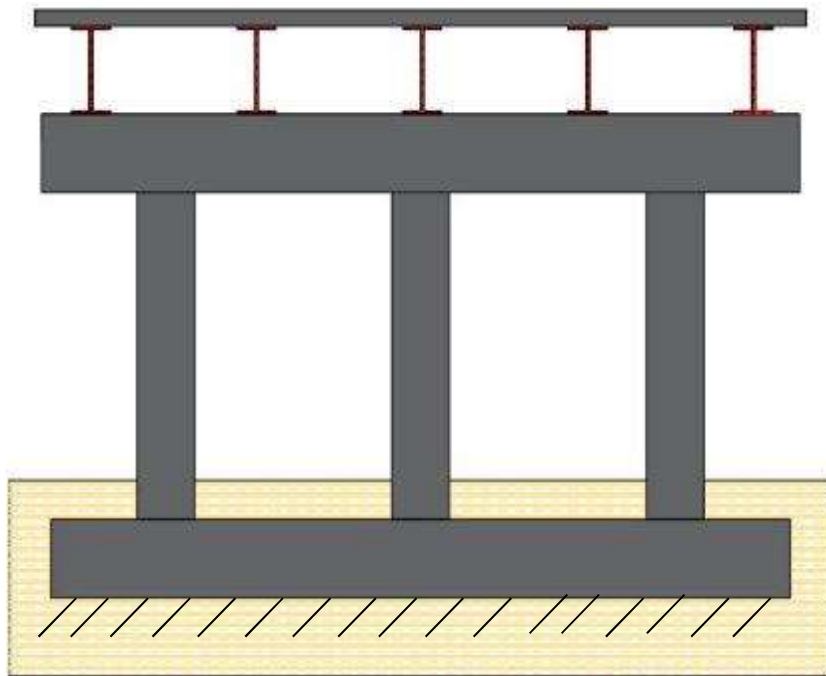
Numerical Model of Hobson Avenue Bridge

- *COMSOL Multiphysics* was used for FE modeling with impedance functions (frequency-dependent rotational and translational complex springs) in the description of the embedded pier footing.
- Numerical studies included frequency and time domain, and eigenvalue analyses.
- Numerical results were compared/validated by the field results.



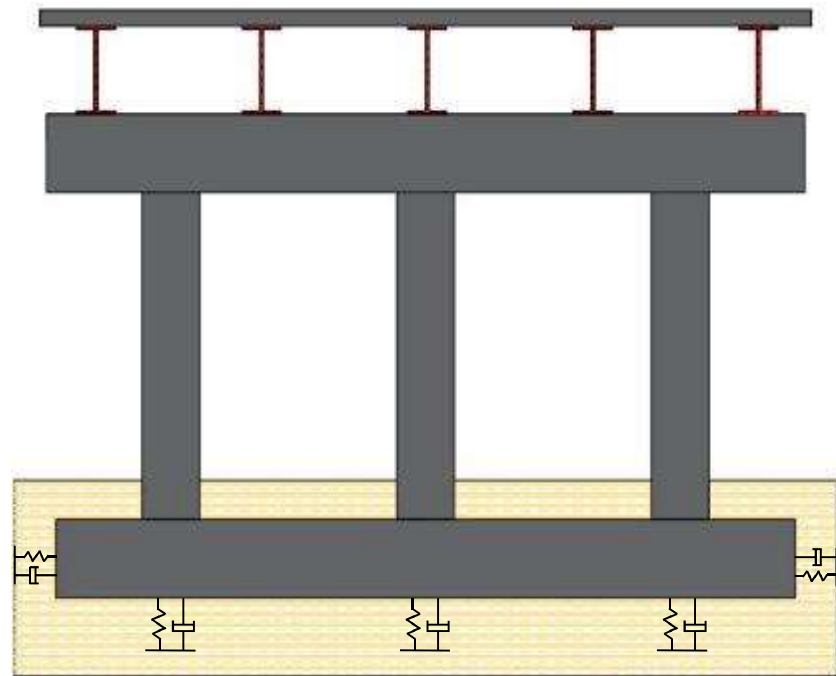
Fixed Base and DSSI Effects Incorporating Simulation Models

Fixed Base Model



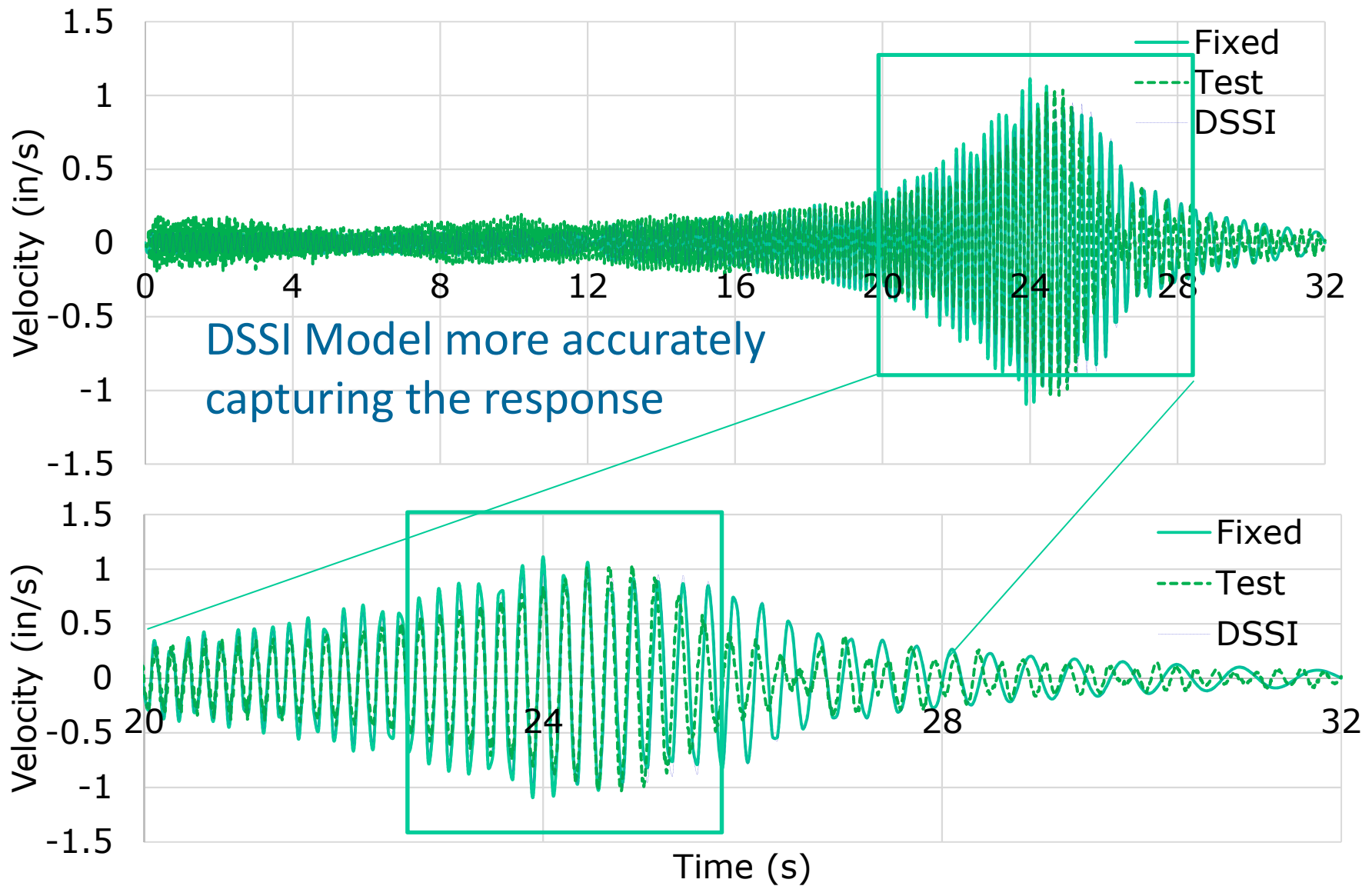
Rigid base

DSSI Incorporating Model

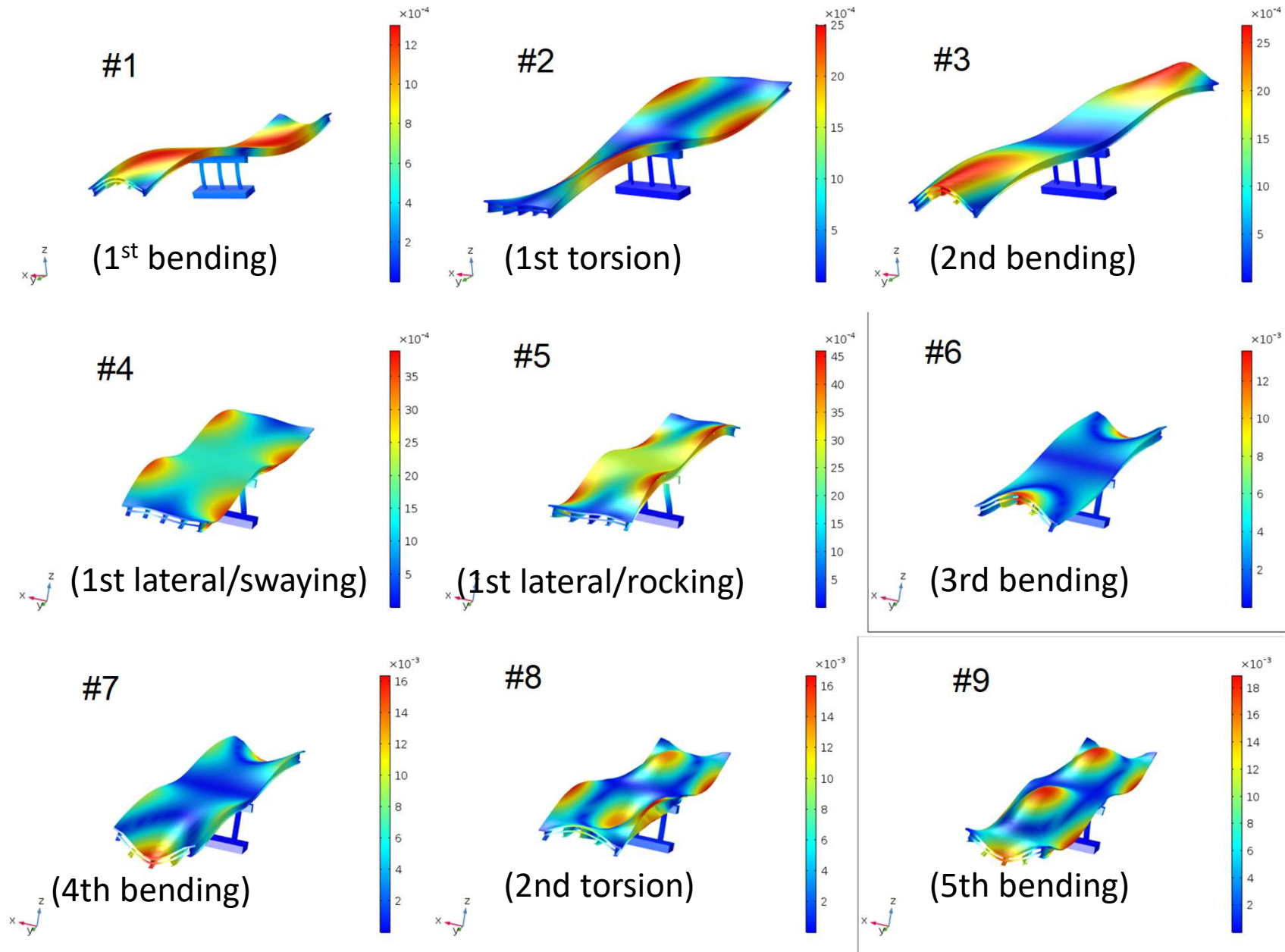


Spring-dashpot impedance functions

Comparison of Experimental and Numerical Results Horizontal Deck Response to Horizontal Loading



Hobson Ave Bridge – Eigenmodes from Numerical Model



Comparison of Experimental and Numerical Results

Eigen-frequency comparison in Hz

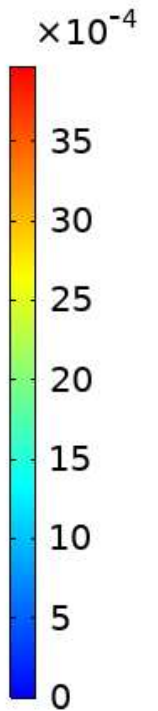
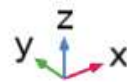
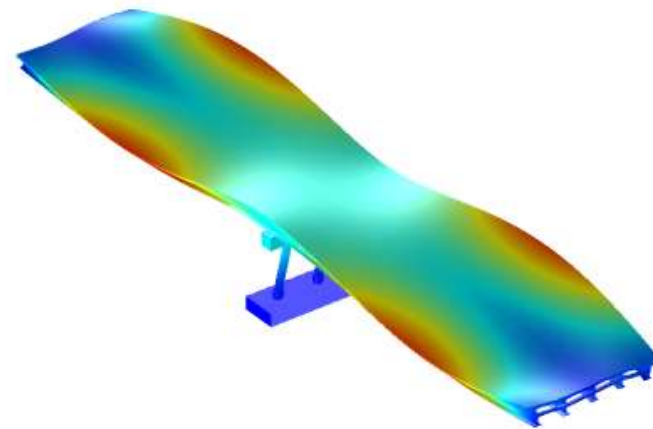
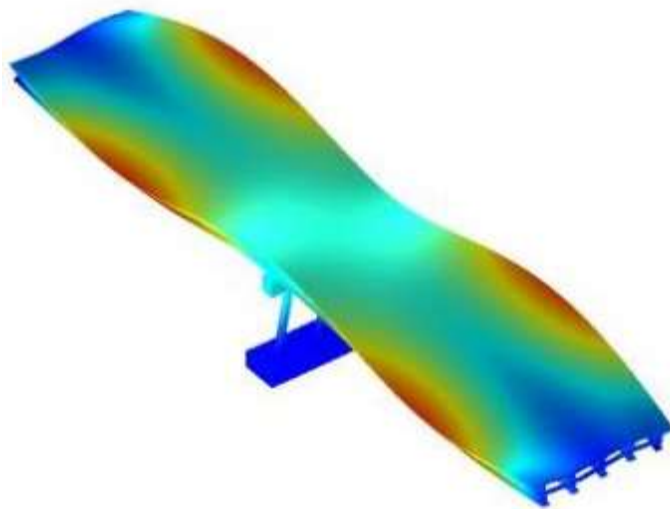
Mode	Experimental	DSSI Model	%Error
#1 (1 st bending)	2.73	2.68	-1.83
#2 (1 st torsion)	3.32	3.28	-1.20
#3 (2 nd bending)	Not seen	3.68	N/A
#4 (1 st lateral/swaying)	4.41	4.2	-4.76
#5 (1 st lateral/rocking)	4.64	4.77	2.80
#6 (3 rd bending)	Not seen	6.12	N/A
#7 (4 th bending)	Not seen	6.84	N/A
#8 (2 nd torsion)	8.27	8.36	1.09
#9 (5 th bending)	8.88	9.14	2.93

Comparison of Mode Shapes for DSSI and Fixed Base Models

1st Lateral-Swaying Mode

DSSI - 4.20 Hz

Fixed Base - 4.21 Hz

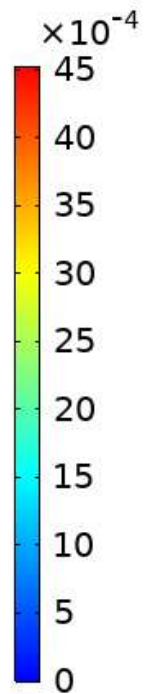
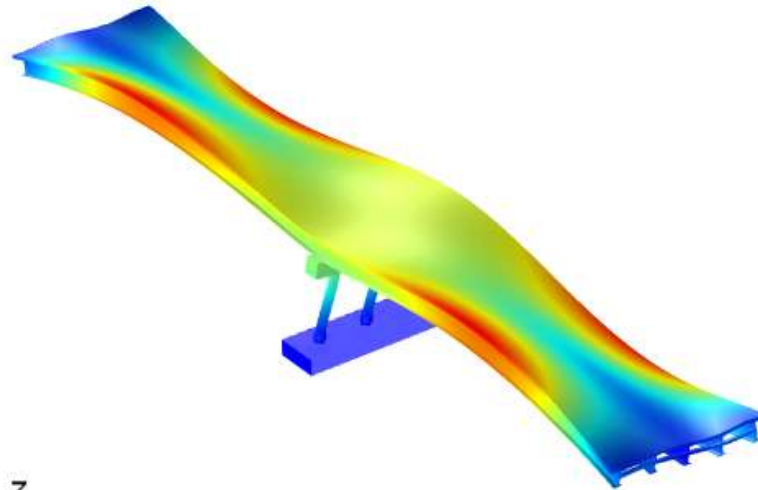
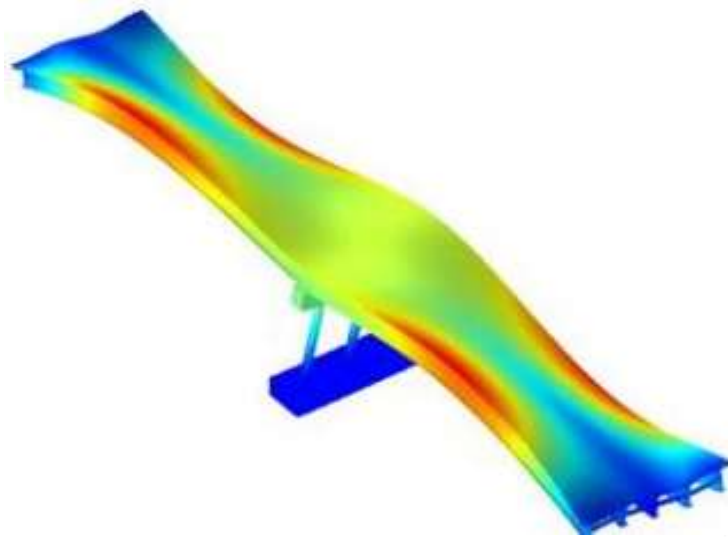


Comparison of Mode Shapes for DSSI and Fixed Base Models

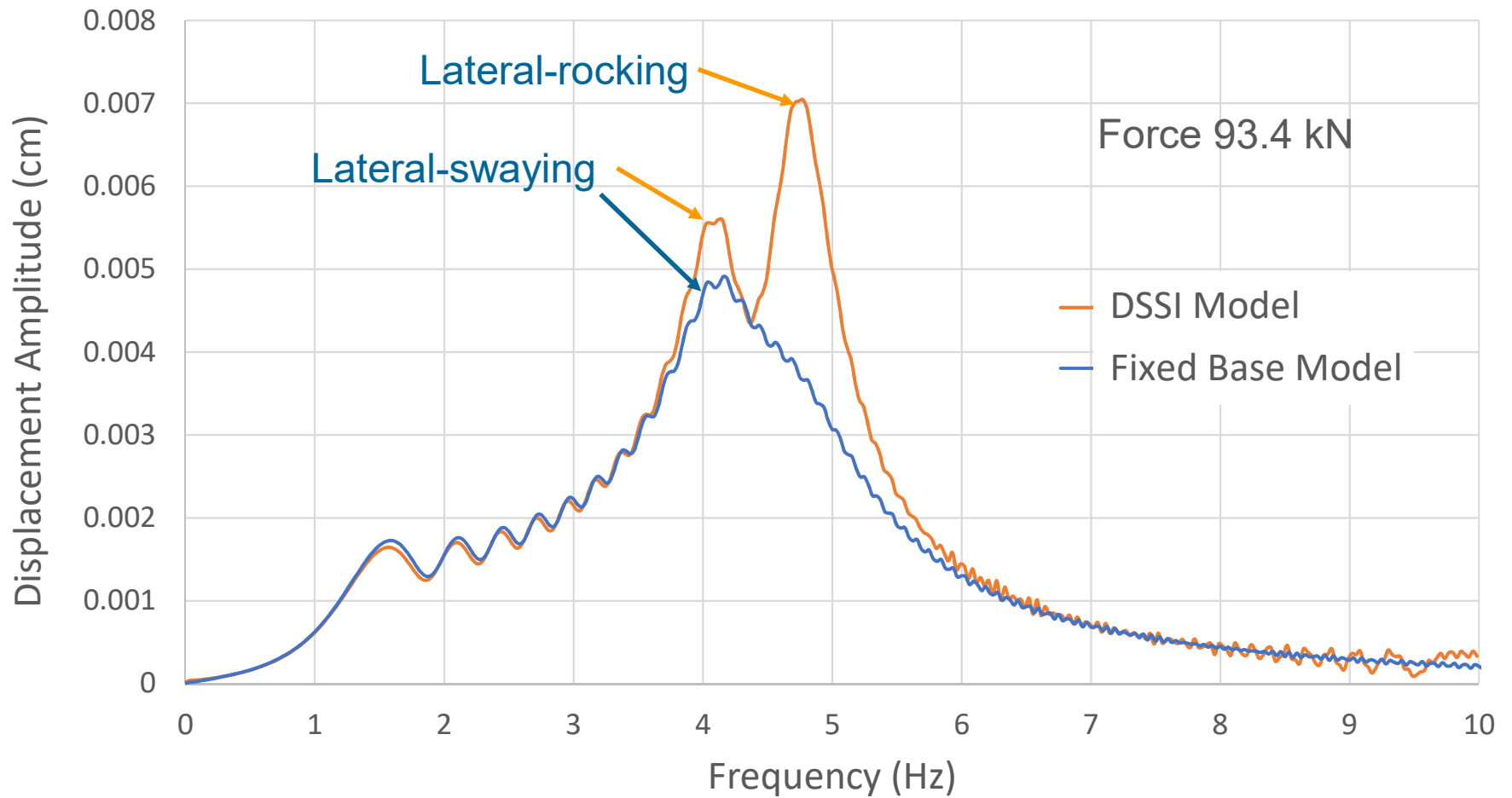
1st Lateral-Rocking Mode

DSSI - 4.77 Hz

Fixed Base - 4.81 Hz

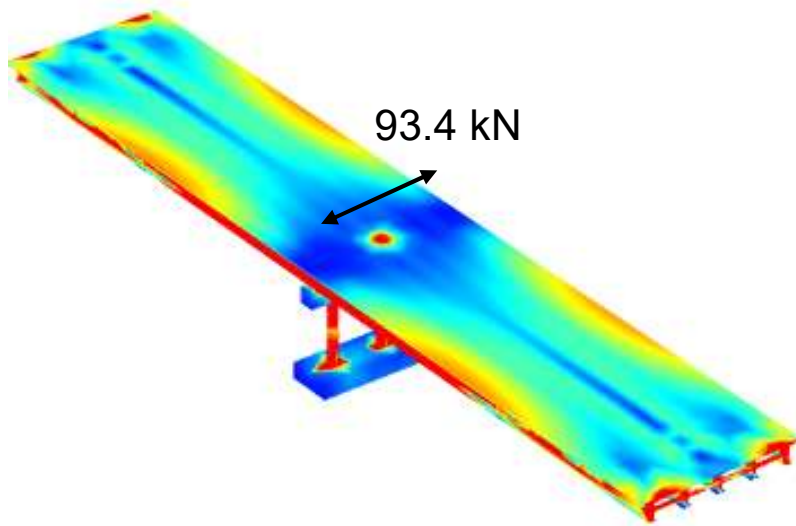


Comparison of Transverse Displacement Response Spectra of Fixed-Base and DSSI-Incorporating Models Due to Transverse Shaking

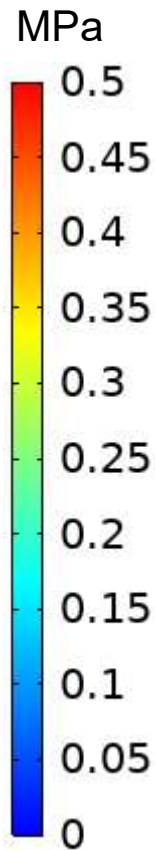
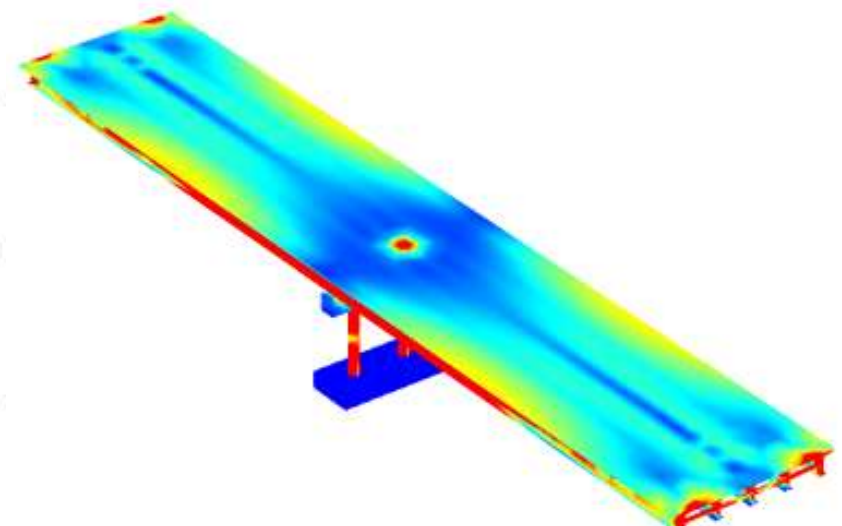


Comparison of von Mises Stress Distributions on Top Rebar Level for DSSI and Fixed Base Models 1st Lateral-Swaying Mode – Horizontal Load

DSSI - 4.20 Hz

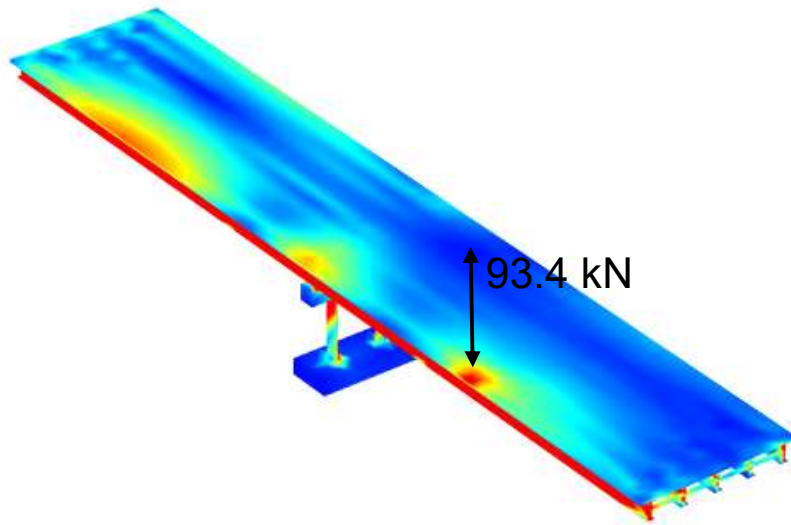


Fixed Base - 4.21 Hz

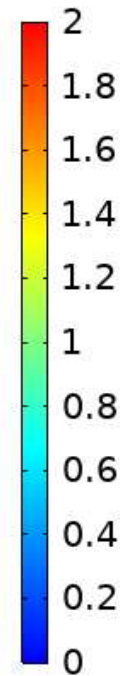
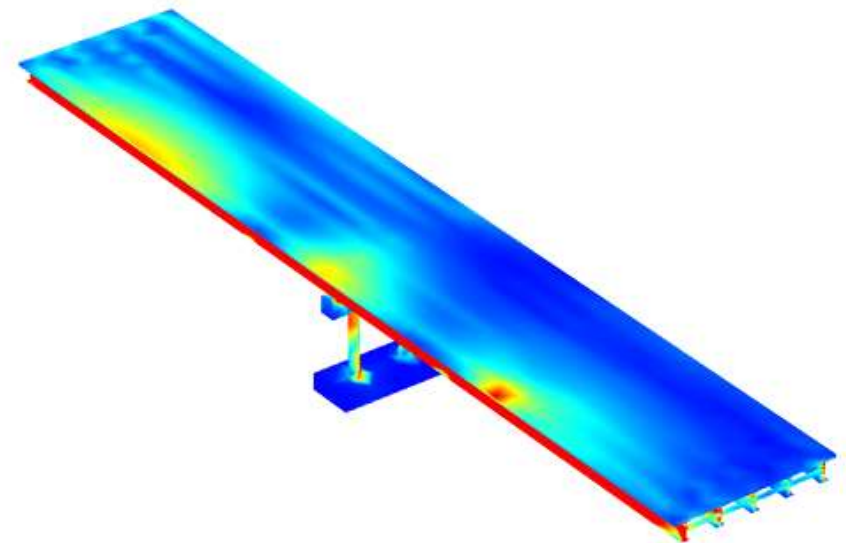


Comparison of von Mises Stress Distributions on Top Rebar Level for DSSI and Fixed Base Models 1st Lateral-Swaying Mode – Vertical Load

DSSI - 4.16 Hz

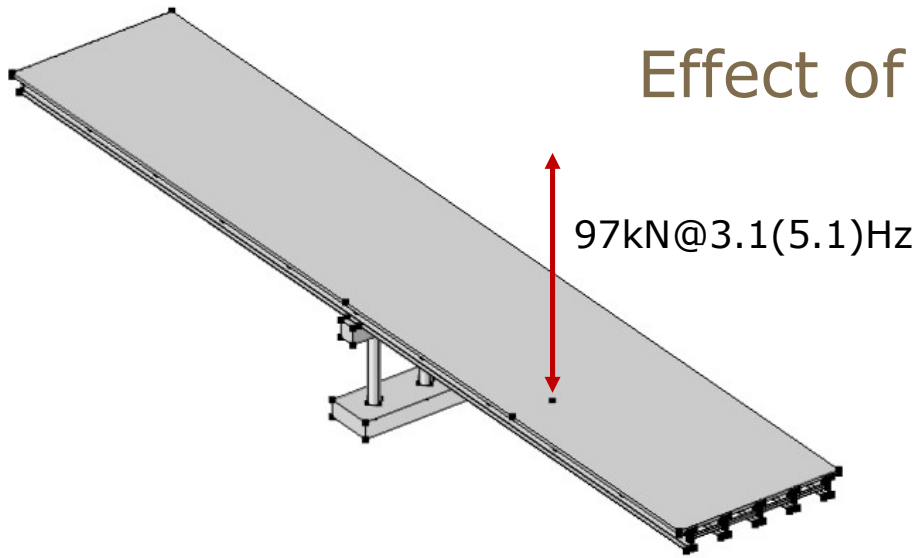


Fixed Base - 4.21 Hz

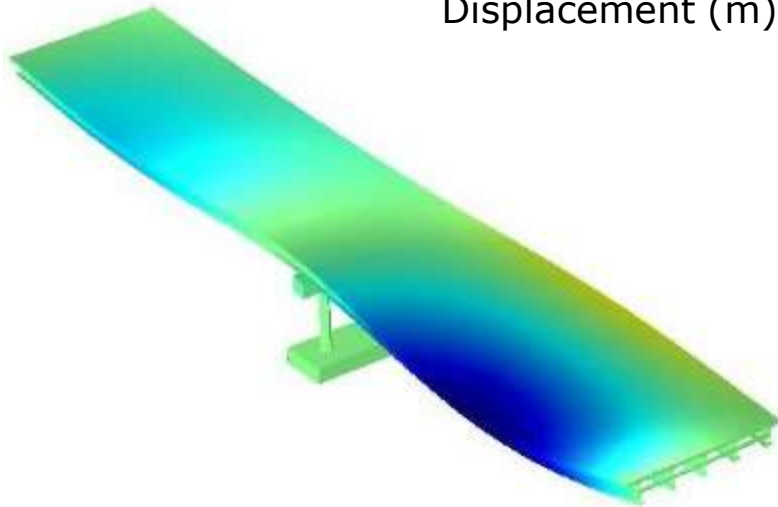
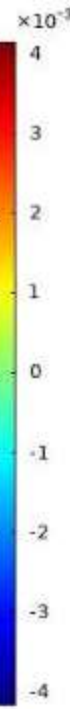


Effect of Superstructure Stiffness on Maximum Vertical Displacements

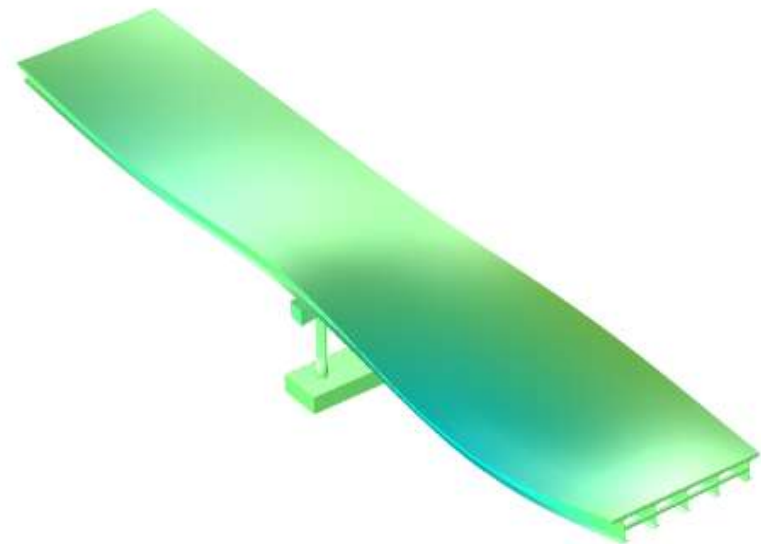
Fixed-base model



Displacement (m)



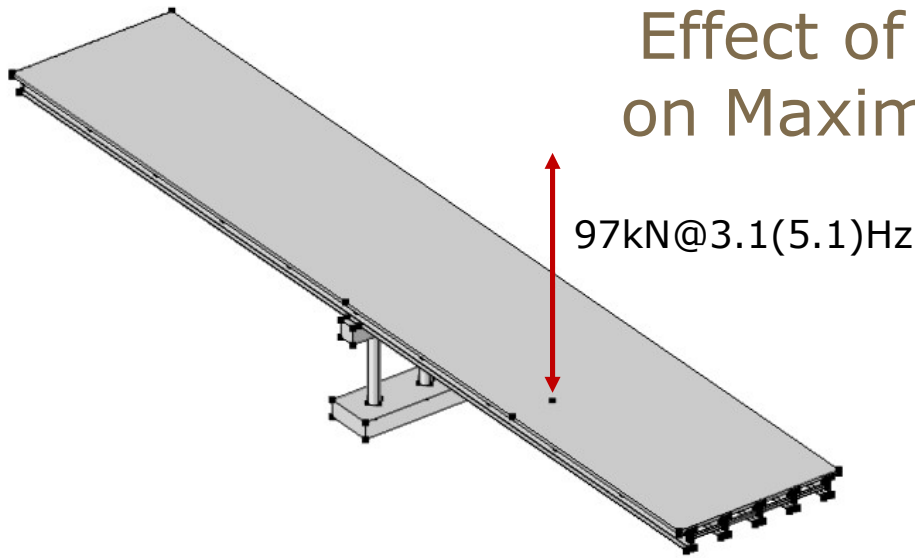
Existing superstructure



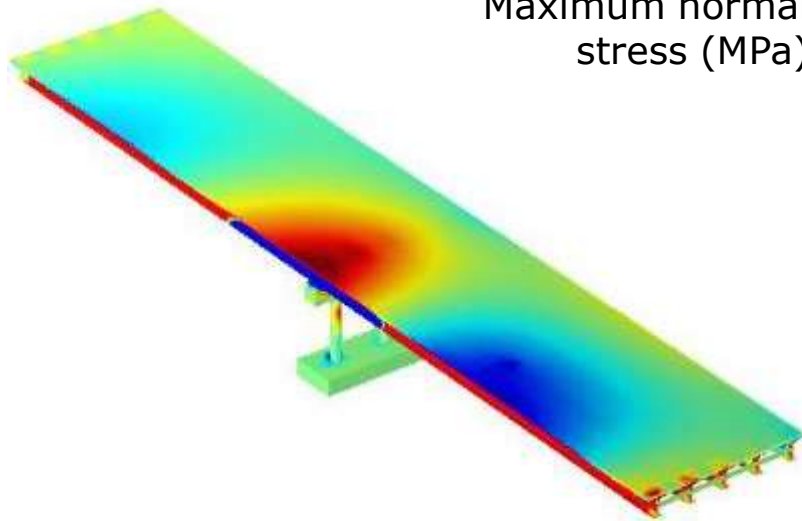
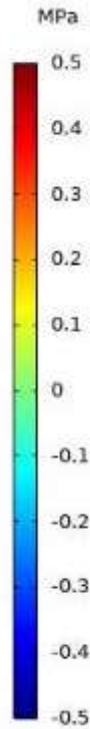
Four times stiffer girders

Effect of Superstructure Stiffness on Maximum Longitudinal Normal Stresses at the Top of the Deck

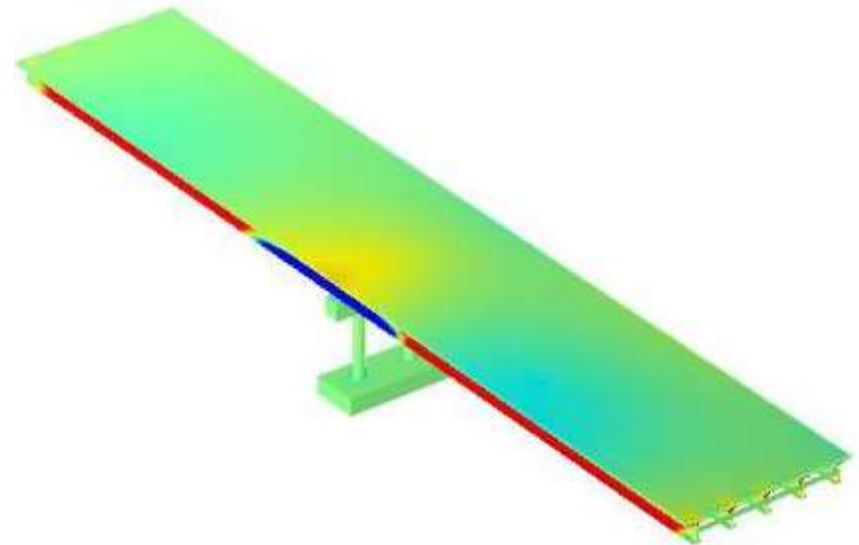
Fixed-base model



Maximum normal stress (MPa)



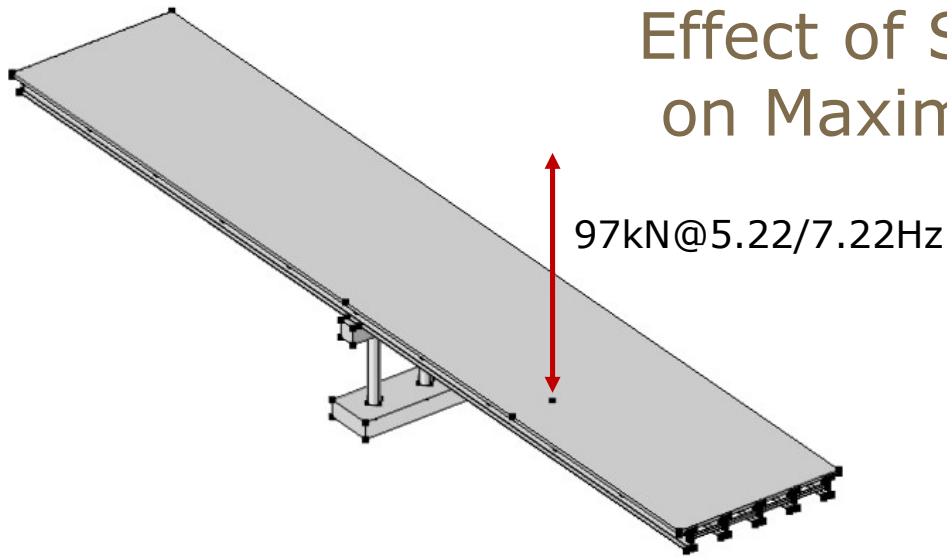
Existing superstructure



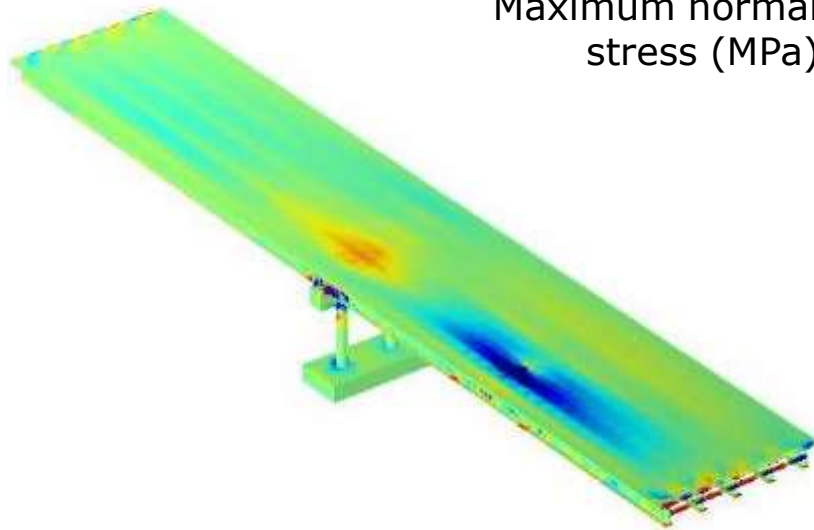
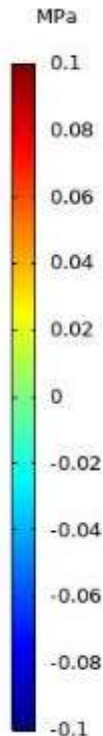
Four times stiffer girders

Effect of Superstructure Stiffness on Maximum Transverse Normal Stresses at the Top of the Deck

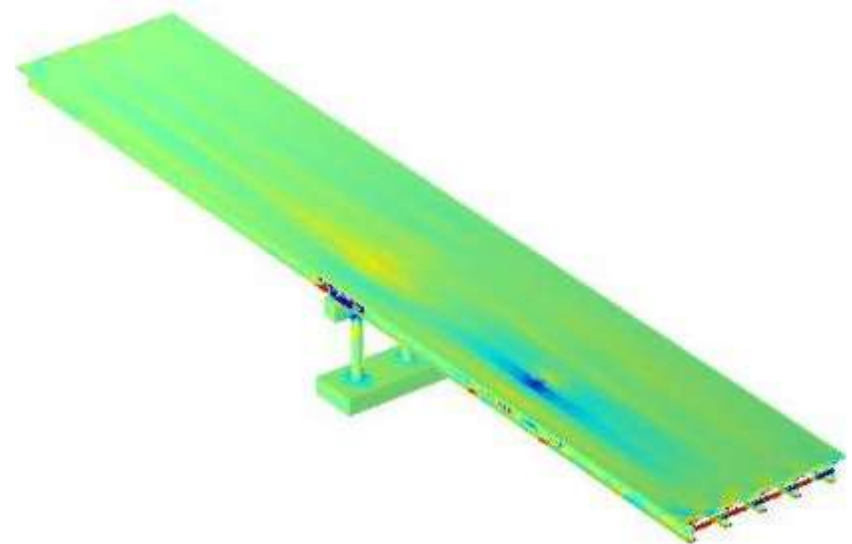
Fixed-base model



Maximum normal stress (MPa)

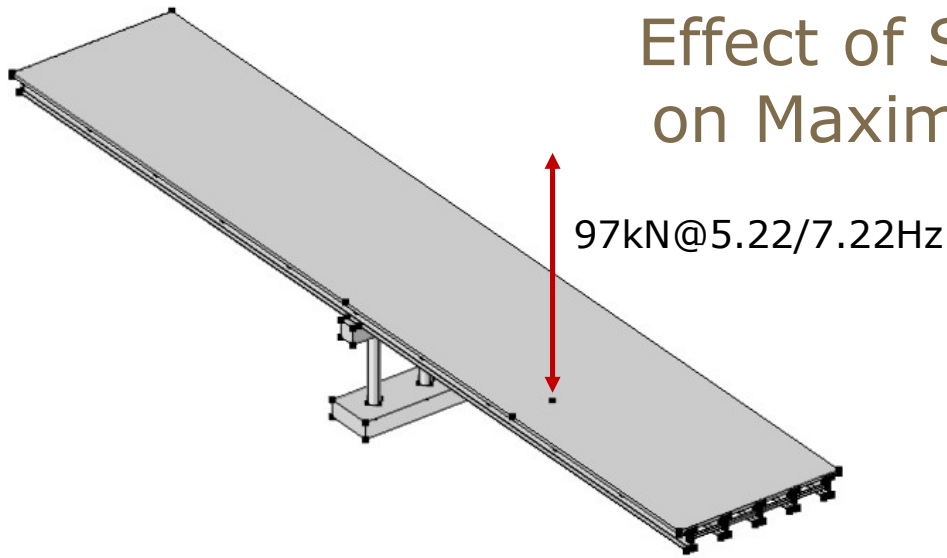


Existing superstructure

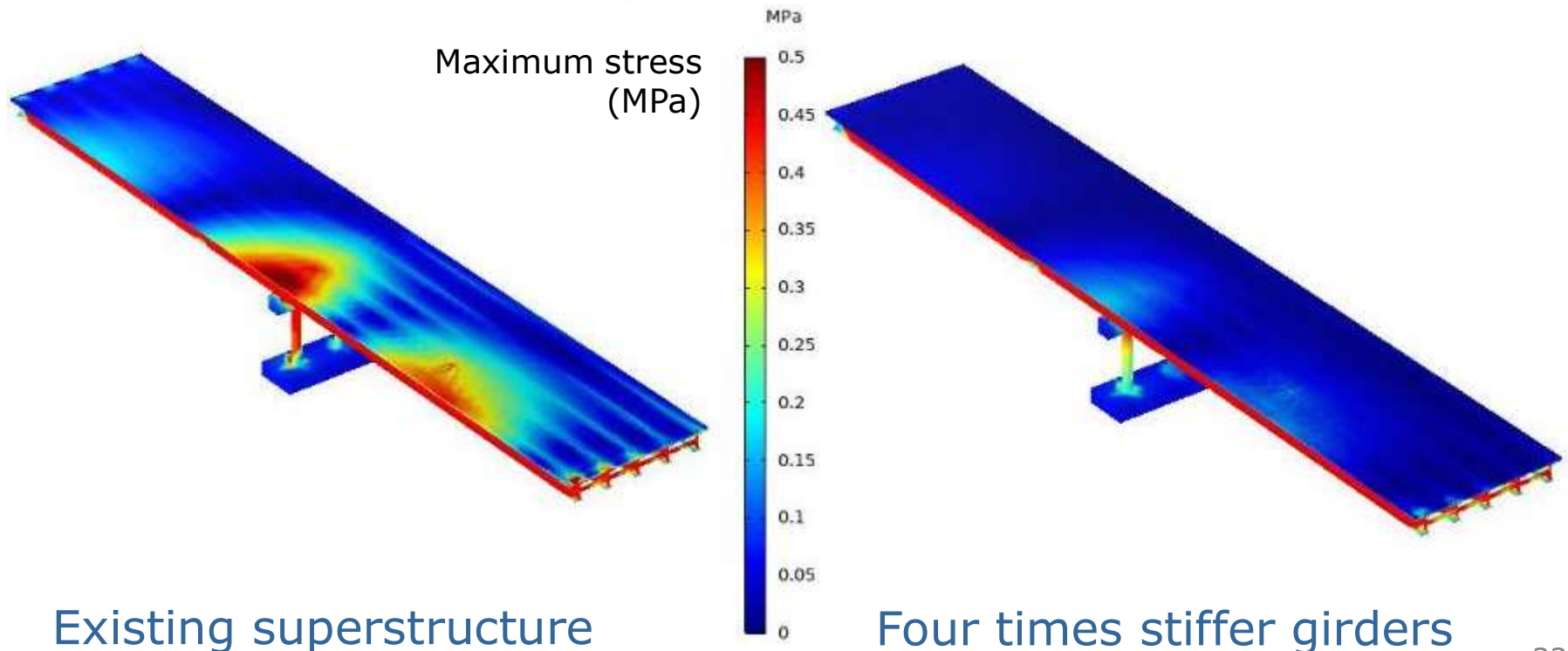


Four times stiffer girders

Effect of Superstructure Stiffness on Maximum Von Mises Stresses at the Top Rebar Level



Fixed-base model





Evaluation of Dynamic Stiffness (Impedance) Functions and Bearing Capacity of Unknown Foundations

Information Needed for Estimation of Dimensions or Bearing Capacity of Unknown Shallow Foundations

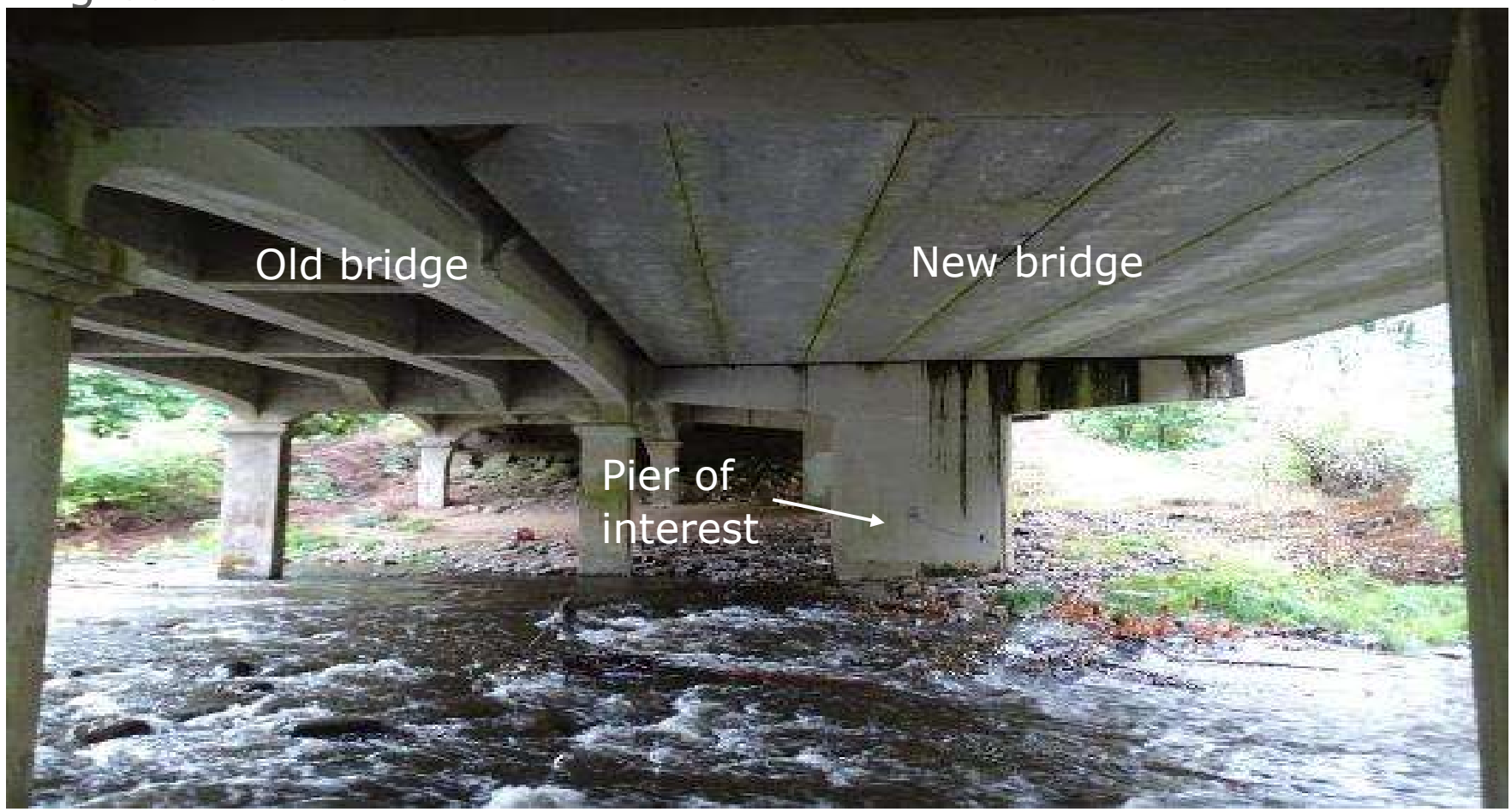
Different scenarios used depending on the missing information, but all rely on matching the experimental response data with those of the simulation model and use of available correlations.

For example:

- **Foundation dimensions** – From the shear wave velocity (modulus) profile and pier column dimensions (to make initial estimates).
- **Bearing capacity**- From the estimated foundation dimensions and correlations between the shear wave velocity and soil strength parameters.

Evaluation of Gate Creek Bridge Foundation, Vida, OR

- Single hammerhead cast-in-place pier on a shallow continuous reinforced concrete footing
- Pier excited vertically right above the pier
- Geophones placed on both the deck and pier near the ground surface



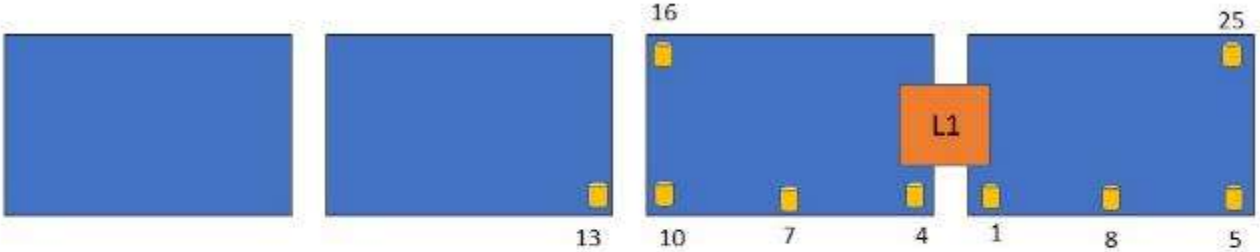
Evaluation of Gate Creek Bridge Foundation, Vida, OR



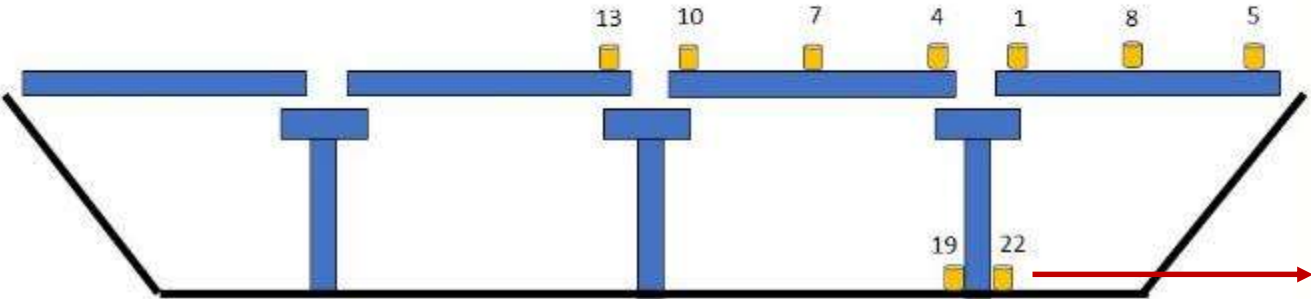
Evaluation of Gate Creek Bridge Foundation, Vida, OR Placement of Geophones

Location 1

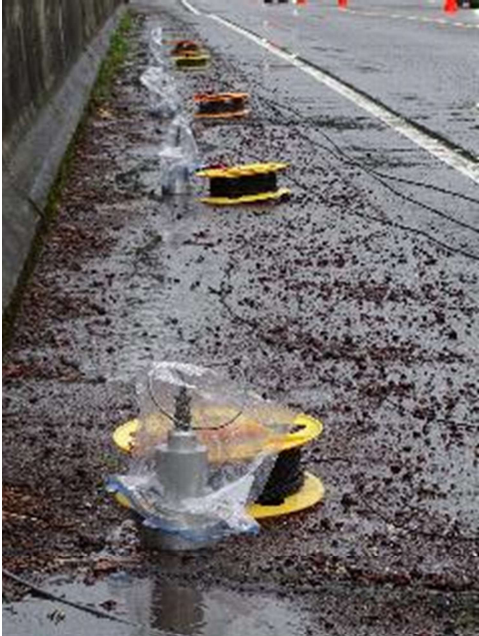
Plan View



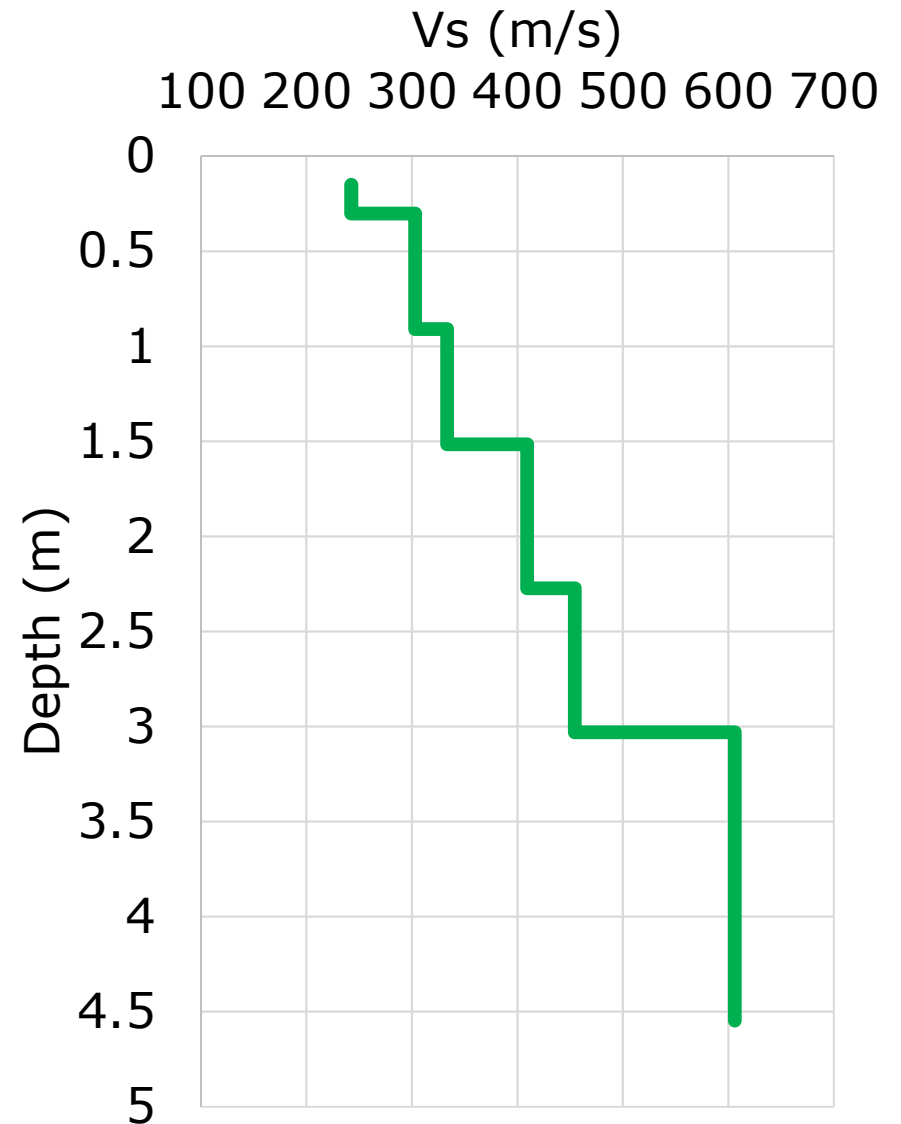
Cross-Sectional View



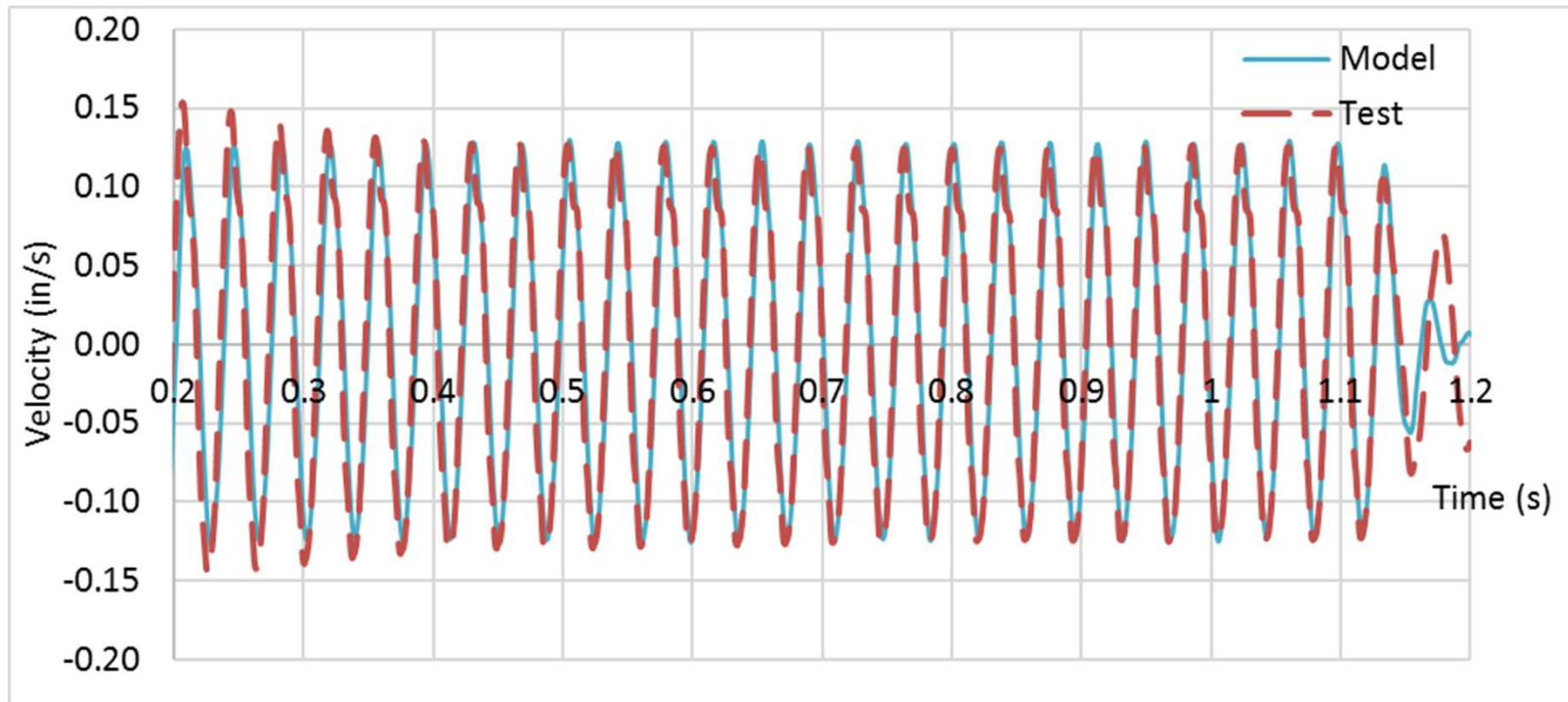
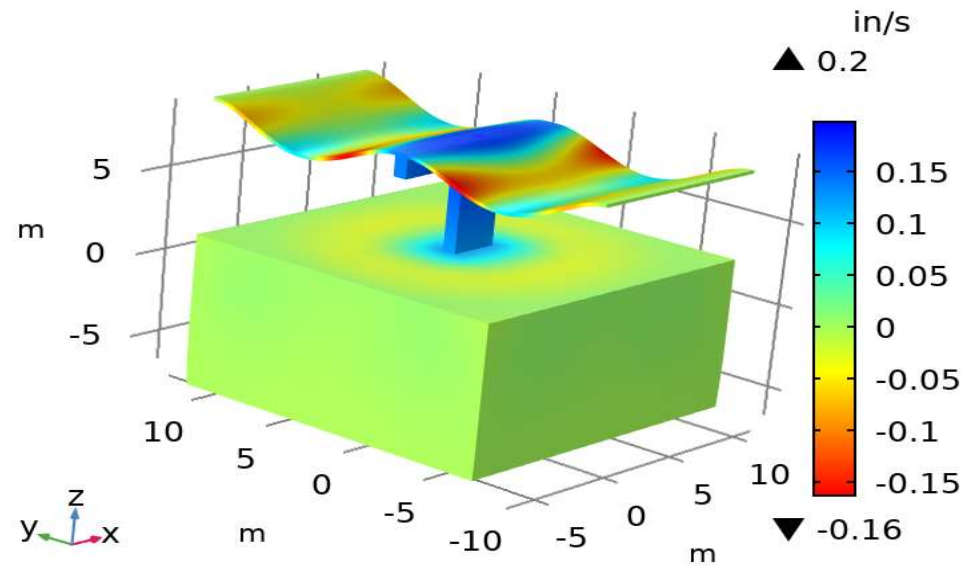
Bent 4



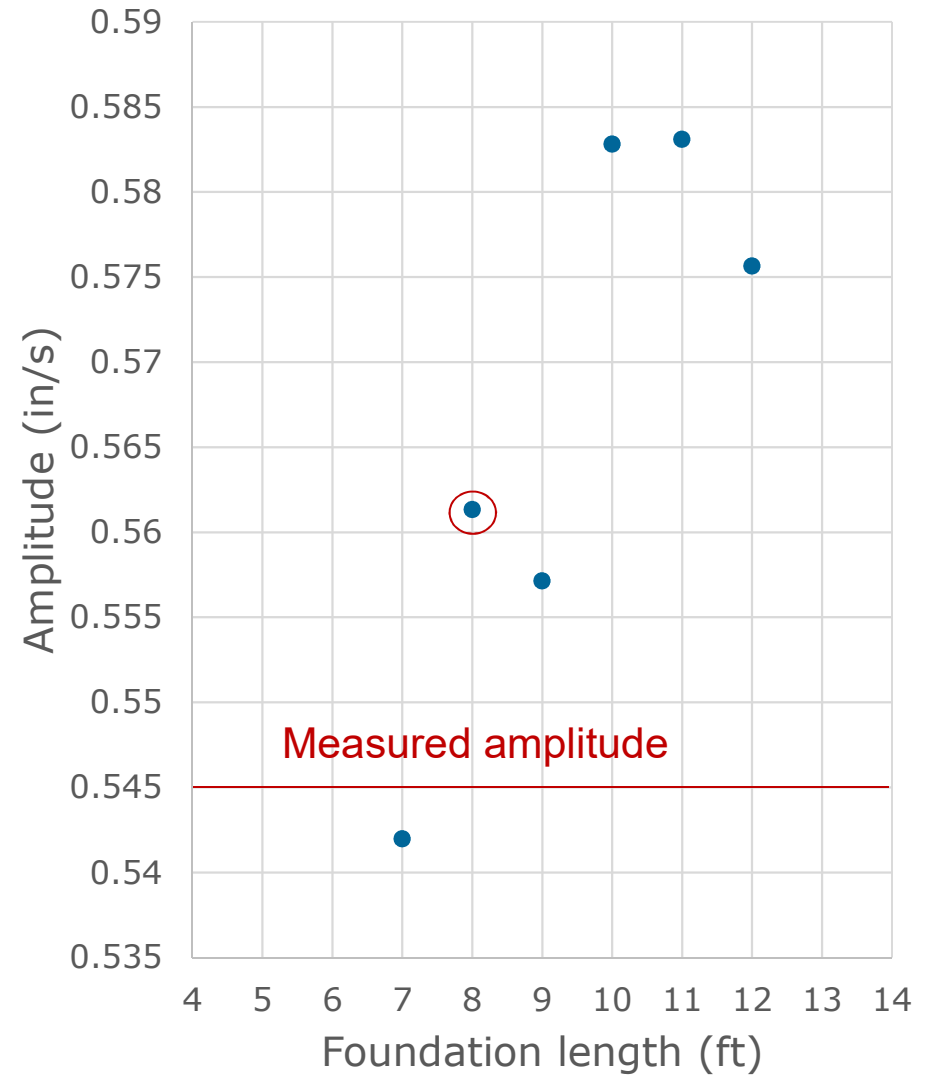
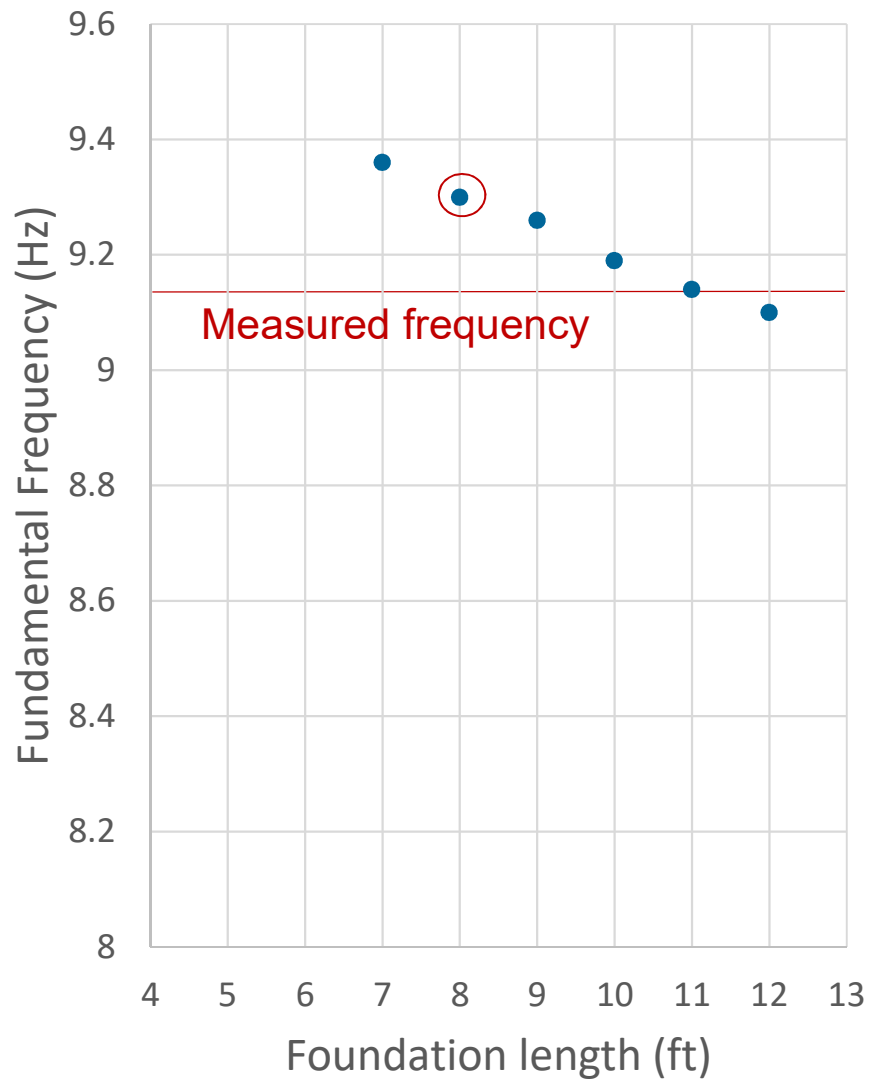
Evaluation of Gate Creek Bridge Foundation, Vida, OR Shear Wave Velocity Profiling by SASW



Evaluation of Gate Creek Bridge Foundation – Matching of Experimental and Numerical Model Results



Evaluation of the Gate Creek Bent 4 Foundation Width



Model assumed foundation length of 15 ft, Vs of 350 m/s, depth of embedment 8 ft.
Pier column was 9 ft by 2.5 ft.

Conclusions

- Large mobile shakers are an effective tool to assess the dynamic characteristics of bridges, including the DSSI effects.
- Increasing the load magnitude improves coherence, provides more clear transfer functions, and leads to better identification of dynamic characteristics.
- The DSSI-incorporated simulation models show an overall better accuracy in terms of capturing the dynamic response of bridges than the fixed base models.
- Evaluation of dynamic stiffness and bearing capacity of unknown foundations using large mobile shakers is promising.

Thank you!

Presented work was supported by the NSF Grant No. 1650170 and USDOT UTC Grant No. 69A3551847102

