Getting to LRFD Collaborative Software Development TxDOT/WSDOT

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BridgeSight Software[™]

TxDOT's Bridge Program Statistics

- Texas has about 50,000 bridges, about 40% more than any other state
- 2005 TxDOT procures 1,000,000 linear feet of precast I girders in new bridges
- 2007 Texas/Wisconsin led U.S. for lowest cost structures on a per-square-foot basis (\$50-\$85)



- Washington State has about 3,500 bridges
- Precast-Prestressed Concrete Bridges
 - \$145-\$175/sq ft

TxDOT Bridge Engineering

- Staff
 - 100 in-house engineers
 - 170 consulting firms
- Highly refined processes for designing and detailing bridges
 - Detailed superstructure design in about ½ day

WSDOT Bridge Engineering

- Staff
 - 60 in-house engineers
 - 10-20 consulting firms (varies with workload)
- Highly refined processes for designing and detailing bridges
 - Detailed superstructure design in about ½ day

Winds of Change

- FHWA Mandate, October, 2007: AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications
 - Forced reexamination of all design and production practices
 - TxDOT's existing precast girder design program PSTRS14 needed significant updating
 - WSDOT's PGSuper software supported the latest AASHTO LRFD specifications

Some Requirements for an Engineering Design Process

- Quality
 - Consistency in design
 - Common practice and standards
 - Verification of calculations
- Adaptability
 - Deal with non-standard configurations
 - Quickly respond to industry changes
 - Rollout of specification changes and innovation
- Efficiency
 - Full automation for common configurations



- Today's precast design
 - 1,000's of computations/evaluations
- Requirements
 - Quality
 - Adaptability
 - Efficiency



- Vetted by IT and Engineering Staff
- About 100 Main Requirements
 - Weighted by priority
 - 7 categories

TxDOT's Quest for Precast Girder Design Software

- Several Avenues Were Explored/Pursued
 - Upgrade PSTRS14
 - Develop New Program In-House
 - Commercial Options
 - AASHTOWare
 - Free and Open-Source Alternatives

After Long Review, PGSuper Best-Fit Requirements

- Nearest Fit to TxDOT's Design Process
- Based on Solid Technology
 - Modern, Interactive User Interface
 - Object-Oriented Software Architecture
- Shared Resources
 - Collaborative Development
 - Precast Technology Transfer
- Minimal Project Risk and Cost
 - Open Source License

Open Source Software

- Copyrighted software licensed with special terms
 - Allows use without restriction
 - Allows redistribution without restriction
 - Allows the creation of derivative works
 - Requires the distribution to include source code
 - Requires all these rights be passed along
- Zero risk for collaborative relationship
 - At any time, either party can walk away with everything, leaving the other party with everything!!!

Collaborative Effort Is Born

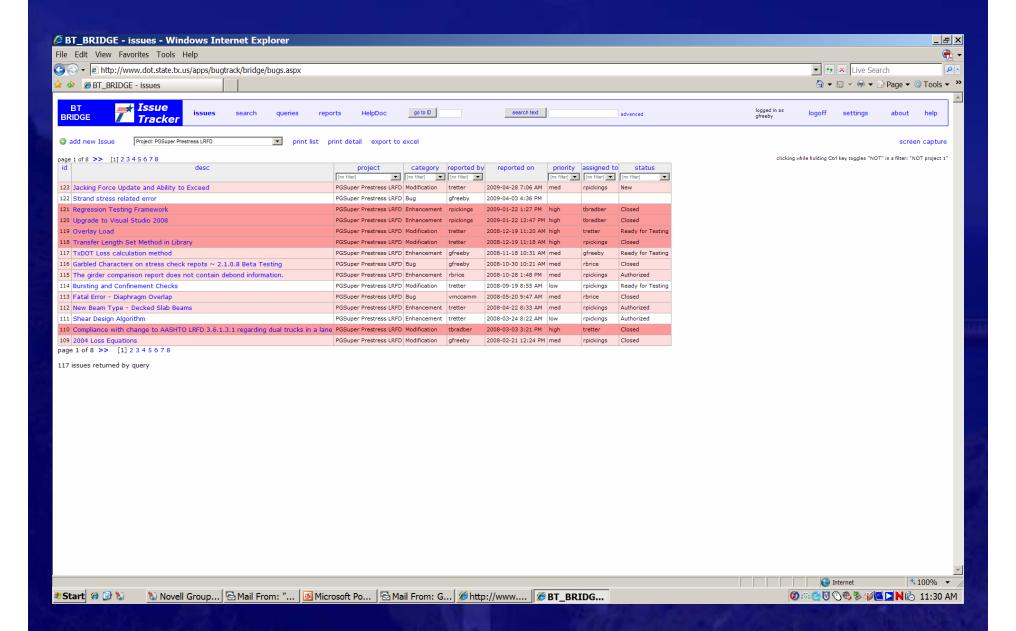
- Collaboration Deemed Best Alternative
- Mid-2006 Collaboration Begins
 - BridgeSight Inc. selected as contractor
 - Only two TxDOT/WSDOT/BridgeSight meetings
 - High reliance on Tele-collaboration

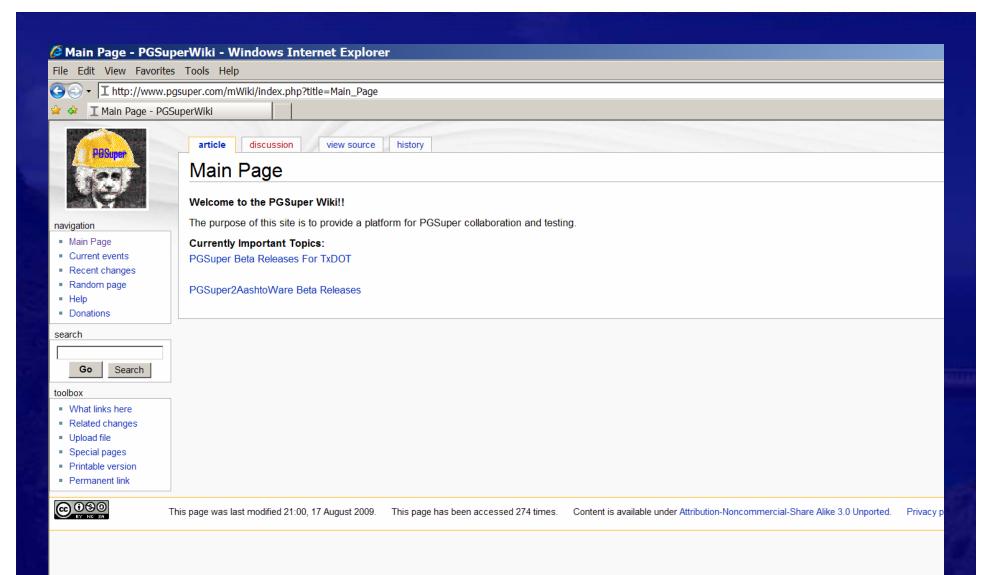






- Internet-Based Tools
 - Email
 - Issue Tracking System
 - Requirements
 - Bug Tracking
 - Project Wiki
 - Documentation, Pre-Releases, Testing





Additional Benefits of Collaboration

- Technology Transfer
 - LRFD Specifications interpretation
 - Faster, more robust, design algorithm
 - Increased product quality due to higher level of testing
- Software Flexibility
 - Highly-parametric configuration
 - Program can be modified to needs of almost any agency using LRFD

PGSuper Status at TxDOT

- Superstructure design in ½ day goal achieved
- Used by all in-house engineers
- Release to consultants soon pending final enhancements.

PGSuper Status at WSDOT

- Committed to ongoing development
 - Adding support for AASHTO LRFD 2009
 - Adding spliced girder design capabilities
 - Increasing geometric modeling capabilities
 - Enhancing support for 3rd party integration

Near-Term Plans

- "Non-Standard" Strand Definitions
 - Alternate Designs From Fabricators
 - Research Underway to Streamline Process
 - More Flexible Strand Input
- Post Tensioning
 - Spliced Girder Construction
 - Continuity
- Third-Party Plug-Ins
 - Extend capabilities by adding, not changing source
 - BridgeSight PGSuper2AASHTOWare Translator

Conclusions

- PGSuper has helped TxDOT get to LRFD
- TxDOT recognized and leveraged Collaborative opportunity
- Successful collaborative development
- Others are encouraged to join in
 - User feedback, development, testing, documentation, funding



- Free download from
 - www.wsdot.wa.gov/eesc/bridge/software



- www.pgsuper.com
 - Free Training
 - Peer to Peer Support

Demo

More Complex Structures

Quick Demo Showing Typical Precast

Design at TxDOT

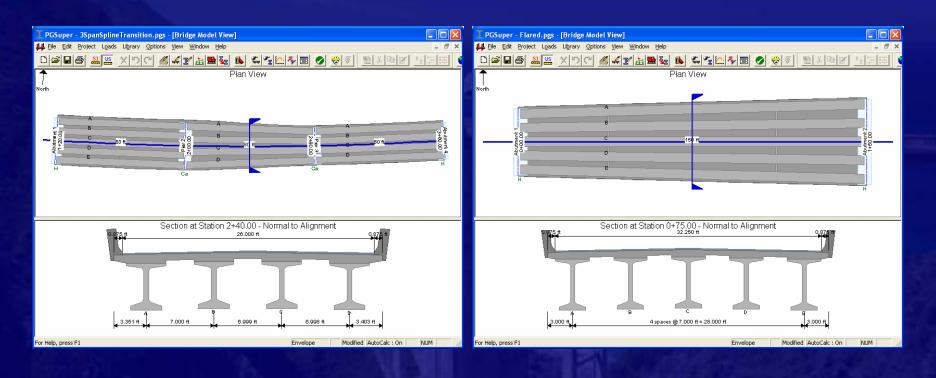




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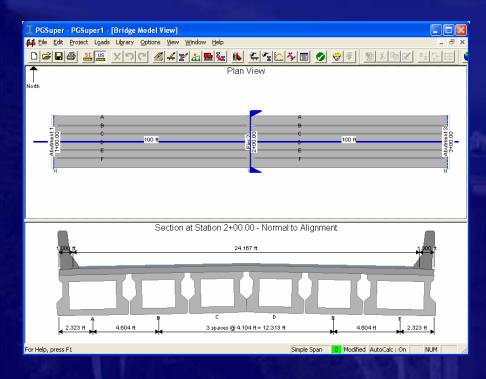
More Complex Structures

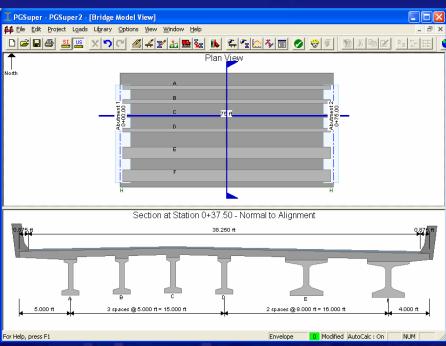
Splayed Girders with Tapered Deck



Complex Structures

Mixed Girder Types





Red Mud Creek Bridge

