

BMDO Bridge Material Design Options



FAST FACTS:

Rigified FRP

PROJECT LOCATION: Caribou, ME

PROJECT NAME: Farm Access Bridge

BRIDGE MATERIAL DESIGN OPTION: Rigified FRP

UNIQUE FEATURE: First roadway underpass utilizing

FRP arches

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A rigified FRP arch, which at

the time of construction was the largest composite arch bridge in the world, was constructed to allow traffic to pass under a busy

highway.

Purpose and Need: The new bridge allows farm equipment and local traffic to pass beneath

the U.S. Route One Connector, improving safety along the 55 mph

highway.

Contract Amount: Cost is embedded as part of a larger highway project.

Traditional Approach: Use precast concrete voided slabs.

New Approach: Employ 15" diameter FRP tubes to construct a composite arch bridge.

expanding the previous boundaries of the technology to accommodate

significant additional length.

Bridge Details: Span: 54'-2"

Rise: 12" Width: 55'

Skew: 30 degrees

Arch: 22 carbon fiber tubes, 15" in diam., spaced @ 2'-8" Headwall: Mechanically stabilized earth retaining wall with

inextensible reinforcement straps and precast concrete

facing panels

Benefits Realized/Expected: Long lasting structure; reduced maintenance cost

DURATION OF ACTIVITY: 2011

Owner: MaineDOT

TEAM/AFFILIATIONS: MaineDOT; University of Maine AEWC Advanced Structures and

Composites Center; Advanced Infrastructure Technologies; Kleinfelder •

SEA; Stetson & Watson

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