



# Massachusetts Department of Transportation Stream Crossing Handbook

Northeastern Transportation & Wildlife  
Conference

Monday September 12, 2016

Tim Dexter, MassDOT  
David Nyman, Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

# Aquatic & Terrestrial Organism Passage





# Aquatic & Terrestrial Organism Passage



# Evolution of MassDOT Stream Crossing Handbook

Originally published 2010

- Philosophical & conceptual



Design of Bridges and Culverts for  
Wildlife Passage at Freshwater Streams

December 2010





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- Response to stream crossing standards (recommendations)



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- Justified fish & wildlife passage to DOT engineers & consultants



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- Philosophical & conceptual
- Response to stream crossing standards (recommendations)
- Justified fish & wildlife passage to DOT engineers & consultants
- **Recommended design approaches**



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## New handbook (2017)

- Technical & practical



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- Technical guidance for municipalities



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- New, cost effective technology



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- Technical guidance for municipalities
- New, cost effective technology
- Design plan templates



### Design of Bridges and Culverts for Wildlife Passage at Freshwater Streams

December 2010



# Handbook Contents

## 1. Introduction

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2. Rationale for Crossing Design for Wildlife Passage  
MA River and Stream Crossing Standards



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7. **“Design Development” for municipal projects**  
Chapter 85 Section 35 Review

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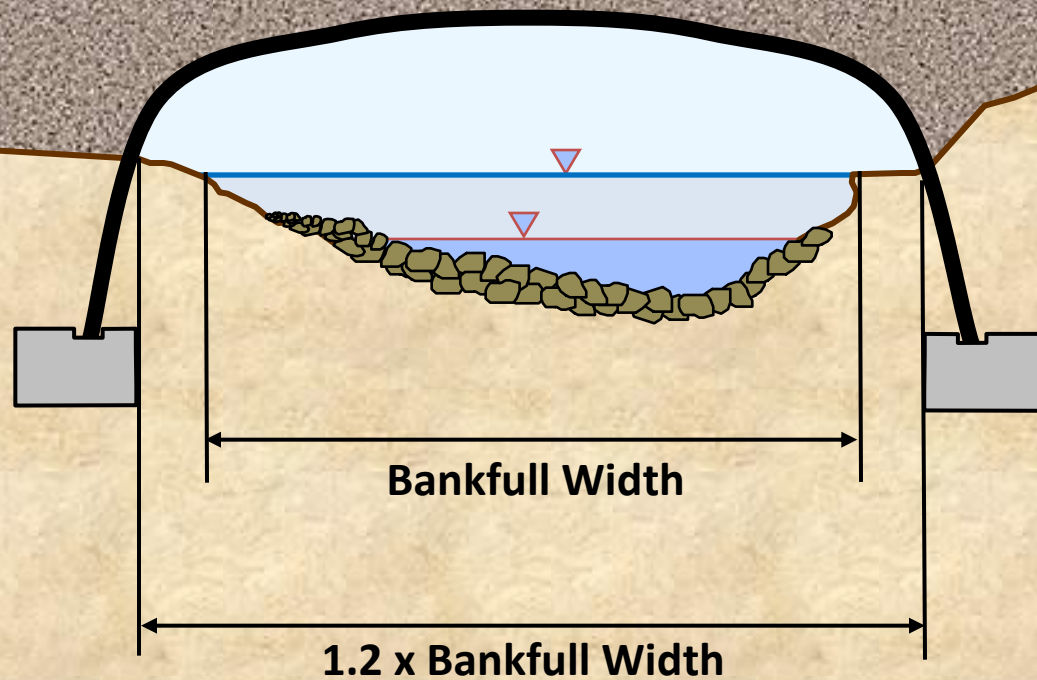
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8. **Prototype Examples**



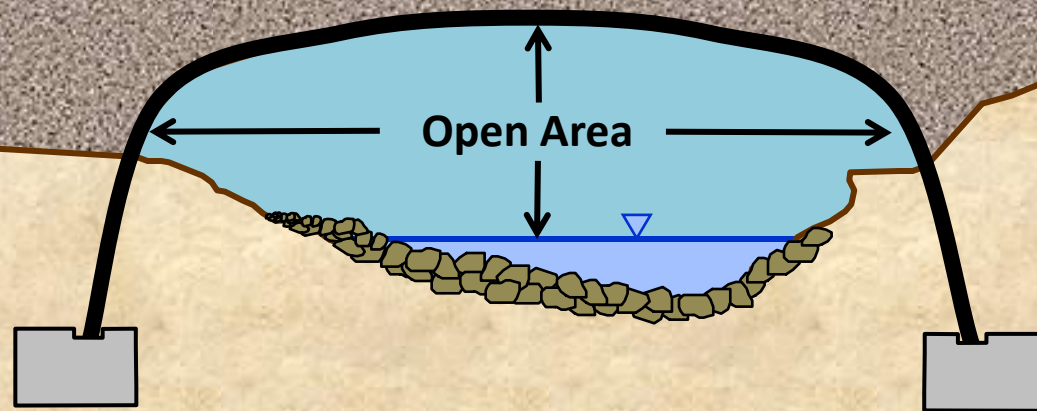
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# Stream Crossing Standards



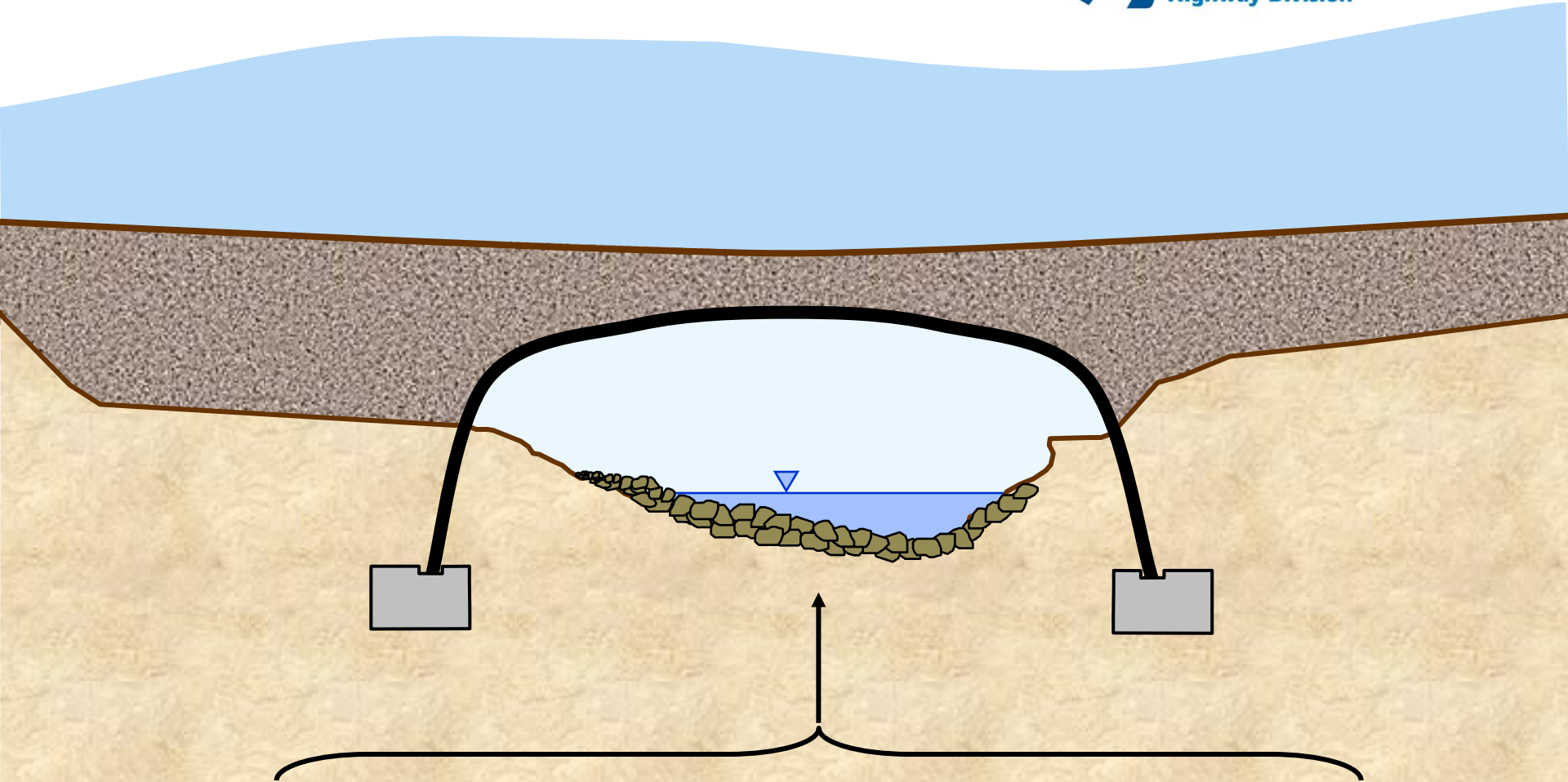
# Stream Crossing Standards



$$\frac{\text{Open Area (m}^2\text{)}}{\text{Structure Length (m)}} = \text{Openness Ratio (m)}$$

Openness Ratio (m)  $\geq 0.25\text{m}$  for General Standards  
 $\geq 0.50\text{m}$  to  $0.75\text{m}$  for Optimum Standards

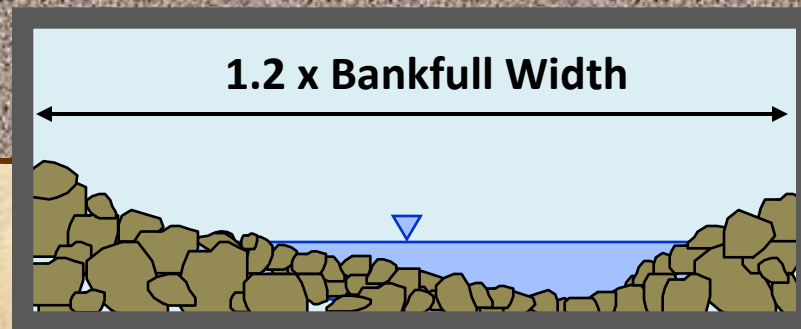
# Stream Crossing Standards



**Preserve existing stream bed (preferred);  
or if necessary,  
Provide for bed material comparable to natural channel and that  
results in depths and velocities at a variety of flows.**



# Stream Crossing Standards

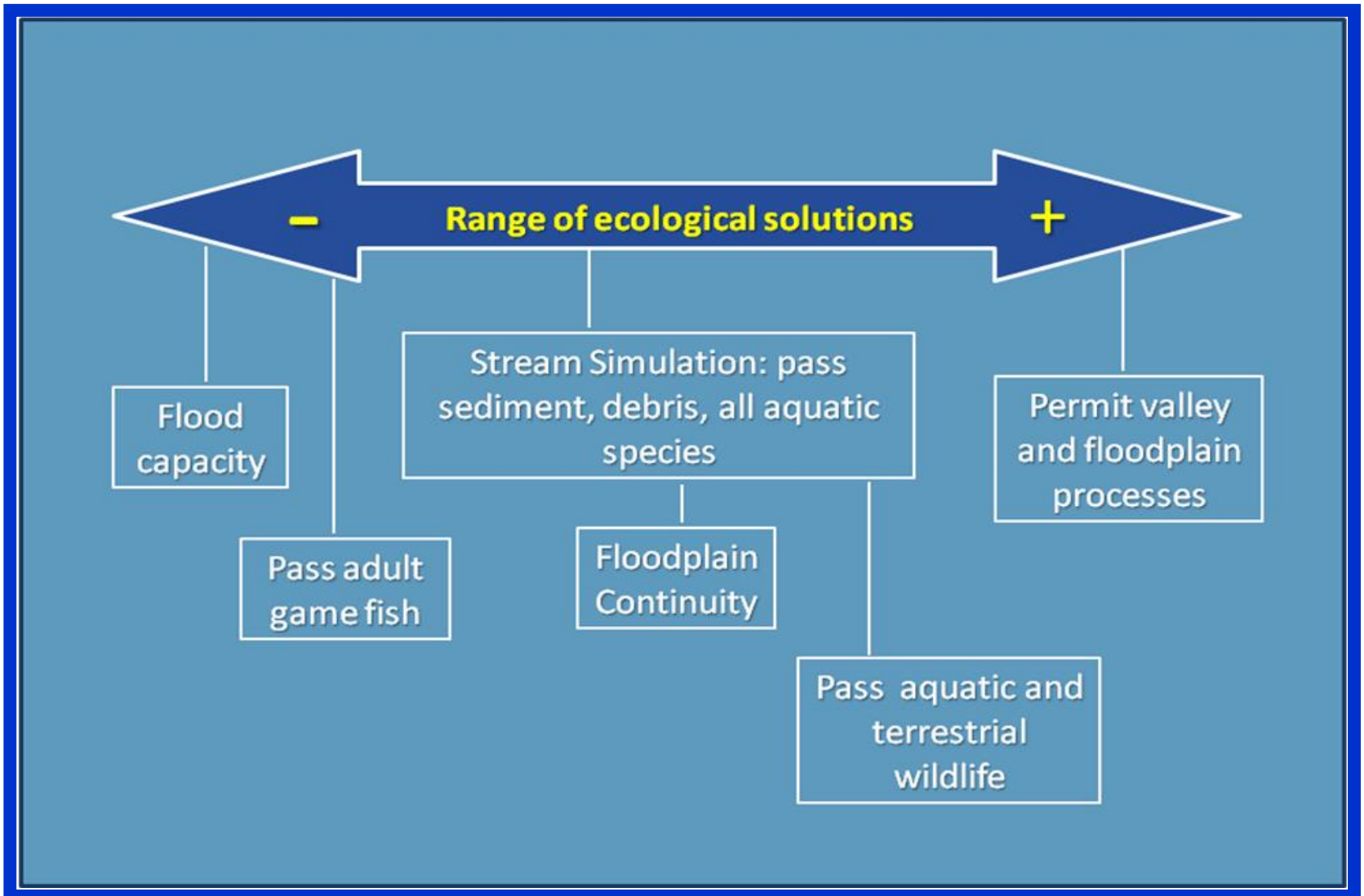


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# Range of Design Solutions



# Range of Design Solutions

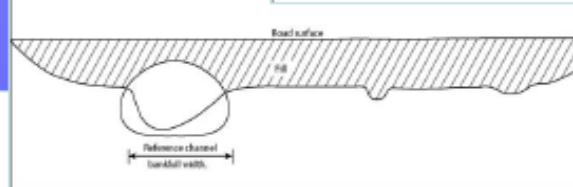
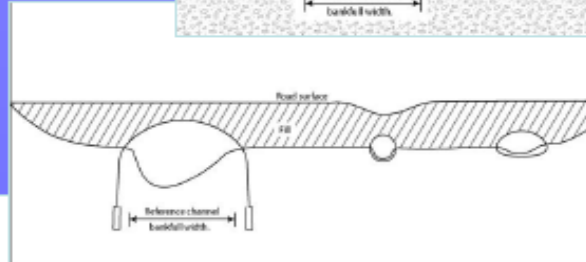
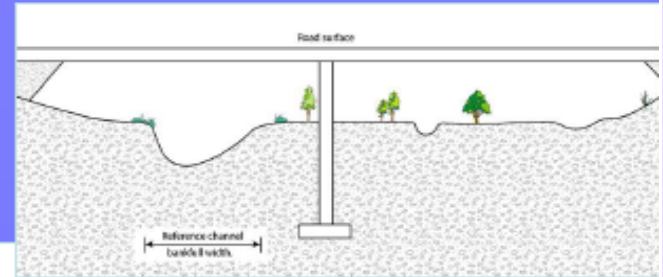
## Design Approaches Continuum

Determined by project objectives, stream and design realities

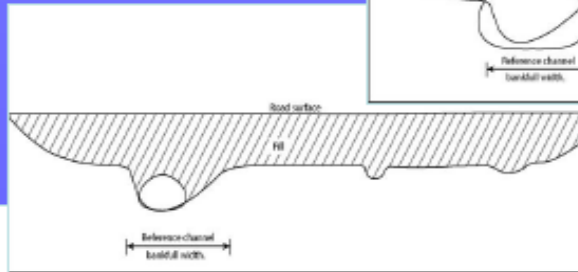
Valley and floodplain processes

SS with floodplain continuity

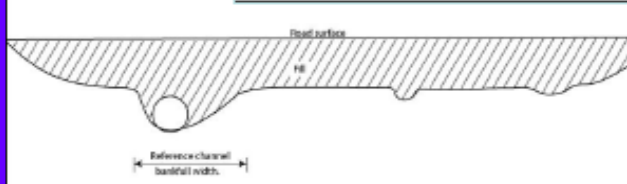
Not all streams can be or require stream sim.!



Stream simulation



Hydraulic design



Flood capacity



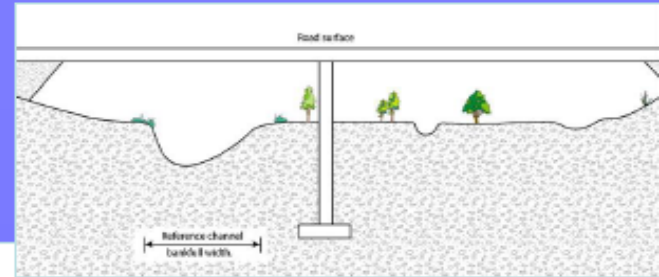


# Range of Design Solutions

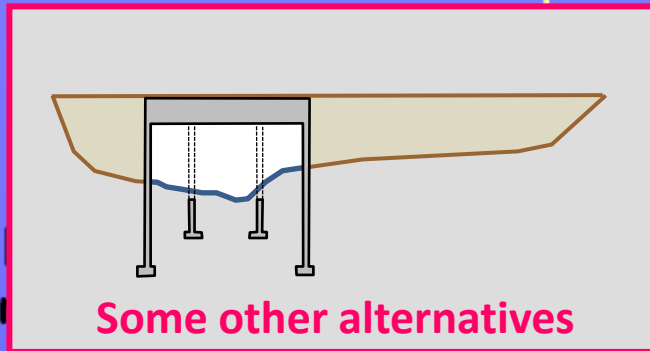
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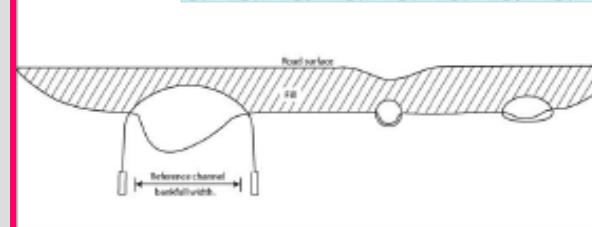
Valley and floodplain processes



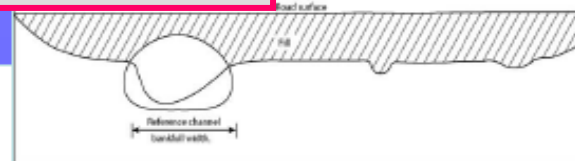
Not all  
be or  
stream sim.!



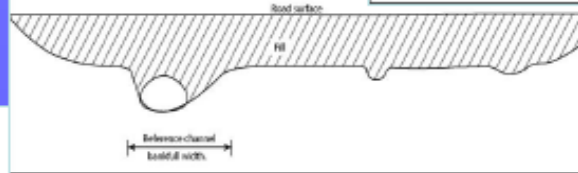
Some other alternatives



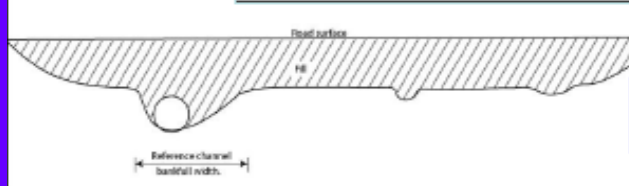
Stream  
simulation



Hydraulic design



Flood capacity

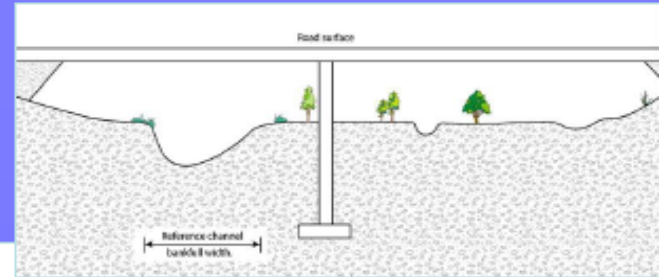


# Range of Design Solutions

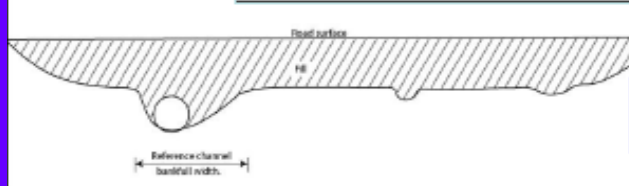
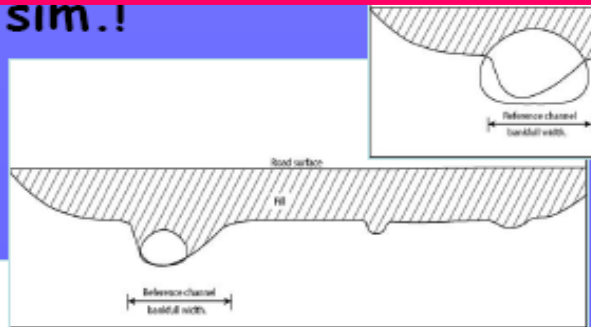
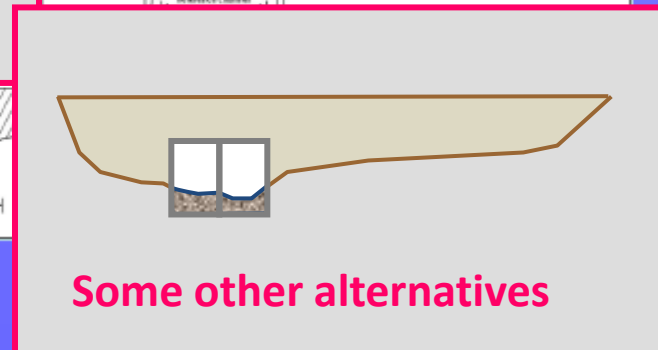
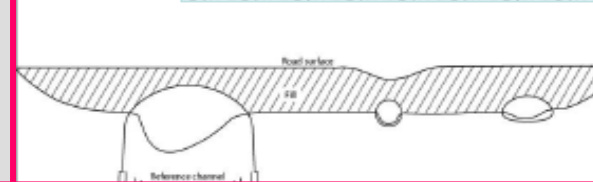
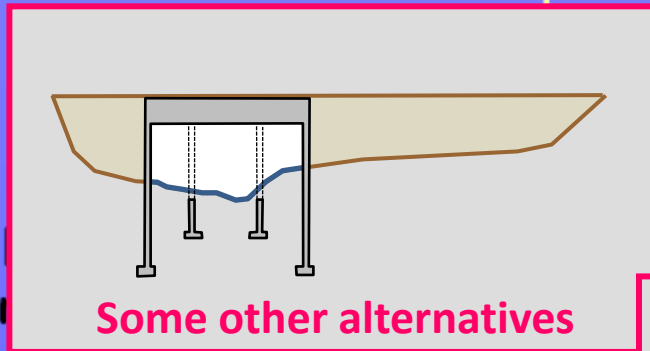
## Design Approaches Continuum

Determined by project objectives, stream and design

Valley and floodplain processes



Not all  
be or  
stream sim.!



Flood capacity



# Stream Crossing Design Approaches: Order of Preference:

1. Valley Span
2. Stream Span (preserve existing stream)
3. Stream Span with stream simulation
4. Bridge Replacement - Retain Abutments
  - a. Cut retained abutments below streambed
  - b. Cut retained abutments at bank elevation

# Stream Crossing Design Approaches: Order of Preference: (continued)

5. Full Span Embedded Multi-Box Culvert
6. Embedded Culvert (less than full span)
7. No-Slope Culvert
8. Fish Passage Hydraulic Design
  - a. Roughened Channel
  - b. Baffles or other fishway modifications
9. Flow Conveyance Design

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# Site Constraints

- Flood profile impacts
- Other hydrologic constraints
- Potential head-cutting
- Bank stability
- In-stream and wetlands habitat
- Extent of habitat fragmentation
- Engineering design constraints (e.g. geotechnical, structural)
- Property and infrastructure impacts
- Costs



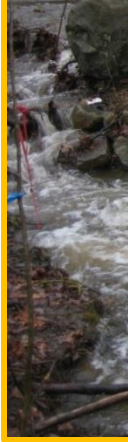
Before replacement



Before replacement





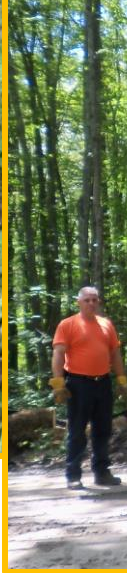
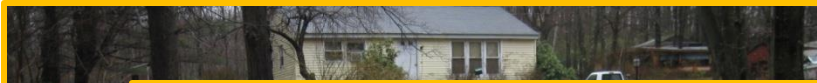






Completed replacement: embedded culvert  
( $<$  bankfull width to meet site constraints)





February 2013

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# Chapter 85 Review

## Municipal Bridge Projects MGL Chapter 85 Section 35 Review Process

Design Requirements and Submittals for Bridge Replacement Projects and Superstructure Replacement Projects  
NOTE: Design Requirements to be used depend on the Category of the Proposed Structure and not on the Category of the Existing Structure

Note: If the Proposed Structure is a Non-BRI Bridge Structure (span  $\leq$  10 feet), a Chapter 85 review is not required

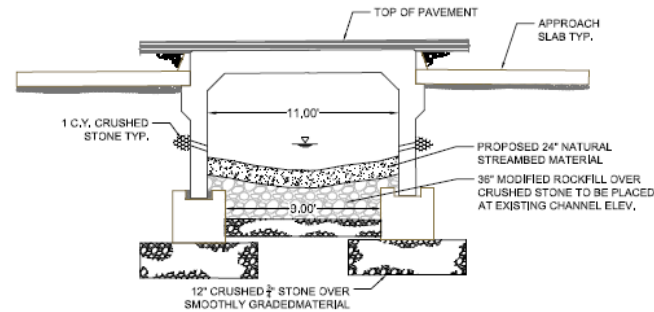
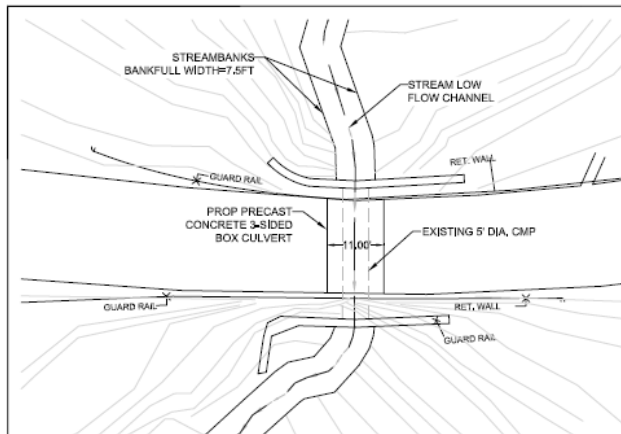
If the Proposed Structure is a BRI Bridge Structure (10 feet  $<$  span  $\leq$  20 feet)

Roadway Type	Hydraulic Design	Geotechnical Design	Structural Design	Construction Details	Design Review Submittals	Other Considerations
<b>Local Road</b>	Hydraulic report per Bridge Manual (except as noted below)  Less than 2 feet of freeboard  Flood frequency: 10 year Design Scour freq.: 25 year Check Scour freq.: 50 year  Must be scour stable after Design Scour Event but not necessarily available for use	Geotechnical Report per Bridge Manual (except as noted below)  At least one boring to refusal below bottom of footing or pile tip for every 30 feet of abutment or culvert width. If rock is encountered, a 10 foot core is recommended  If superstructure replacement, provide a memo on the adequacy of the substructure to be re-used both from a condition standpoint and load carrying capacity	Design in accordance with AASHTO LRFD for HL-93 Design Loading  Bridge Manual DL and LL load distribution procedure if applicable  Seismic: AASHTO Guide Specifications for SDC A requirements  If a pre-fabricated structure designed by fabricator, submit fabricator design calculations and shop drawings of final structure	Need not follow MassDOT Bridge Manual construction details.  If not using standard MassDOT bridge railings or barriers and transitions, those used must be crash tested to either NCHRP 350 or MASH, Test Level 2 minimum if roadway speed $\leq$ 45 mph, minimum Test Level 3 if roadway speed $>$ 45 mph. Provide 42" railing height if pedestrians are allowed on bridge	Hydraulic Report (if over water)  Geotechnical Report (with memo on the adequacy of sub-structure re-use if being re-used)  Complete final set of Construction Plans and one set of design calculations checked by a second engineer  Shop drawings of pre-fabricated components and fabricator design calculations (if pre-engineered)	Evaluation of structure from a Cultural Resources standpoint  Consider Stream Crossing Standards requirements  Consider "no rise" guidelines for NFIP regulatory floodways  Consider Complete Streets guidelines
<b>State or US Numbered Route</b>	Hydraulic report per Bridge Manual  Provide 2 feet of freeboard  Flood frequency: 25 year Design Scour freq.: 50 year Check Scour freq.: 100 year  Must be scour stable and available for limited use after the Design Scour Event	Geotechnical Report per Bridge Manual  Perform a Design Boring program in accordance with Bridge Manual Part I, Section 1.2  If superstructure replacement, evaluate the substructure for re-use considering both condition and load carrying capacity in an addendum to Geotechnical Report	Design in accordance with AASHTO LRFD for HL-93 Design Loading  Bridge Manual DL and LL load distribution procedure if applicable  Seismic design per Bridge Manual for a 1000 year return period event  If a pre-fabricated structure designed by fabricator, submit fabricator design calculations and shop drawings of final structure	If MassDOT standard bridge, follow MassDOT Bridge Manual construction details  Use MassDOT bridge railings and barriers and transitions	Hydraulic Report (if over water)  Geotechnical Report (with substructure evaluation addendum if re-using substructure)  Complete final set of Construction Plans and one set of design calculations checked by a second engineer  Shop drawings of pre-fabricated components and fabricator design calculations (if pre-engineered)	Evaluation of structure from a Cultural Resources standpoint  Consider Stream Crossing Standards requirements  Consider "no rise" guidelines for NFIP regulatory floodways  Consider Complete Streets guidelines
<b>National Highway System (NHS) Route</b>  (See Note Below)	Hydraulic report per Bridge Manual  Provide 2 feet of freeboard  Flood frequency: 50 year Design Scour freq.: 100 year Check Scour freq.: 200 year  Must be scour stable and available for limited use after the Check Scour Event	Geotechnical Report per Bridge Manual  Perform a Design Boring program in accordance with Bridge Manual Part I, Section 1.2  If superstructure replacement, perform a full Preliminary Structures Report per MassDOT Bridge Manual with material sampling	Design in accordance with AASHTO LRFD for HL-93 Design Loading  Bridge Manual DL and LL load distribution procedure if applicable  Seismic design per Bridge Manual for a 2500 year return period event  If a pre-fabricated structure designed by fabricator, submit fabricator design calculations and shop drawings of final structure	If MassDOT standard bridge, follow MassDOT Bridge Manual construction details  Use MassDOT bridge railings and barriers and transitions	Hydraulic Report (if over water)  Geotechnical Report  Preliminary Structures Report (if re-using substructure)  Complete final set of Construction Plans and one set of design calculations checked by a second engineer  Shop drawings of pre-fabricated components and fabricator design calculations (if pre-engineered)	Evaluation of structure from a Cultural Resources standpoint  Consider Stream Crossing Standards requirements  Consider "no rise" guidelines for NFIP regulatory floodways  Consider Complete Streets guidelines

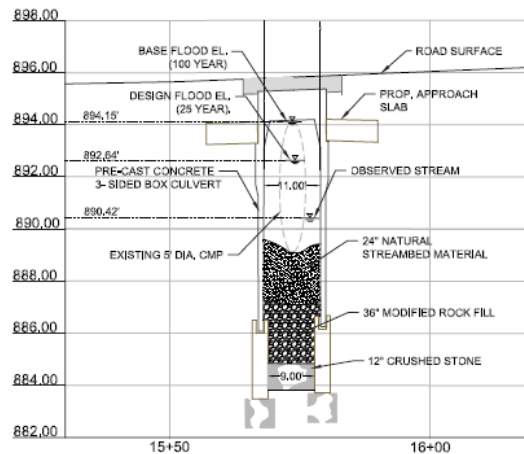
Note: The following NHS routes: Eisenhower Interstate, Other NHS Routes and STRAHNET Routes and Connectors, are considered Critical/Essential in that they are the primary routes for emergency use during and after an emergency or natural event. Structures on NHS routes must be available for limited use after such an event. See MassDOT Bridge Manual for more information on these requirements. A map of NHS Routes in Massachusetts is available on the following website:  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/national\\_highway\\_system/nhs\\_maps/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/national_highway_system/nhs_maps/)



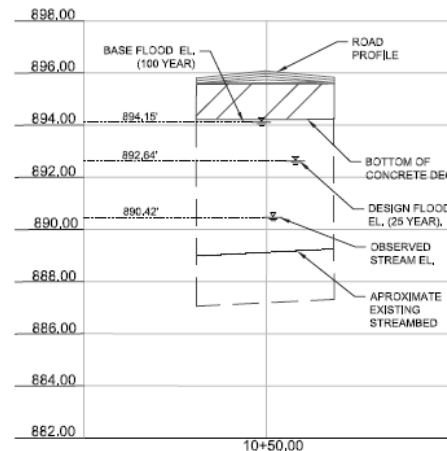
# Standard-compliant design examples



TOWN/CITY ROUTE #/ROAD NAME			
STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
MA	..	X	X
PROJECT FILE NO.		XXXXXX	
FIRST SHEET			



**PROFILE- (ROUTE#/ROAD NAME) OVER (WATERBODY)**  
HORIZONTAL 1"=20'-0"  
VERTICAL 1"=5'



**SECTION- (ROUTE# / ROAD NAME) OVER (WATERBODY)**  
HORIZONTAL 1"=20'-0"  
VERTICAL 1"=5'

## HYDRAULIC DATA: FOR THIS CONCEPT

**HYDRAULIC DESIGN DATA:**  
DRAINAGE AREA: 0.41 SQUARE MILES  
DESIGN FLOOD DISCHARGE: 229.0 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND  
DESIGN FLOOD FREQUENCY: 25 YEARS  
DESIGN FLOOD VELOCITY: 6.5 FEET PER SECOND  
DESIGN FLOOD ELEVATION: 892.64 FEET, NAVD  
**BASE (100-YEAR) FLOOD DATA:**  
BASE FLOOD DISCHARGE: 408.5 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND  
BASE FLOOD ELEVATION: 894.15 FEET, NAVD  
**DESIGN AND CHECK SCOUR DATA:**  
DESIGN SCOUR FLOOD EVENT RETURN FREQUENCY: 50 YEARS  
CHECK SCOUR FLOOD EVENT RETURN FREQUENCY: 100 YEARS  
**FLOOD OF RECORD:**  
DISCHARGE: XX  
FREQUENCY (IF KNOWN): XX  
MAXIMUM ELEVATION: XX  
DATE: XX  
HISTORY OF ICE FLOES: XX  
EVIDENCE OF SCOUR AND EROSION: XX

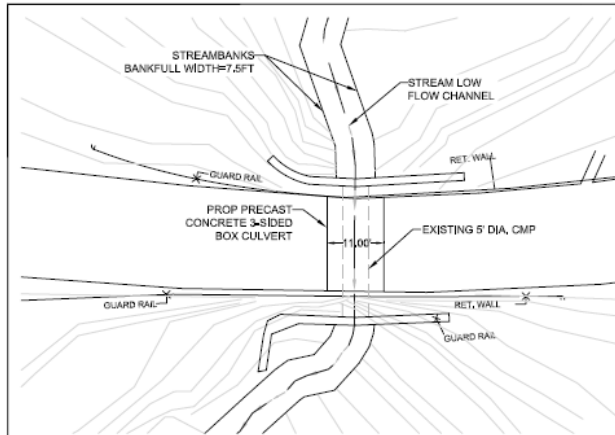


CULVERT REPLACEMENT  
TOWN/CITY

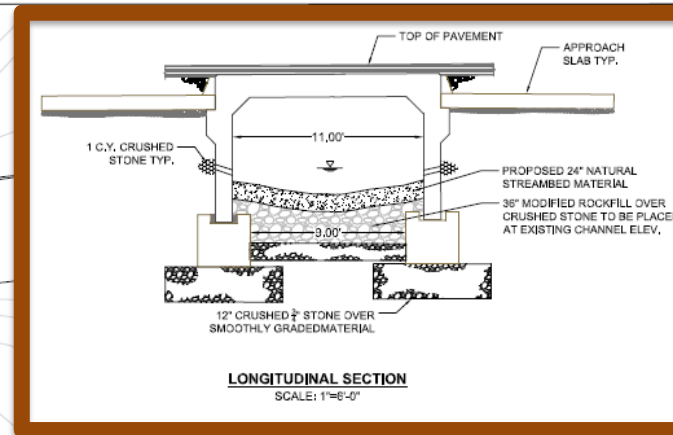
ROUTE #/ ROAD NAME  
WATER BODY NAME  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION



# Standard-compliant design examples

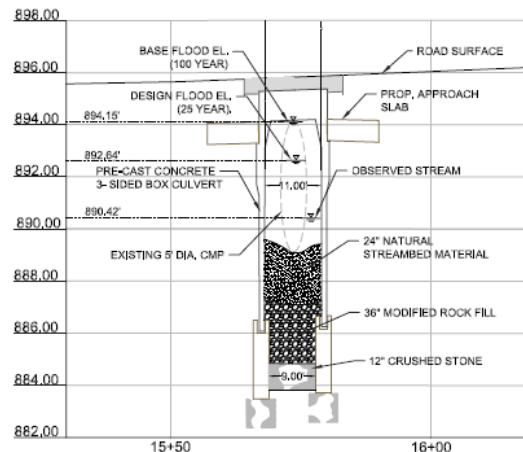


**KEY PLAN**  
SCALE: 1"=20'-0"

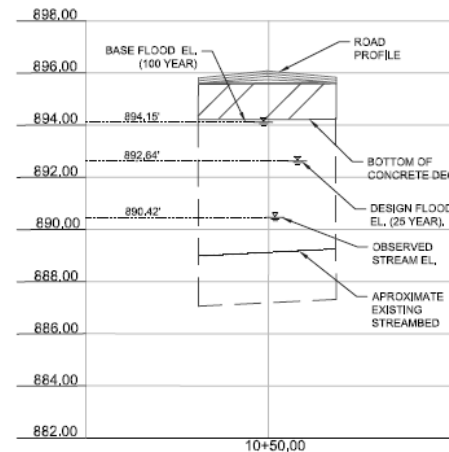


**LONGITUDINAL SECTION**  
SCALE: 1"=6'-0"

TOWN/CITY ROUTE #/ROAD NAME			
STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
MA	..	X	X
PROJECT FILE NO.		XXXXXX	
FIRST SHEET			



**PROFILE- (ROUTE#/ROAD NAME) OVER (WATERBODY)**  
HORIZONTAL 1"=20'-0"  
VERTICAL 1"=5'



**SECTION- (ROUTE# / ROAD NAME) OVER (WATERBODY)**  
HORIZONTAL 1"=20'-0"  
VERTICAL 1"=5'

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DISCHARGE: XX  
FREQUENCY (IF KNOWN): XX  
MAXIMUM ELEVATION: XX  
DATE: XX  
HISTORY OF ICE FLOES: XX  
EVIDENCE OF SCOUR AND EROSION: XX



**massDOT**

CULVERT REPLACEMENT  
TOWN/CITY

ROUTE #/ ROAD NAME  
WATER BODY NAME  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

# Standard-compliant design examples



Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

# Standard-compliant design examples



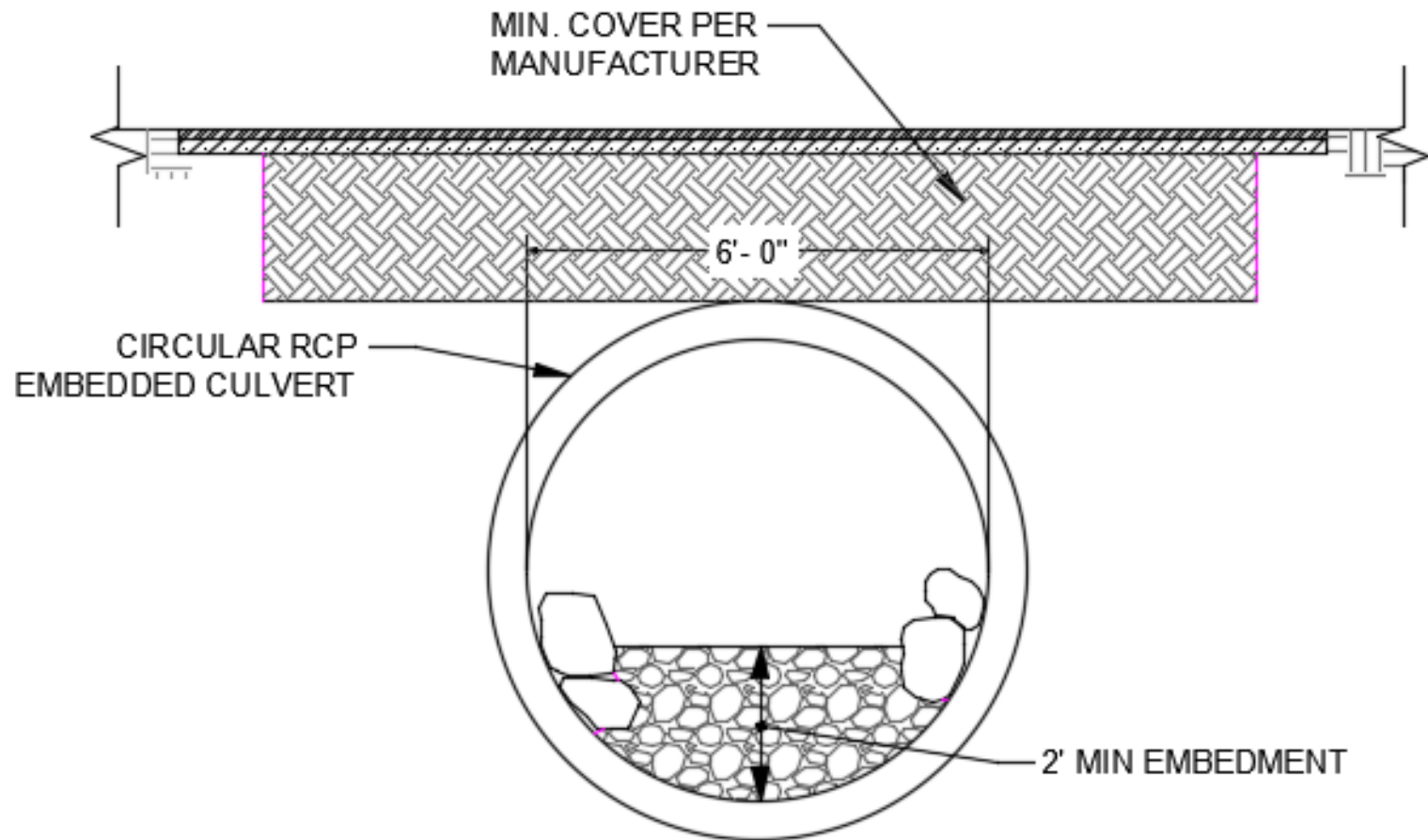
Comprehensive Environmental Inc.



<http://www.downeastlakes.org/>



# Embedded Precast Concrete Pipe



# Standard-compliant design examples



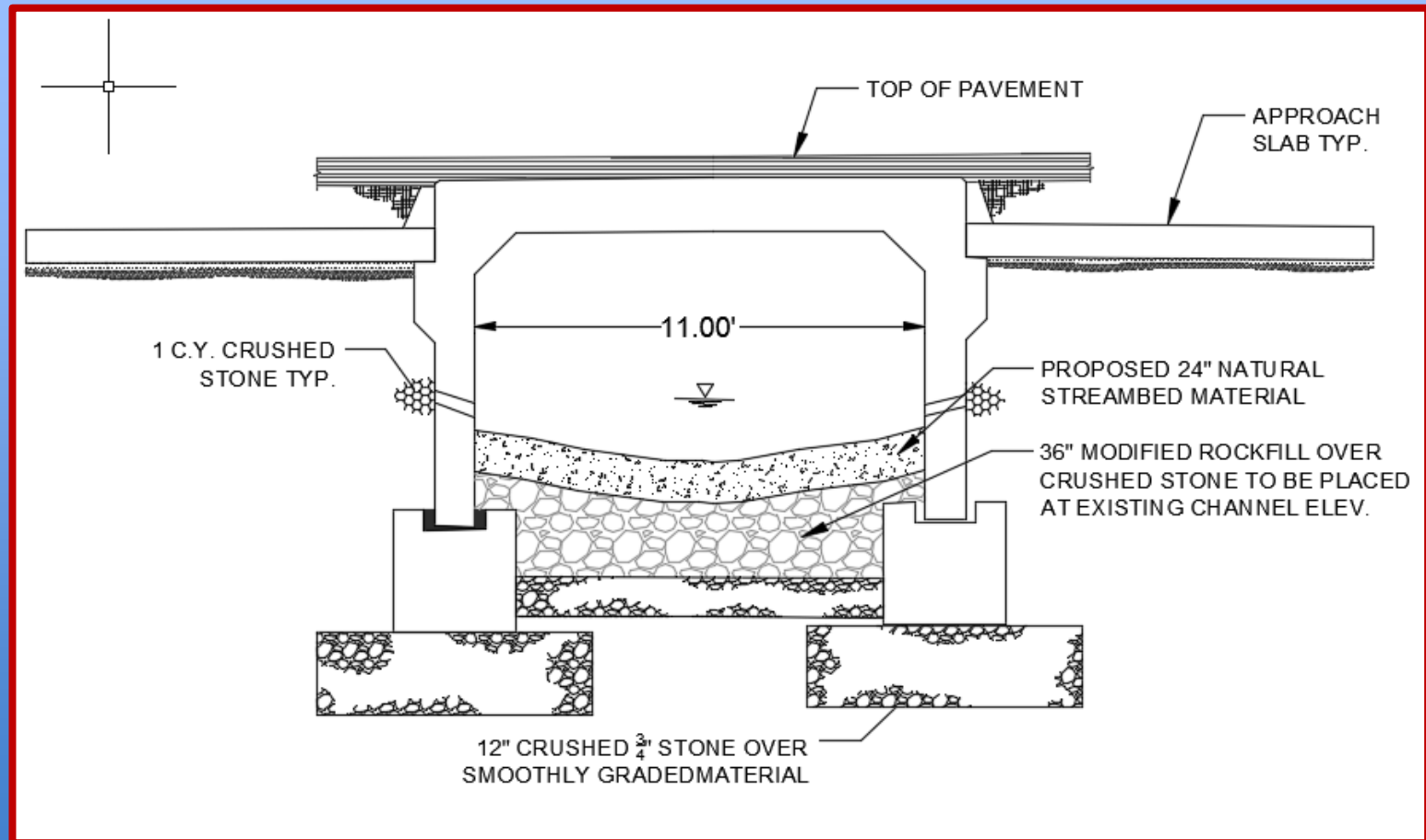
Comprehensive Environmental Inc.



# Standard-compliant design examples



# Precast Concrete 3-Sided Box Culvert – Pavement on Structure



# Standard-compliant design examples

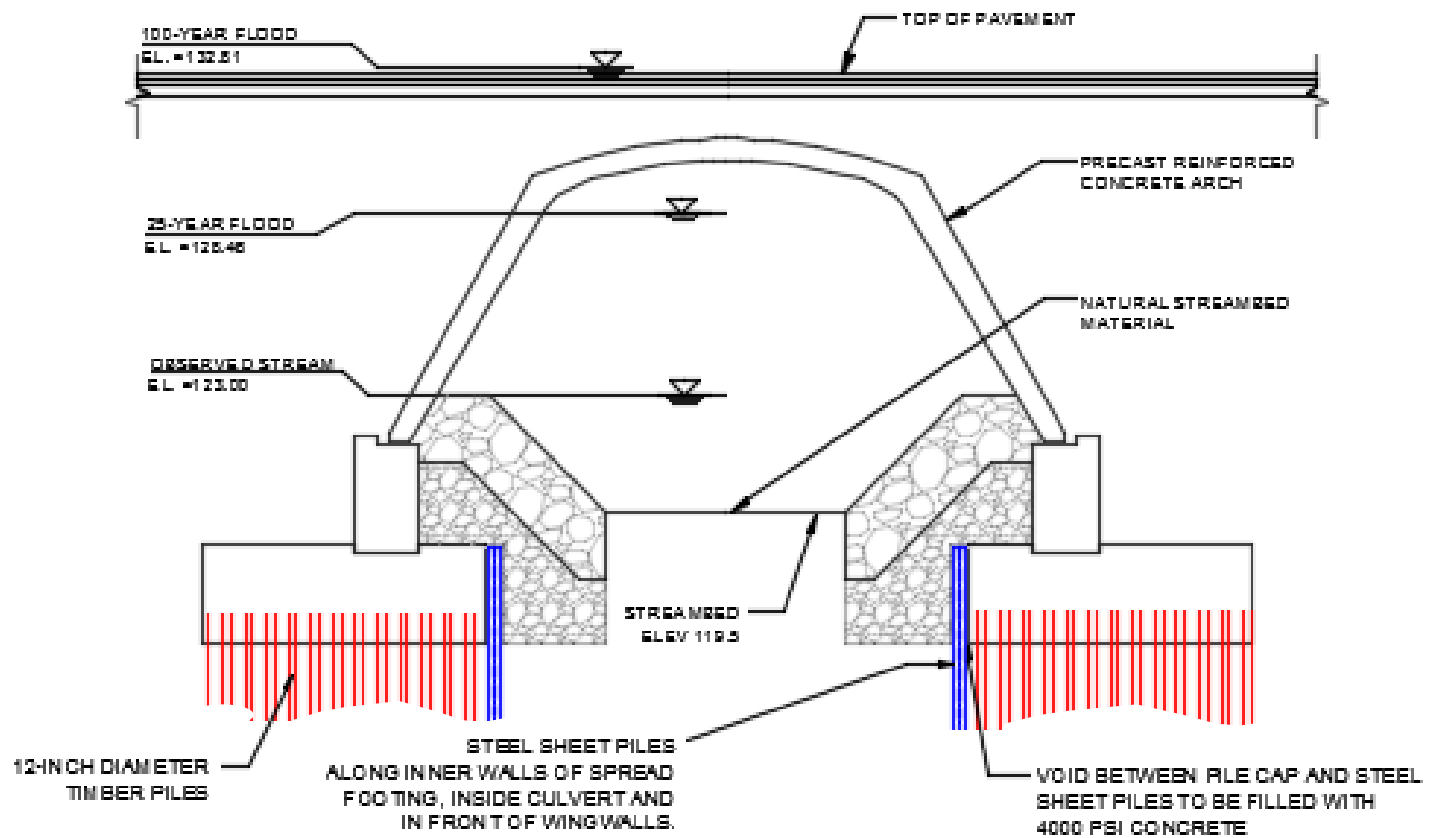




# Standard-compliant design examples



# Precast Concrete Arch







## Standard-compliant design examples



Comprehensive Environmental Inc.



Allan Block Corporation

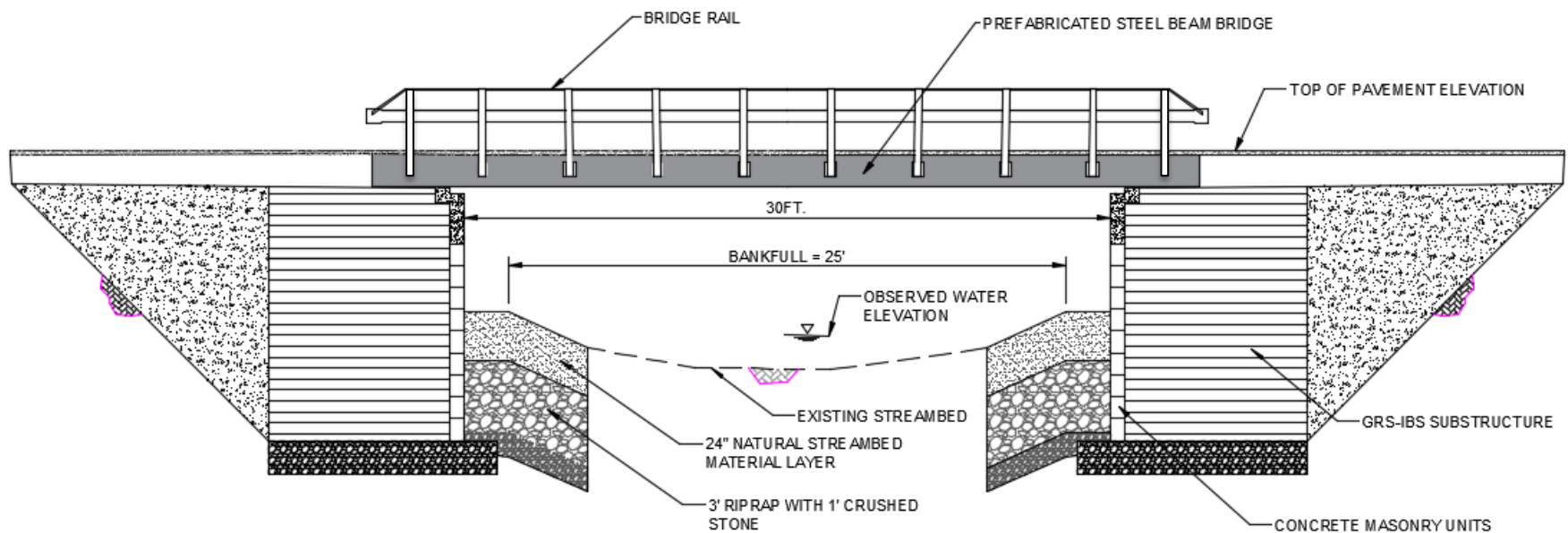




## Standard-compliant design examples

# GRS-IBS

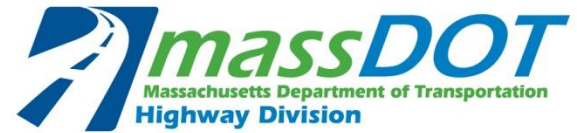
## Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil – Integrated Bridge System







# QUESTIONS?



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