

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY/BRIDGE PROGRAM
GEOTECHNICAL SECTION
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

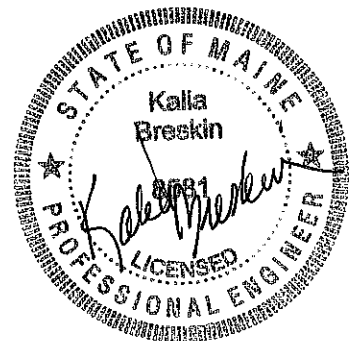
GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN REPORT

For the Replacement of:

**ROUTE 2 RETAINING WALL
SKOWHEGAN, MAINE**

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Penobscot County

WIN 19153.00

Soils Report No. 2013-13

March 5, 2013

DESIGN SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present subsurface information and make geotechnical recommendations for the replacement of a stone wall in Skowhegan which retains US Route 2 at a height of 6-feet above the Kennebec River. Sheet 1, the location map, shows the location of the wall. This wall appears to have been built before the 1954 reconstruction of Route 2 in Skowhegan. The wall is west of the intersection of Route 201, and approximately 600-feet upstream from a dam on the River. The speed limit is 25 mph in this location, and the wall is on the inside of a curve, behind a curb and sidewalk. There is presently no guardrail above the wall between Route 2 and the river, and stone posts of the pedestrian fence have fallen in many places. Sheets 2 and 3 show photographs of the wall taken in 2008 and 2010. The eastern half of the wall in this area has tipped outward, indicating instability. The western portion of this wall appears to have been rebuilt by MDOT Maintenance staff since the original construction, however MaineDOT has no records of the work. The altered portion of the wall will not be rebuilt as part of this project. The portion of the wall to be rebuilt extends from Station 213+07 to Station 215+25 at the eastern end of the existing wall, for a length of 218 feet.

Route 2 is a Priority 1 Highway Corridor. The existing highway in this area has 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders. The distance from the existing curb to the face of the wall is approximately 8-feet in most places. In this construction, shoulders and sidewalks will be narrowed to 5-feet to allow the installation of a guardrail behind the sidewalk.

The existing wall appears to have been built on a stone base, and riprap covers the slope between the wall and the river. It is estimated that the base of the stone wall must be at least 6-feet wide for it to have had adequate stability to have lasted since construction.

A pedestrian fence will be built on top of the wall at a distance greater than 3-feet from the face of the guardrail. A reinforced concrete cap will be constructed on top of both existing and new walls to support the new pedestrian fence. The cap will be a uniform thickness over the existing wall, but both thickness and reinforcement will vary to match the elevation at the back of the sidewalk on the new section of wall.

Twenty-four stone fence posts remain on the portion of wall that will not be rebuilt; they will be removed for construction of the concrete cap described above, so that a fence meeting current code requirements can be built. In the area of new wall construction, the existing stone wall will be removed to approximately elevation 155.3-feet for construction of a concrete leveling pad for the new portion of retaining wall.

The water level in the Kennebec River below this wall is controlled by the dam downstream, with a minimum elevation of 155.3 feet according to the FERC permit held by Florida Power and Light. All construction will be above this elevation, and much of the leveling pad will be built on the lower portion of the existing stone wall in order to stay above the FERC water level. It is common for the dam operator to drop the water level in the late summer and fall to allow for maintenance activities, and this construction

will be done while the water is low to prevent the need for a cofferdam for this construction.

Subsurface Investigation – A single boring to determine soil properties was drilled in February, 2011, at the edge of the existing roadway. A solid stem auger was used, and Standard Penetration Testing was done.

Existing Soils - Soils encountered included medium dense sands, with small amounts of silt and trace gravel. Wet soils were found 6.8-feet below ground surface, at Station 213+42, 15.7 feet Left. These appear to be the fill soils used when the existing wall was built. The boring was terminated 12-feet below ground surface; no refusal was encountered. Laboratory testing was not done on these samples.

Retaining Wall Design and Construction – A retaining wall meeting the requirements of Special Provision 635, Precast Concrete Block Gravity Wall will be built. The retaining wall has been designed by MaineDOT to support a 125 psf pedestrian load. The impact load from a vehicle collision with the guardrail was not considered in the design. There is no crash history in this location, and if the guardrail were to experience a direct impact, maintenance or repair of a portion of the wall may be needed. The new leveling pad will be built on the lower portion of the existing stone wall to stay above river level.

The manufacturer's standard 28-inch deep blocks will be used to allow space for installation of a guardrail behind the sidewalk. The face of curb will be 17-feet Left, the back of the guardrail posts will be 24-feet left, and the back of the upper 28" block will be approximately 25.25-feet left. Care will be needed during construction layout of the wall and guardrail to make sure this space is available. The block wall will have a maximum height of 6-feet.

Reinforcement geogrid will be placed at heights of 1.5-feet, 3-feet and 4.5-feet above the base of the wall. From Station 215+00 to Station 215+25 where the cap thickness allows this, "middle" blocks should be used in place of the standard "top" block and reinforcement geotextile should be used above this block. The reinforcement geogrid will be embedded for a length of 6-feet measured from the face of the block. Upper layers of geogrid will be pierced by the guardrail posts, and added length has been included for loss of strength from guardrail installation.

The manufacturer's "Cobblestone" face pattern will be required on the blocks. The blocks should be tinted grey to minimize the visual difference between the existing stone wall and the new blocks.

Retaining Wall Cap and Fence – An 18-inch wide cap will be built on top of the new and existing walls to support a pedestrian fence. The cap will be a uniform thickness of 3-inches on top of the existing stone cap. The bulk of the cap on the new wall will be in the area of the top block intended for landscaping. This portion of the cap will have varying thicknesses to follow the profile at the back of the sidewalk. The height of the cap above the face of the wall is given in the following table; five additional inches of

concrete will fill space in the top retaining wall blocks. A detail showing the cap is included as Sheet 5.

Station	Elevation at face of wall	Thickness at face of cap (inches)
213+25	161.85	3.6
213+50	161.74	2.3
213+75	161.70	1.8
214+00	161.65	1.2
214+25	161.72	2.1
214+50	161.86	3.8
214+75	162.22	8.1
215+00	162.57	12.3
215+25	162.99	17.3

Two longitudinal #4 steel reinforcing bars with 2-inches of cover at the top, spaced well apart will be required from the beginning of the wall to Station 214+70. Beyond this Station, an additional layer of steel will be required. This section will have two #4 bars near the bottom of the cap and two #4 bars with 2-inches of cover, transverse bars will be required spaced 2-feet on center.

Fence posts will be drilled and grouted for a depth of 12-inches into the cap and stones at the top of the existing wall, or into the cap and top retaining wall blocks as needed. These holes will be approximately 6-inches in diameter.

Construction Considerations – Contractor should coordinate work with the owners of the dam downstream to ensure that the work can be done while the water is low. Care will be needed during excavation of the existing wall to protect the lower wall that is to be used as a base for the new construction. Limited space is available for guardrail installation, so accurate layout of both the wall and the guardrail will be essential. Reinforcement steel within the concrete cap should be spaced to avoid fence post locations.

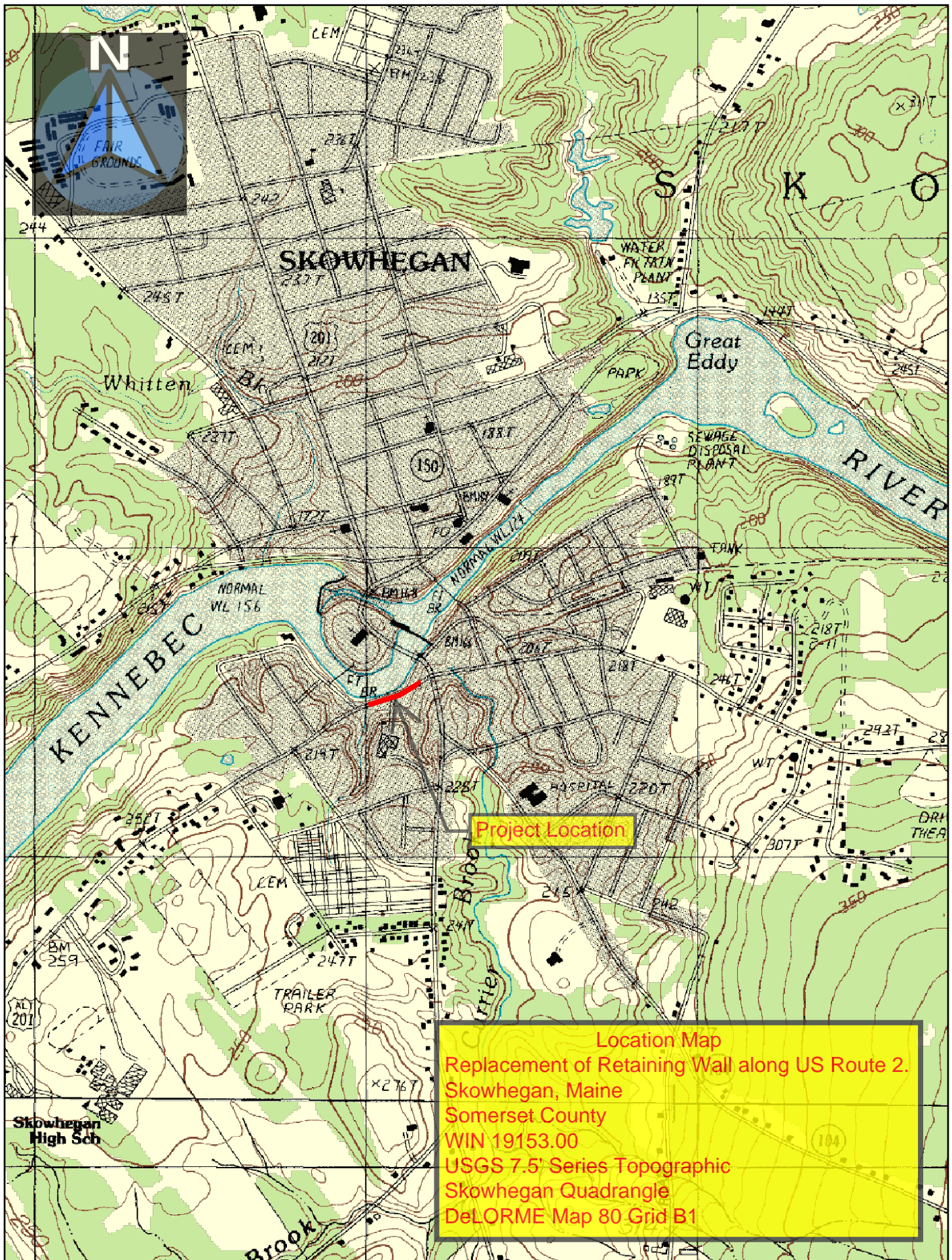
Attachments

Sheets

Sheet 1 - Location Map
Sheets 2 and 3 - Photographs
Sheet 4 - Boring Location Plan
Sheet 5 – Fence Post and Wall Cap Details

Appendices

Appendix A - Boring Log
Appendix B – Calculations
Appendix C – Retaining Wall Design



Map Scale 1:16000

The Maine Department of Transportation provides this publication for information only. Reliance upon this information is at user risk. It is subject to revision and may be incomplete depending upon changing conditions. The Department assumes no liability if injuries or damages result from this information. This map is not intended to support emergency dispatch. Road names used on this map may not match official road names.



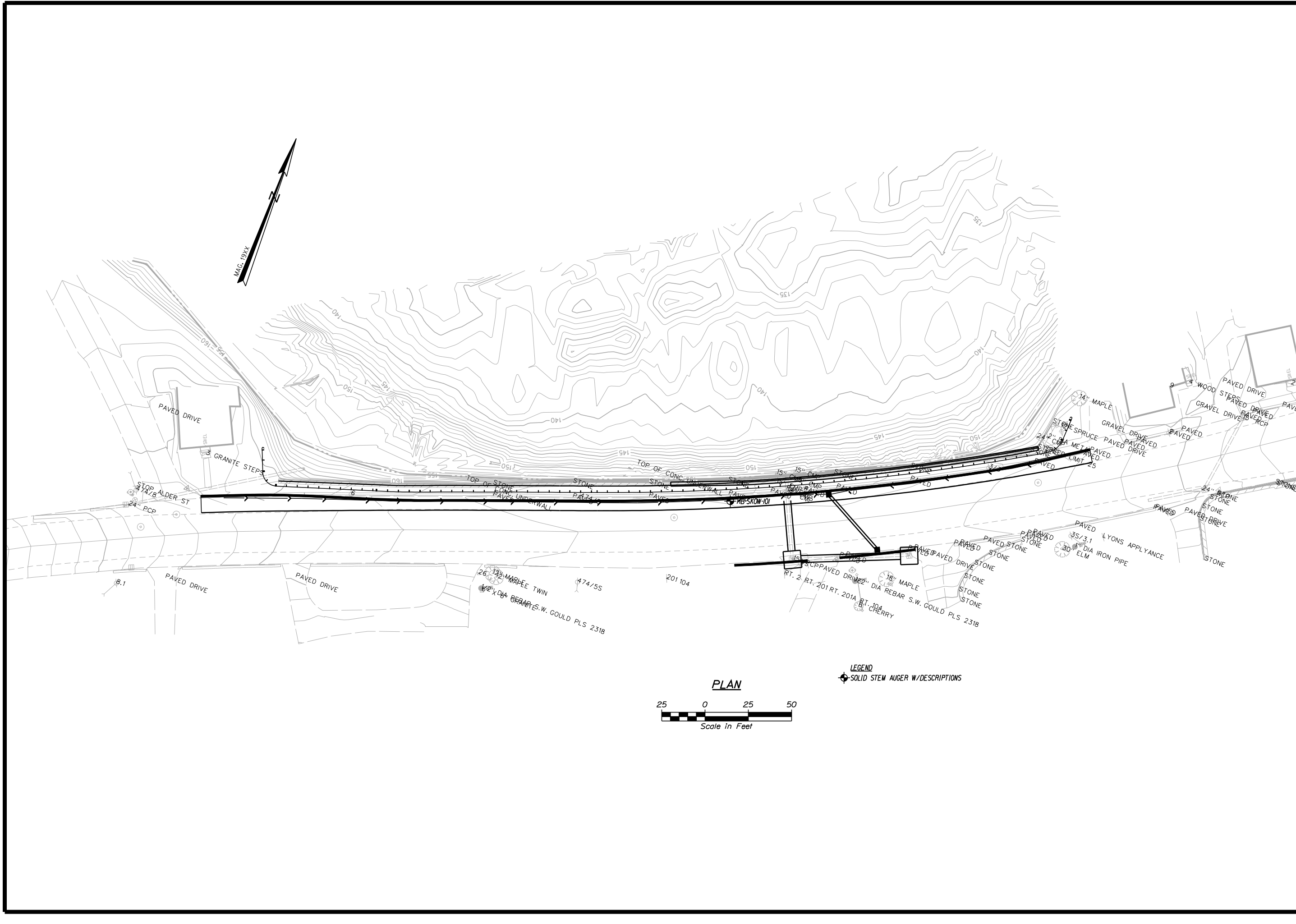
Sheet 2

Wall condition in 2008



Sheet 3
Wall condition in 2010

DEC 20 2010



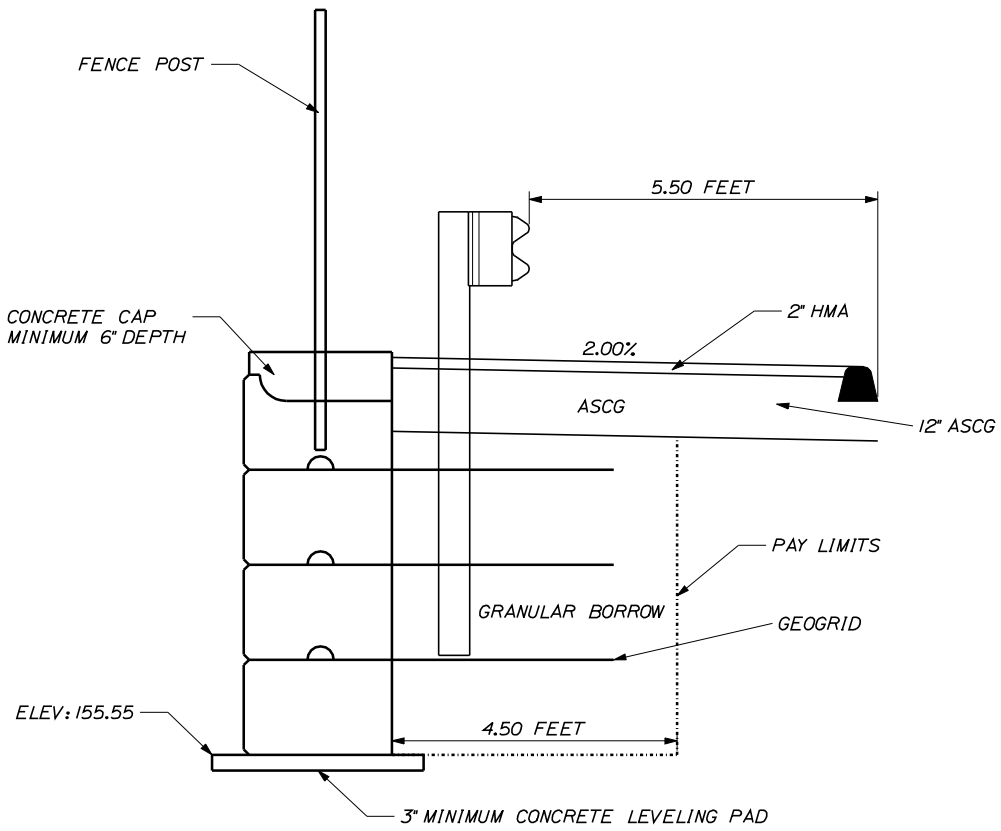
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HIGHWAY PLANS

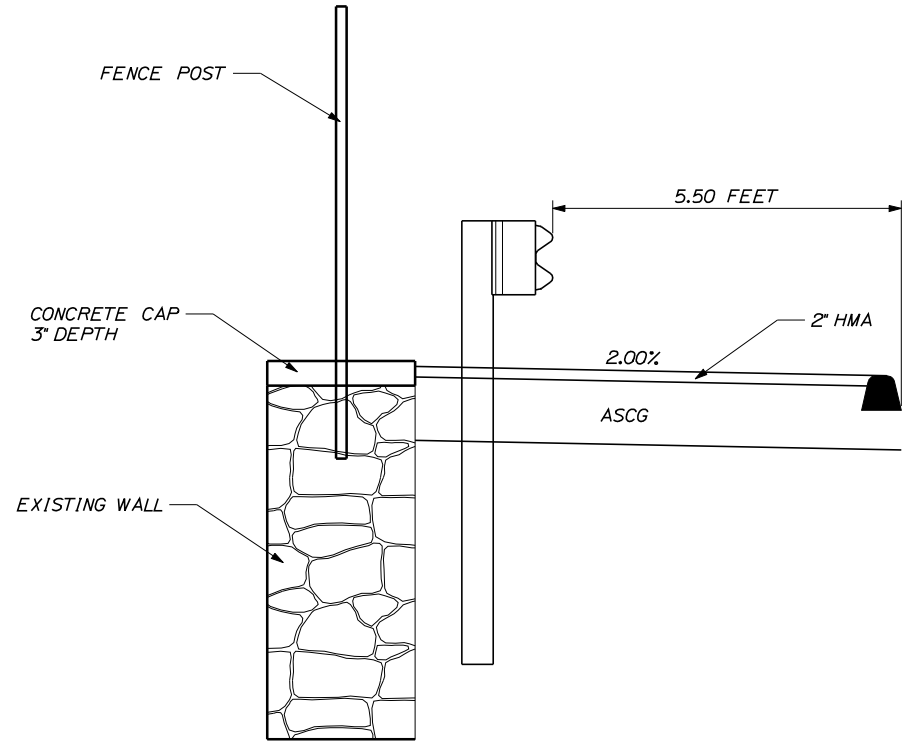
PROJ. MANAGER	BY	DATE
DESIGN-DETAILED		
CHECKED-REVIEWED	T. WHITE	FEB. 2013
DESIGNS-DETAILED	K. BRESKIN	
DESIGNS-DETAILED		
REVISIONS 1		
REVISIONS 2		
REVISIONS 3		
REVISIONS 4		
FIELD CHANGES		

SKOWHEGAN
ROUTE 2 RETAINING WALL
GEOPLANS

SHEET NUMBER
4
OF 5



CONCRETE BLOCK WALL DETAIL



EXISTING WALL DETAIL

Skowhegan Wall
PIN 19153.00
March 1, 2013

Appendix A
Boring Log

Driller: MaineDOT	Elevation (ft.): 161.0	Auger ID/OD: 5" Dia.
Operator: Giguere/Giles	Datum: NAVD88	Sampler: Standard Split Spoon
Logged By: K. Breskin	Rig Type: CME 45C	Hammer Wt./Fall: 140#/30"
Date Start/Finish: 2/24/2011-2/24/2011	Drilling Method: Solid Stem Auger	Core Barrel: N/A
Boring Location: 213+42, 15.7 ft Lt.	Casing ID/OD: N/A	Water Level*: 8.2 ft bgs.

Hammer Efficiency Factor: 0.84 **Hammer Type:** Automatic Hydraulic Rope & Cathead
 Definitions: R = Rock Core Sample S_u = Insitu Field Vane Shear Strength (psf) S_u(lab) = Lab Vane Shear Strength (psf)
 D = Split Spoon Sample SSA = Solid Stem Auger T_v = Pocket Torvane Shear Strength (psf) WC = water content, percent
 MD = Unsuccessful Split Spoon Sample attempt HSA = Hollow Stem Auger q_p = Unconfined Compressive Strength (ksf) LL = Liquid Limit
 U = Thin Wall Tube Sample RC = Roller Cone N-uncorrected = Raw field SPT N-value PL = Plastic Limit
 MU = Unsuccessful Thin Wall Tube Sample attempt WOH = weight of 140lb. hammer Hammer Efficiency Factor = Annual Calibration Value PI = Plasticity Index
 V = Insitu Vane Shear Test WOR = weight of rods N₆₀ = SPT N-uncorrected corrected for hammer efficiency G = Grain Size Analysis
 MV = Unsuccessful Insitu Vane Shear Test attempt WO1P = Weight of one person N₆₀ = (Hammer Efficiency Factor/60%)*N-uncorrected C = Consolidation Test

Depth (ft.)	Sample Information								Elevation (ft.)	Graphic Log	Visual Description and Remarks	Laboratory Testing Results/AASHTO and Unified Class.
	Sample No.	Pen./Rec. (in.)	Sample Depth (ft.)	Blows (/6 in.) Shear Strength (psf) or RQD (%)	N-uncorrected	N ₆₀	Casing Blows					
0									160.33	8" PAVEMENT.	0.67	
									158.50	Fine to coarse SAND, some gravel, off auger flight.	2.50	
										Frost depth at 3.5 ft bgs.		
5	1D	24/12	5.00 - 7.00	9/10/15/8	25	35				Brown, damp, medium dense, SAND, little silt, trace gravel.		
									154.20	Dark brown, wet, SAND, some silt, trace gravel, off auger flight.	6.80	
									153.00		8.00	
10	2D	24/6	10.00 - 12.00	2/3/3/2	6	8				Wet SAND, little silt, trace gravel.		
									149.00	Bottom of Exploration at 12.00 feet below ground surface. NO REFUSAL	12.00	
15												
20												
25												

Remarks:

Skowhegan Wall
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Appendix B Calculations

Retaining Wall Active Earth Pressures:

Effective active earth pressure coefficient:

Rankine Theory - Active Earth Pressure from MaineDOT Bridge Design Guide Section 3.6.5.2, pg 3-7

$\beta := 0 \cdot \text{deg}$ slope angle of backfill soils from horizontal

$\phi_a := 34 \cdot \text{deg}$ assumed effective friction angle for dense gravelly sand

$$K_a := \tan\left(45 \cdot \text{deg} - \frac{\phi_a}{2}\right)^2 \quad K_a = 0.28$$

Service Limit State Bearing Resistance - Native Granular Soils:

Nominal and factored Bearing Resistance

Presumptive Bearing Resistance for Service Limit State ONLY

Reference: AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications 5th Edition
Table C10.6.2.6.1-1 Presumptive Bearing Resistances for Spread Footings at the
Service Limit State Modified after US Department of Navy (1982)

Type of Bearing Material: SAND, little silt, trace gravel (Fill)

Consistency In Place: medium dense

Bearing Resistance: Ordinary Range (ksf)
4 - 8 medium dense to dense

Recommended Value of Use: 5 ksf

Recommended Value:

$$5 \cdot \text{ksf} = 2.5 \cdot \text{tsf}$$

$$\text{tsf} := \text{g} \cdot \left(\frac{\text{ton}}{\text{ft}^2}\right)$$

Note: This bearing resistance is settlement limited (1 inch) and applies only a the service limit state.

Characteristics of Native Soils at foundation level

Gray-brown, wet, loose gravelly fine SAND (fill)

wc := 0.225 estimated water content

e := 0.6 estimated void ratio

γ_w := 62.4pcf unit weight of water

sp := 2.65 estimated specific gravity

saturation $sat := \frac{(wc \cdot sp)}{e}$ sat = 0.9938

total unit weight

$$\gamma_t := \frac{(sp + sat \cdot e) \cdot \gamma_w}{(1 + e)} \quad \gamma_t = 126.6 \cdot \text{pcf}$$

saturated unit weight

$$\gamma_{sat} := \frac{(sp + e) \cdot \gamma_w}{(1 + e)} \quad \gamma_{sat} = 127 \cdot \text{pcf}$$

Strength Limit State Bearing Resistance - Native Granular Soils:

Nominal and factored Bearing Resistance for box culvert and wingwall base slab

Assumptions

1. Box culvert will be embedded 1.0 feet below streambed

$$D_f := 1.0\text{ft}$$

2. Assumed parameters based on granular fill

Moist unit weight $\gamma_m := 124\text{pcf}$

Saturated unit weight $\gamma_s := 127\text{pcf}$

Angle of internal friction $\phi_b := 34\text{deg}$

Undrained shear strength $c := 0$

Depth to groundwater $D_w := 0\text{ft}$

3. $L > B$, so use Terzaghi strip foundation equations

Terzaghi shape factors $B := 12\text{ft}$

$$s_c := 1.0$$

Meyerhof bearing capacity factors $s_\gamma := 1.0$

$$N_c := 35.47$$

$$N_q := 23.2$$

$$N_\gamma := 22.0$$

Effective stress at footing level

$$q_{\text{eff}} := D_w \cdot \gamma_m + (D_f - D_w) \cdot (\gamma_s - \gamma_w)$$

$$q_{\text{eff}} = 65 \cdot \text{psf}$$

Nominal Bearing Resistance

$$q_{\text{nom}} := c \cdot N_c \cdot s_c + q_{\text{eff}} \cdot N_q + 0.5 \cdot (\gamma_s - \gamma_w) \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma \cdot s_\gamma$$

$$q_{\text{nom}} = 10.026 \cdot \text{ksf}$$

Resistance Factor from LRFD Table 10.5.5.2.2-1, pg 10-32

$$\Phi_b := 0.45$$

$$q_{\text{factored}} := q_{\text{nom}} \cdot \Phi_b$$

$$q_{\text{factored}} = 4.512 \cdot \text{ksf}$$

**For this project, the Strength limit state controls.
Factored Bearing Resistance of 4.5 ksf should be used.**

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Appendix C
Retaining Wall Design

