

# Design and Construction of the Chico Creek Bridges

By:

Cory Caywood, PE, SE (Jacobs)

Kristy Young, PE (Jacobs)

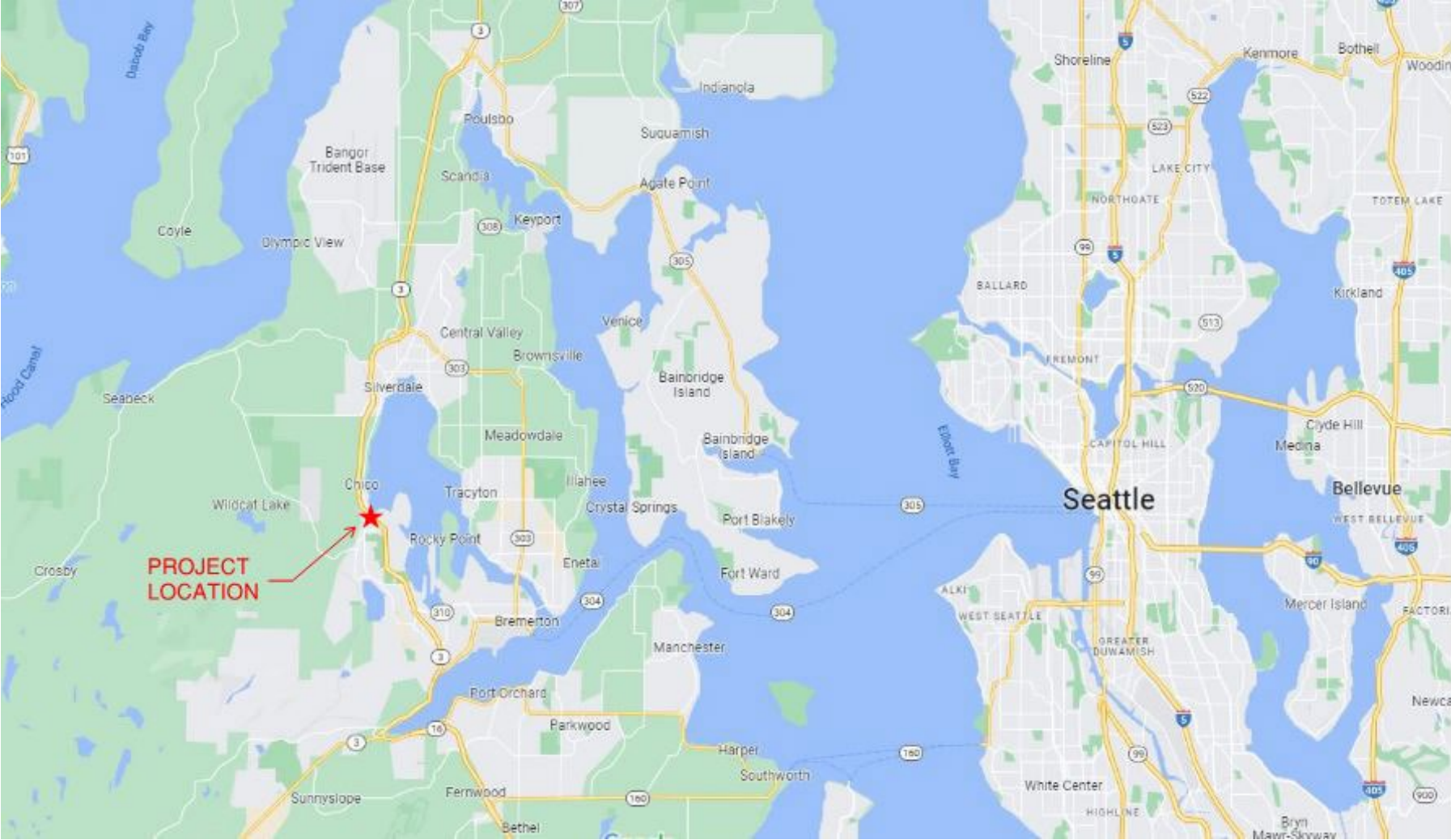
Western Bridge Engineers' Seminar

September 5-8, 2023

# Overview

- Project Location
- Project Background
- SR 3 Over Chico Creek Bridge (Chico Creek Bridge)
- Chico Way over Unnamed Tributary Bridge (Unnamed Tributary Bridge)
- Conclusions

# Project Location



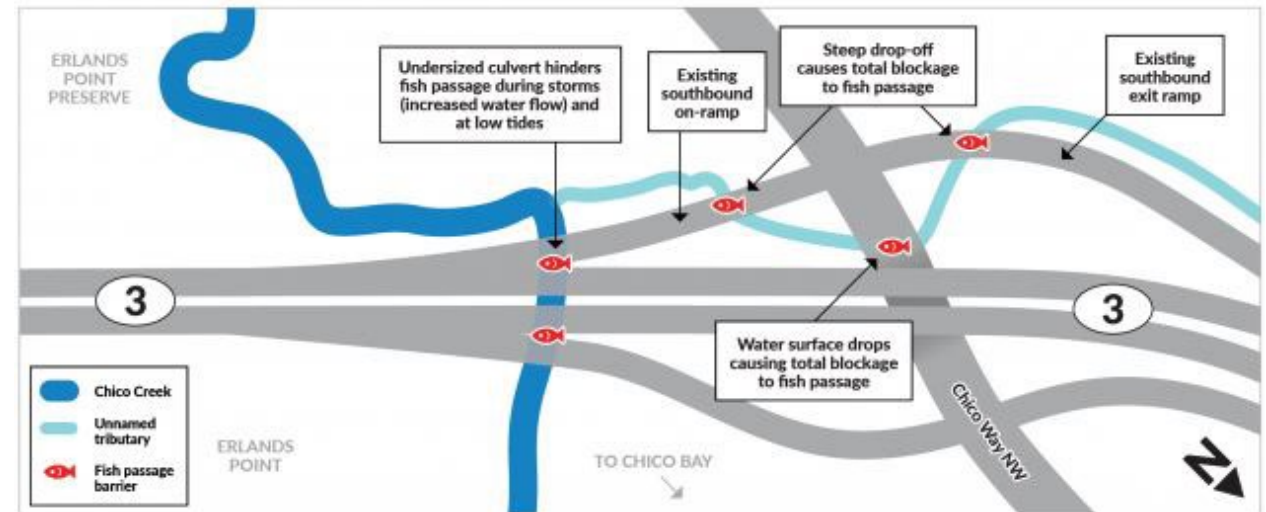
# Project Background

- Part of WSDOT's Fish Passage Barrier Removal Program
  - Approximately 1000 culverts under state highways subject to federal court injunction
- 5 undersized culverts at Chico Creek and Unnamed Tributary required to be replaced

- Design Build Contract

- Owner: WSDOT
- Prime Contractor: Atkinson
- Lead Designer: Jacobs

Existing Barriers to Fish Passage at SR 3 and Chico Way Northwest



# Project Background

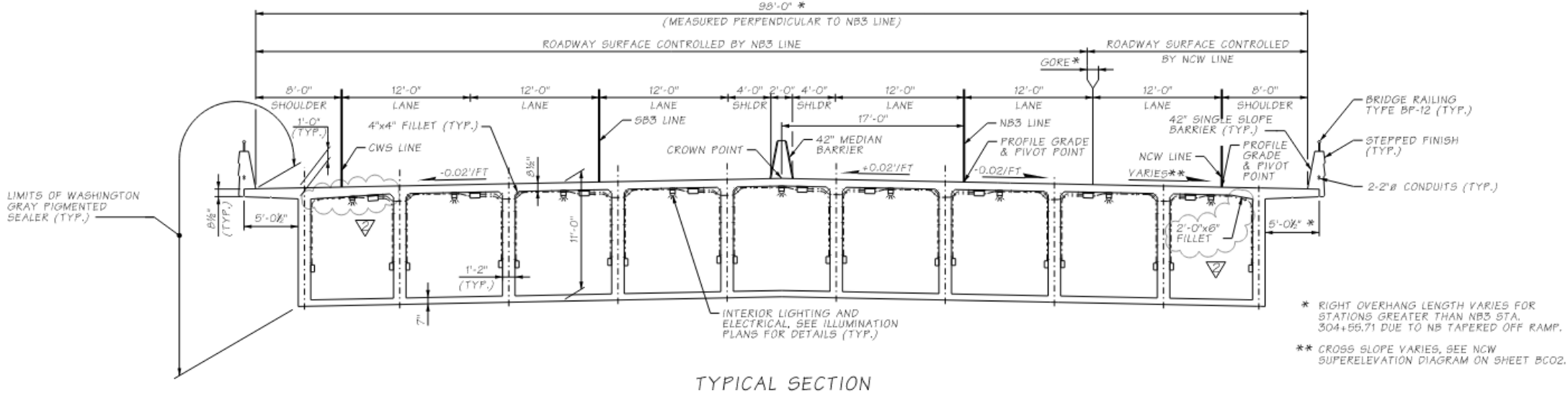


# Chico Creek Bridge

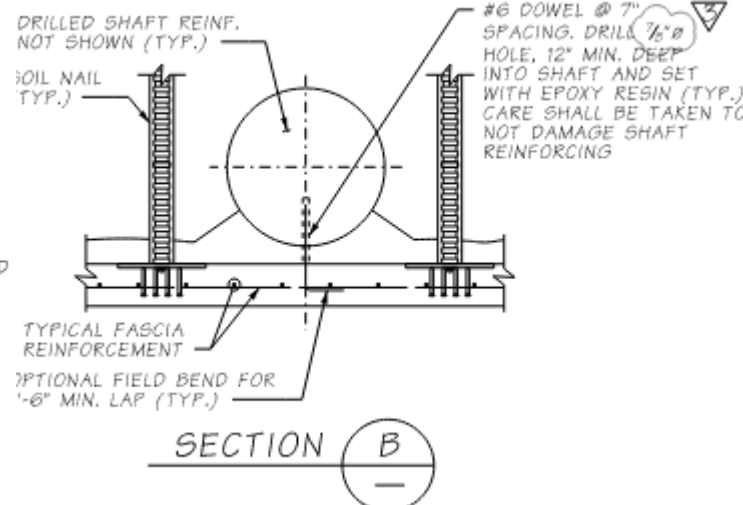
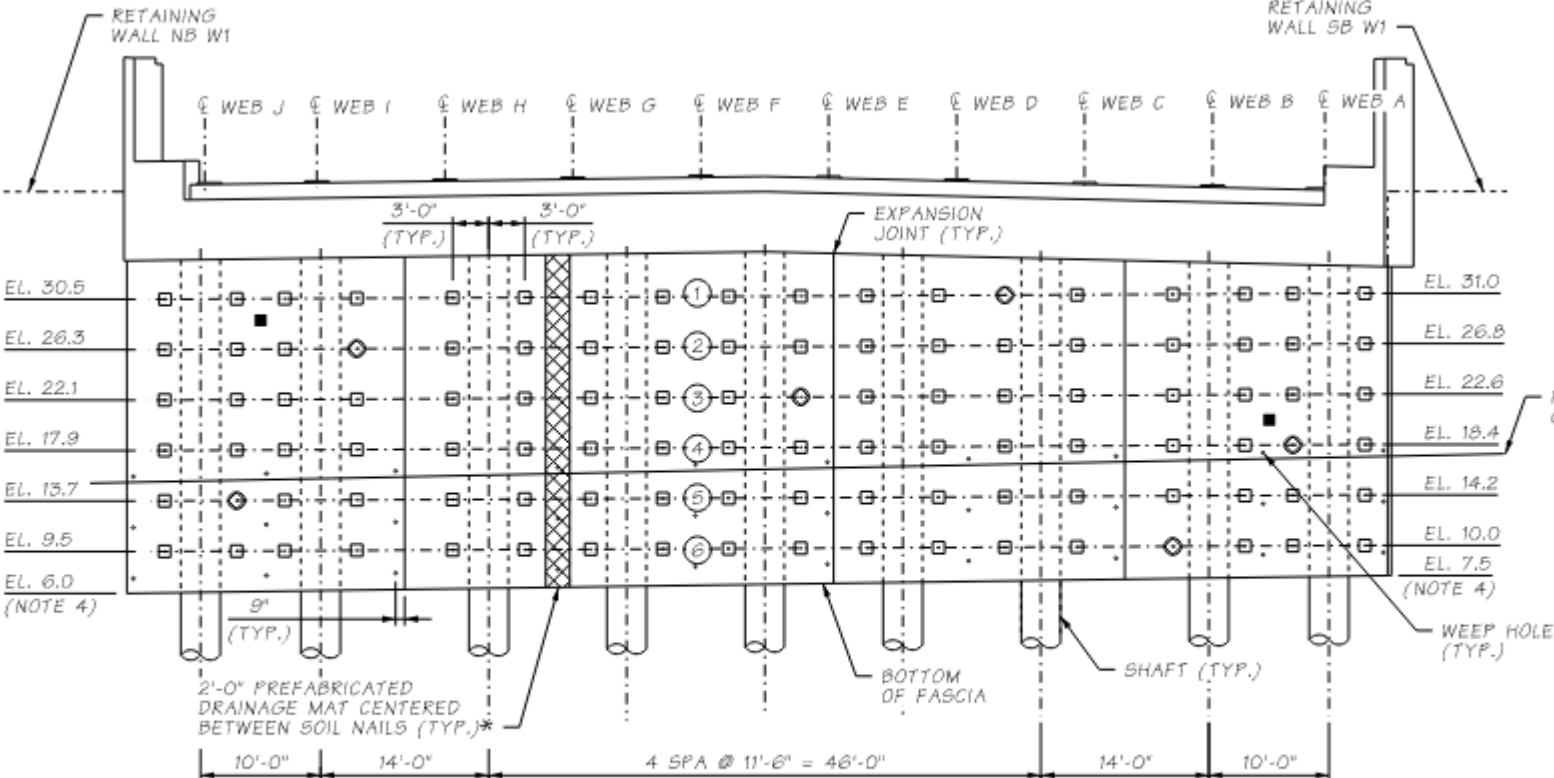


- Clear span over 200' creek migration zone
- 215' single span cast-in-place post-tensioned box girder
- Hybrid drilled shaft/ soil nail wall abutments

# Chico Creek Bridge



# Chico Creek Bridge

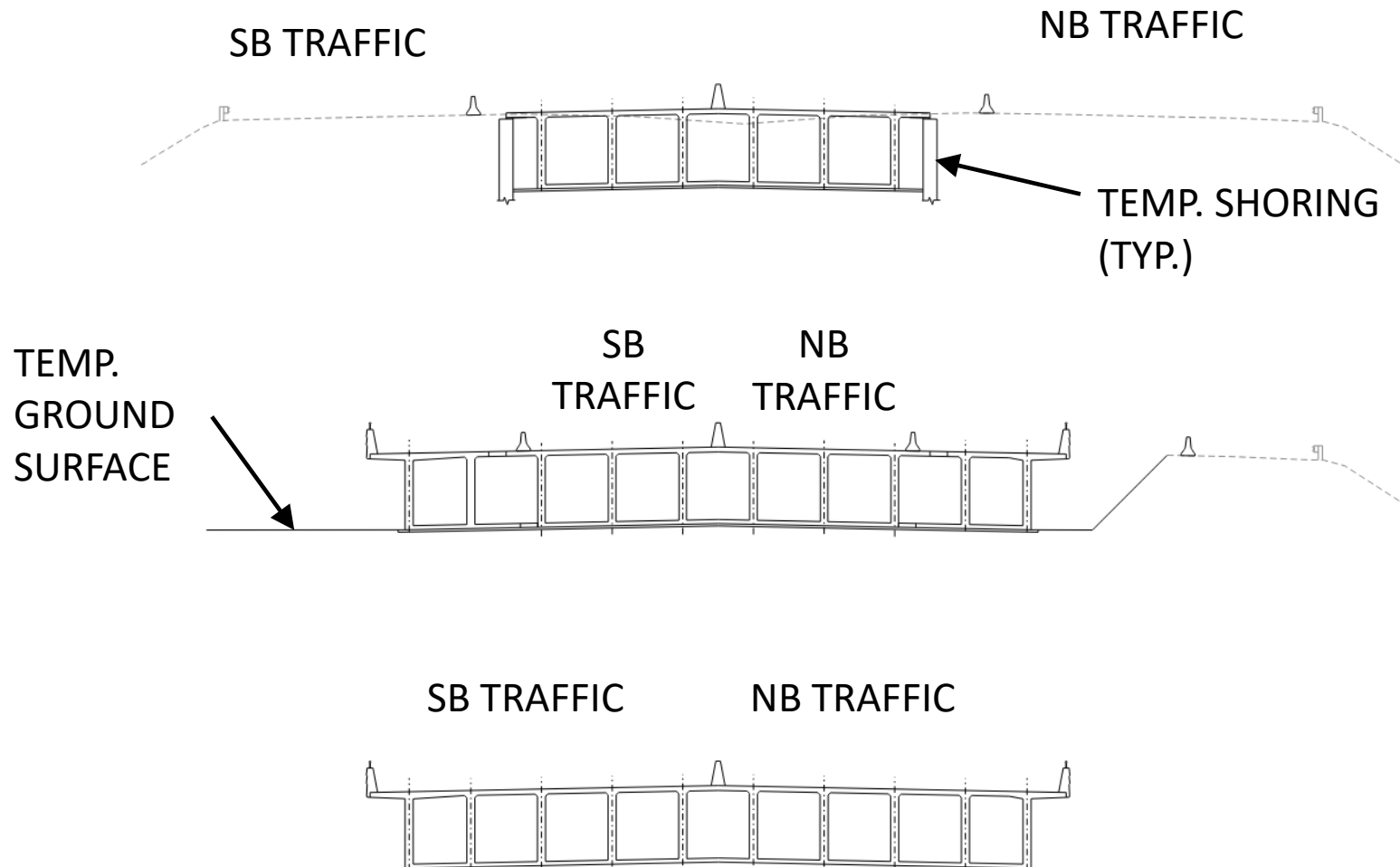


\* PREFABRICATED DRAINAGE MAT NOT REQUIRED AT SHAFT LOCATIONS

ELEVATION - FRONT  
LOOKING BACK ON STATION



# Chico Creek Bridge, Construction Staging- Maintenance of Traffic



## **STAGE 1-**

SHIFT TRAFFIC OUTSIDE AND BUILD MIDDLE PORTION OF SUPERSTRUCTURE

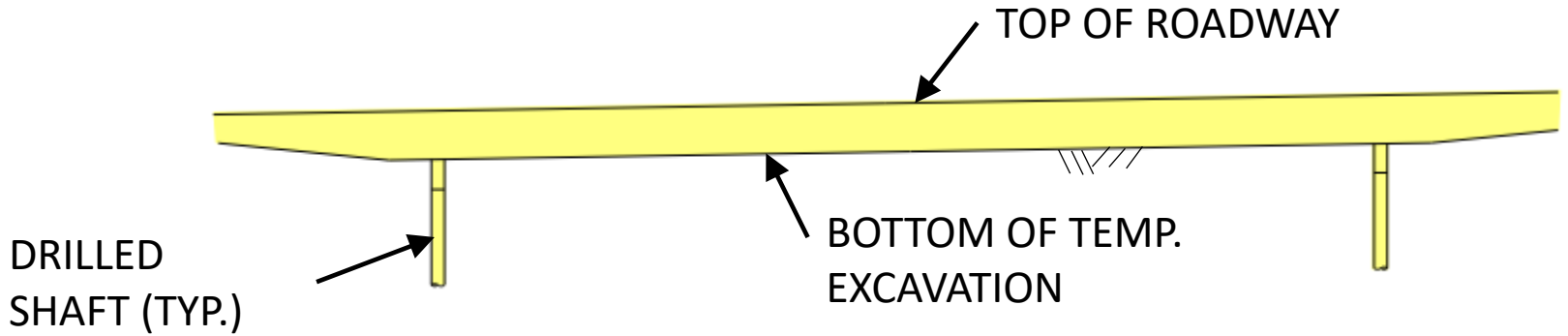
## **STAGE 2-**

SHIFT TRAFFIC TO STAGE 1 BRIDGE AND BUILD OUTSIDE PORTIONS OF BRIDGE

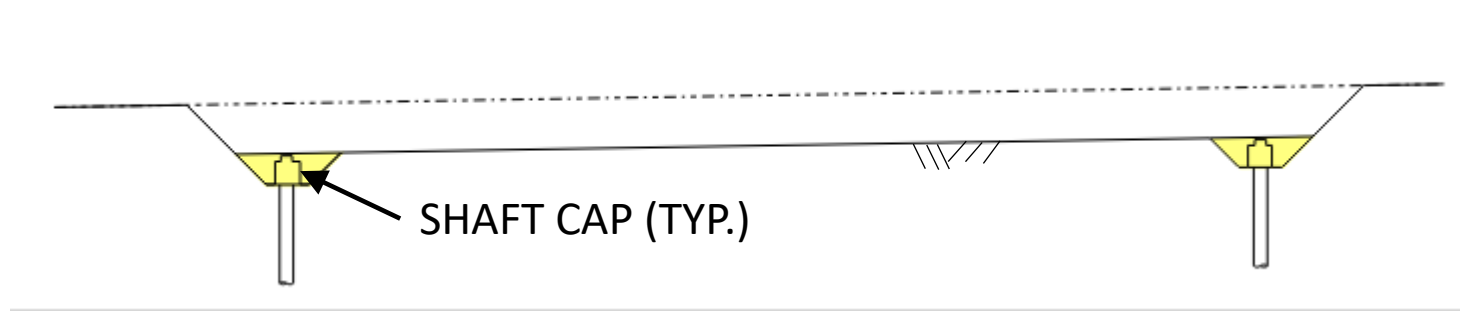
## **STAGE 3-**

SHIFT TRAFFIC TO FINAL CONFIGURATION, EXCAVATE BELOW BRIDGE

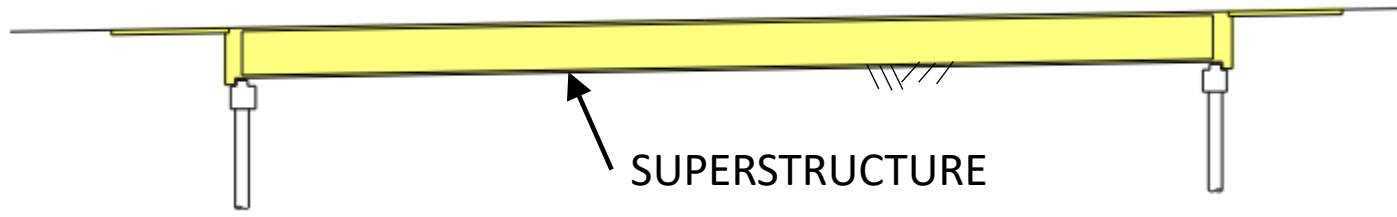
# Chico Creek Bridge, Top-Down Construction (Stage 1 and 2)



**STEP 1-**  
EXACAVATE FOR  
SUPERSTRUCTURE AND  
INSTALL SHAFTS



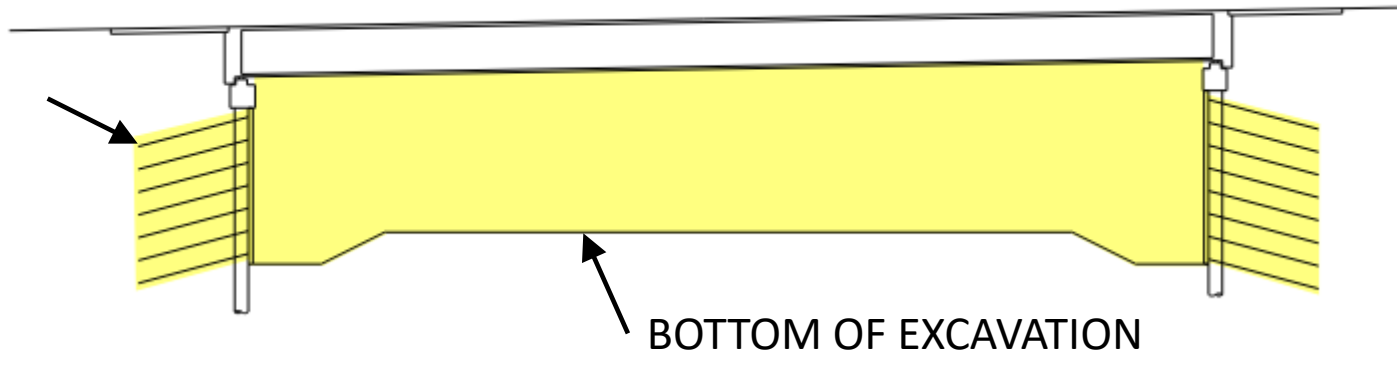
**STEP 2-**  
EXCAVATE AND INSTALL  
SHAFT CAPS



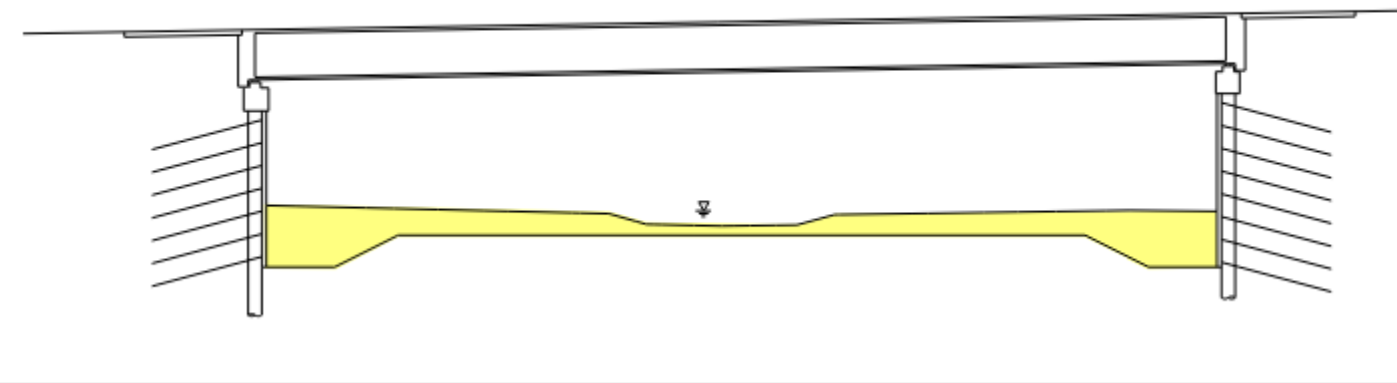
**STEP 3-**  
CONSTRUCT  
SUPERSTRUCTURE

# Chico Creek Bridge, Top-Down Construction (Stage 3)

SOIL NAILS  
(TYP.)

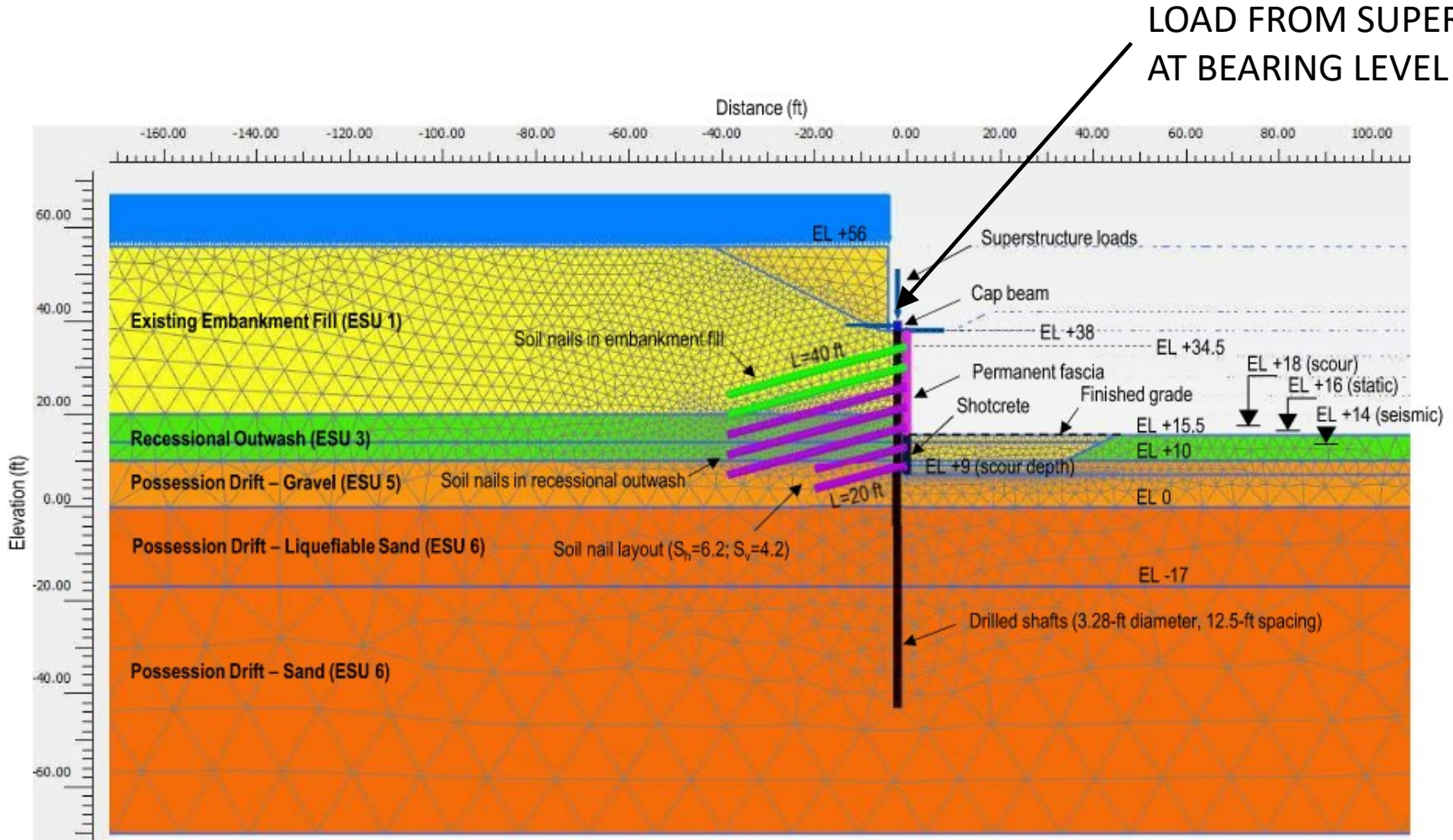


**STEP 4-**  
EXCAVATE AND INSTALL SOIL  
NAIL WALL



**STEP 5-**  
BUILD CREEK CHANNEL,  
DIVERT CREEK INTO NEW  
CHANNEL

# Chico Creek Bridge: Geotechnical Finite Element Analysis



LOAD FROM SUPERSTRUCTURE APPLIED AT BEARING LEVEL

Software: Plaxis 2D

Construction sequencing included in analysis

# Chico Creek Bridge, Construction Stage 1



# Chico Creek Bridge, Construction Stage 2



# Construction Stage 3- Excavation Below Superstructure



# Chico Creek Bridge, Construction Challenges



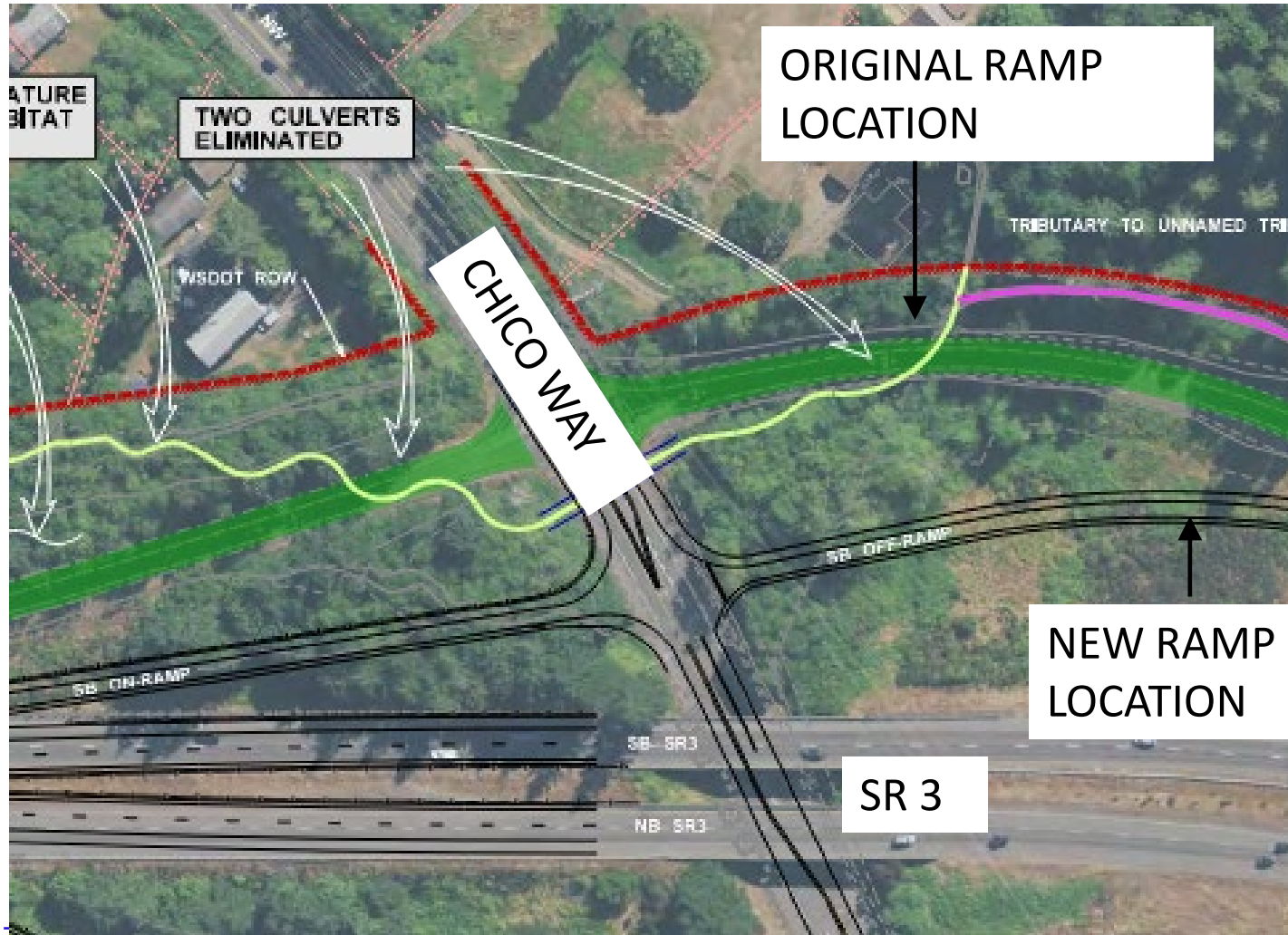
- Soil sloughing in lower layer
- Soil nail locations out of spec tolerance
- Some soil nail nuts and anchor plates not installed until later



# Chico Creek Bridge, Construction Challenges



# Chico Way Over Unnamed Tributary Bridge (Unnamed Tributary Bridge)



- Part of Alternative Technical Concept (ATC) to re-align SB ramps
  - Eliminated two crossings
  - Moved ramps closer to the SR3 for one stream crossing under Chico Way

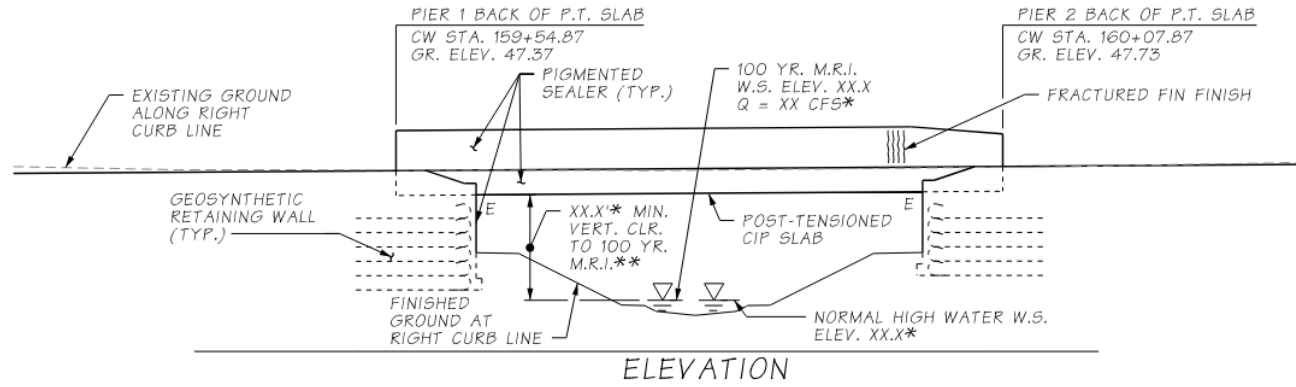
# Unnamed Tributary Bridge



- 39' clear span
- 53' cast-in-place post-tensioned slab
- Sheet pile abutments

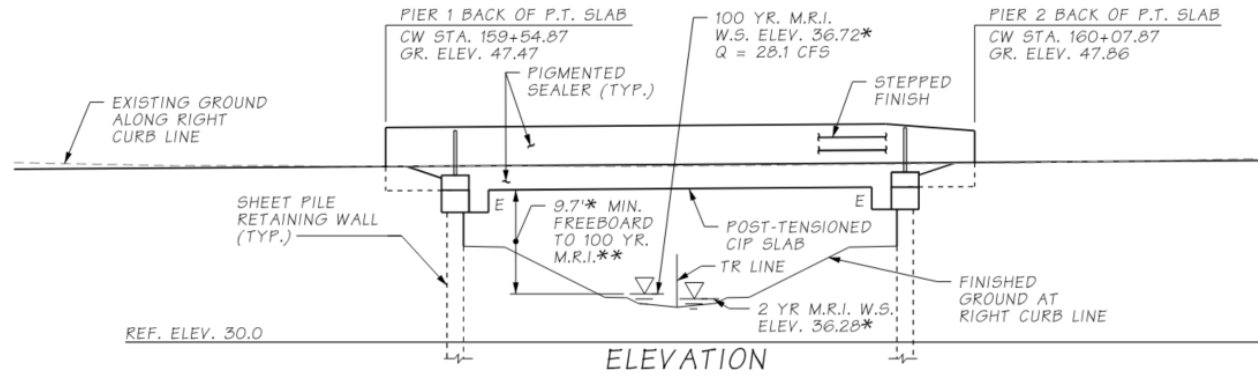
# Unnamed Tributary Bridge

## Original Geosynthetic Concept



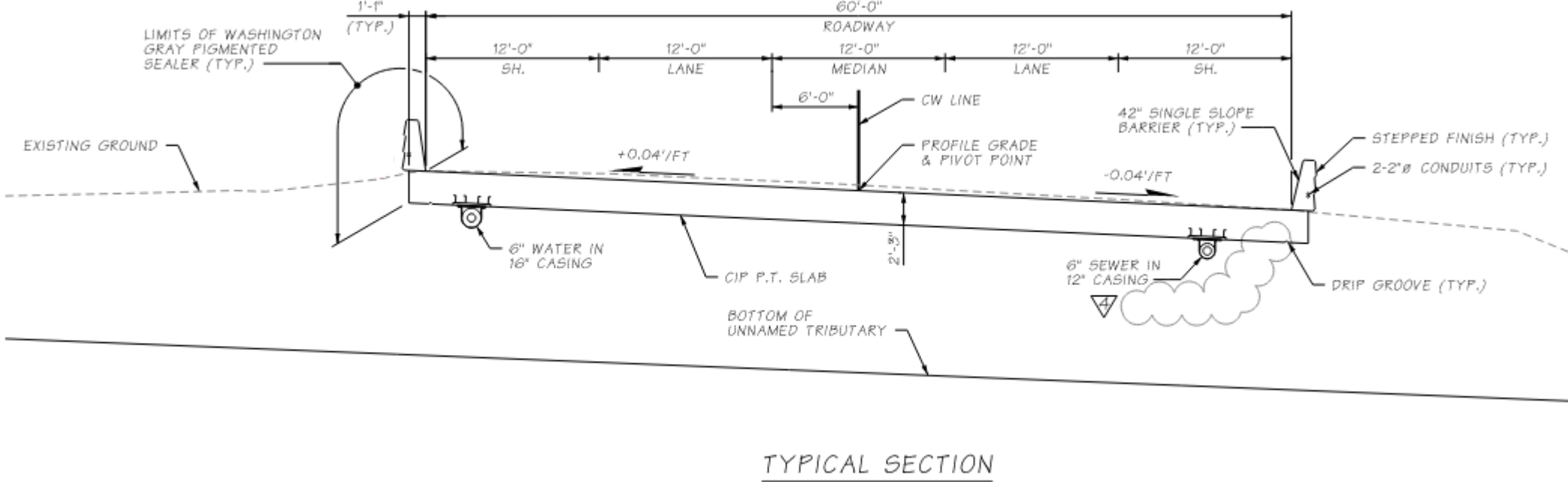
GRADE ELEVATIONS ARE FINISH GRADES AT TOP OF BRIDGE DECK ON CW LINE AND ARE EQUAL TO PROFILE GRADE

## Revised Sheet Pile Abutment

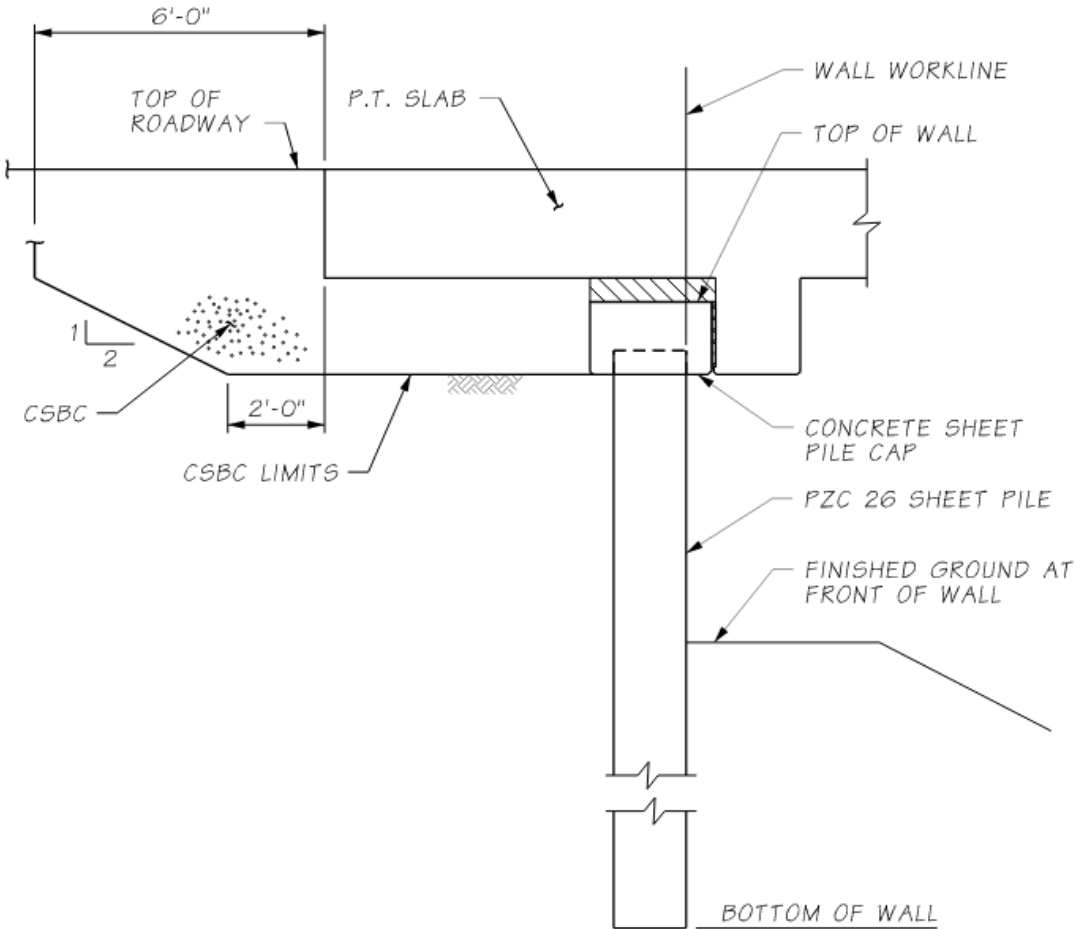


GRADE ELEVATIONS ARE FINISH GRADES AT TOP OF BRIDGE DECK ON CW LINE AND ARE EQUAL TO PROFILE GRADE

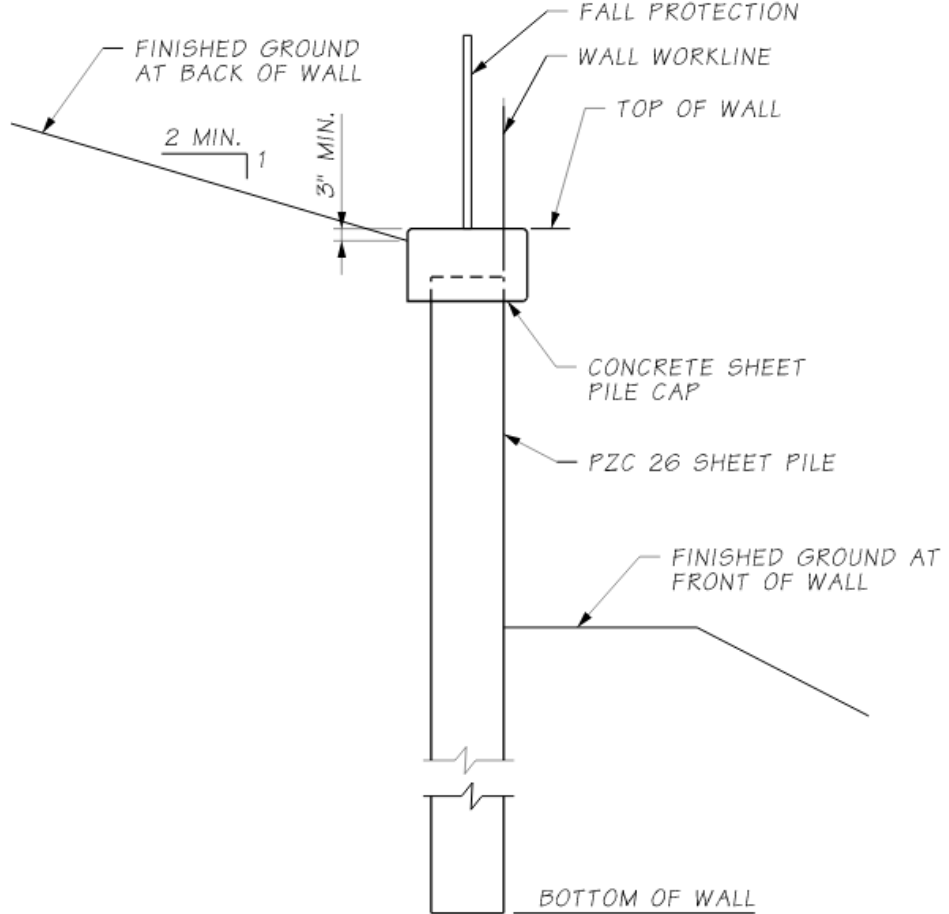
# Unnamed Tributary Bridge



# Unnamed Tributary Bridge

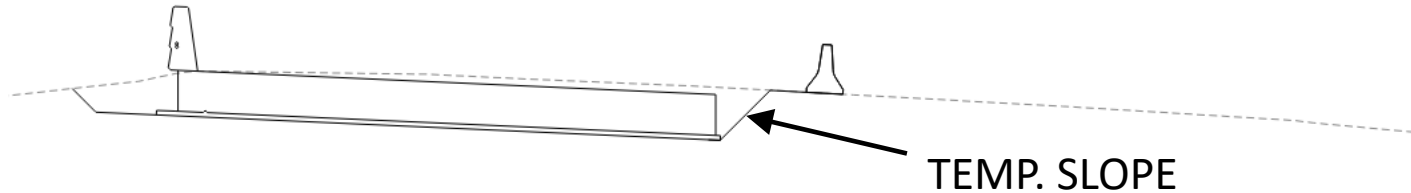


TYPICAL SECTION - BELOW BRIDGE



TYPICAL SECTION - OUTSIDE OF BRIDGE

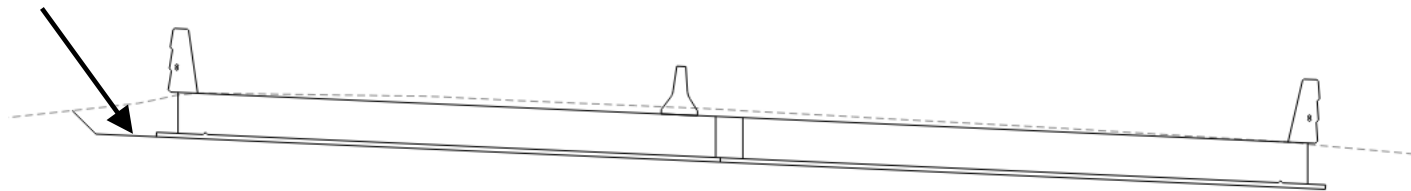
# Unnamed Tributary Bridge, Construction Staging- Maintenance of Traffic



## **STAGE 1A-**

SHIFT TRAFFIC TO RIGHT AND BUILD LEFT PORTION OF SUPERSTRUCTURE

TEMP.  
GROUND  
SURFACE



## **STAGE 2-**

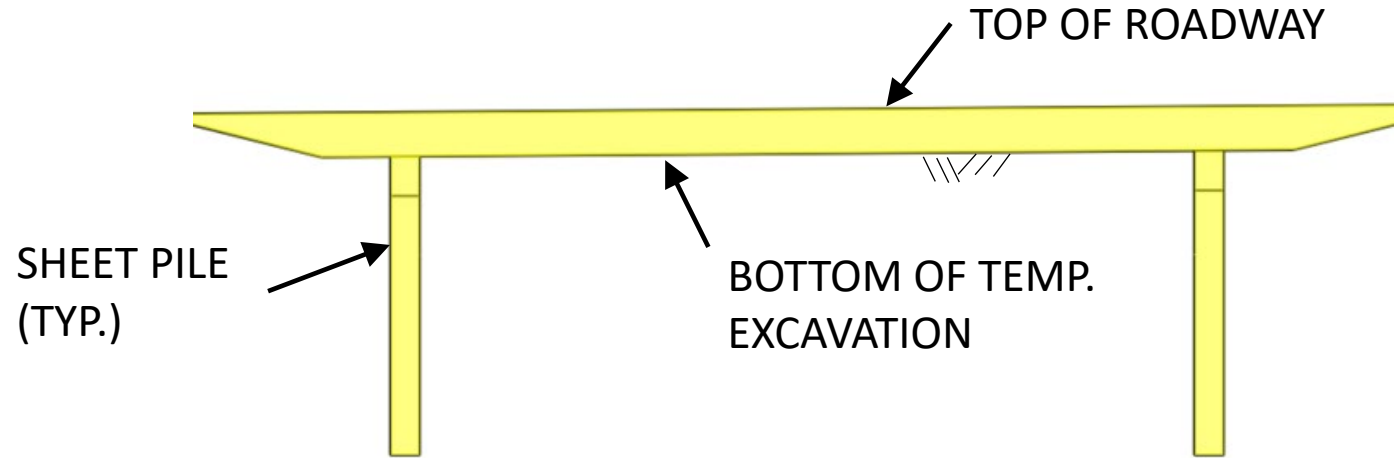
SHIFT TRAFFIC TO STAGE 1A BRIDGE AND BUILD RIGHT PORTION OF BRIDGE



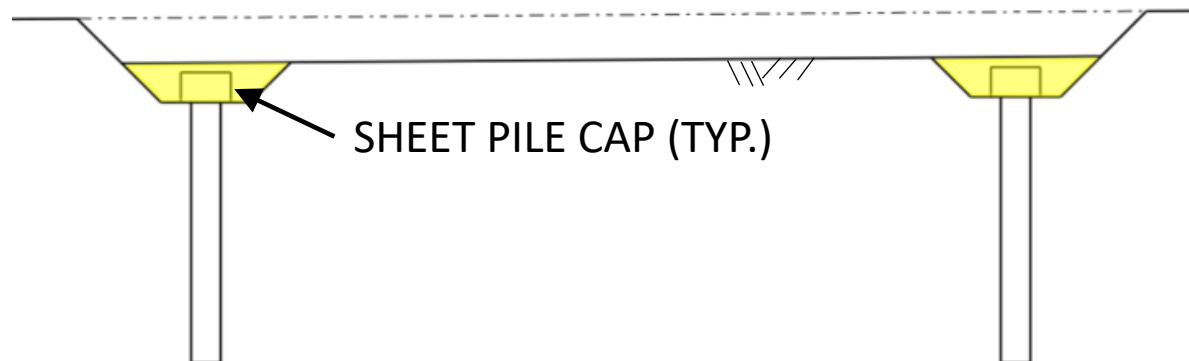
## **STAGE 3-**

SHIFT TRAFFIC TO FINAL CONFIGURATION, EXCAVATE BELOW BRIDGE

# Unnamed Tributary Bridge, Top-Down Construction



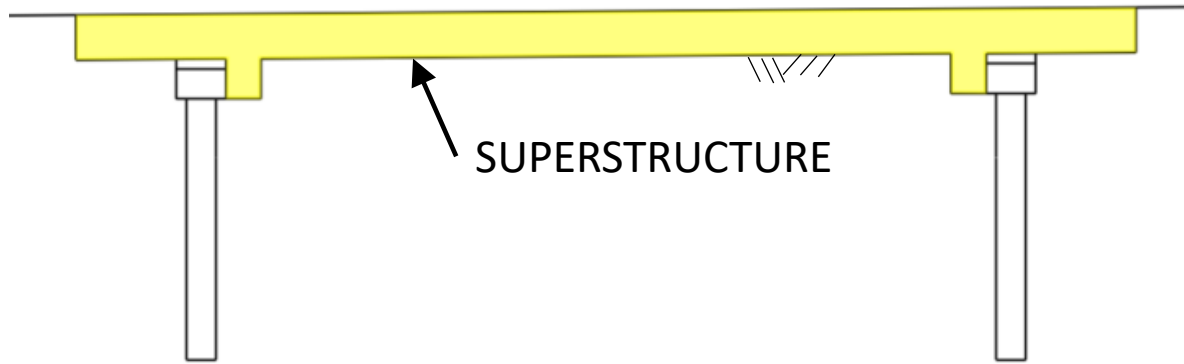
**STEP 1-**  
EXCAVATE AND DRIVE SHEET  
PILES



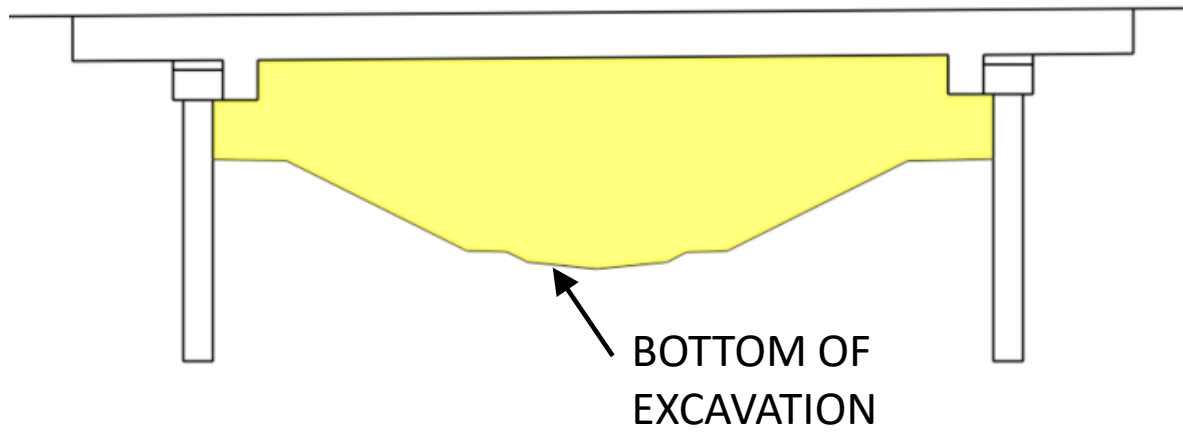
**STEP 2-**  
EXCAVATE AND INSTALL  
SHEET PILE CAPS



# Unnamed Tributary Bridge, Top-Down Construction

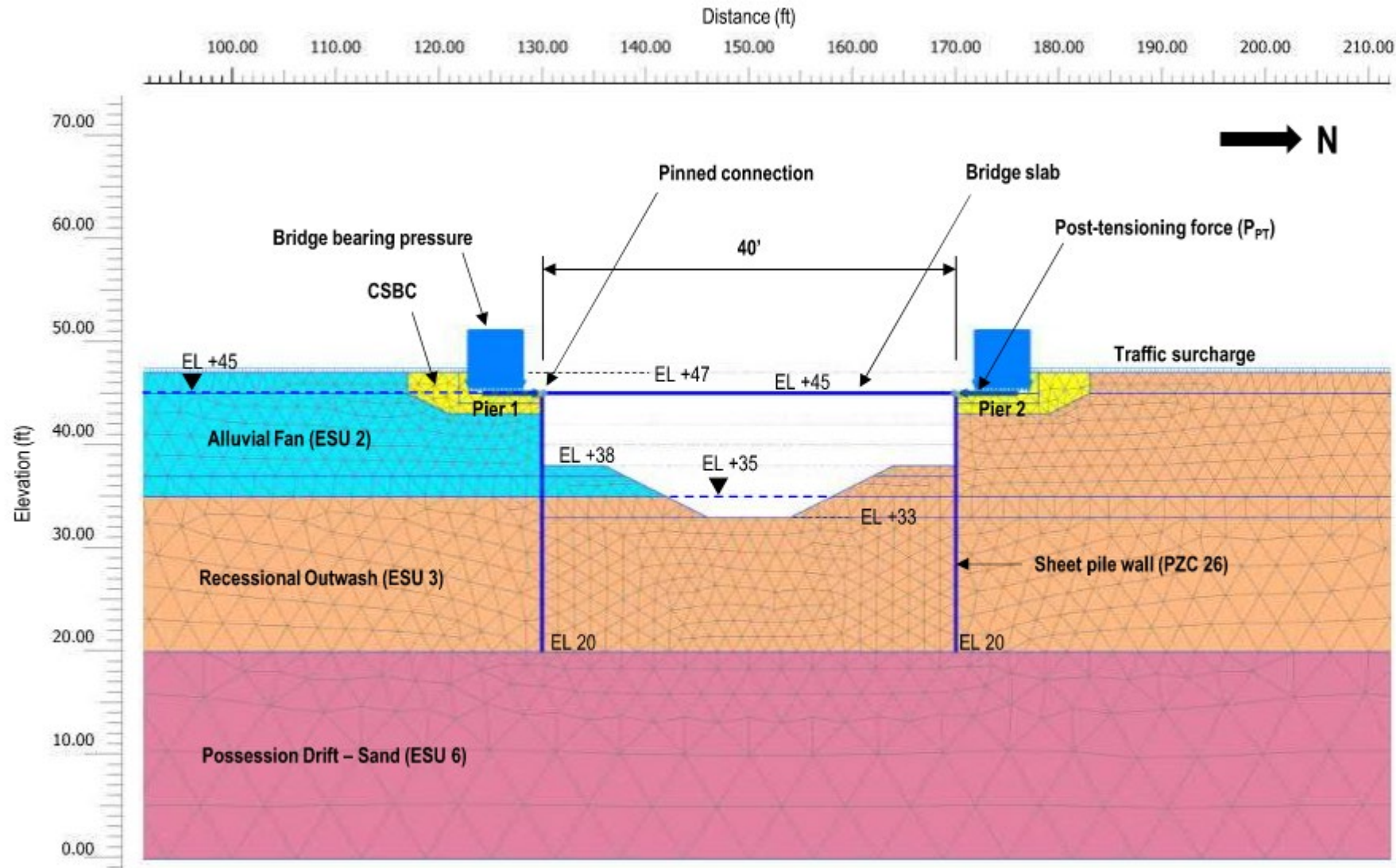


**STEP 3-**  
CONSTRUCT  
SUPERSTRUCTURE



**STEP 4-**  
EXCAVATE UNDER BRIDGE,  
BUILD CREEK CHANNEL

# Unnamed Tributary Bridge: Finite Element Analysis



Software: Plaxis 2D

Construction sequencing included in analysis

# Unnamed Tributary Bridge- Construction Stage 1A



# Unnamed Tributary Bridge, Construction Stage 2



# Unnamed Tributary Bridge, Construction Stage 3- Excavation Below Superstructure



# Conclusions

- Top-down construction can reduce construction time and cost, can be used for small and large bridges
- Be flexible in design to manage risk (sloughing soil, dewatering)
- Soils can be unpredictable when working near a stream



Thank You

**Jacobs**

Challenging today.  
Reinventing tomorrow.

