

**S**outheastern  
**T**ransportation  
**G**eotechnical  
**E**ngineering  
**C**onference



**Charlotte  
2023**



# GEOTECHNICAL EXPLORATION AND DESIGN FOR THE HAMPTON ROADS BRIDGE-TUNNEL MEGAPROJECT

52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southeastern Transportation  
Geotechnical Engineering Conference  
(STGEC) - 2023  
Charlotte, NC



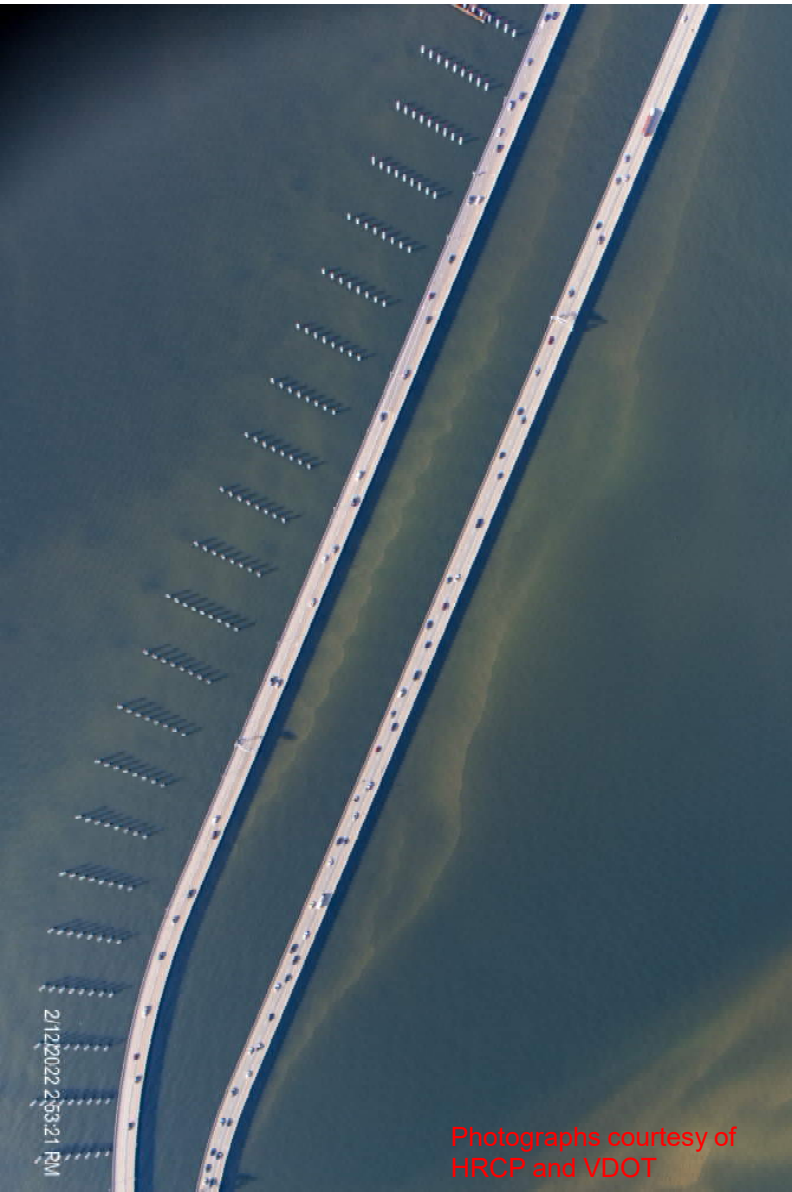
Brian D. Keaney, PE  
November 1, 2023



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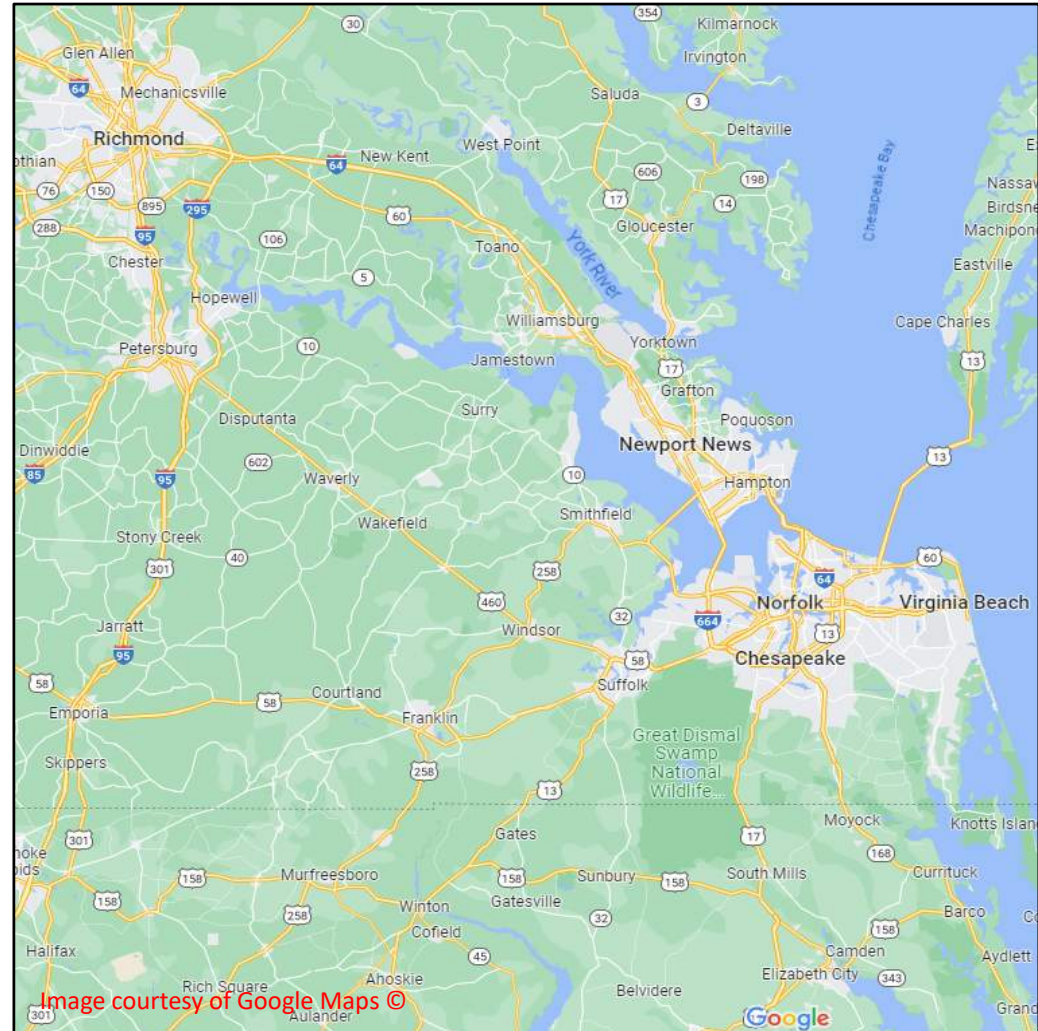
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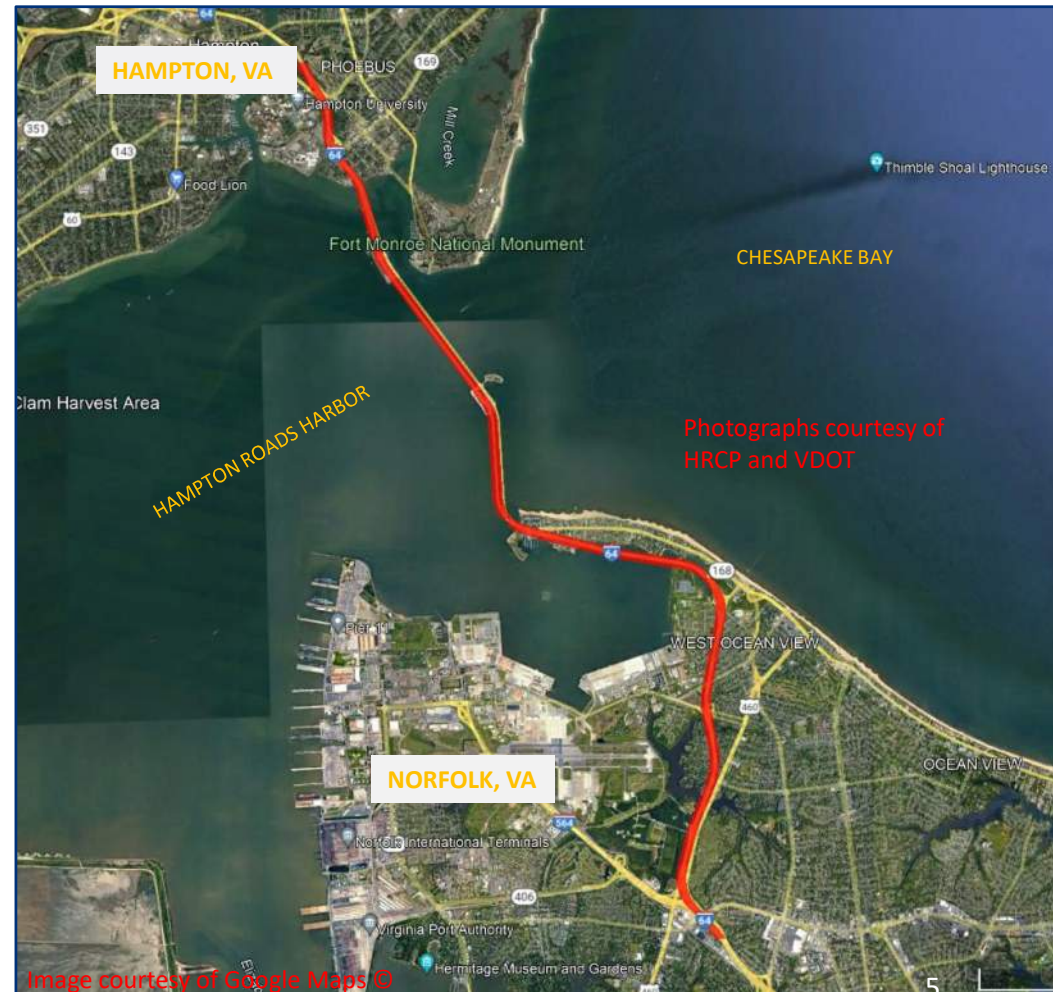
# AGENDA

- I. Project Information and Scope of Work
- II. Geotechnical Explorations
- III. Site Characterization
- IV. Geotechnical Design
- V. Design Services During Construction
- VI. Construction Photos

- I-64 Corridor from Hampton to Norfolk
  - Vital Link to Coastal Virginia
  - Maintains Unimpeded Access to this Key Maritime Corridor
- Regional Population of 1.7 Million
- First Opened in 1957 – 1<sup>st</sup> Underwater Tunnel Crossing between Manmade Islands
- Second Bridge-Tunnel Crossing Opened in 1976



- Almost 10 miles of Interstate Widening
- Roadway Widening
  - Existing: 4 lanes with two tunnels
  - Future: 6 lanes (+ driveable shoulder) on land with 8 lanes over/under water
- 2 New Bored Tunnels, Tunnel Approach Structures, and Island Expansions
- 1 Bridge Overpass Replacement
- 4 Overwater Trestle Replacements
  - 3 Temp MOT Bridges
- 6 Overwater Trestle Widening
- 17 Overpass Bridge Widening\*  
(All designed but 3 de-scoped)
- Retaining Walls, Sound Barrier Walls, & Miscellaneous Structures



- Owner is Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- \$3.9 Billion Design-Build Contract
- Design-Build Team is Hampton Roads Connector Partners (HRCP)
- Construction Joint Venture (CJV)
  - Dragados USA
  - Flatiron Constructors
  - Vinci Construction
  - Dodin Campenon Bernard
- Design Joint Venture (DJV)
  - HDR, Inc.
  - Mott MacDonald

[Homepage - Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project \(hrbtexpansion.org\)](http://hrbtexpansion.org)



# HDR SCOPE OF SERVICES



Roadway



ROW & Environmental



Drainage & Utilities



Structural



Geotechnical



Traffic & MOT



Lighting & ITS



Signage & Pavement  
Marking



Landscape &  
Aesthetics



BIM-3D Modeling

## Geotechnical Exploration Plan (GEP)

- Supplemental Information
- VDOT MOI, Chapter III – Geotechnical Engineering
- AASHTO Guidelines

## Marine Program

- Tunnels & Islands
- Trestles

## Landside Program

- Roadway
- Pavements
- Bridges
- Retaining & Sound Barrier Walls
- Utility/Drainage Locations
- Overhead Signs/ITS
- Other Miscellaneous Structures



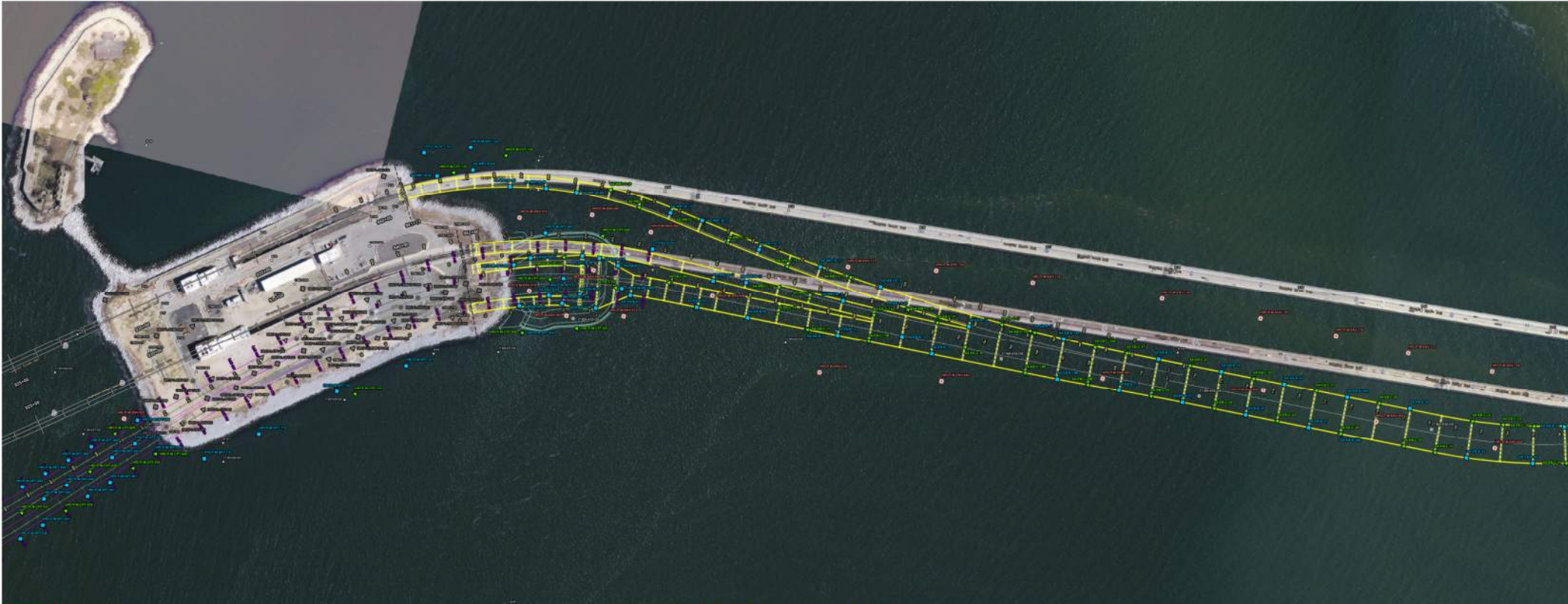


### BORING ID KEY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM

<p><b>TRESTLE BORINGS</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A. Direction</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">B. Pier Number</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">C. Identifier</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A-B-C-D-E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">C. Evaluation Year</div> </div>	<p><b>Field Descriptions</b></p> <p>A. Bridge Segment - Bridge Name          B. Direction - Direction of travel          C. Exploration Type - Exploration Type (CPT or SPT)          D. Pier Number - Unique Pier Number          E. Identifier - Boring identifier for piers with 2 or more borings</p>	<p><b>Code Definitions</b></p> <p><b>A. Bridge Segment</b>          SA - South Approach          WB - Wroughtway Bay</p> <p><b>B. Direction</b>          EB - Eastbound          WB - Westbound          NB - Northbound          SB - Southbound</p> <p><b>C. Exploration Type</b>          C - CPT          ENV - Environmental</p>
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<p><b>SEGMENT 2A BORINGS</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">M</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">C</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">M-C-E</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">C. Exploration Type</div> </div>	<p><b>Code Definitions</b></p> <p><b>A. Bridge Segment</b>          SA - South Approach          WB - Wroughtway Bay</p> <p><b>B. Direction</b>          EB - Eastbound          WB - Westbound          NB - Northbound          SB - Southbound</p> <p><b>C. Exploration Type</b>          C - CPT          ENV - Environmental</p>
---	---



## ■ Marine Investigation

- Completed between October 2019 and May 2020
- 477 Exploration Points Completed in this time
- Over 56,000 feet (includes Island explorations)
- SPT, CPT, Environmental, Geophysical
  - DMT, Seismic Cone
  - 5 Subcontractors
- Up to six different drill platforms working daily
- Day and Night Shifts
- About 20 different staff worked in field

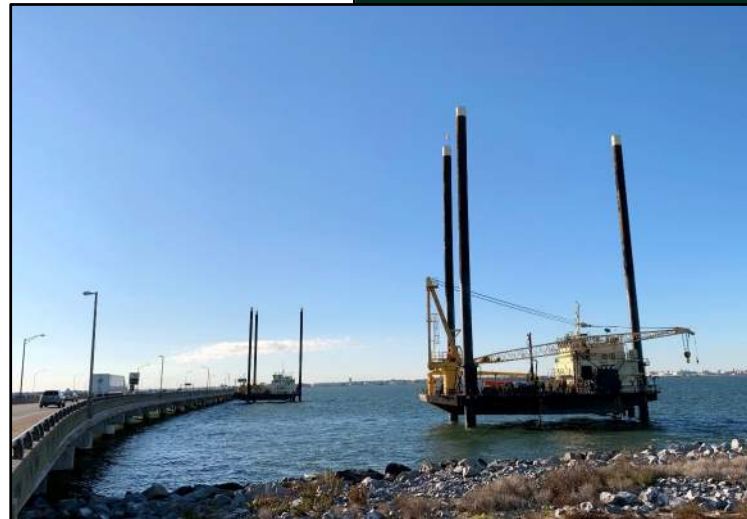


Image courtesy of Google Maps ©



**BORING ID KEY**

**Land Borings**

A. Segment #    B. Exploration Type    C. Direction    D. Purpose    E. Lane Location    F. Number    G. Station

**Land Bridge Borings**

A. Segment #    B. Exploration Type    C. Direction    D. Purpose    E. Lane Location    F. Number    G. Station

**Field Descriptions**

A. Segment Number - Segment of HRBT Project  
 B. Exploration Type - Exploration Type (CPT or SPT)  
 C. Direction - Direction of travel  
 D. Purpose - Purpose of boring (e.g., soil testing, etc.)  
 E. Lane Location - Location of boring (e.g., inside, outside, etc.)  
 F. Number - Boring number (by Purpose in sequence)  
 G. Station - Stationing (e.g., 1+00, 1+50, etc.)

**Code Definitions**

**B. Exploration Type**  
 S - SPT  
 C - CPT

**C. Direction**  
 SB - Southbound  
 NB - Northbound

**D. Purpose**  
 SS - Soil Sample  
 ST - Soil Test  
 SW - Soil Water  
 WS - Water Sample  
 WM - Water Management  
 WL - Water Level

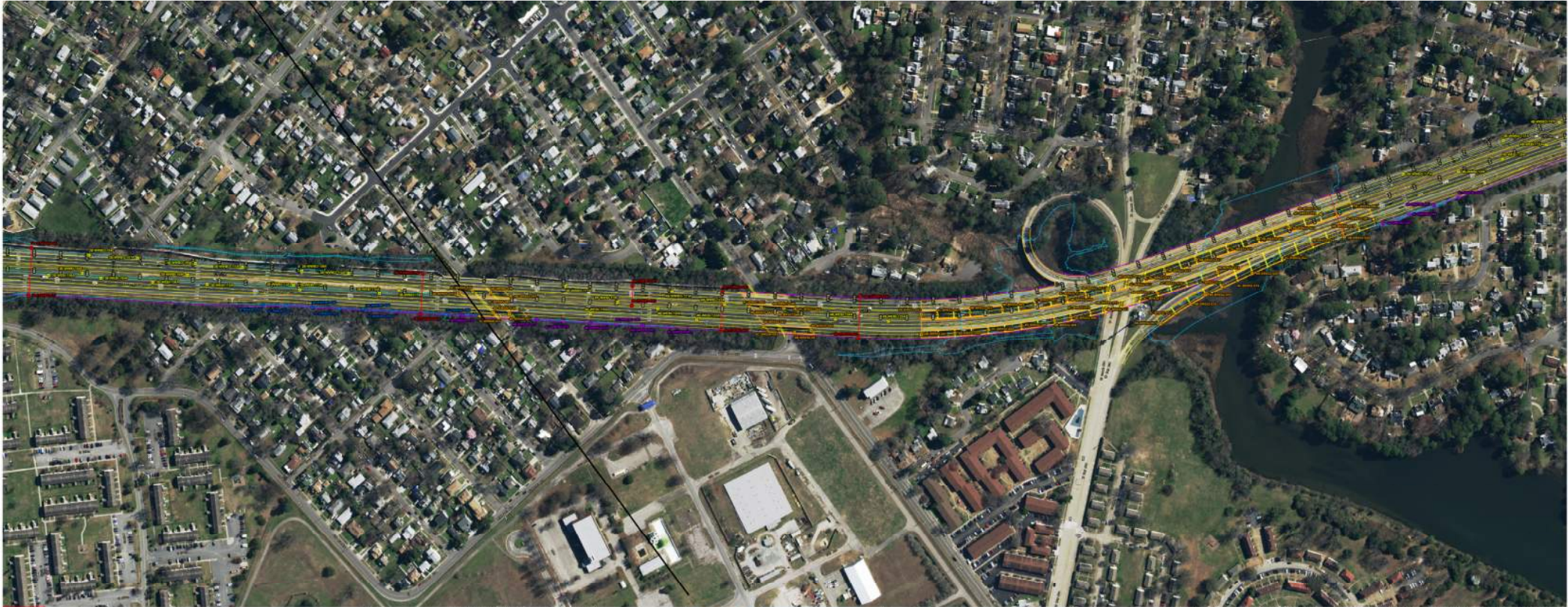
**E. Lane Location**  
 I - Inside Lanes  
 O - Outside Lanes  
 R - Ramp

**BORINGS SUMMARY**

Segment	SPT	CPT	Existing Borings	Total (New)	Total (All)
1	52	14	8	66	102
3	181	45	8	234	278
4	116	52	8	176	176
5	150	24	3	177	197

HR Purpose	Bridge	ITS	Retaining Walls	Sound Walls	Stormwater Management	Flow/Leakage	Existing
Segment 1	1	13	22	2	4	46	8
Segment 3	33	23	41	32	4	77	9
Segment 4	88	12	4	28	8	27	8
Segment 5	22	28	38	0	0	41	3



**Borings**

- SPT
- CPT
- SPT and CPT
- Bridge
- Retaining Wall
- Sound Wall
- Flow/Leakage

**Road and Bridge Design**

- Retaining Wall
- Bridge
- Flow/Leakage
- Sound Wall
- Flow/Leakage

**Subsidence**

- Subsidence



DATA SOURCE:  
 VGIN,  
 ESRI World Transportation

## ■ Landside Investigations

- Completed between July 2019 and August 2020
- 821 Exploration Points Completed in this time
- Over 42,000 feet
- SPT, CPT, Pavement Coring
  - Environmental sampling
  - DMT, Seismic Cone, DCP
  - 4 Subcontractors
- Up to 3 Drilling Platforms at once
- Day and Nighttime Operations with Traffic Control



Image courtesy of Google Maps ©

# Barge Work and Night Work





# Marsh Work & Difficult Terrain

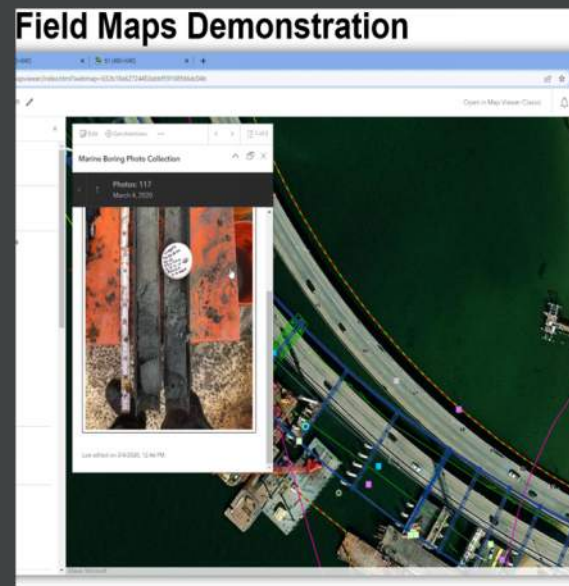
- Existing Information
- Planning and Permitting
- Mobilization and Access
- Staff Training and Safety
- Coordination and Stakeholders
- Managing Data and Samples
- ArcGIS
  - Field Maps App
  - Survey123 App
- Real-time Access of Information & Online Progress Dashboard



Data Collection and Reporting:  
*Field Mobility and Survey Solutions*

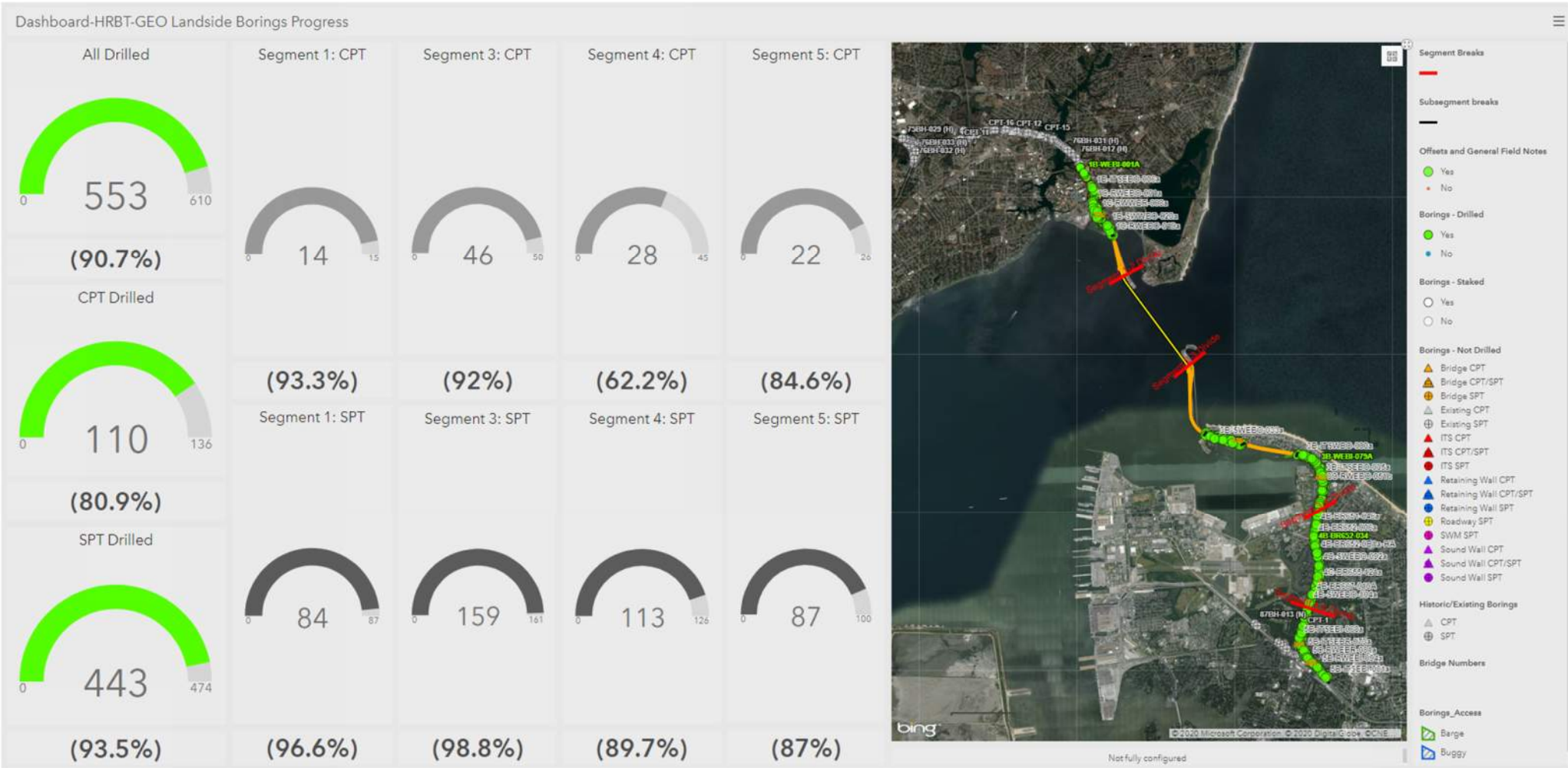
## Data Collection Apps

- Field Maps/Collector (Map-centric)
  - Preconfigured maps and collection forms
  - Capture location & condition
  - Appends photos and videos
  - Real-time and off-line collection
- Survey123 (Form-centric)
  - "Smart" forms with skip logic, defaults, and support for multiple languages
  - Collect data via web or mobile devices
  - On-the-fly analysis and reporting



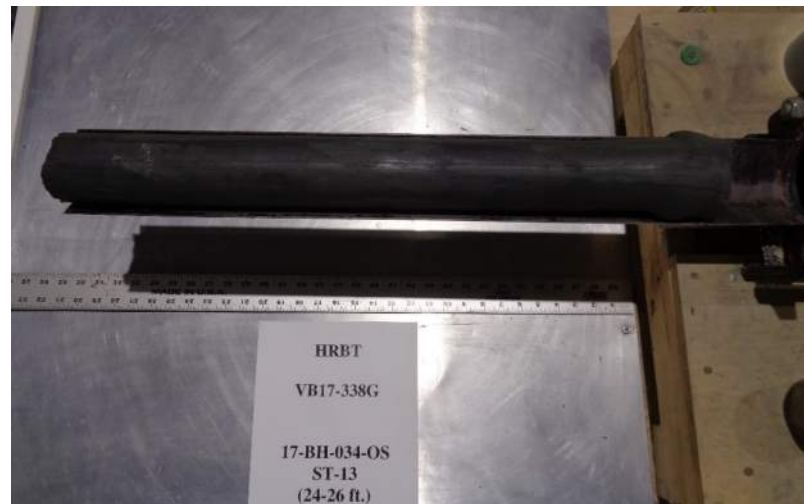


# Presentations & Progress Updates



# LABORATORY TESTING PROGRAM

- Index Testing (MC, AL, Grain Size, Unit Weight, Specific Gravity)
- Strength Testing (CU, UU, UCS, DS)
- Consolidation Testing
- Earthwork Type Testing (Proctor, CBR, Mr)
- Corrosivity Testing
- Organic Content
- Other Specialty Testing



- Coastal Plain Physiographic Province
- Artificial Fill soils (Islands and Embankments)
- Alluvial Soils
- Tabb Formation
  - Lynnhaven & Sedgefield Members
- Yorktown Formation

Geologic Stratum 1978 (Historic)	Geologic Stratum 1989 (Current)	Geologic Age (Period, Epoch)	Geologic Origin for HDR Boring Logs
Fill	Fill	N/A	Fill, Af
Alluvium	Alluvium	Quaternary Holocene	Alluvium Qac = coarse-grained Qaf = fine-grained Qao = organic, fine-grained
Tabb Formation	Tabb Formation Lynnhaven Member	Quaternary Pleistocene	Tabb Formation Qtc = coarse-grained Qtf = fine-grained Qto = organic, fine-grained
Sand Bridge Formation	Tabb Formation Sedgefield Member		
Norfolk Formation			
Yorktown Formation	Yorktown Formation	Tertiary Pliocene	Yorktown Formation Tys = coarse-grained Tyf = fine-grained

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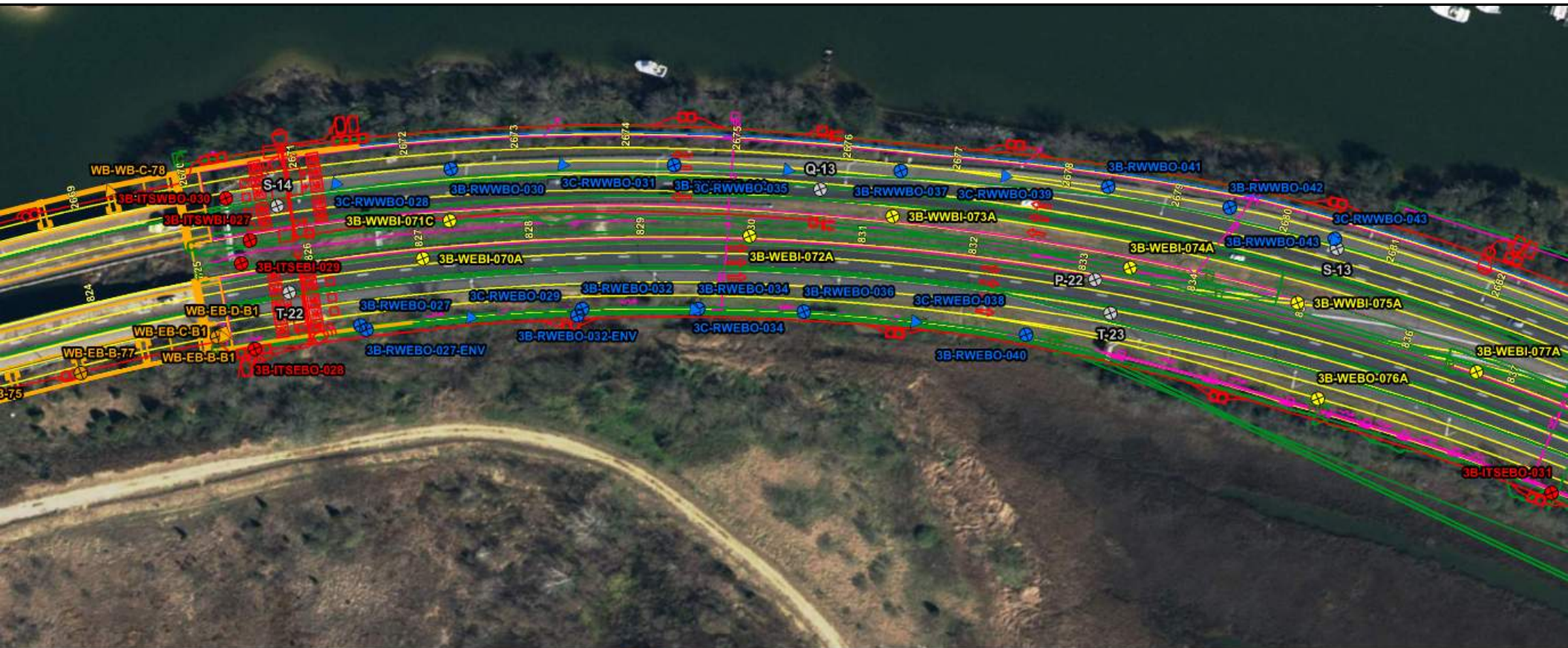
1.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION .....	1
2.0	OBJECTIVE .....	1
3.0	SITE GEOLOGY .....	2
4.0	SUBSURFACE EXPLORATION .....	4
5.0	LABORATORY TESTING .....	5
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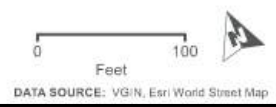
### APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Site Vicinity Map and Subsurface Profiles
- Appendix B – Site Characterization Figures and Plots
- Appendix C – Laboratory Strength Testing
- Appendix D – Laboratory Consolidation Testing
- Appendix E – CPT Pore Pressure Dissipation Testing

# SITE EXPLORATION PLANS



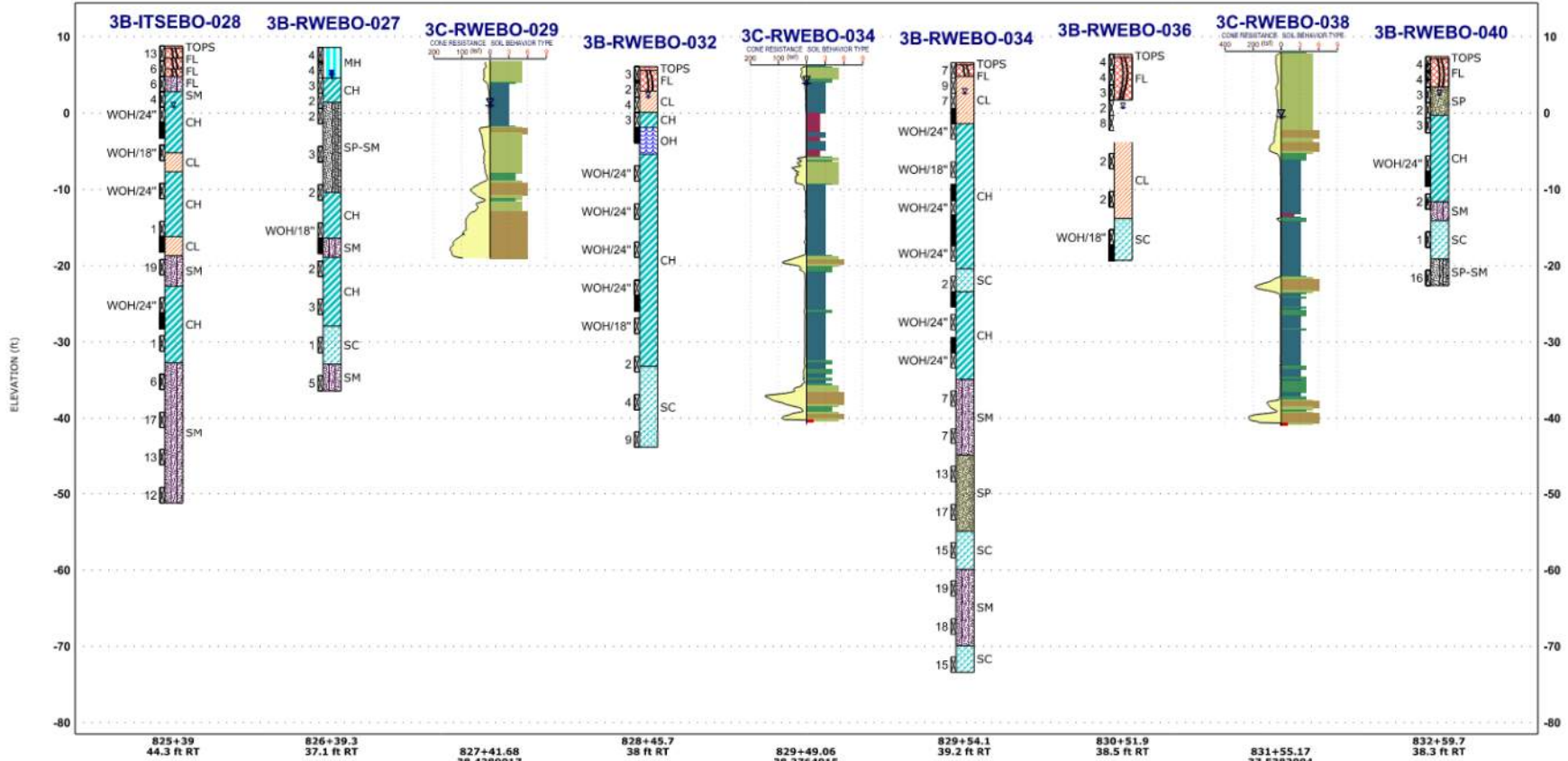
- DCP    ⊕ SPT
- DMT    △ CPT Sounding
- Bridge
- Retaining Wall
- Soundwall
- ITS
- Roadway
- SWM



**I-64 HAMPTON ROADS BRIDGE-TUNNEL EXPANSION PROJECT**  
**FIGURE A-2: SEGMENT 3B AND 3D EXPLORATION LOCATION PLAN**

Figure A-11 - Subsurface Profile at Wall RW 308, DS 3-5

FHWA REGION	STATE	FEDERAL AID		STATE		SHEET NO.
		ROUTE	PROJECT	ROUTE	PROJECT	
3	VA.					



NORMALIZED SOIL BEHAVIOR TYPE (Robertson, 2009)

- 1 Sensitive, fine grained
- 2 Organic silts - clay
- 3 Clays - silty clay to clay
- 4 Silt mixtures - clayey silt to silty clay
- 5 Sand mixtures - silty sand to sandy silt
- 6 Sands - clean sand to silty sand
- 7 Gravelly sand to dense sand
- 8 Very soft sand to clayey sand
- 9 Very soft, fine grained

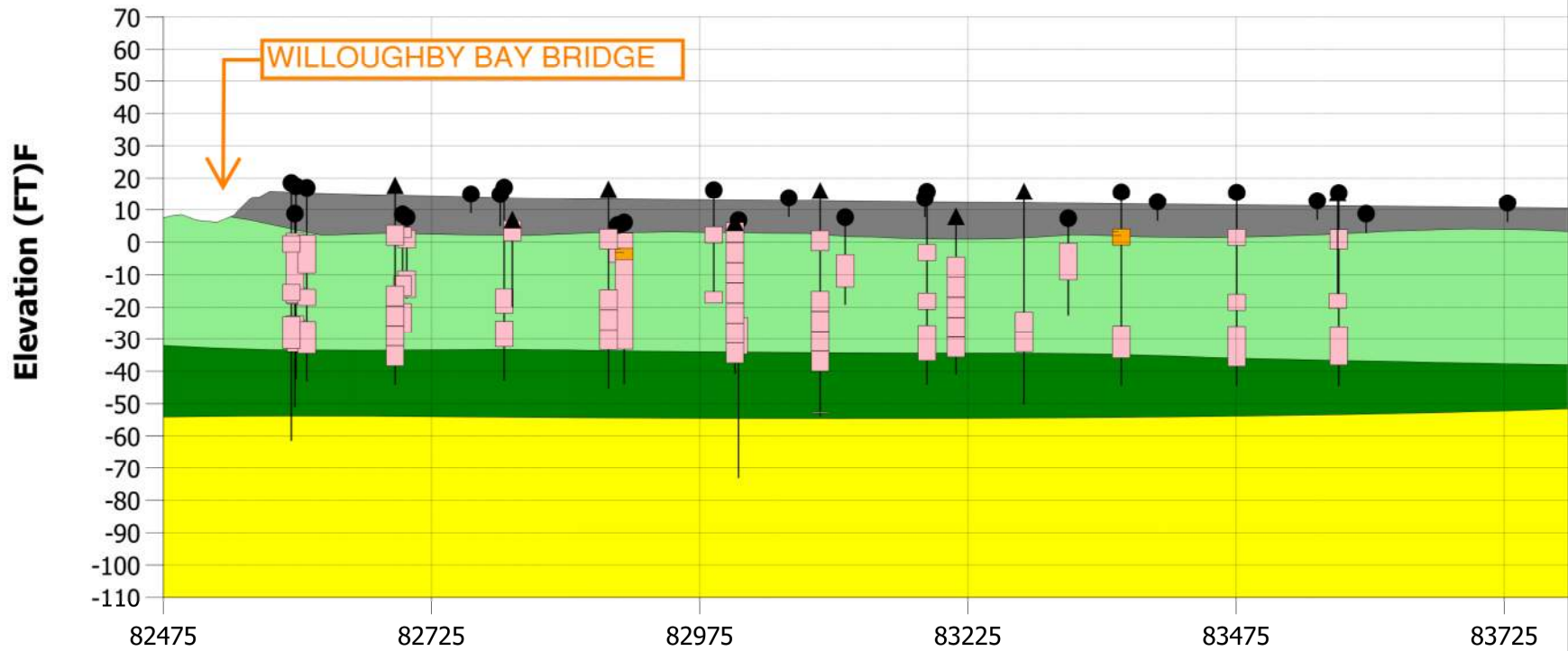
Notes: See borehole logs for complete data. See Material and Sample Symbols List.

The subsurface information shown on the boring logs (SPL) and cone penetrometer tests (CPT) in these plans was obtained with reasonable care and recorded in good faith solely for use by the Department in establishing design criteria for the project. The Department has no reason to suspect that such information is not reasonably accurate as an approximate indication of the subsurface conditions at the sites where the borings were taken. The Department does not in any way warrant or guarantee that such data can be proposed as indicative of conditions beyond the limits of the borings shown, and any such projections by holders are purely interpretive and altogether unsupported. Further, the Department does not in any way guarantee, either expressly or by implication, the accuracy of the information for any purpose.

The SPL and CPT logs are made available to bidders in order that they may have access to subsurface data identical to that which is possessed by the Department, and are not intended as a substitute for personal investigation, interpretation and judgment by the bidders.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION					
MATERIALS DIVISION					
0064-M06-0032 ENGINEERING GEOLOGY					
No.	Description	Date	By (Drawn/Logged/Checked)	Date	Plan No. / Sheet No.
	Revisions				

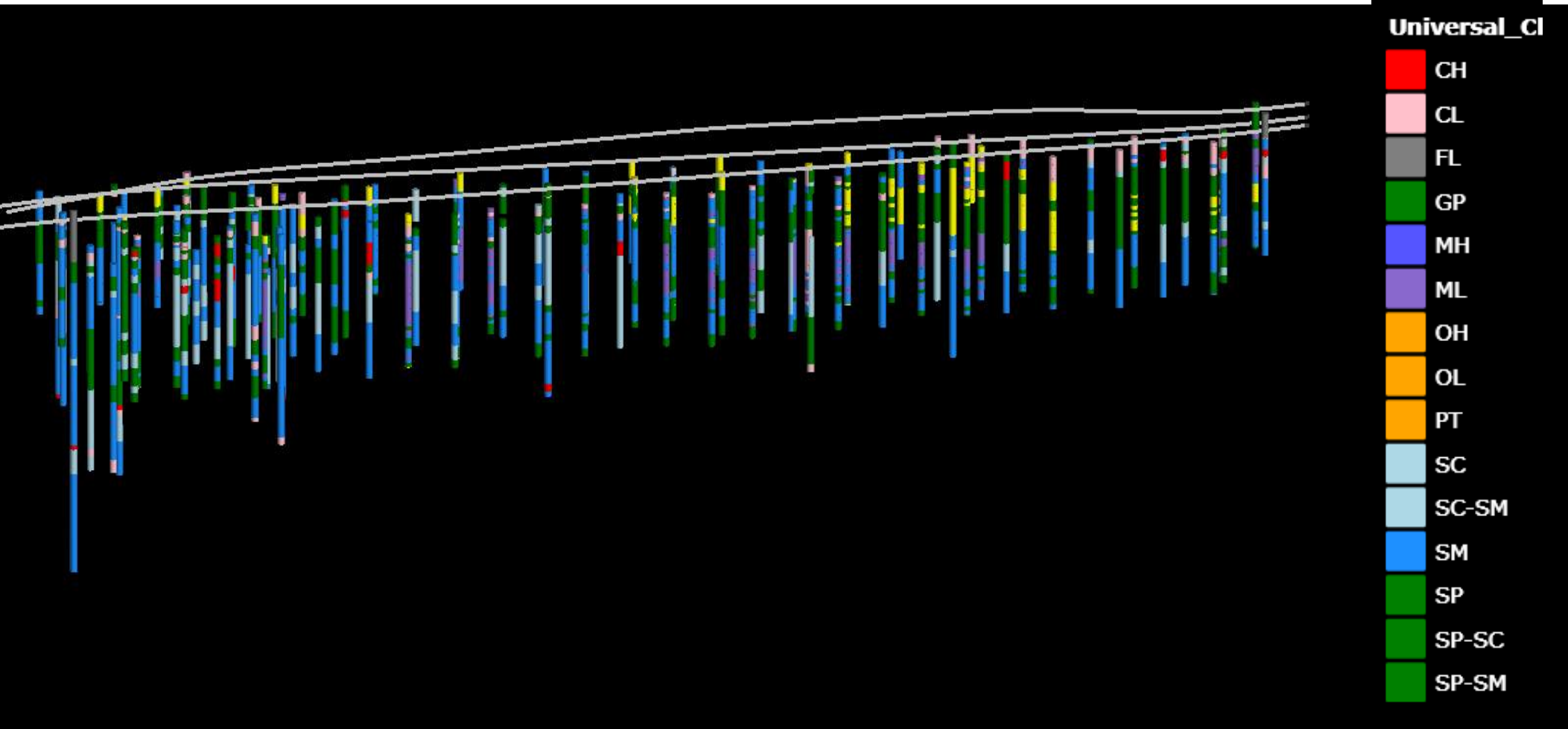
# STA 824+75



<b>Legend</b>		
<b>Geologic Model</b>	<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Boring Symbols</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: grey; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fill (FL)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Alluvial (Qc, Qf, Qo)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: darkgreen; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Tabb Formation (Qtc, Qtf, Qto)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Yorktown Formation (Tys)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Fine-Grained (CH, CL, MH, ML)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Organic Soils (OL, OH, OL/OH)</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> PEAT (PT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Historic CPT Sounding</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: black; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> HDR CPT Sounding</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Historic SPT Sounding</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: black; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> HDR SPT Sounding</li> </ul>

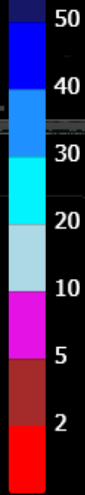
# NORTH TRESTLE DATA

SOIL TYPE



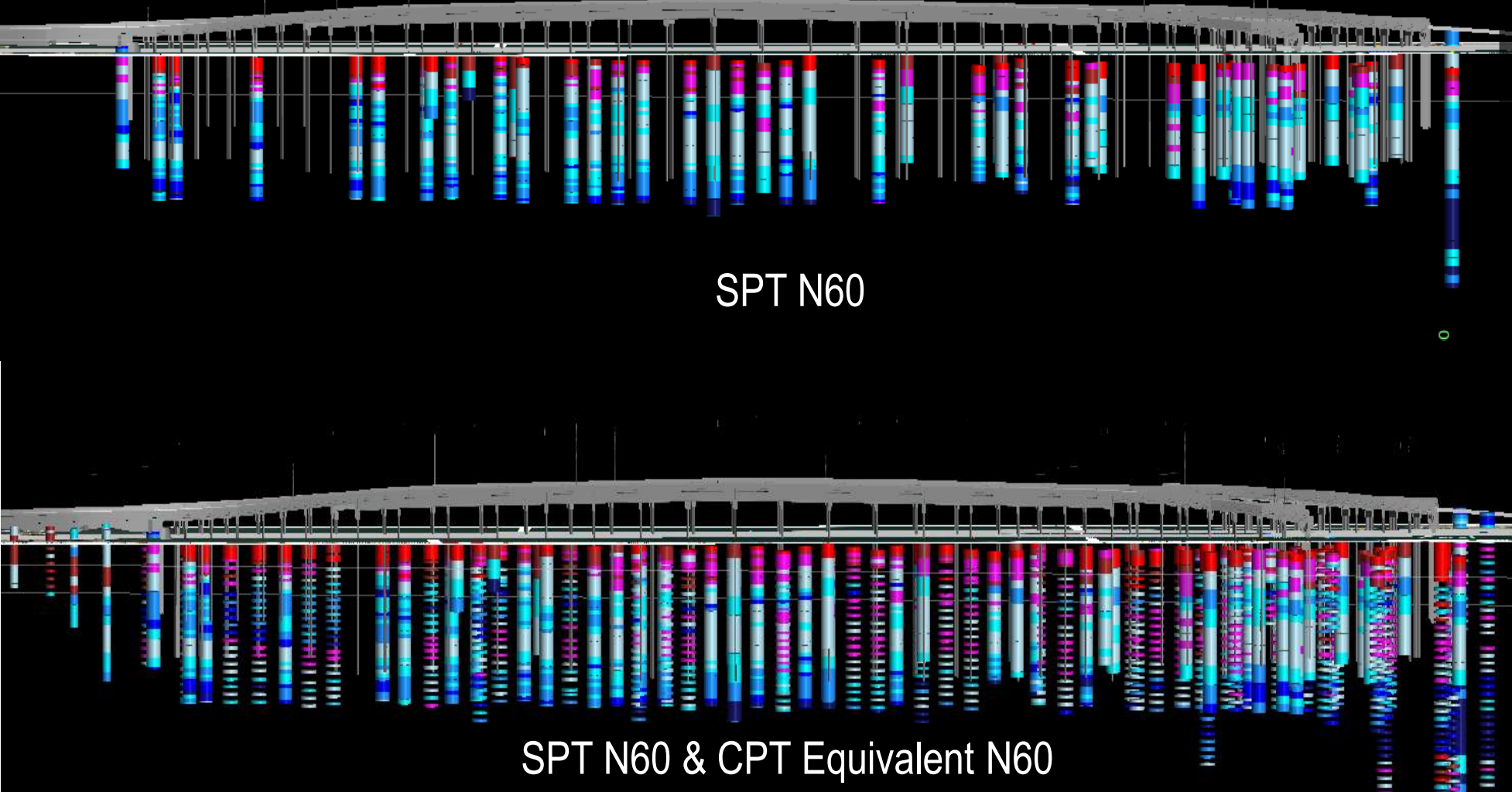
# North Trestle Leapfrog Model

N60



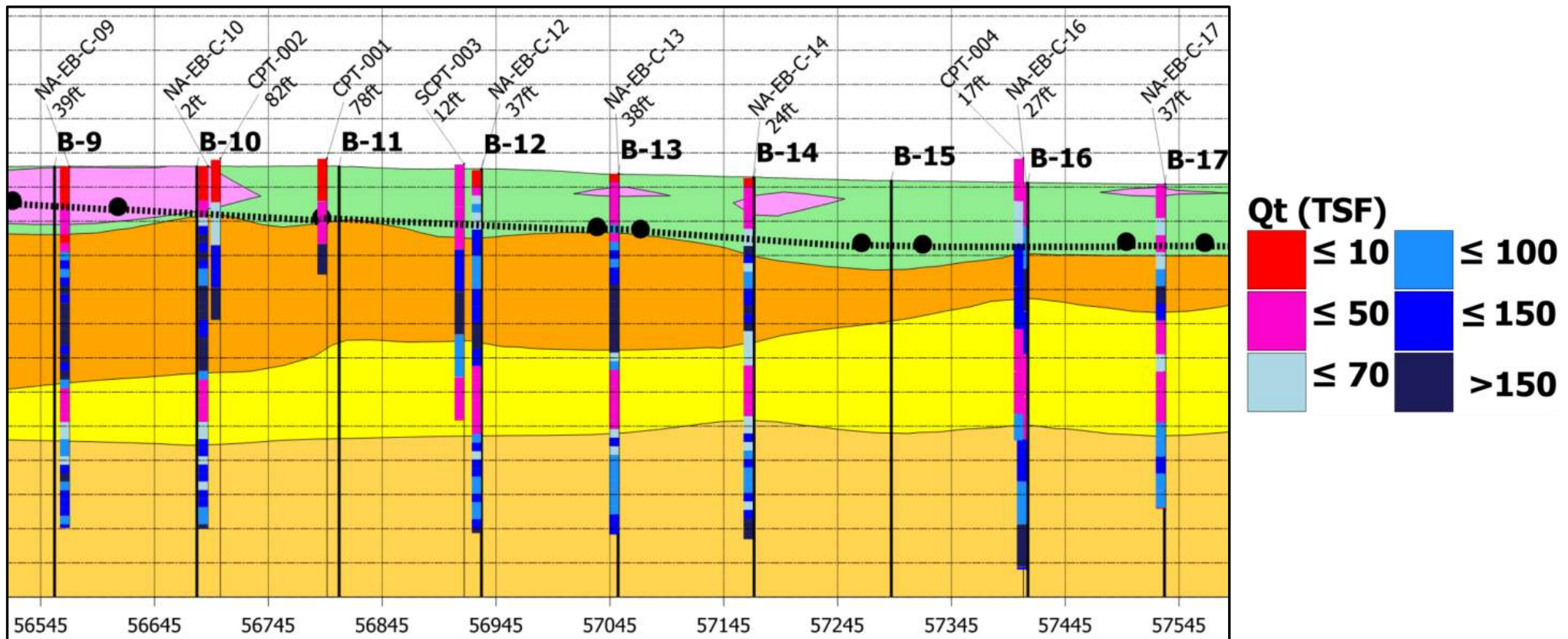
SPT N60

SPT N60 & CPT Equivalent N60

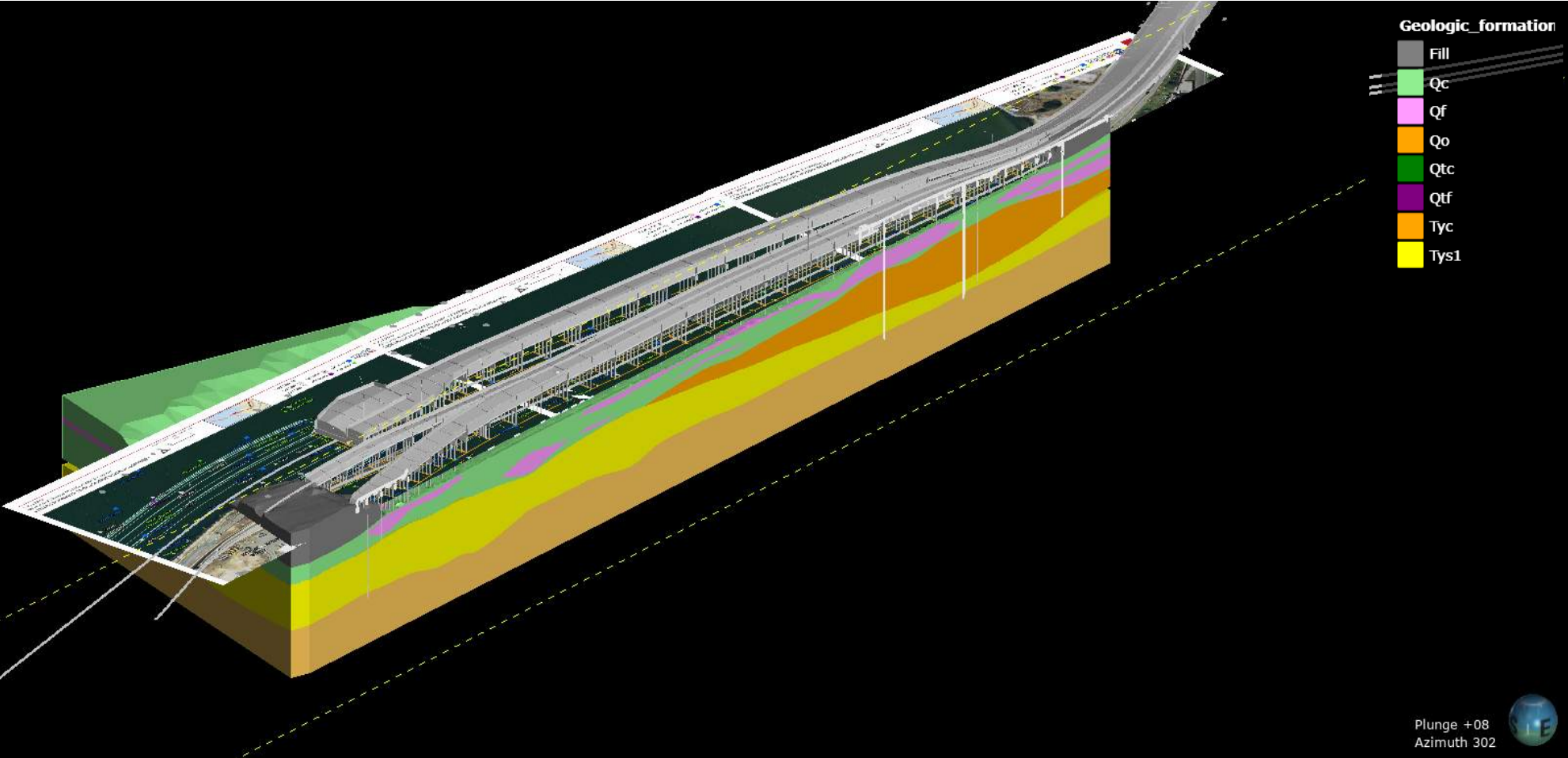




# COMMUNICATE VARIABILITY THROUGH VISUALIZATIONS



# NORTH TRESTLE MODEL



# GENERALIZED GEOLOGY – TRESTLES AREAS

Surface Water 10 to 35 ft deep

Alluvial: Loose / soft sand and clay 10 to 30 ft thick

Tabb Formation: Loose to dense sand and interbedded soft to firm clay 0 to 40 ft thick

Yorktown Formation: Loose to medium dense silty / clayey sand beneath Tabb to ~180 ft depth  
Very high excess pore pressures when pile driving and CPT soundings

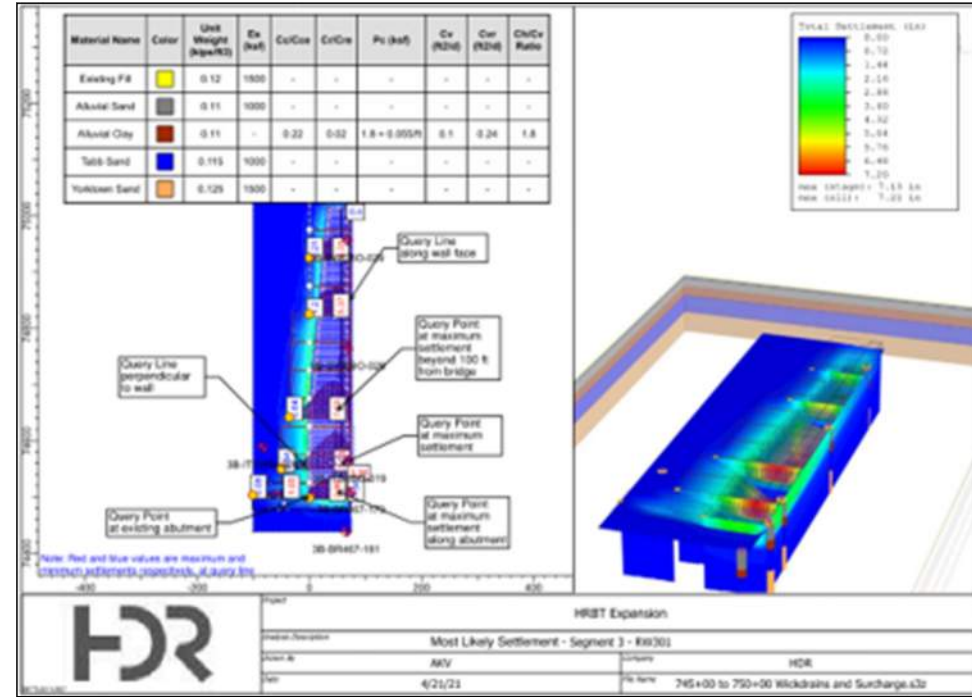
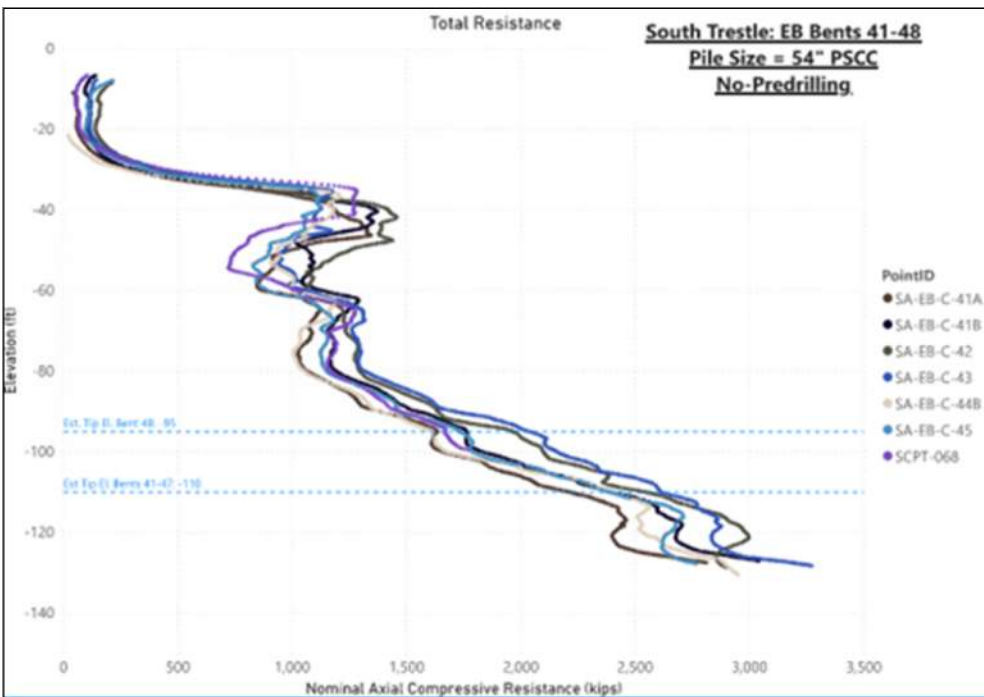
- Stage 1 – Preliminary
- Stage 2 – Final/RFC
- Design Soil Parameters
- Geotechnical Engineering Reporting (GER)
  - Roadways
    - Seismic
    - Pavements
    - Earthwork & Slopes - Embankments/Cuts
    - **Settlement and Stability**
    - Retaining Walls – Global/External
    - Stormwater Management Ponds
    - Drainage Pipes/Utilities
  - Miscellaneous Structures
    - Sound Barrier Walls
    - OHSS/Poles/ITS
    - Retaining Walls
  - Reliability
  - **Ground Improvement**
  - Ground Movement/Damage Risk Assessments
  - Instrumentation & Monitoring
  - Construction Considerations
- Foundation Design Reports (FDR)
  - Embankment Settlement and Slope Stability
  - Downdrag
  - Lateral Resistance of Piles
  - **Axial Resistance of Piles**
  - Pile Group Settlement
  - Pile Hammer Evaluations and Driveability
  - Construction Considerations and Notes on Plans
  - Instrumentation & Monitoring
- Other Report Submissions
  - Design Parameters for Supplier/Vendor Designs
  - Substation Sites
  - Pile Load Test Plan and Protocol
  - Pile Load Test Report – Trestle Designs

## Foundation Design

- CPT based direct method - Eslami & Fellenius (1997)
- Calibrated to Pile Load Test Results
- PowerBI for data visualizations with large amounts of data

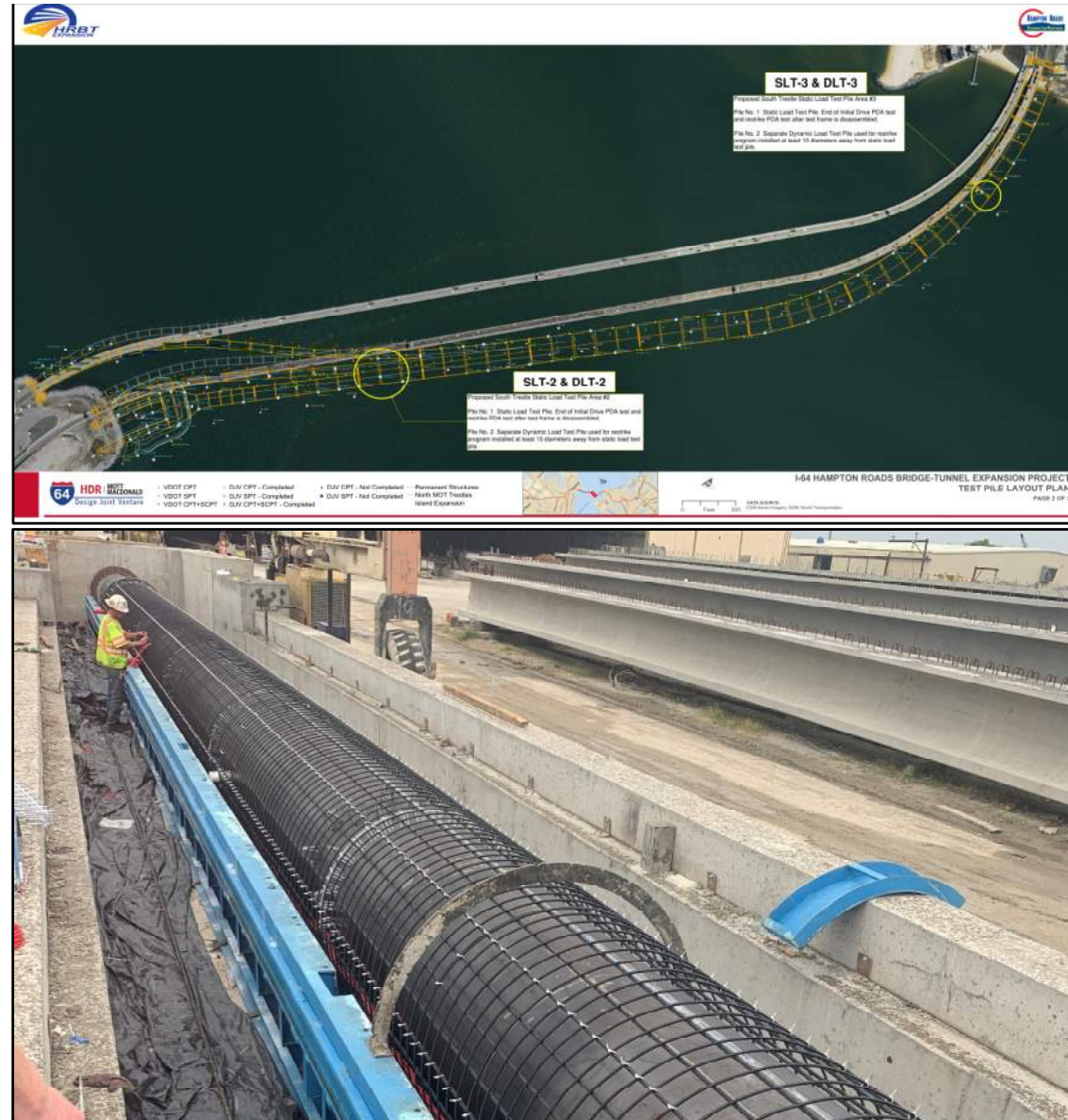
## Settlement Analysis

- Settle3 to model existing and proposed
- Soil Parameter Selections
- Reliability



# PILE LOAD TEST PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- North Trestle
  - 2 Dynamic Load Test Piles
  - 1 Static Load Test Piles
- South Trestle
  - 2 Dynamic Load Test Piles
  - 2 Static Load Test Piles
- Willoughby Bay Bridge
  - 2 Dynamic Load Test Piles
  - 1 Static Load Test Pile
- RF = 0.8 (used 0.65 in all other areas of the project)



# BRIDGE PILE TYPES

- North & South Trestles:
  - 54-inch Precast Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Piles w/ 6.75-inch wall thickness
- Willoughby Bay Trestle:
  - 24-inch Square Prestressed Concrete (PSC)
- Landside Overpass Bridges:
  - 12-inch Square PSC (Overpass locations)
  - 24-inch Square PSC (Wetland/Creek Areas)
  - 30-inch Square PSC (Wetland/Creek Areas)
  - HP 14 x 102 Steel H-Piles (2 locations only)
- Trestle MOT Bridges
  - 36-inch diameter Steel Pipe Piles (Open-End)
  - HP 12 x 74 Steel H-Piles (Abutments)



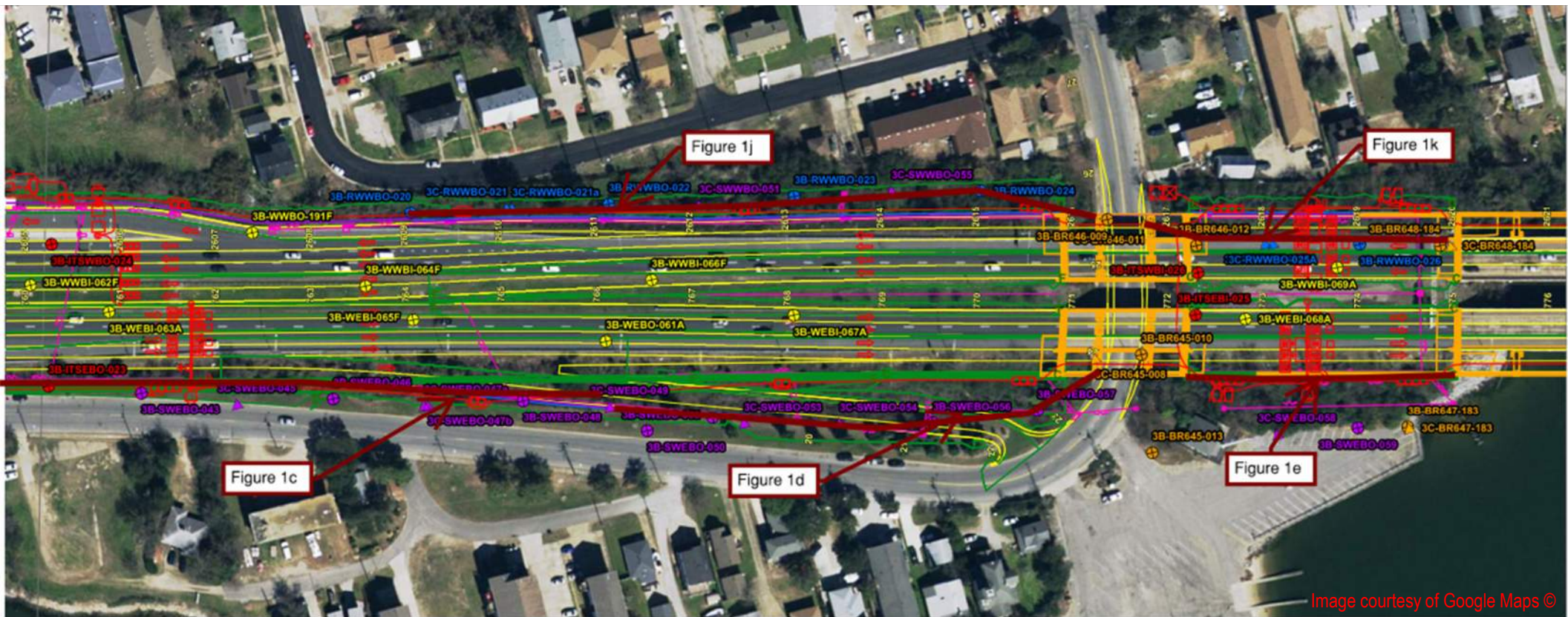
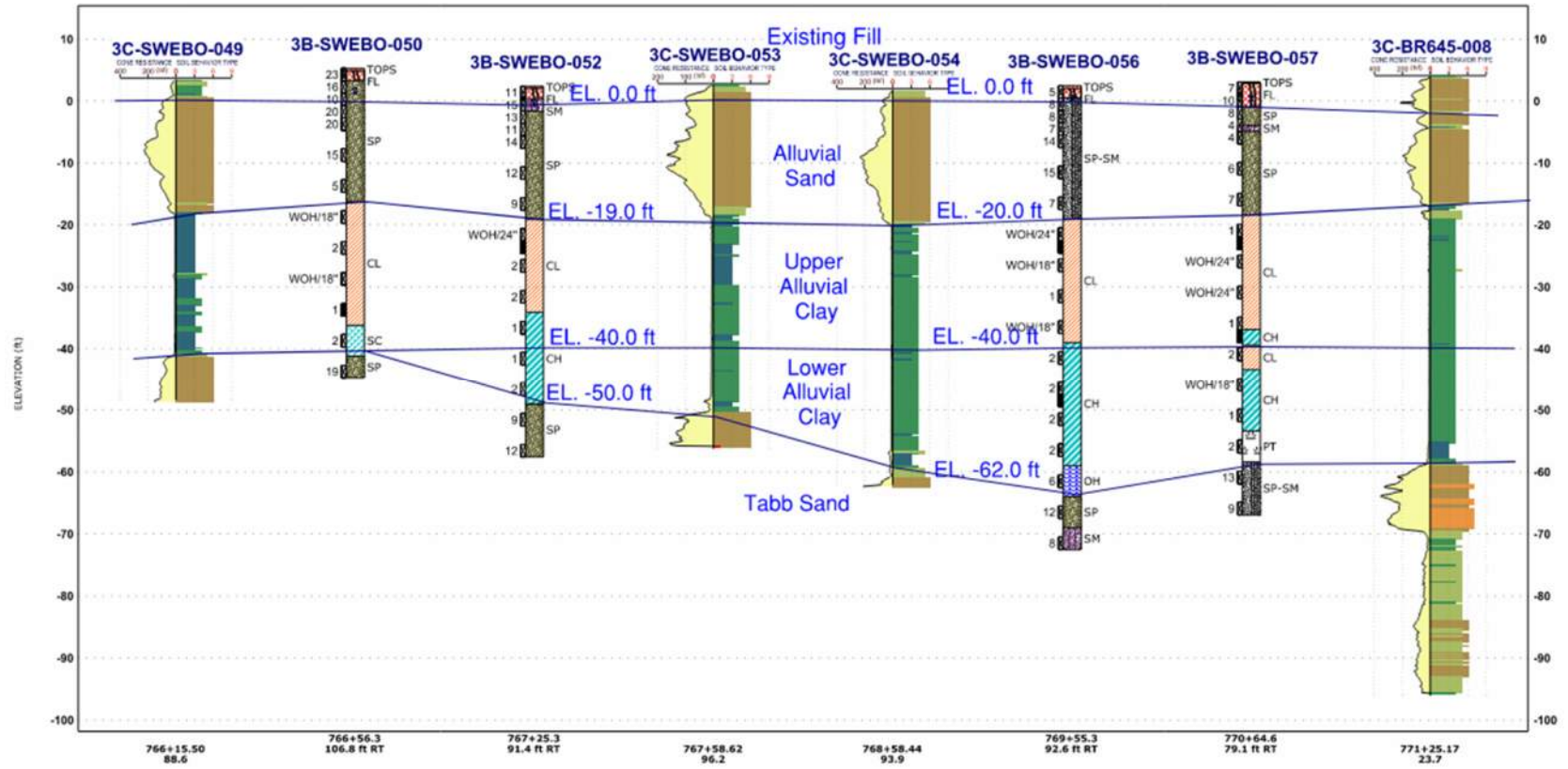


Image courtesy of Google Maps ©

# GROUND IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

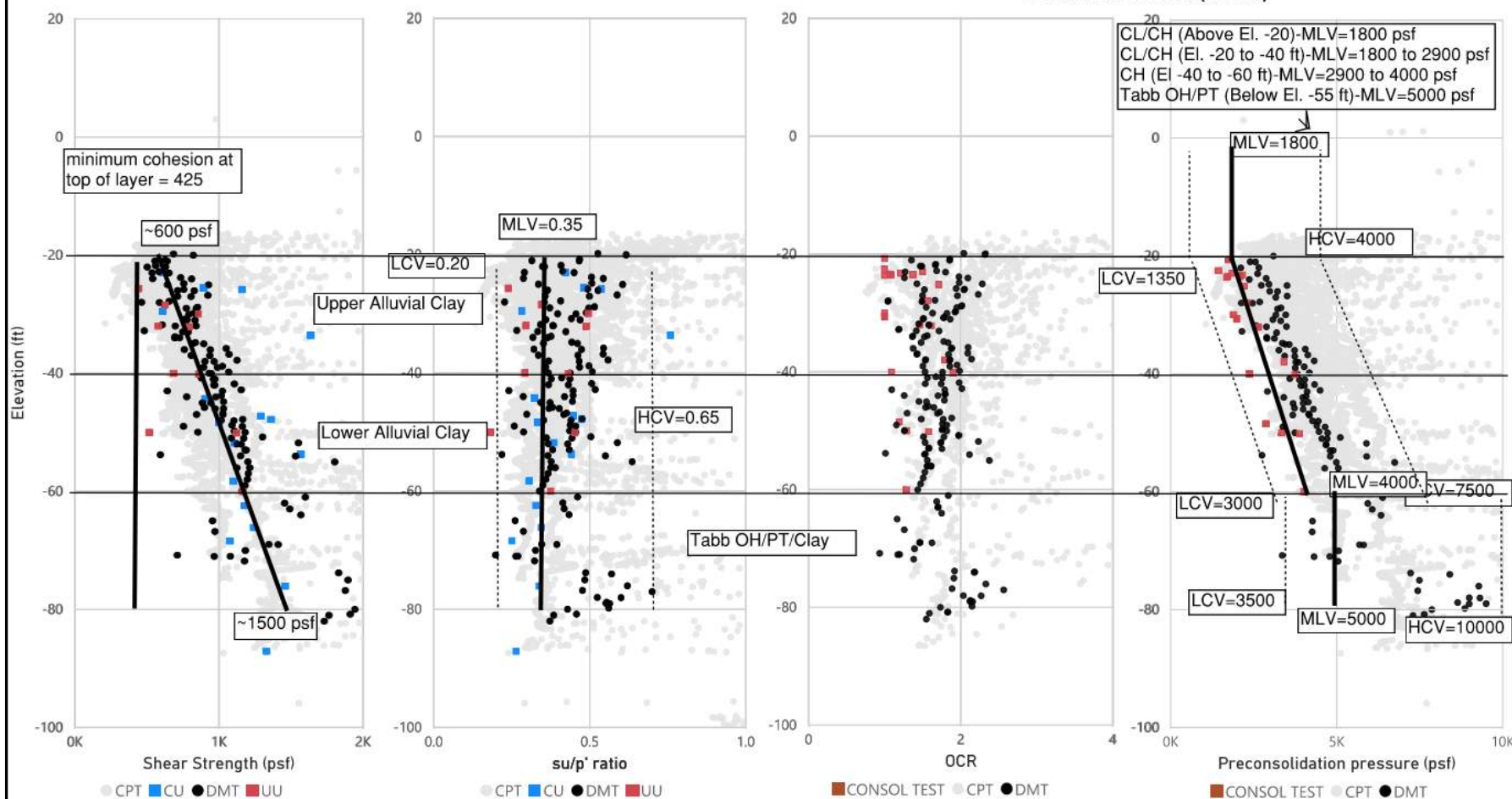




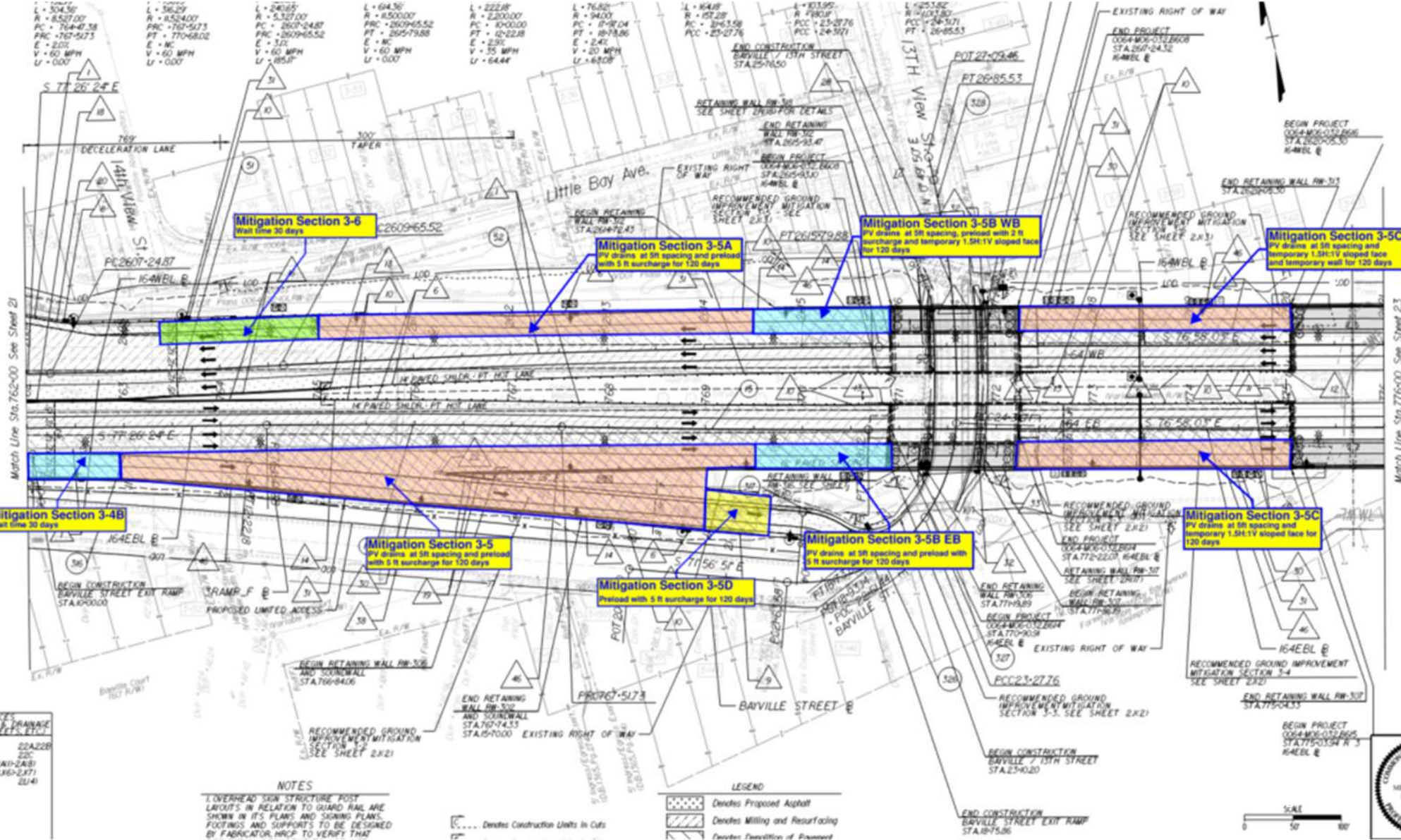
# GROUND IMPROVEMENT

## Soft Plastic Clays

Figure 3c1 - Undrained Cohesion and Preconsolidation Pressure for Segment 3b Sta 745+00 to 776+00 Free Field  
2600+ 00 to 2620+00 (I64 WB)



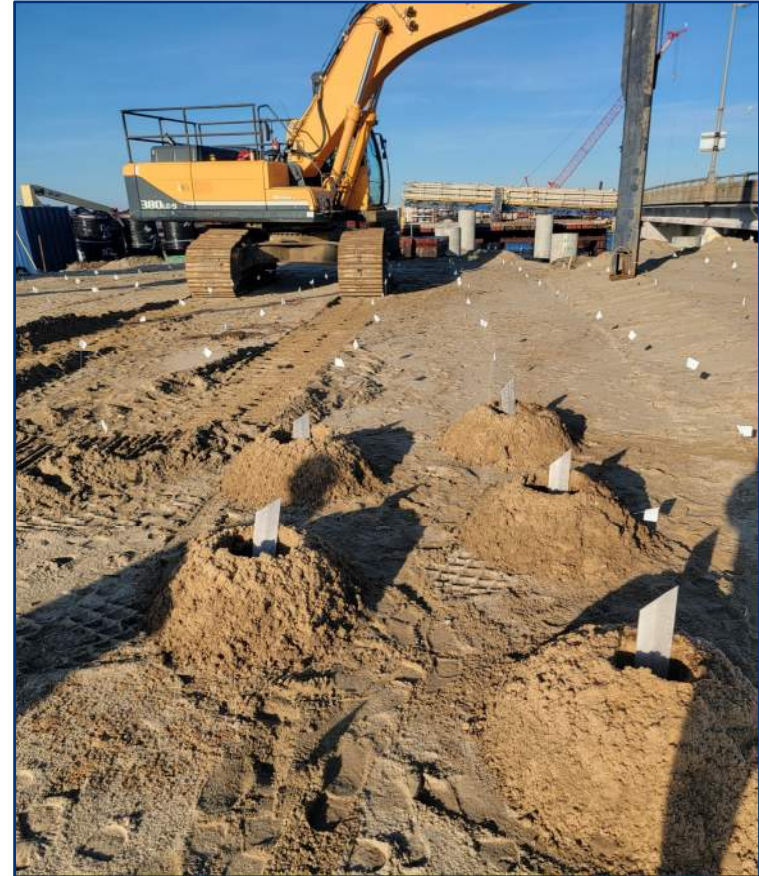
## Soft Plastic Clays



Match Line Sta. 762+00 See Sheet 21

Match Line Sta. 776+00 See Sheet 23







- Shop Submittals, Field Changes, Work Plans
- Review Dynamic Load Test Reports and Driving Criteria
- Instrumentation Reviews
- Weekly Status Meetings

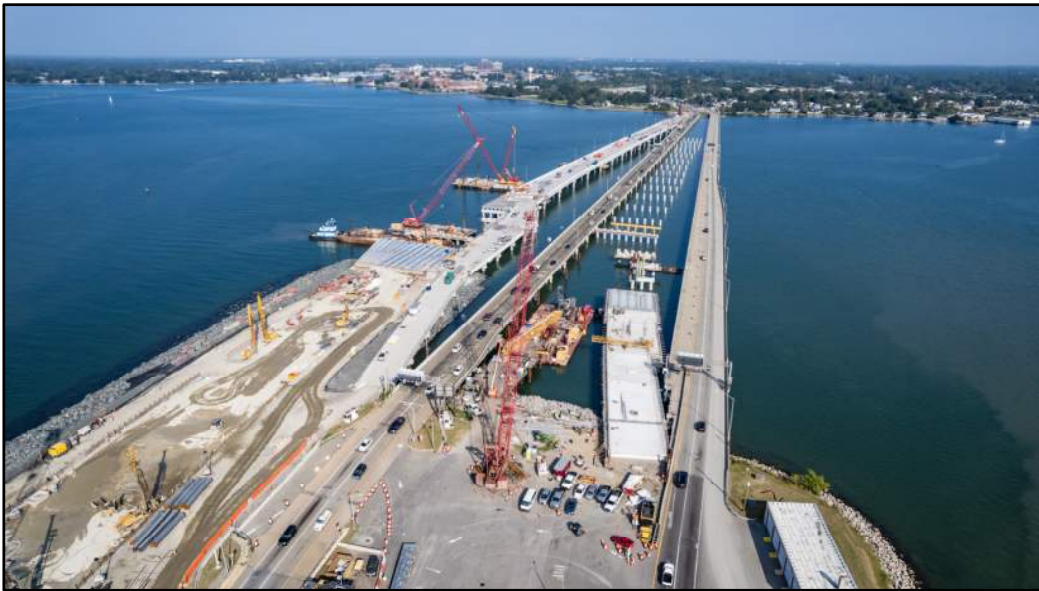


Photographs courtesy of  
HRCPC and VDOT

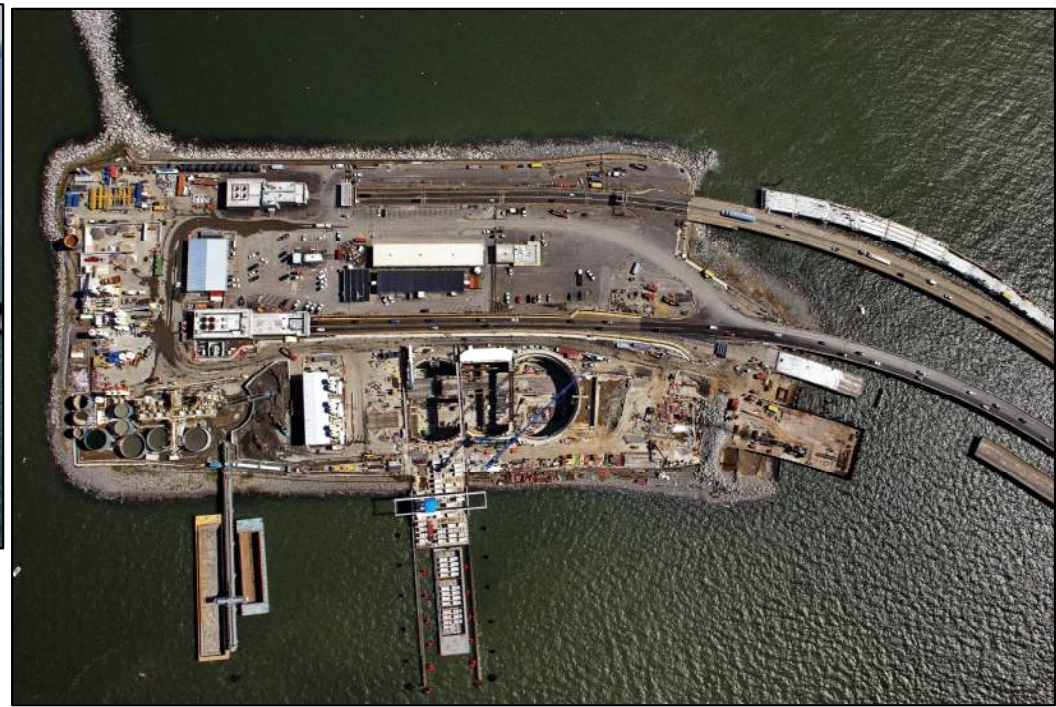


# HAMPTON AND NORTH TRESTLE









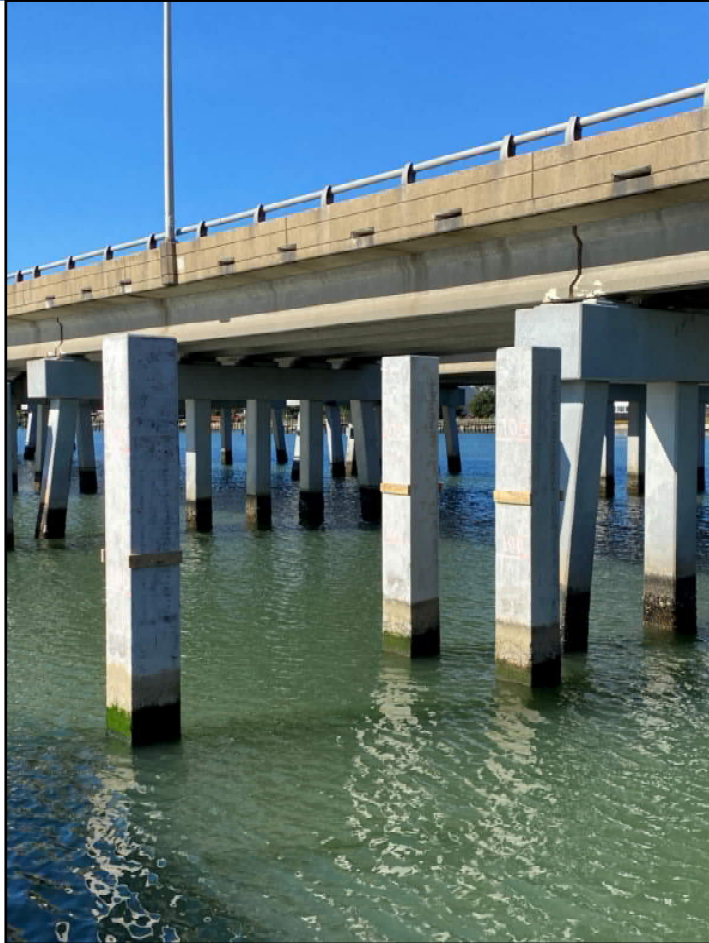






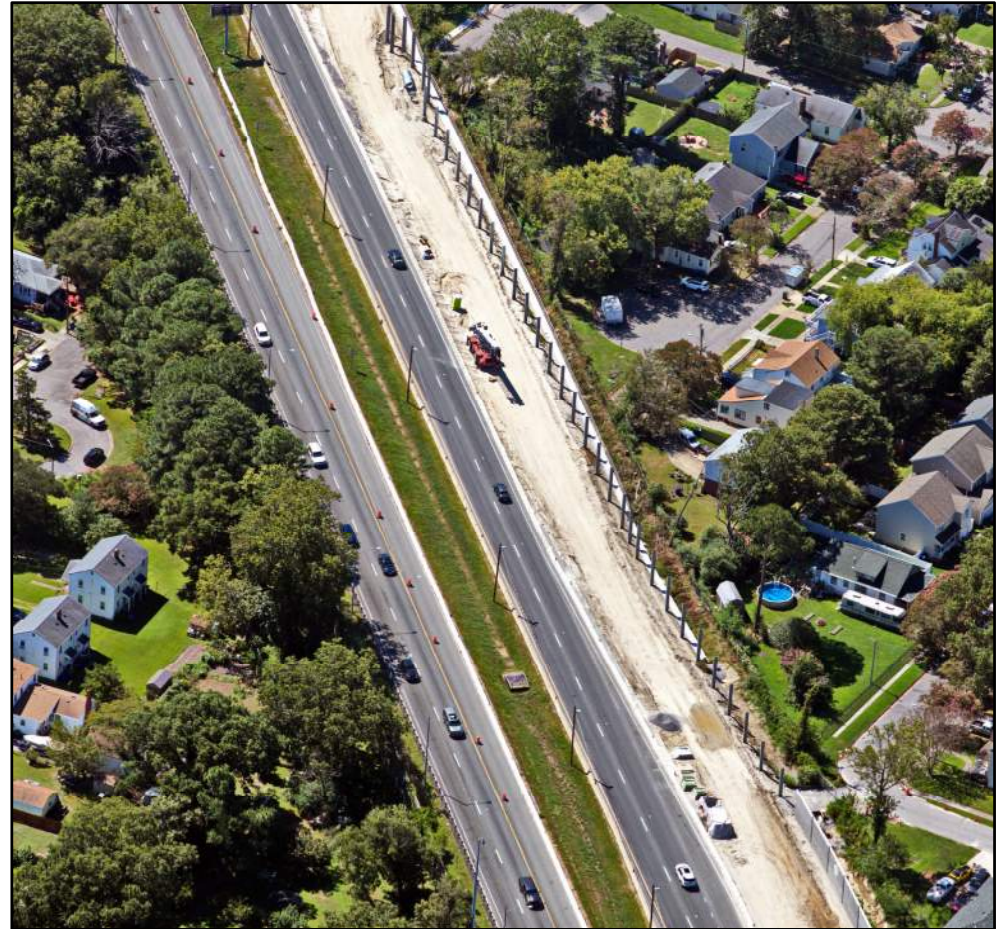
# WILLOUGHBY BAY TRESTLE







# 4<sup>TH</sup> VIEW STREET AND I-64EB WIDENING













# PATROL ROAD AND I-564 TERMINUS





**THANK YOU!**

**VDOT  
Hampton Roads Connector  
Partners (HRCP)  
Mott MacDonald  
HDR Geotechnical Team  
NCDOT GEU**



11/1/2023

Photographs courtesy of HRBT Expansion Website



# QUESTIONS

