



MWBPP 2013

**Use of NDT Tools in
Preserving
and Extending Life of
Concrete Structures**

by

Siva Venugopalan

Principal Engineer

Siva Corrosion Services, Inc.

FHWA Preservation Guide

A photograph of a cable-stayed bridge with two tall, A-frame towers and numerous stay cables. The bridge spans across a body of water under a clear blue sky. The text of the slide is overlaid on the image.

- Bridge preservation is defined as actions or strategies that **prevent, delay or reduce deterioration of bridges or bridge elements, restore the function of existing bridges, keep bridges in good condition and extend their life.** Preservation actions may be preventive or condition-driven. *Source: FHWA Bridge Preservation Expert Task Group, May 2011.*

Bridge Preservation



- When a bridge experiences corrosion, we want to answer the questions:
 - What is the primary factor contributing to deterioration?
 - What is the current and future rate of deterioration?
 - Are there options to extend the service life by another 25 to 50 years?
- Develop a strategic inspection/evaluation plan to identify/quantify problems
- Average preservation cost : **75-80%** compared to replacement

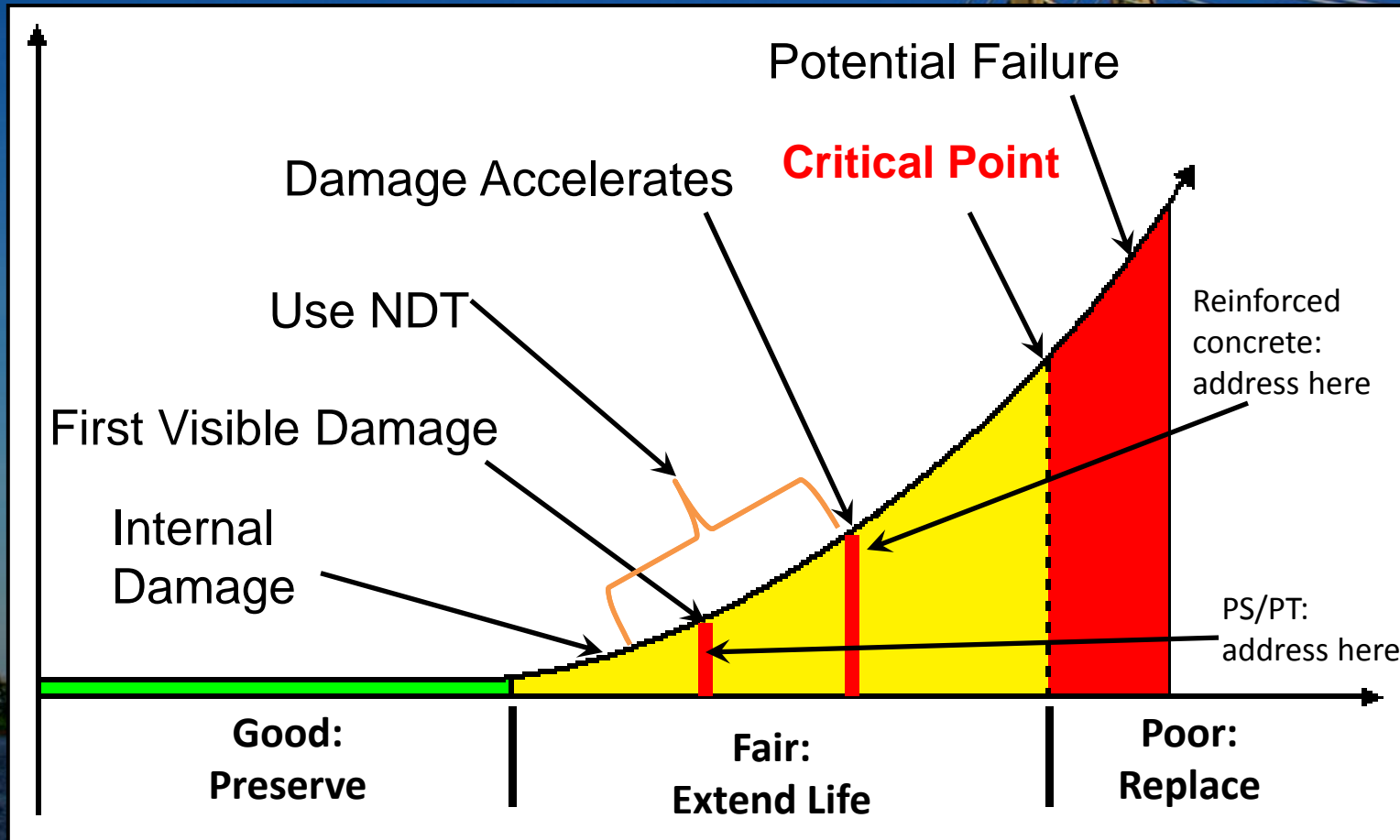
Agenda

- Corrosion Deterioration & Cost
- Bridge Preservation using NDT
- Case Studies
 - Cable Stay Bridge
 - Deck Overlay Deterioration
- Conclusions



Corrosion Deterioration & Cost

Cost of Maintenance



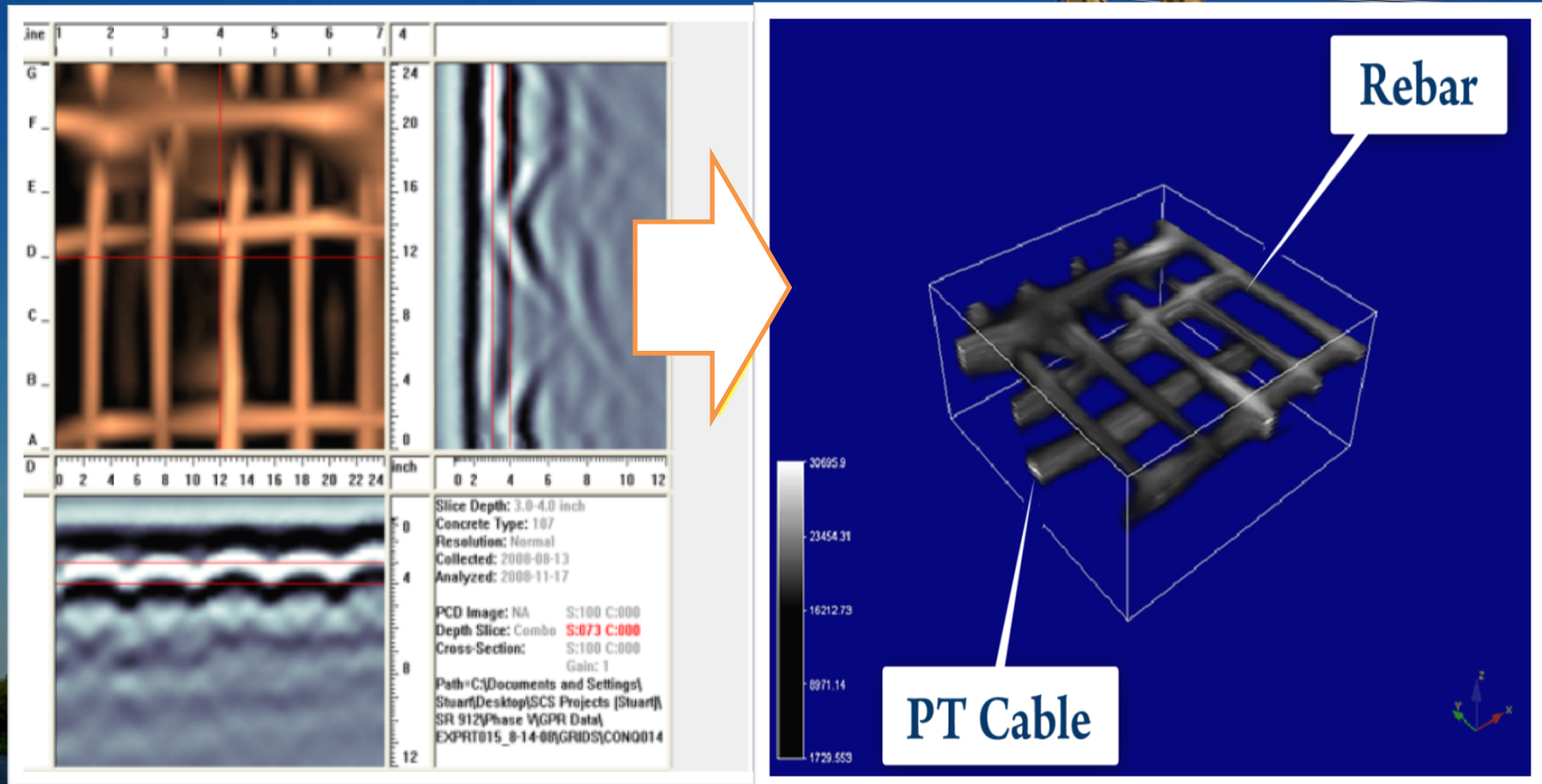
Condition of Structure

Non-Destructive Testing (NDT)

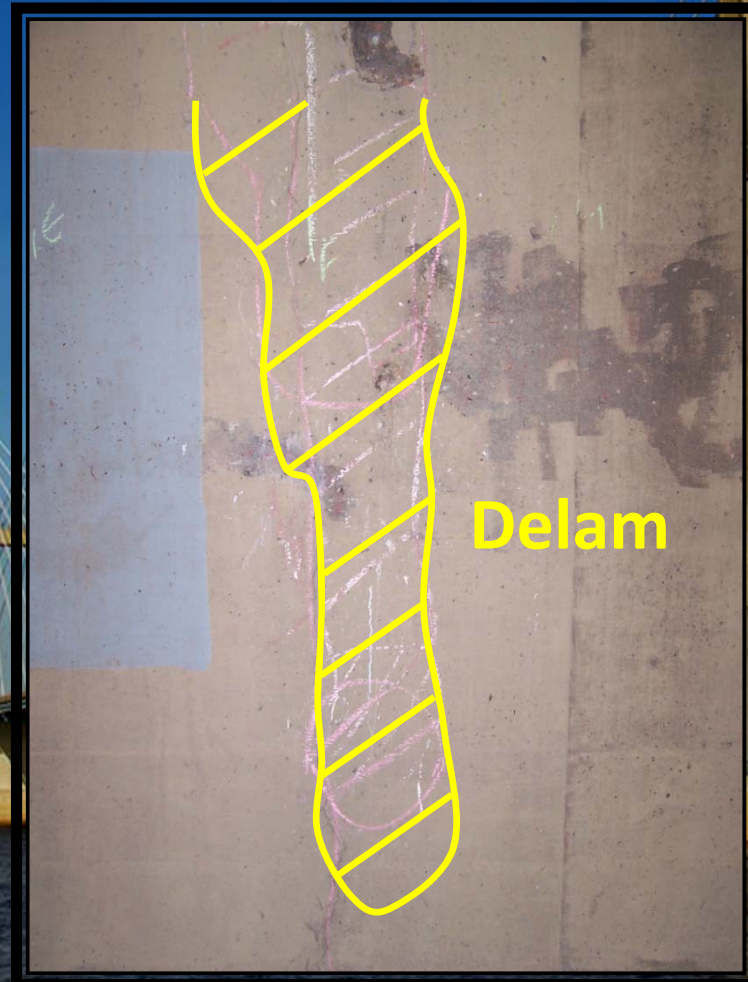
A large cable-stayed bridge with two tall concrete pylons and numerous stay cables, spanning a wide river. The sky is clear and blue, and the water is dark blue with some ripples. The bridge deck is dark, and the pylons are light-colored concrete.

- Use NDT to identify hidden problems
- Minimize inspection time and damage to the structure
- Primary NDT tools:
 - Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)
 - Infrared Thermography
 - Impact-Echo
 - Ultrasonic Tomography
 - Stat Test (Electrical Impedance Test for PT Strands and Rods)
 - Sensors
 - Service Life Estimates

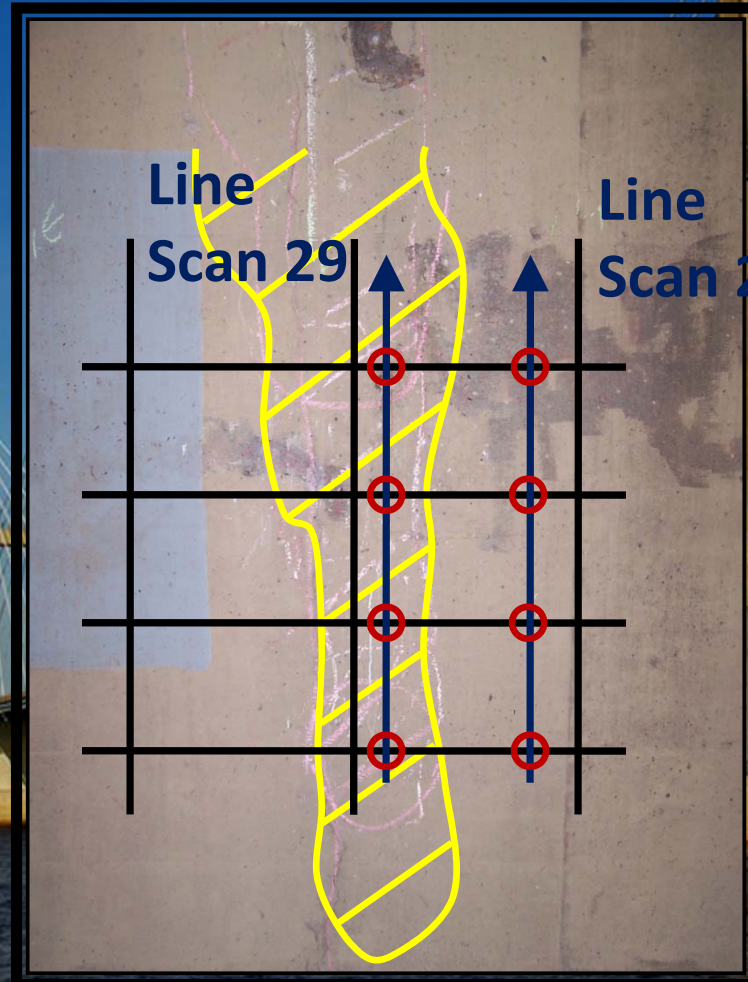
Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)



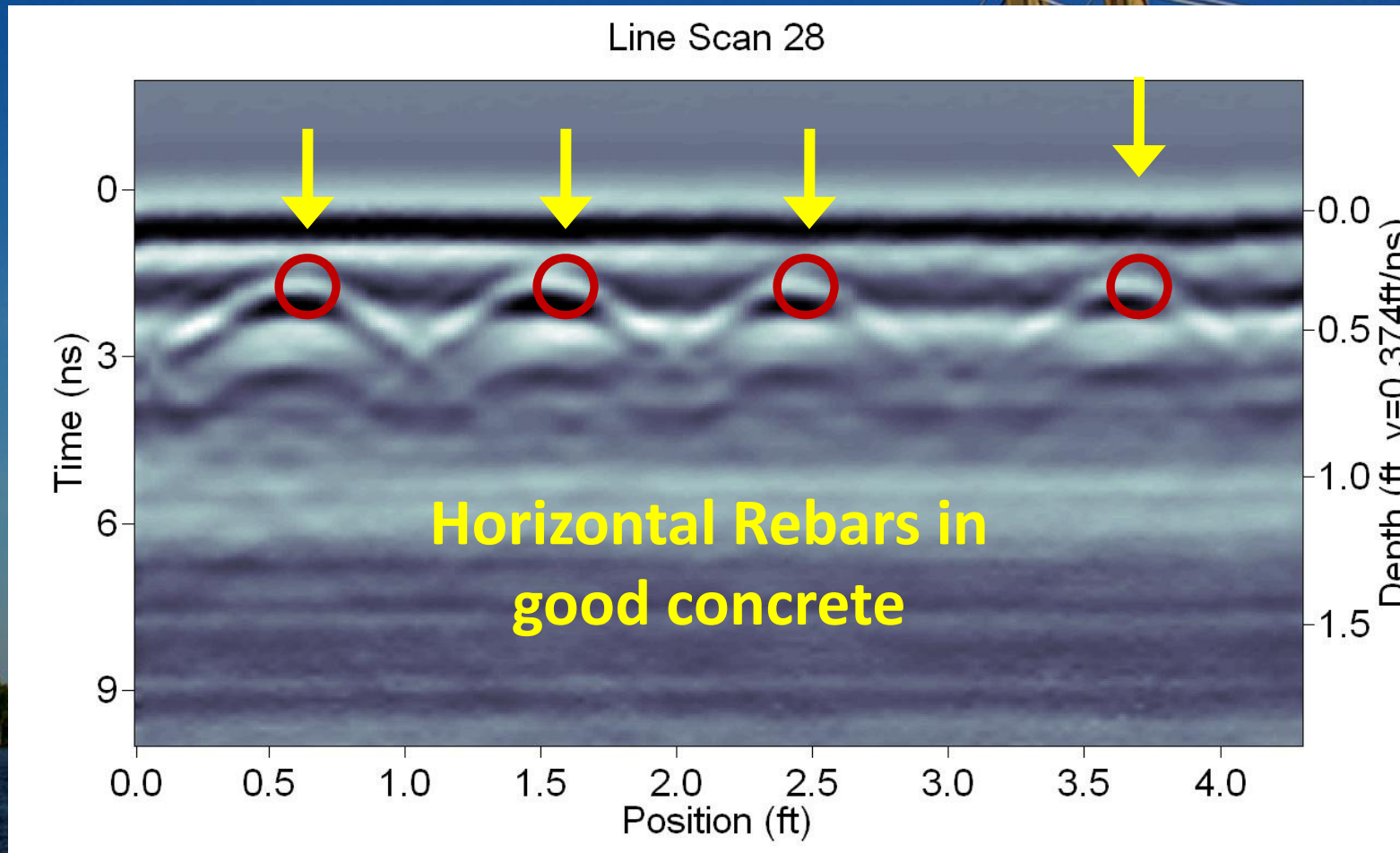
Delamination Survey



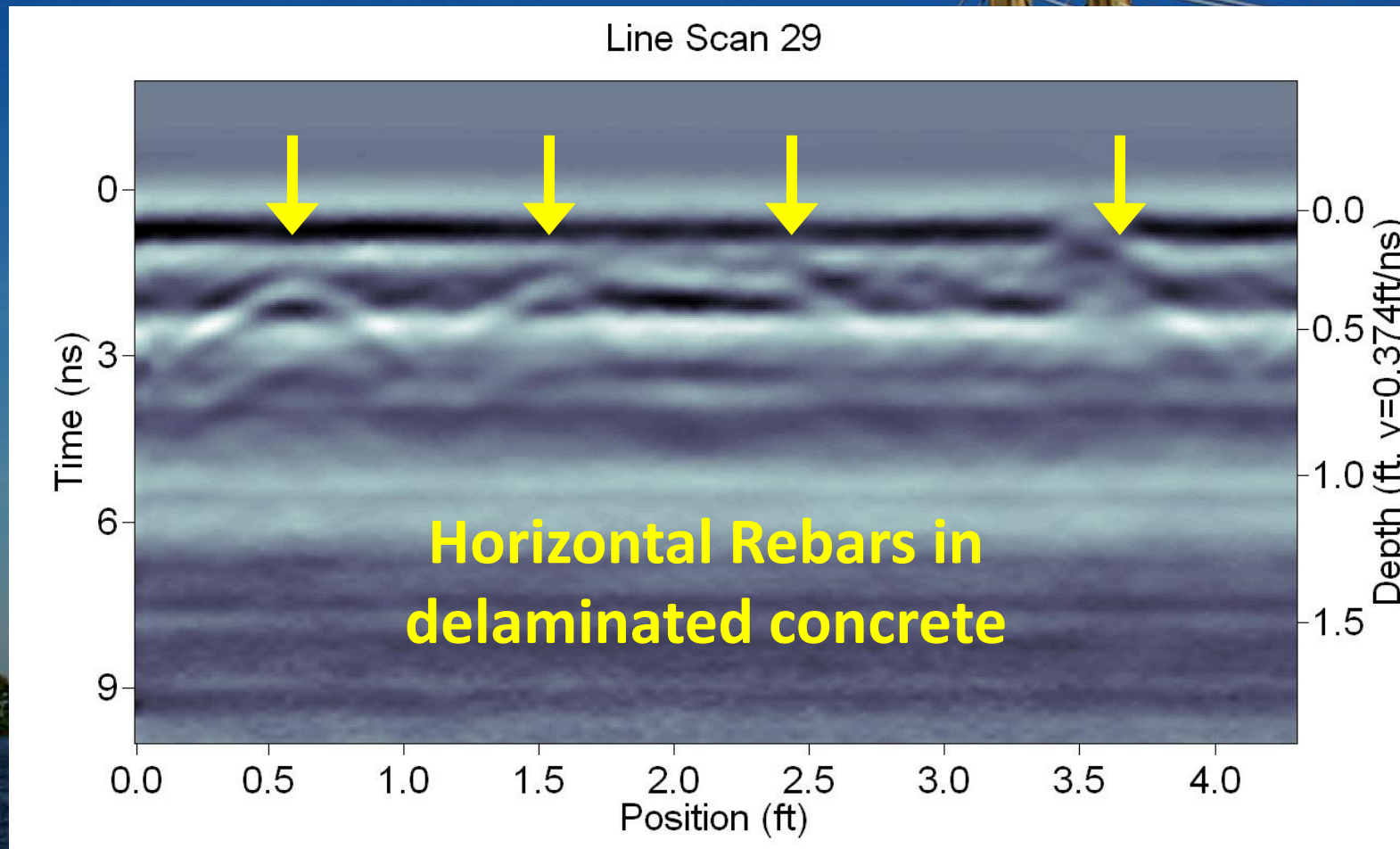
GPR Evaluation



GPR Evaluation



GPR Evaluation



GPR at Traffic Speed

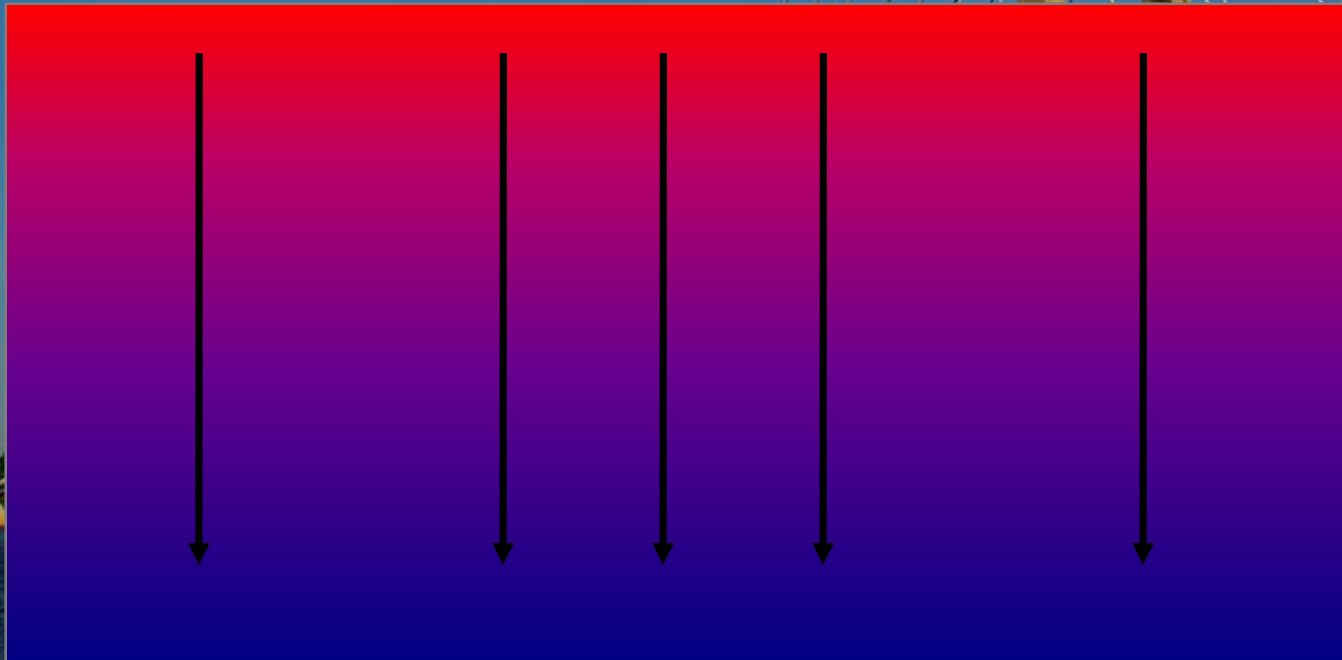


Application of GPR

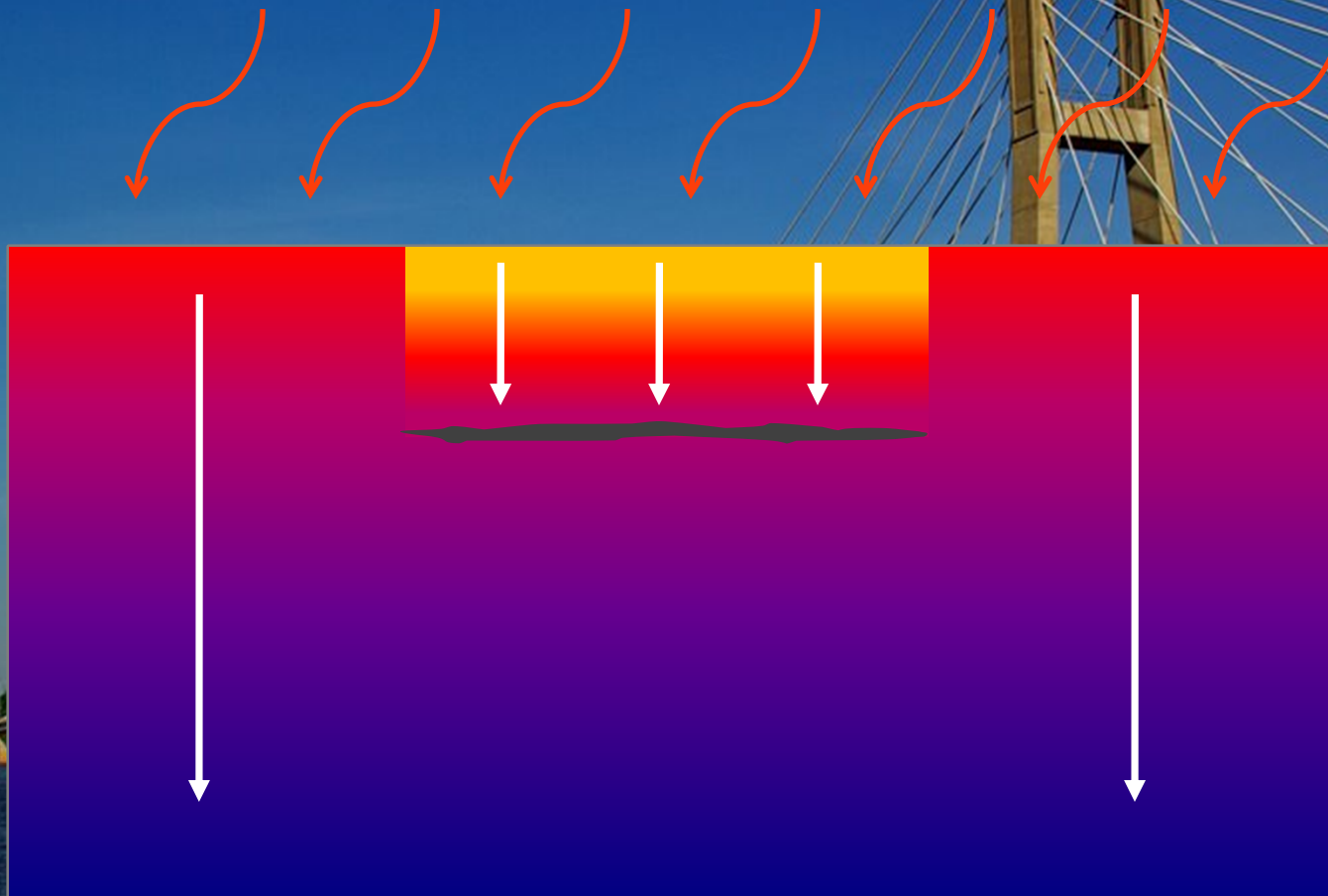
A photograph of a cable-stayed bridge with two tall, A-frame concrete pylons. The bridge spans across a wide river. The sky is clear and blue. The text 'Application of GPR' is overlaid in yellow at the top. A list of four bullet points is overlaid in black on the left side of the image.

- Inspect a deck/pavement without traffic control
- Examine for delamination/corrosion hot spots/pavement thickness
- Flag problem areas for further evaluation
- Inspect decks with overlays and membranes

Infrared Thermography (IRT)



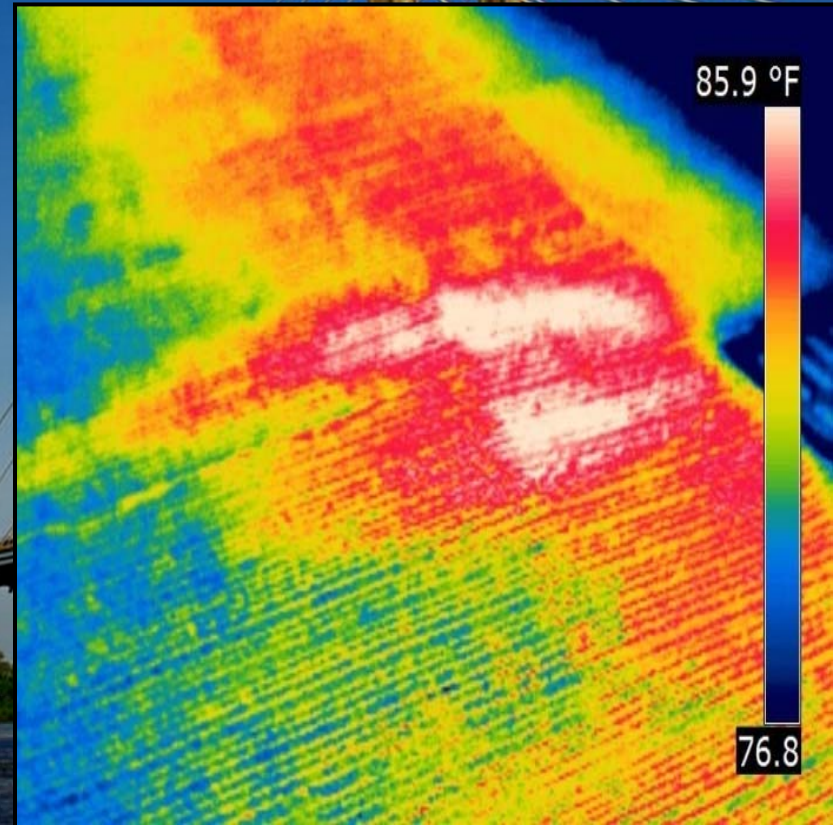
Infrared Thermography (IRT)



IRT Results



IRT Results



IRT Results

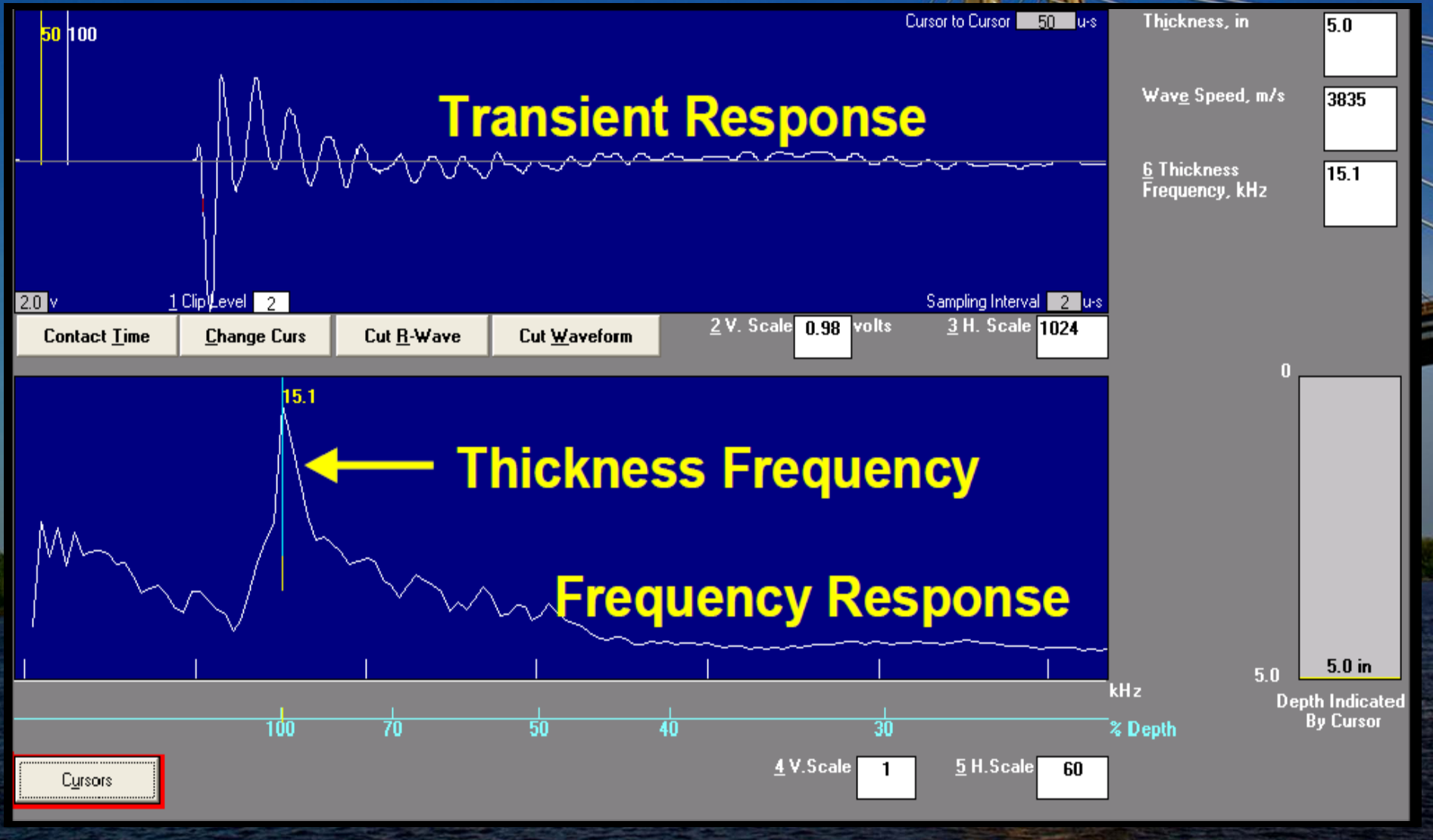


Impact Echo

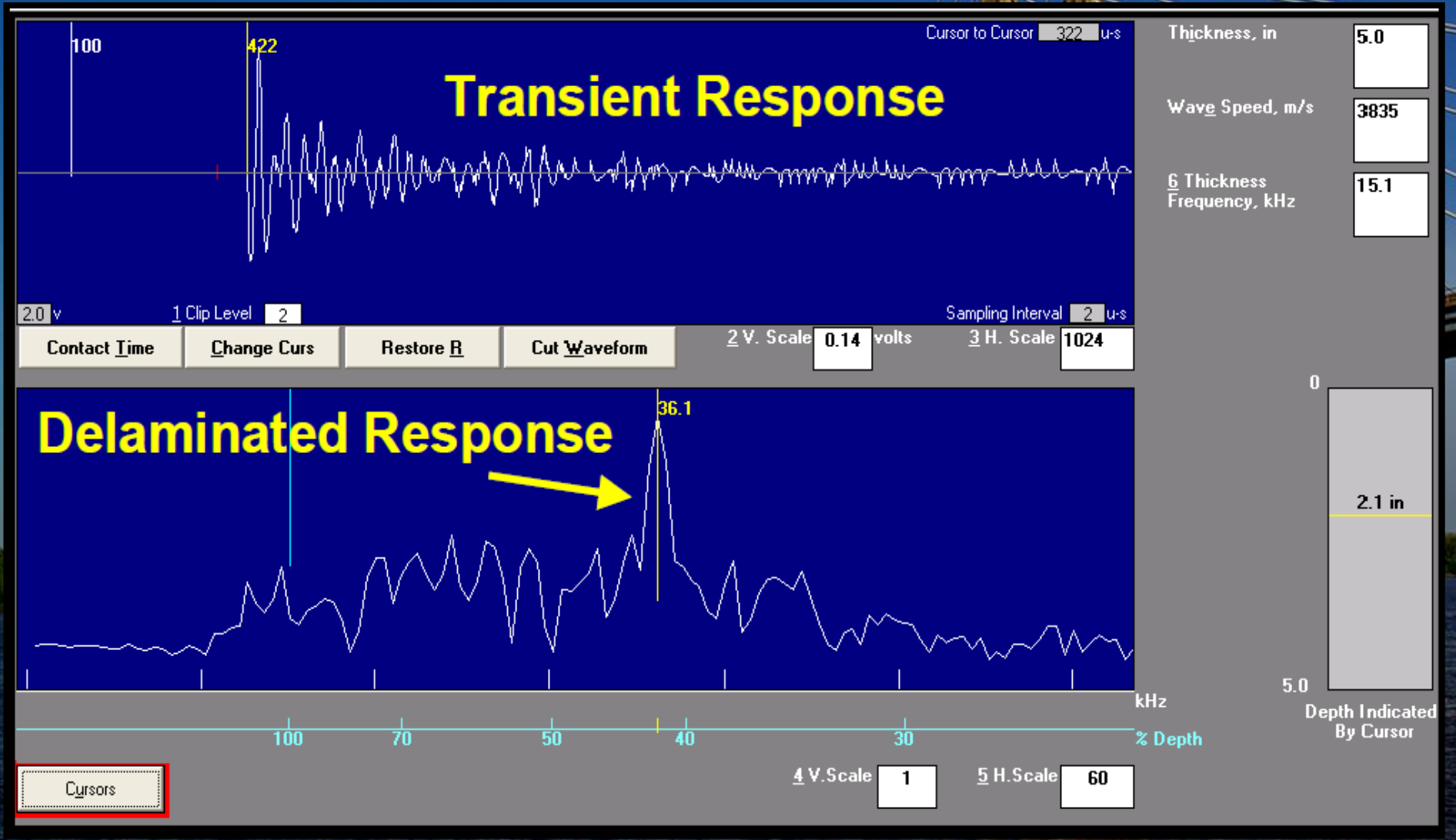
- Find flaws not detectable by GPR and provide more information about those flaws
- Well suited for structures with access constraints and multiple layers of materials (e.g. overlays)



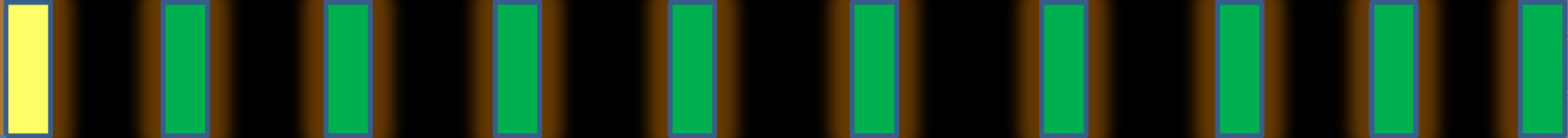
IE Results



IE Results



Ultrasonic Tomography (UT)

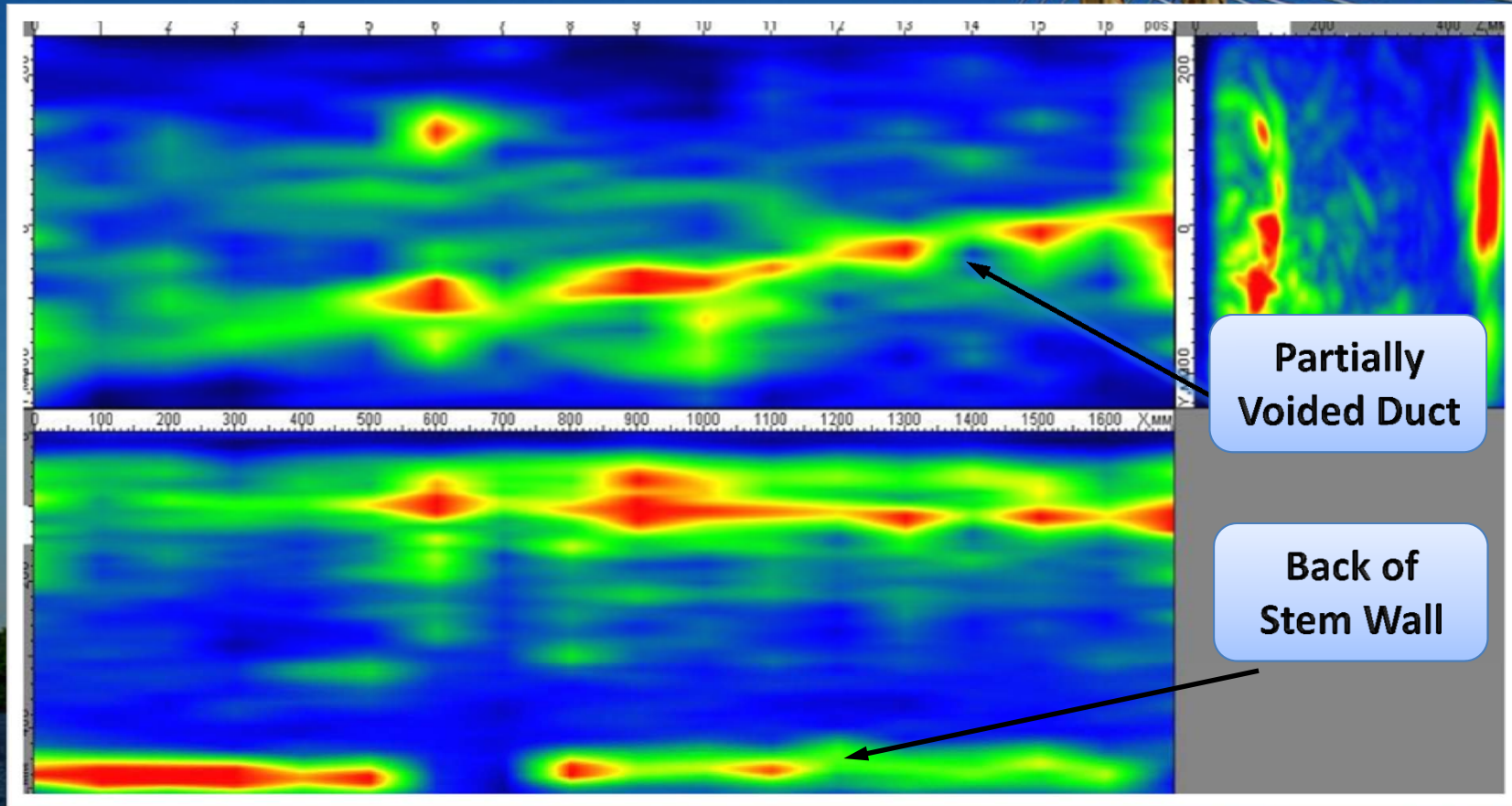


Concrete Slab

Ultrasonic Tomography



UT Results



UT Application in Concrete Structures

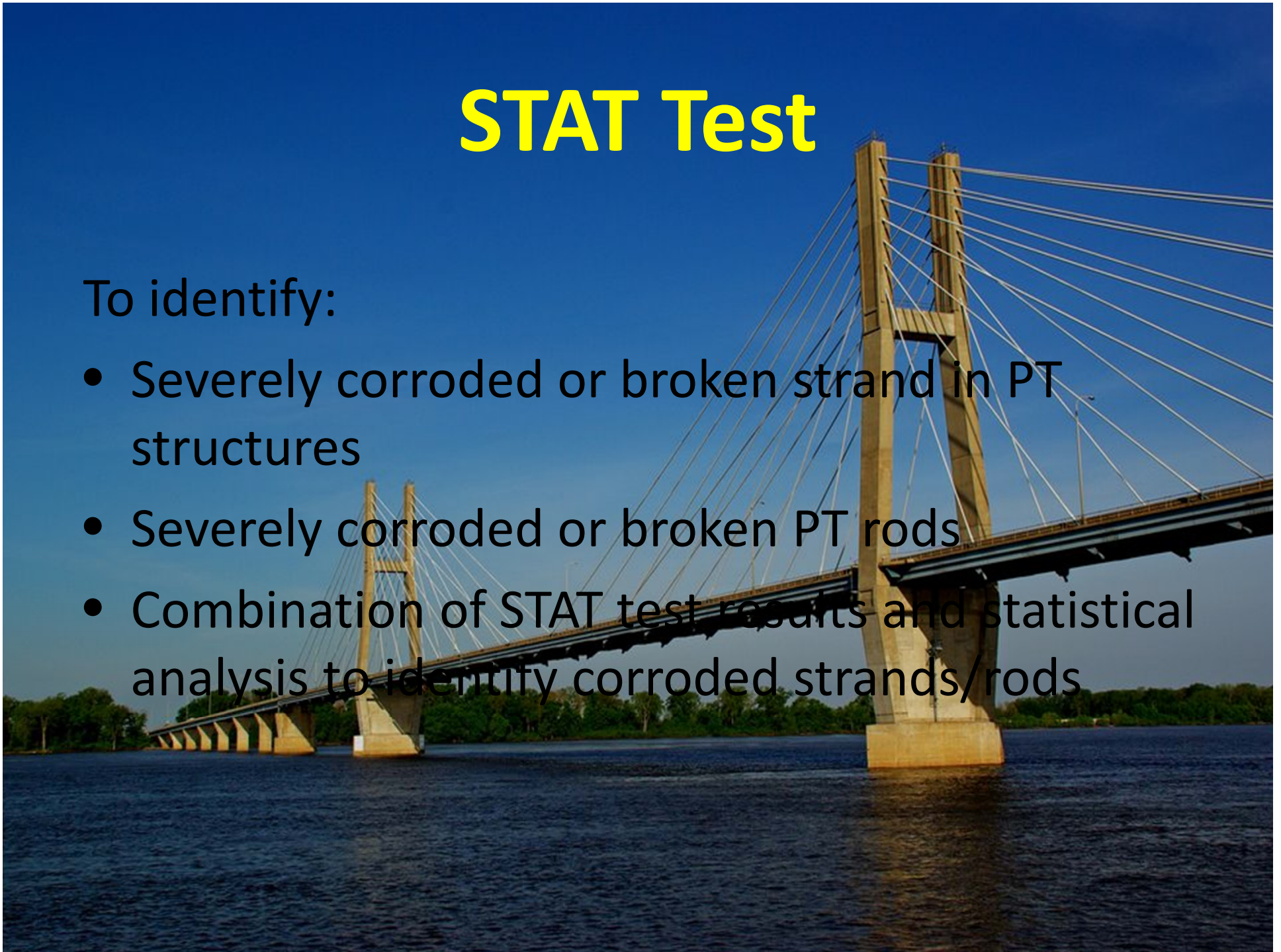
- Delaminations in concrete
- Thickness measurement of concrete
- Bonding of overlay
- Crack evaluation
- Flaws, holes, and honeycombs
- Foreign inclusions
- Voids in PT duct



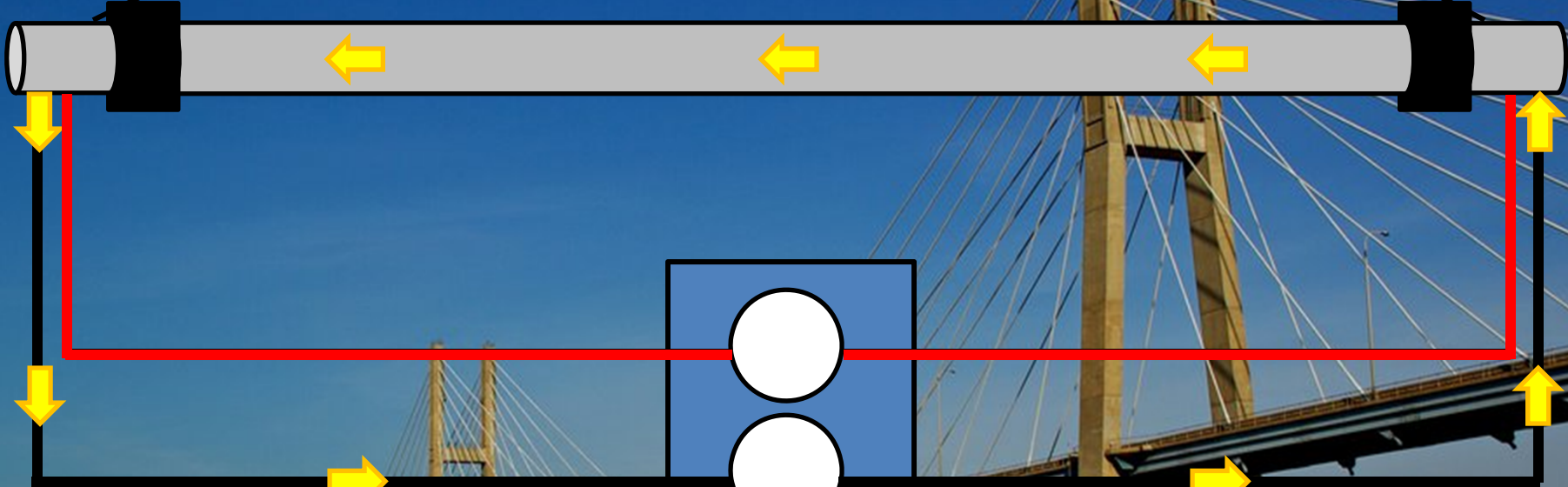
STAT Test

To identify:

- Severely corroded or broken strand in PT structures
- Severely corroded or broken PT rods
- Combination of STAT test results and statistical analysis to identify corroded strands/rods



Measure voltage between rod ends



Potentiostat

STAT Test

Data Logger

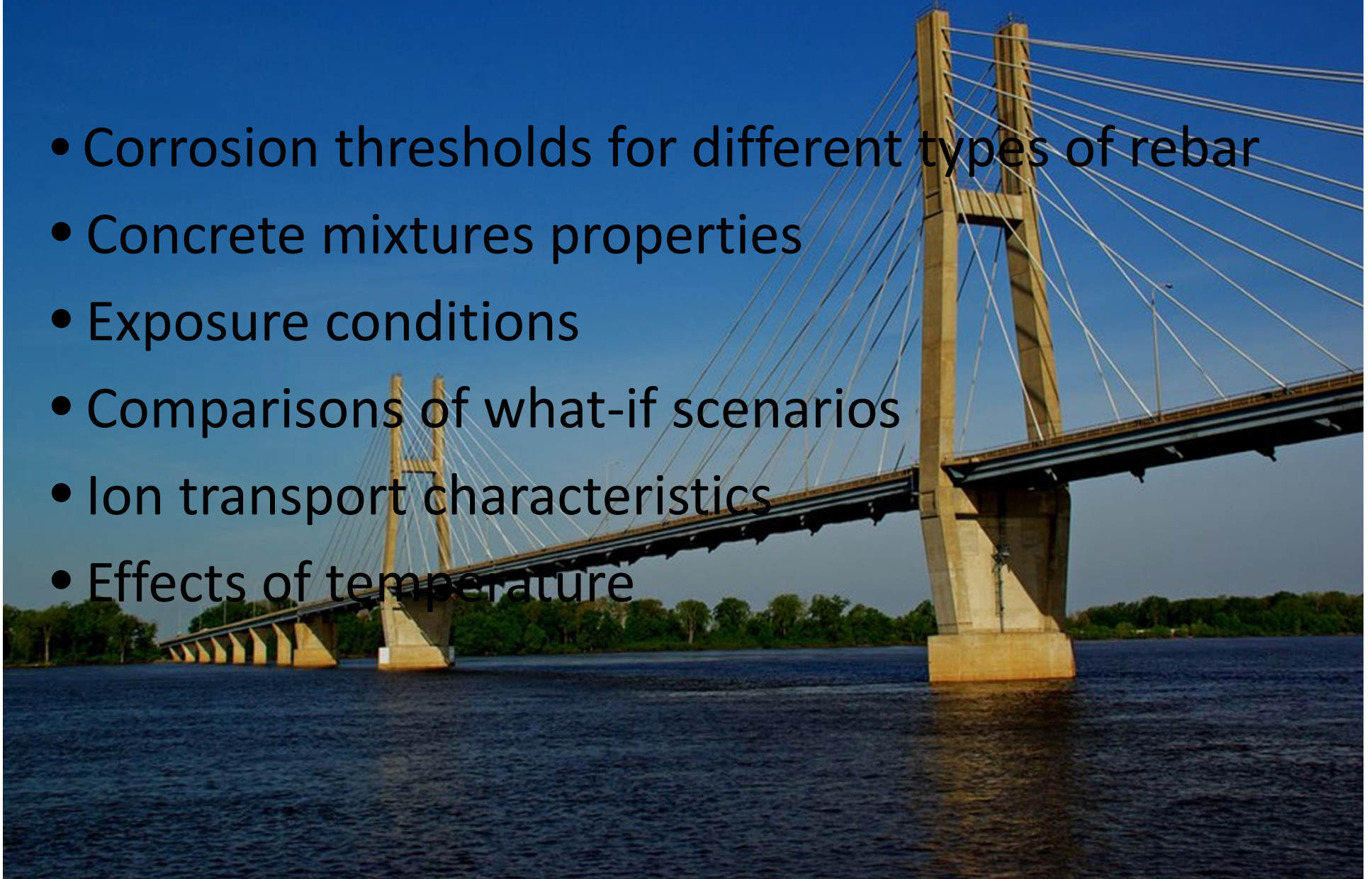
Service Life Estimate

- Applicable to new and existing infrastructure
- Calculate future concrete damage based on current existing condition
- Impact of protection solutions on the service life :
 - Sealers
 - Membranes
 - Thin and Rigid overlays
 - Coatings
 - High Performance Concrete
 - Corrosion Mitigation (GCP, ICCP, ECE)



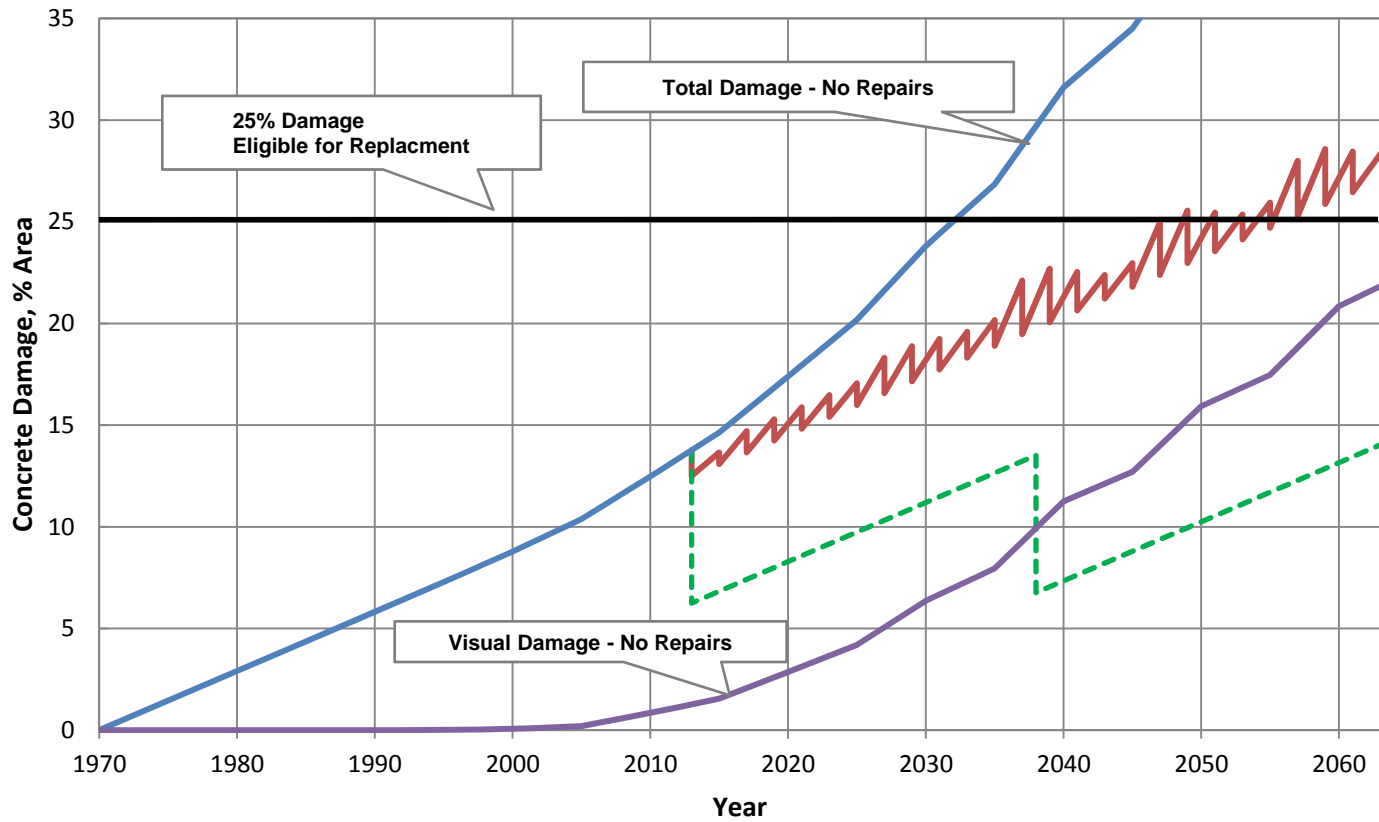
Service Life Estimate

- Corrosion thresholds for different types of rebar
- Concrete mixtures properties
- Exposure conditions
- Comparisons of what-if scenarios
- Ion transport characteristics
- Effects of temperature



Service Life – For Mitigation Options

Projected Damage of Repair Options - Pier Caps



— Patch Only - Total Damage

- - - LCC Option - ECE - Total Damage

— No Repairs - Total Damage

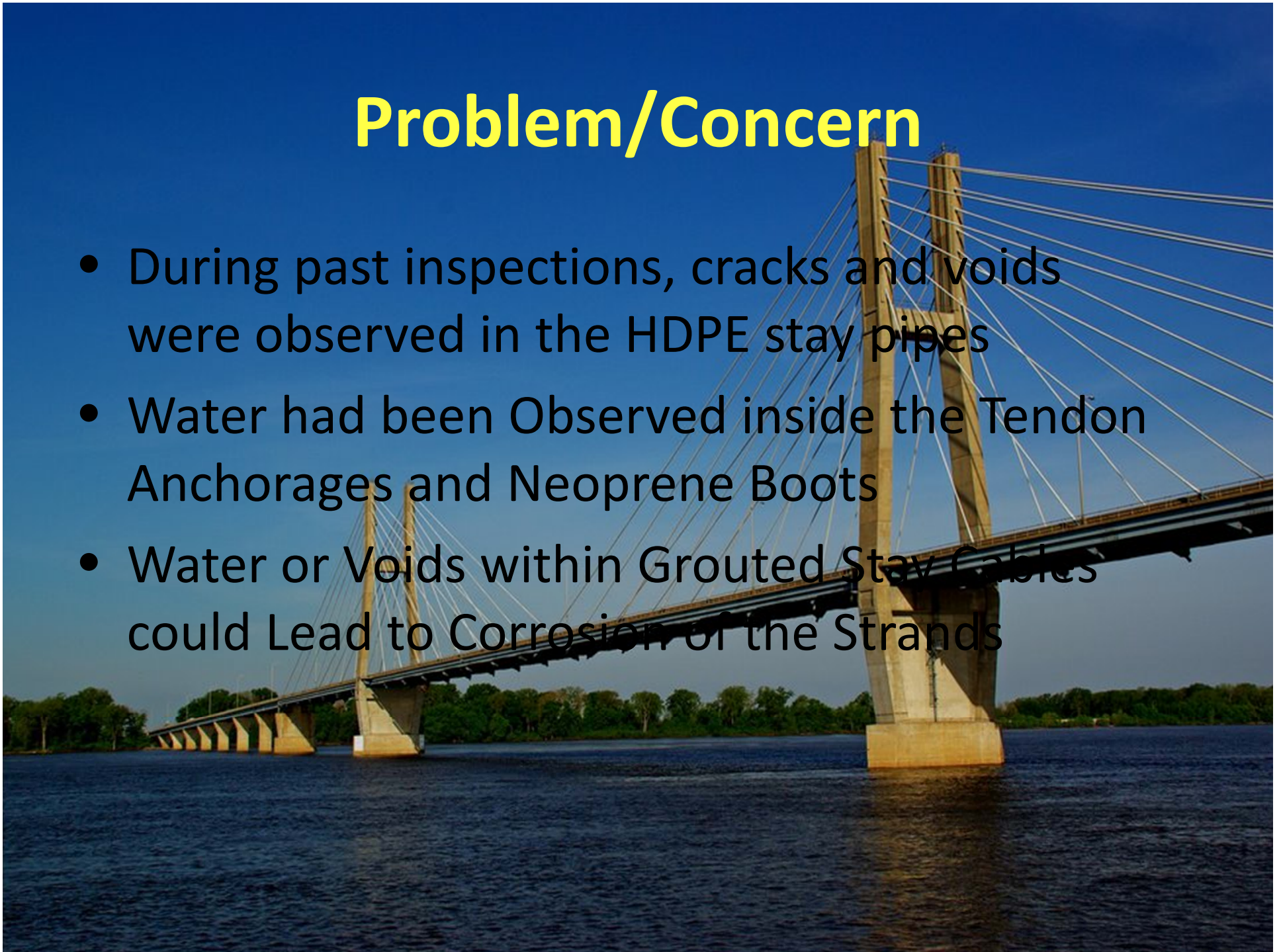
— No Repairs - Visual Damage

Case Study 1 : Cable Stay Bridge



Problem/Concern

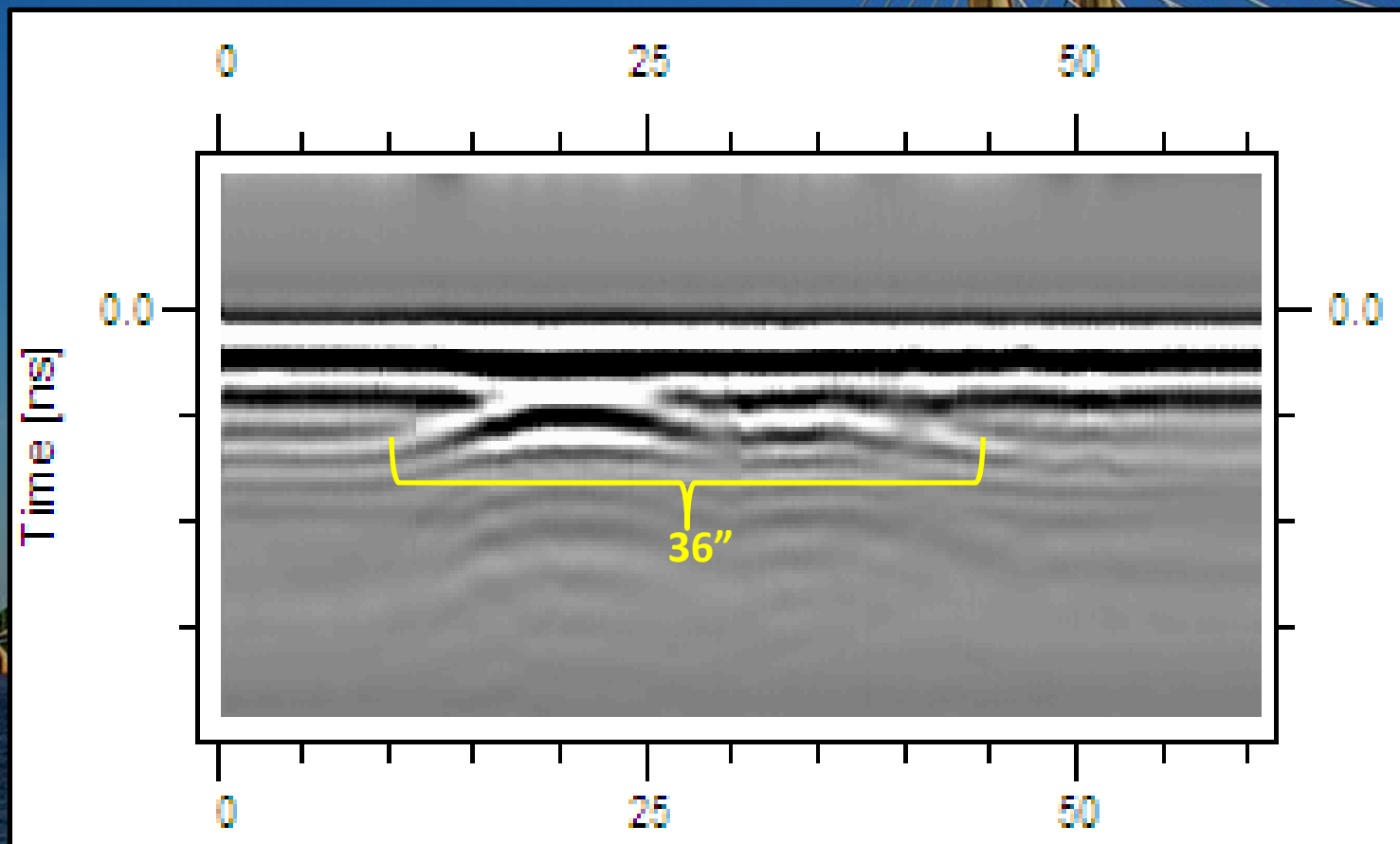
- During past inspections, cracks and voids were observed in the HDPE stay pipes
- Water had been Observed inside the Tendon Anchorages and Neoprene Boots
- Water or Voids within Grouted Stay Cables could Lead to Corrosion of the Strands



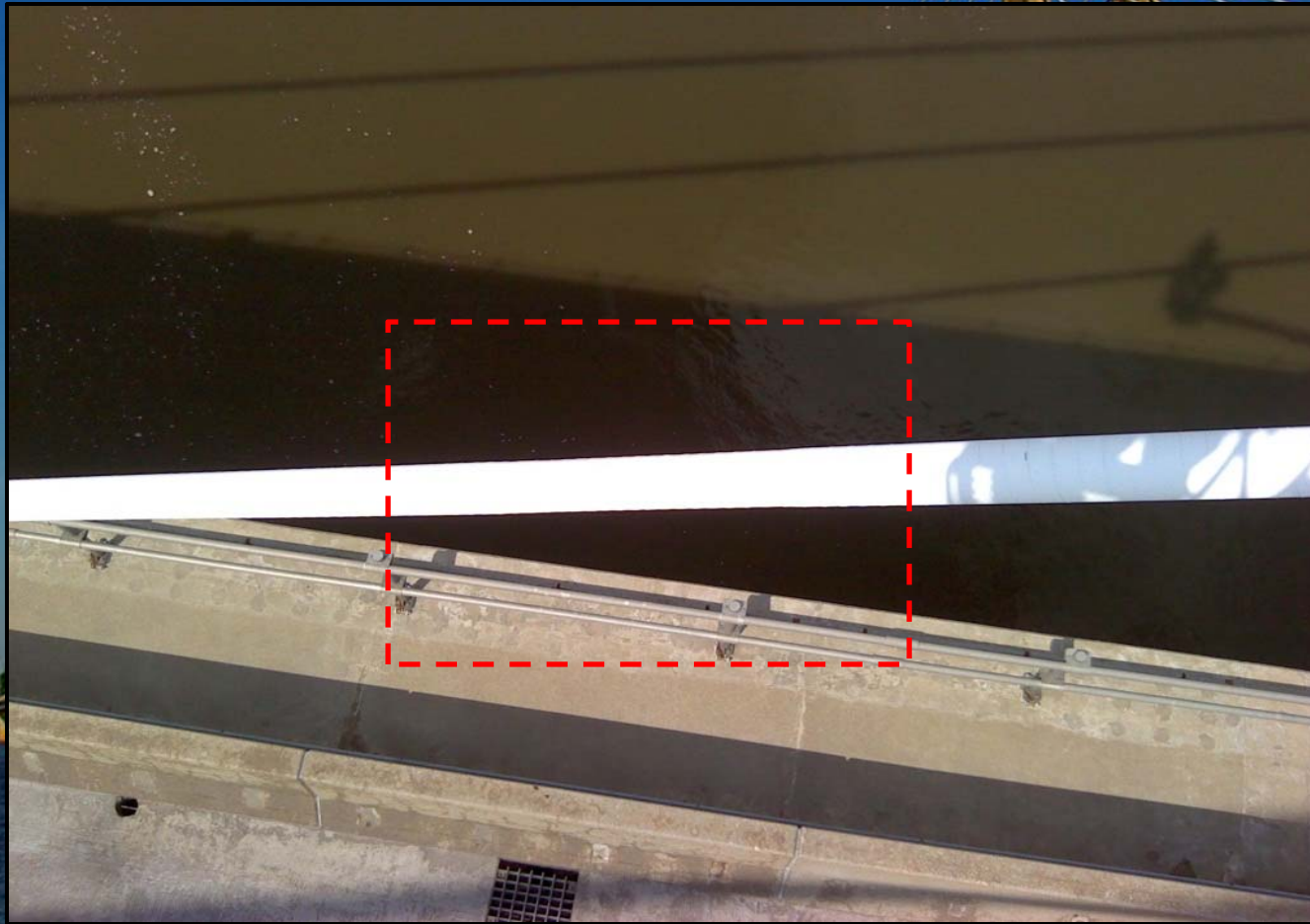
GPR & IR – Cable Stay Bridge



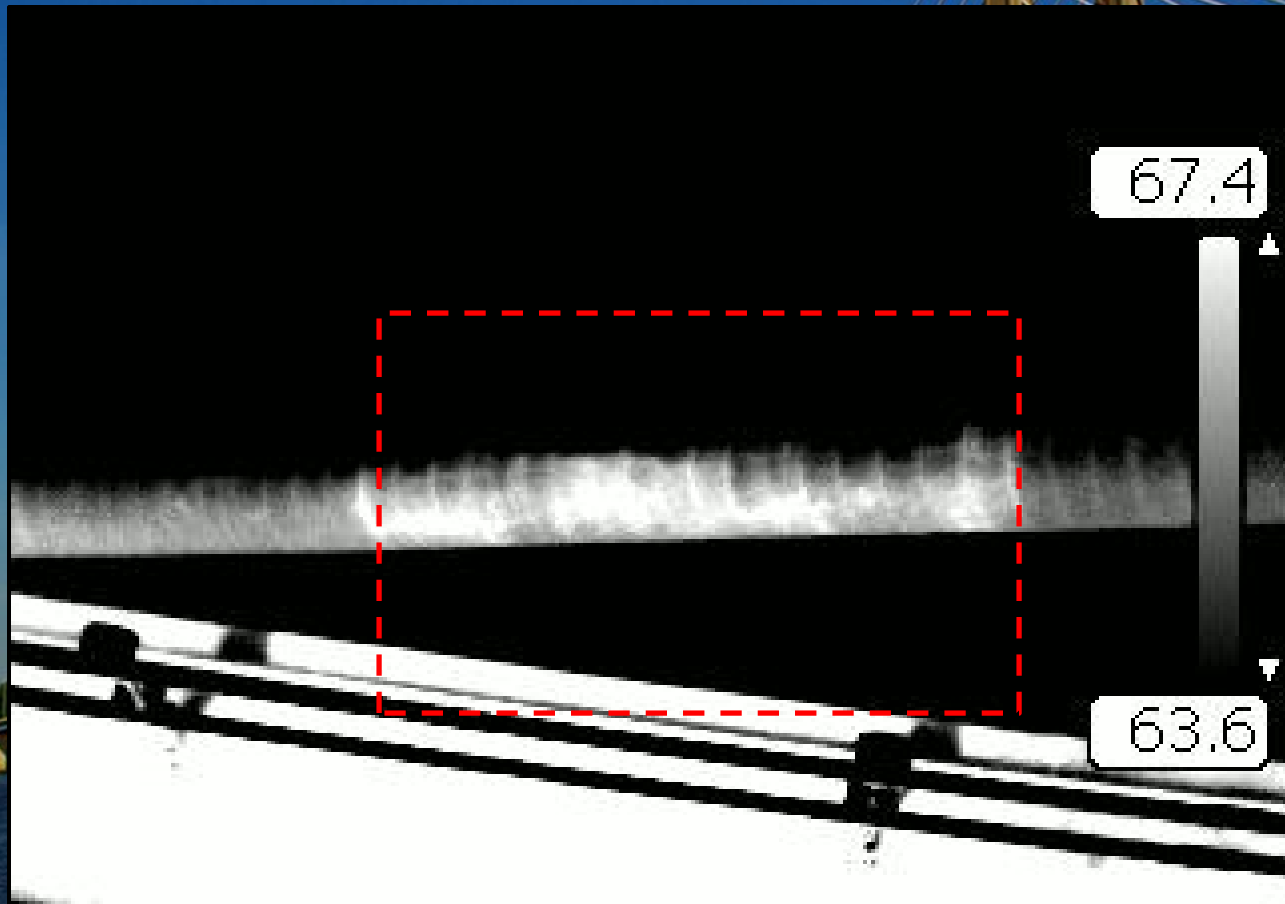
GPR & IR – Cable Stay Bridge



GPR & IR – Cable Stay Bridge



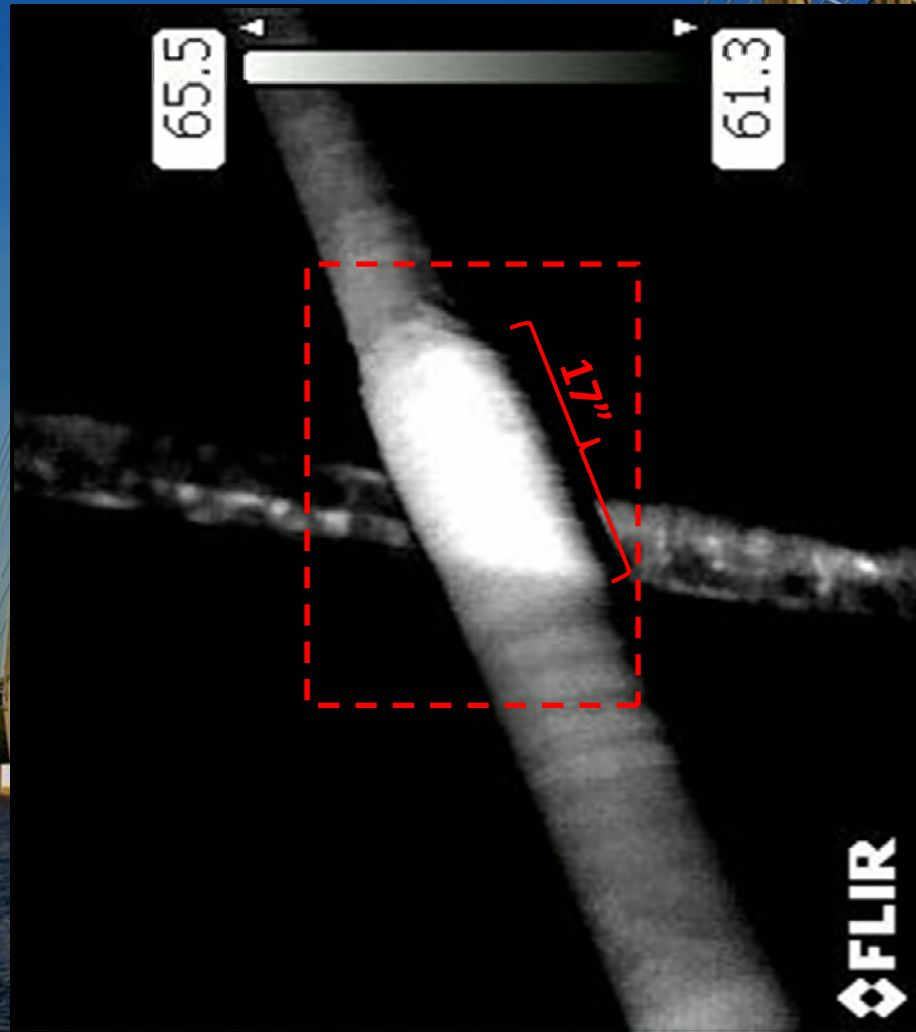
GPR & IR – Cable Stay Bridge



GPR & IR – Cable Stay Bridge



GPR & IR – Cable Stay Bridge

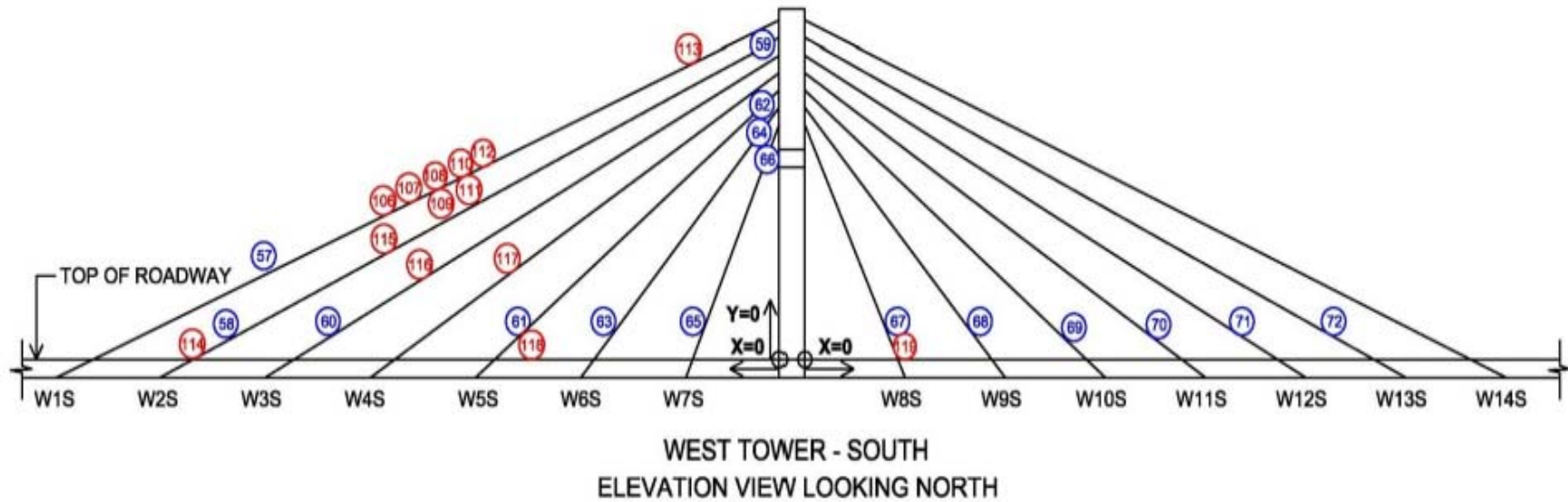


GPR & IR – Cable Stay Bridge



Elastomeric
Cable Wrap
System on
PE Cables
(not
damaged by
NDT)

Cable Stay Bridge – Deficiency Location



Ⓜ ITEM # IN TABLE OF CABLE DEFICIENCIES - MARKED BY SCS PHASE I

Ⓜ ITEM # IN TABLE OF CABLE DEFICIENCIES - MARKED BY SCS PHASE II

Cable Stay Bridge – Deficiency Table

A2 : CABLE DEFICIENCIES

SCS Project #: 10048-02 YEAR: 2012

ITEM #	CABLE	LOCATION	IMAGE	DEFICIENCY	PHASE
1	E1N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	19" void	I
2	E1N	20' above deck	2647	40" void; cracked pipe**	I
73	E1N	20' above deck	1204240004	¼" void at top of cable; dry top half of one strand was visible; grout around void was cracked; no visible corrosion (Image 1)	II
74	E1N	87' above deck	100_3667	19" void (Image 2)	II
3	E3N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	16" void	I
75	E3N	69' above deck	100_3662	20" void (Image 3, 4)	II
4	E4N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	11" void	I
5	E5N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	12" void	I
6	E6N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	13" void	I
76	E7N	Lower Boot	100_3650	Cut at bottom of boot; wet to the touch	II
7	E7N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	13" void	I
8	E7N	~40-50' above deck	SS 1	Butt weld	I
9	E8N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	16" void	I
77	E8N	8' above deck	1205180030	3/8" gap between pipes; grout observed lower down in pipe sleeve (Image 5)	II
10	E9N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	32" void	I
11	E10N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	19" void	I
78	E10N	8' above deck	1205180024	5/16" gap between pipes; grout observed lower down in pipe sleeve	II
79	E10N	15' above acoustic sensor along the top of the cable*	100_2920	Small cuts/bubbles in wrapping; water present in one cut (shortly after precipitation)	II
12	E11N	Top of lower PE pipe sleeve	N/A	23" void	I

In-Depth Inspection



In-Depth Inspection



Recommendation

A photograph of a cable-stayed bridge with two tall, A-frame concrete pylons. The bridge spans across a body of water under a clear blue sky. The bridge deck is supported by numerous stay cables. The water is dark blue with some ripples. The background shows a line of green trees on the far shore.

- Corrosion rate of strand due to rain water was low
- Grout is of good quality
- No observable water inside the cable or anchorage
- Future deterioration is expected to be low

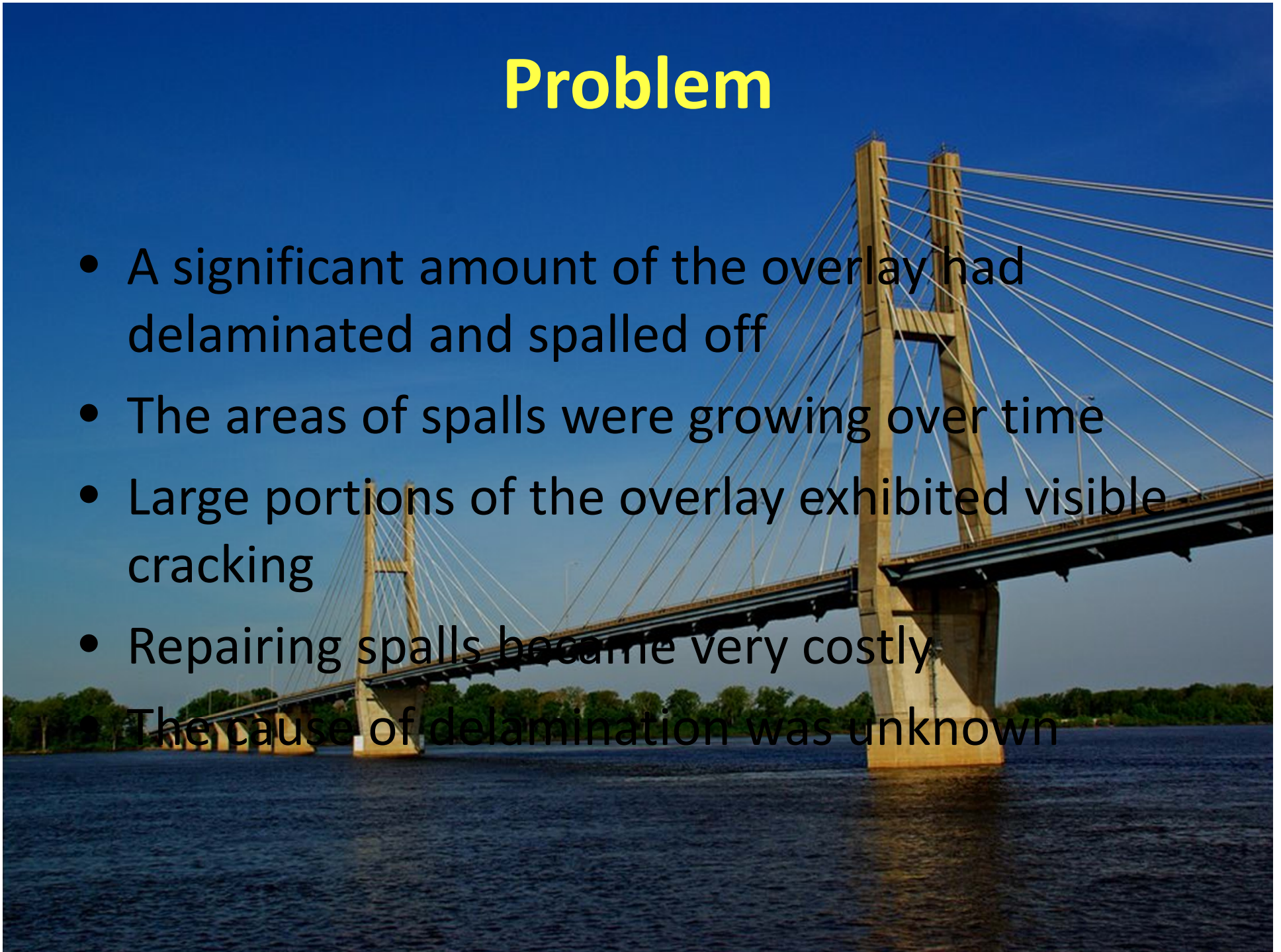
Case Study 2: Overlay Deterioration

Reinforced Concrete Deck
with LMC Overlay



Problem

- A significant amount of the overlay had delaminated and spalled off
- The areas of spalls were growing over time
- Large portions of the overlay exhibited visible cracking
- Repairing spalls became very costly
- The cause of delamination was unknown



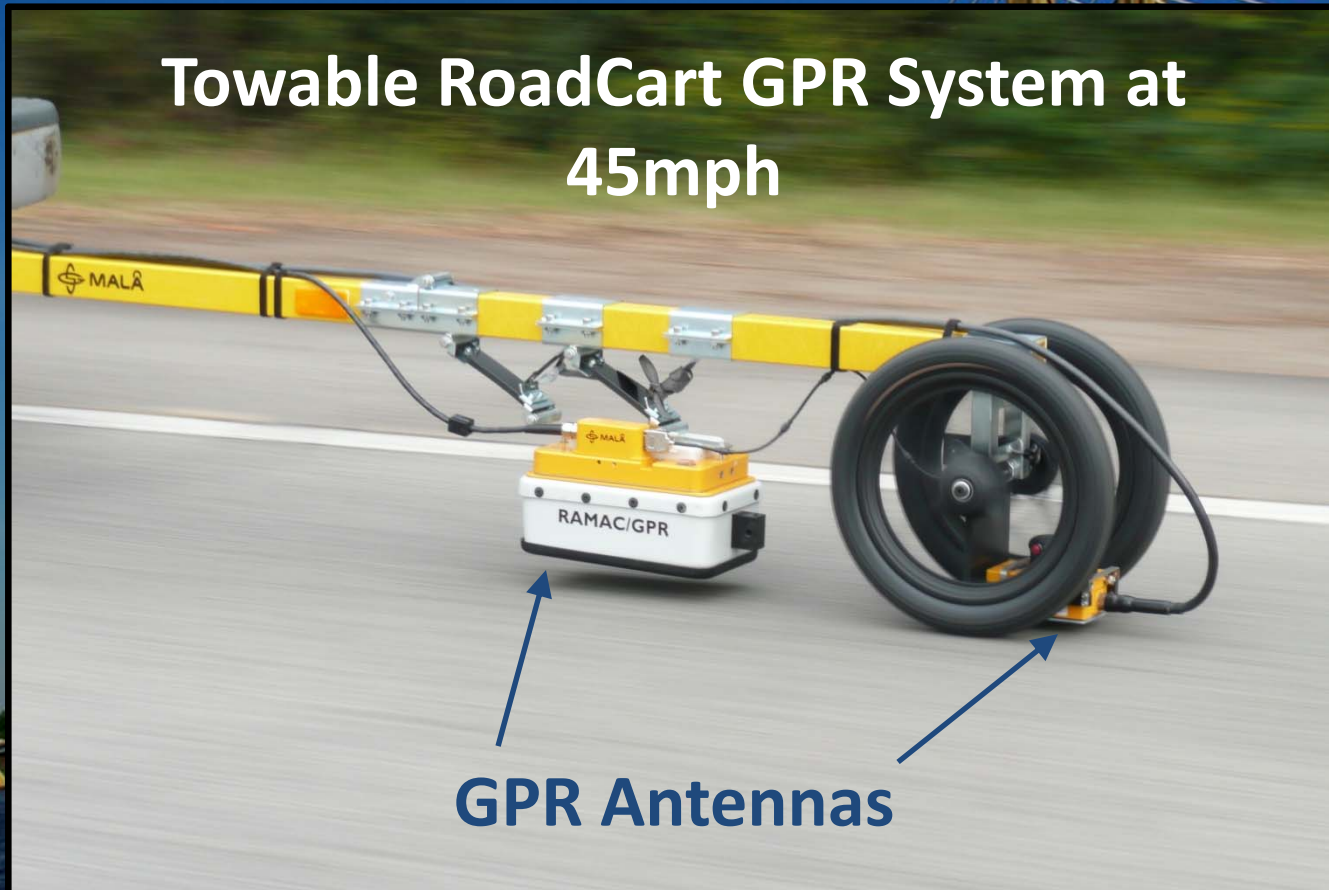
Problem

Delaminations and Previous Repairs



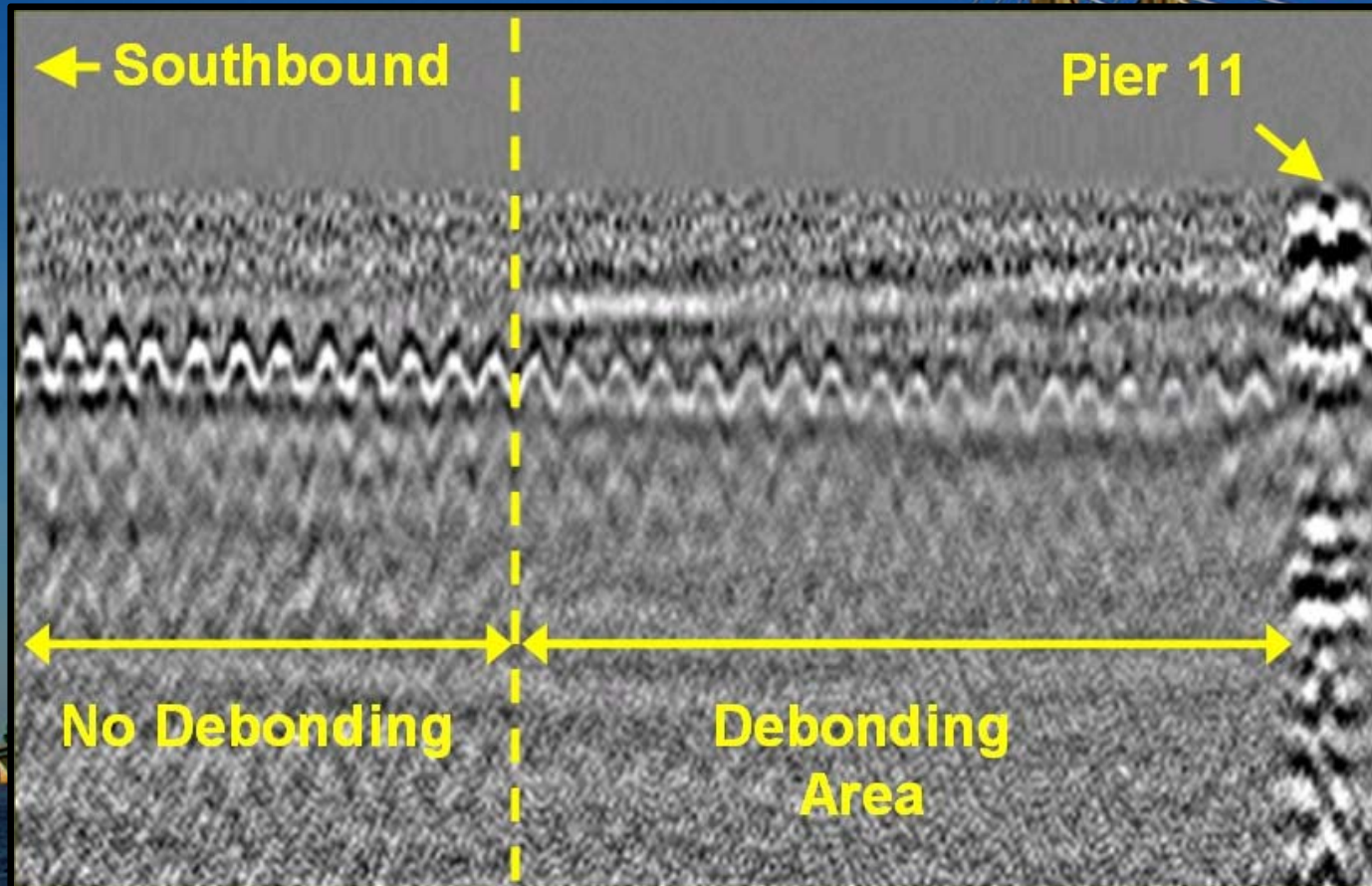
GPR at Highway Speed

Towable RoadCart GPR System at
45mph

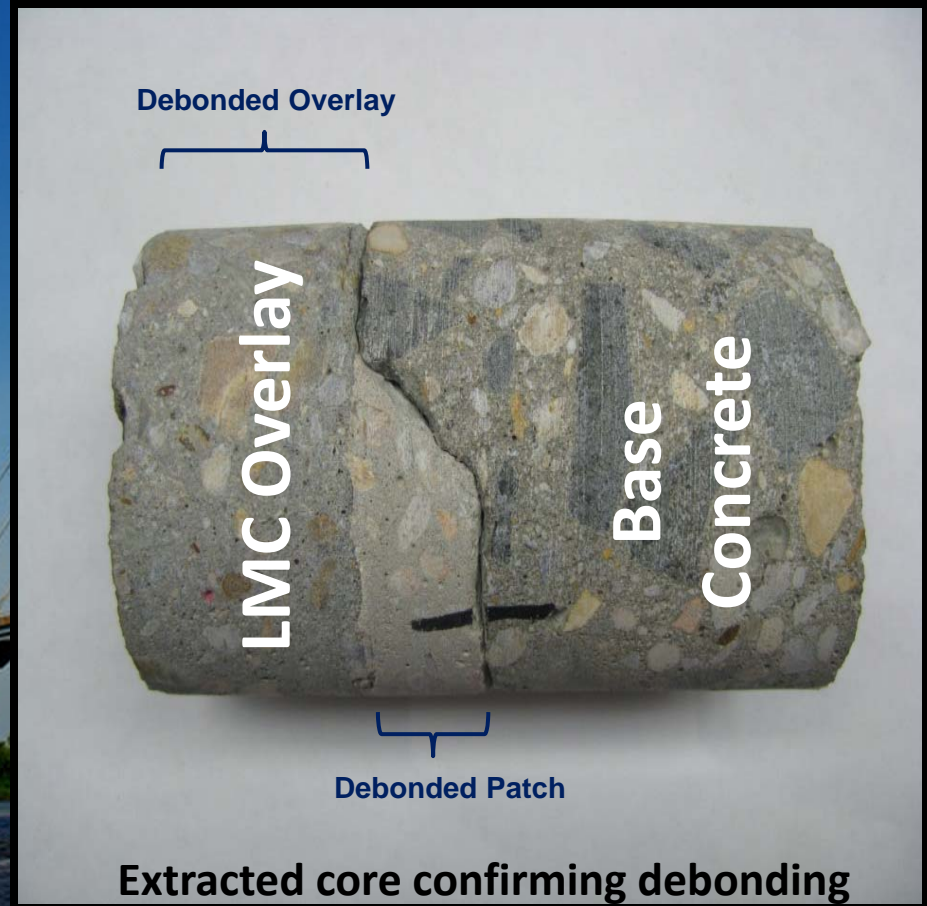
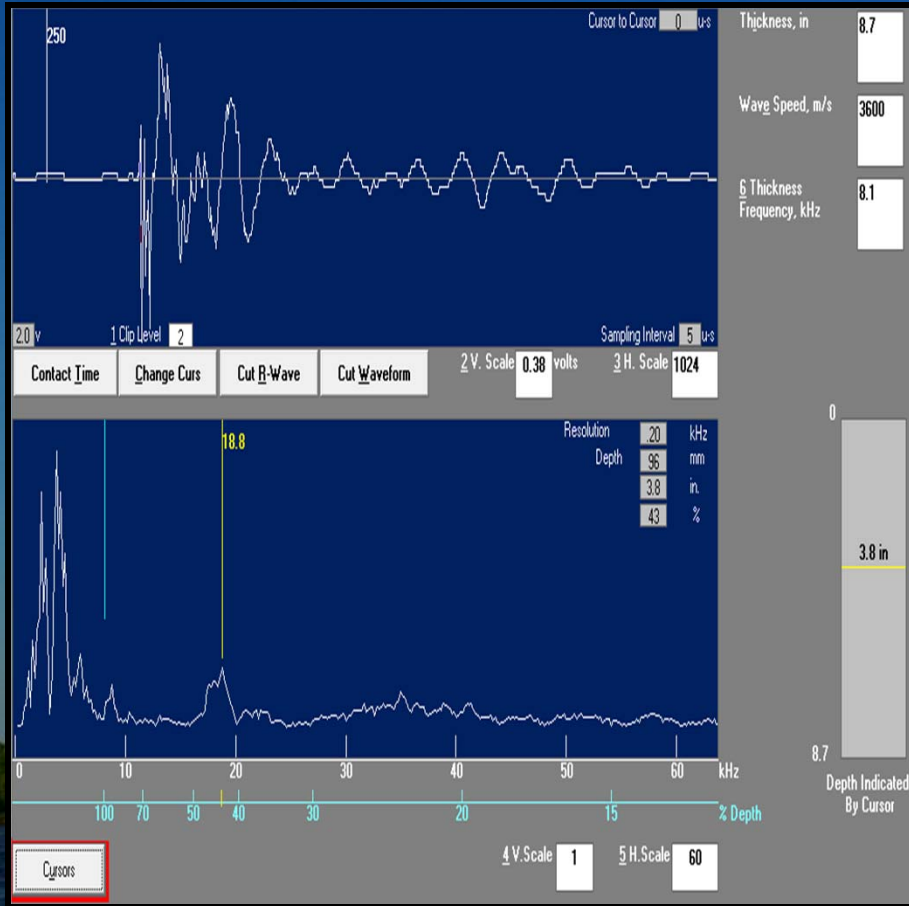


GPR Antennas

GPR at Highway Speed



Impact Echo (IE)



Frequency Response of Debonded Overlay in Span 5

Recommendation

- Overlay will continue to debond
- SCS recommended removing and replacing the overlay

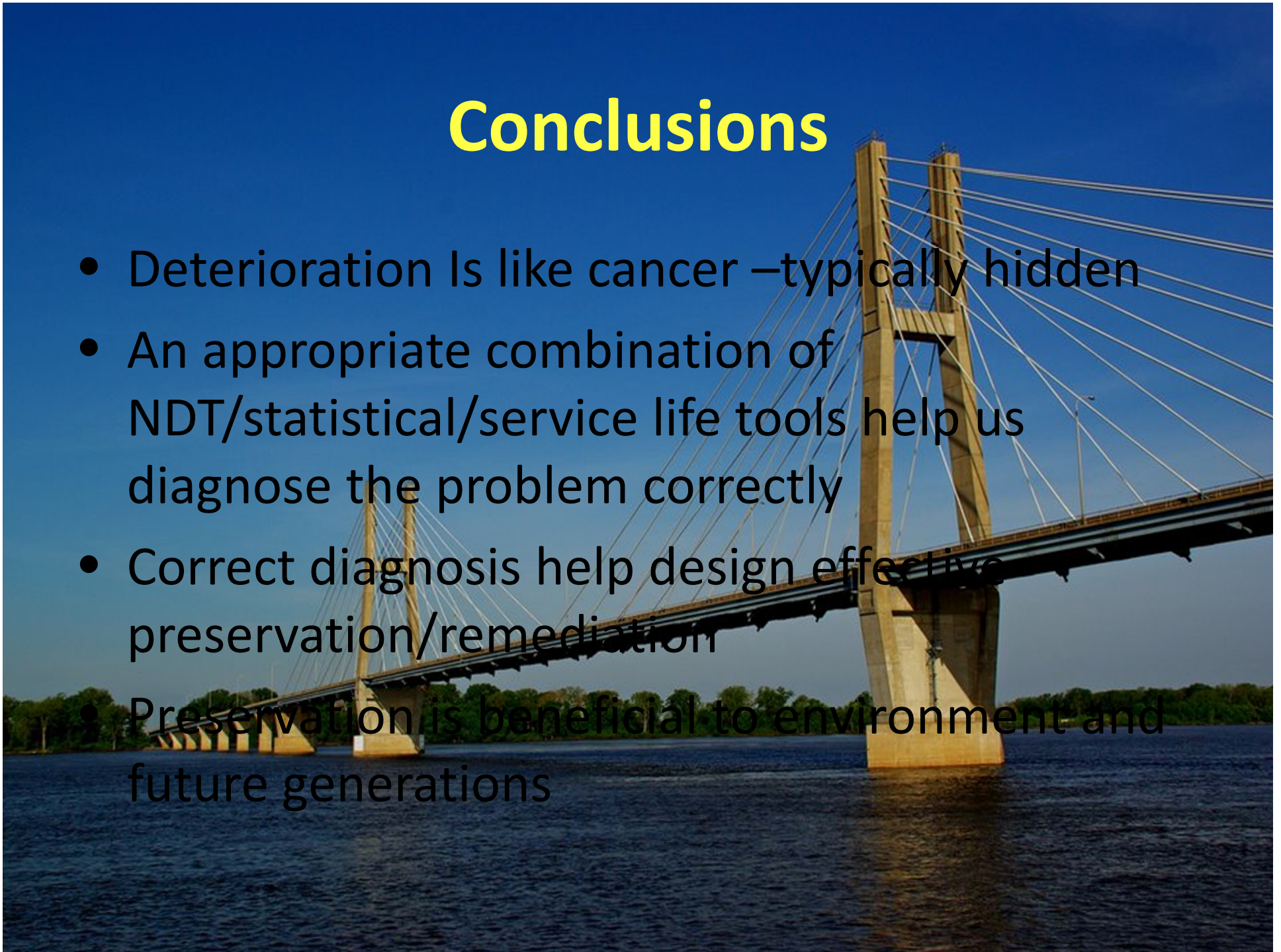


Conclusions

- Preservation program applied consistently over time is necessary to realize the benefits of preservation
- Using **right tools** at the **right time** for the **right structure** is essential for cost effective preservation program
- Quantifying instead of just identifying deterioration is necessary to schedule repairs or preservation activities
- If deterioration is left unaddressed, the repair can be very expensive

Conclusions

- Deterioration is like cancer – typically hidden
- An appropriate combination of NDT/statistical/service life tools help us diagnose the problem correctly
- Correct diagnosis help design effective preservation/remediation
- Preservation is beneficial to environment and future generations



Questions?



Let us talk!