



# Asset Management Challenges Blue Water Bridge

**MEA Workshop Nov 17, 2023**

# AM CHALLENGES

## Asset Management Challenges for Large Bridges

- Defining Corporate Asset Management
- “If you have seen one bridge”
- Bridge Component Hierarchy Numbering System
- Developing GIS “Standards” for representing Large Bridges



# AM CHALLENGES

## Corporate vs Tactical Asset Management

In February 2021 – FBCL Created a new Asset Management Division

FBCL already does Asset Maintenance & Engineering well

We understand the specific needs and technical solutions

We deliver safe functional bridges

**This is “Tactical” or “Technical” Asset Management**



# AM CHALLENGES

## Corporate vs Tactical Asset Management

Corporate Asset Management Ensures  
that the Tactical Service Delivery  
Is

**Affordable & Sustainable**  
for the Long Term



# AM CHALLENGES

## Corporate vs Tactical Asset Management

### Corporate Asset Management:

- Improves Asset Life Cycle Analysis
- Develops Data Driven Decision Making
- Creates a 40 Year – “Long Range” Financial Planning approach
- Coordinates and Aligns Asset Works across our 4 International Crossings

**Provides Digital Tools – GIS / Work Orders / Analytics**



# AM CHALLENGES

One Bridge Paradigm ?

If you have Seen One Bridge... You have seen them All

ANY CITY or TOWN



Sarnia HWY 402

Ottawa



London



# AM CHALLENGES

BUT for Large FBCL Bridges it was Believed



If you have seen  
ONE BRIDGE  
You have seen  
**ONE BRIDGE**



OR Have You..... Maybe Not??

We need to Compare and Analyze Uniquely Different Assets in a Common Way

# AM CHALLENGES

## Asset Value & Life Cycles

### Municipal Bridges

- Most are < \$20 Million
- Life Cycles of 75 to 100 Years

Municipal Bridges Considered As  
Singular Assets

### FBCL Large Bridges > \$2 Billion

- Main Components > \$20 Million
- Major Life Cycles >150 Years
- Minor Life Cycles 50 to 75 Years

Large Bridges Considered As  
Multiple **Component Assets**



# AM CHALLENGES

## Bridge Component Challenges

FBCL's Digital Transformation started with a Full Inventory in GIS

But how do we show Large Bridges in a GIS?

What Components do we need to analyze as "Assets"?

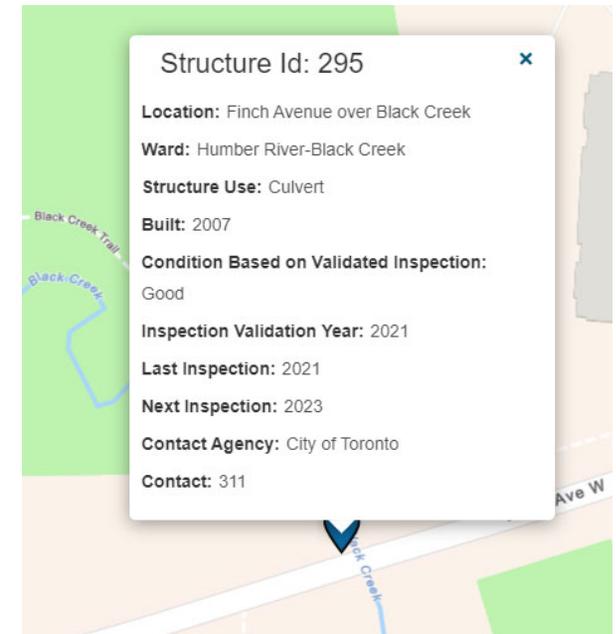
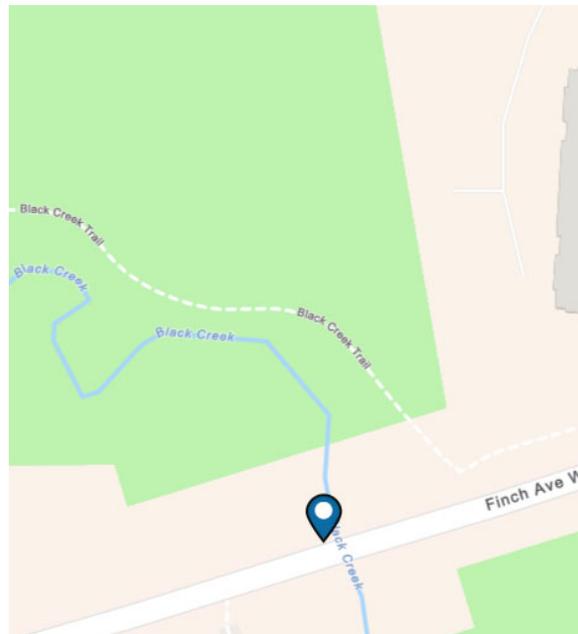


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## Consider a Municipal GIS

Bridges considered as a Singular Asset and shown as a “Dot” in the GIS

Clicking the “Dot” accesses the Asset Database



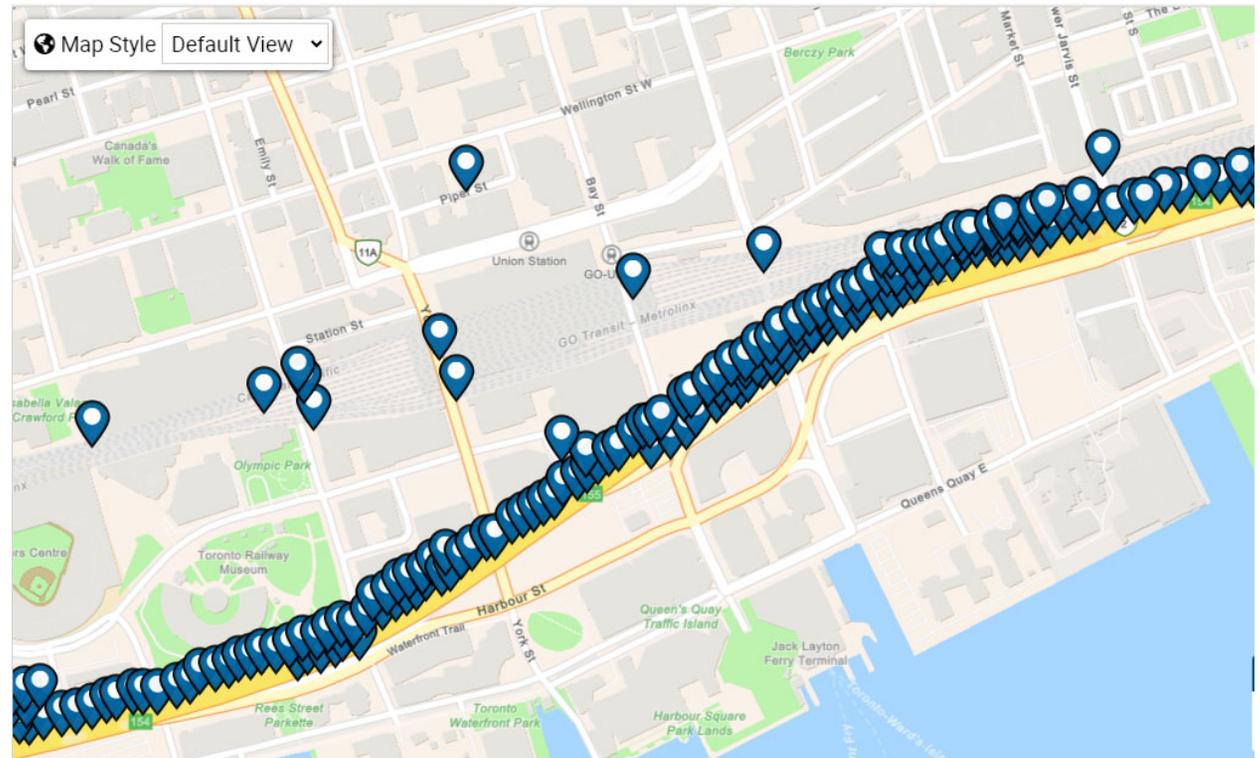
# AM CHALLENGES

## GIS for Large Bridges?

Toronto Gardiner Expressway

Multiple “**Bridge**” Components

Shown as 350+ Singular “Dots”



# AM CHALLENGES

## Gardiner Expressway Example

Each **Span** Component is a “Bridge” within the City Inventory



What about the **Piers**?

Each “Bridge” is an **Inverted “L”**

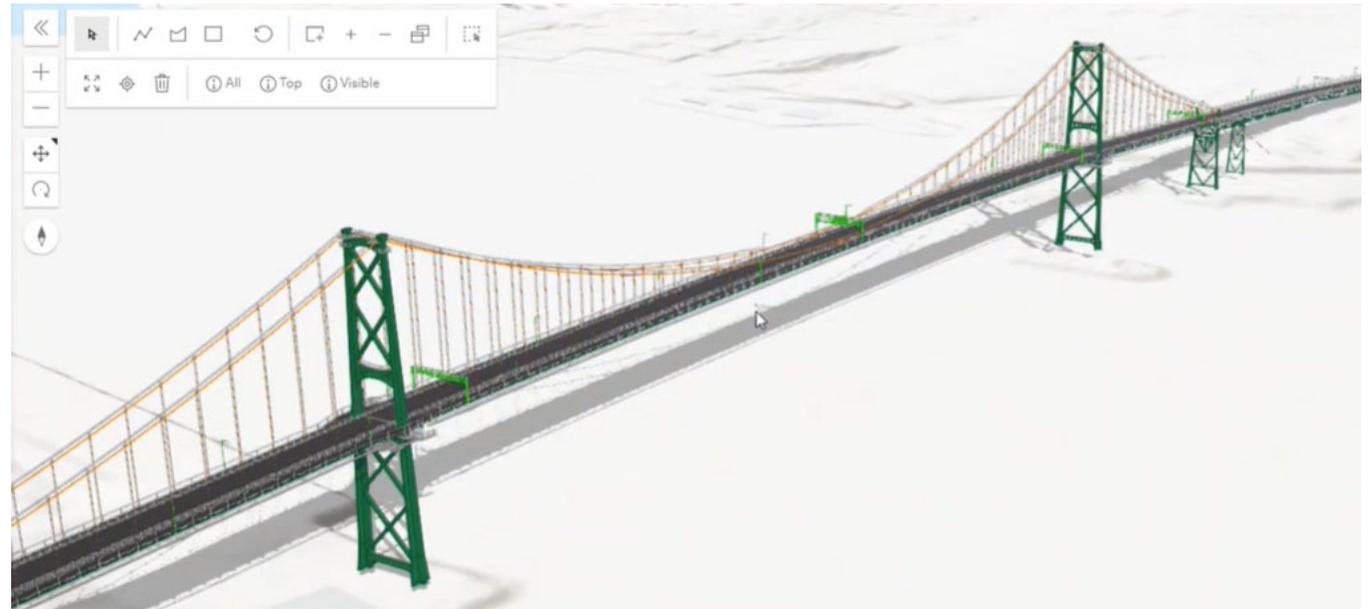


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## Halifax Harbour Bridges



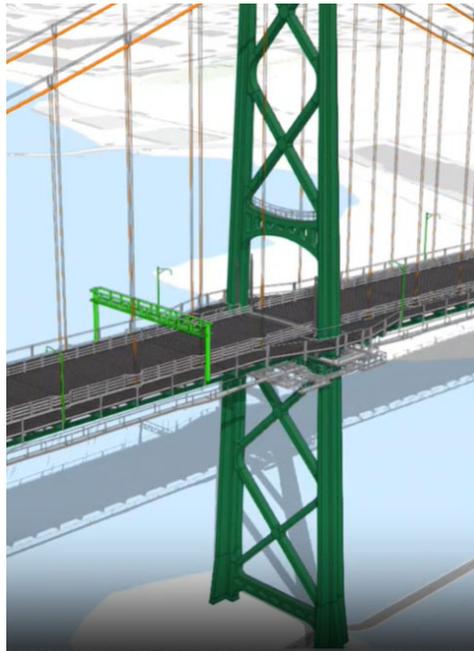
- First of its Kind
- Digital Scan Model
- Full 3D GIS
- Inventory of **Elements**
- NOT its Components



Every Beam, Girder, Tie, Bearing, Plate, Cable  
Included in Model

# AM CHALLENGES

Able to Zoom  
in to see  
Element Level  
Detail



Able to Slice  
through & see  
Inside Hidden  
Elements



**and MORE !!**

# AM CHALLENGES

## FBCL Challenge

Find an Affordable 2D GIS Compromise



The Two Blue Water Bridges – Outline in GIS

# AM CHALLENGES

## Less is More....

For FBCL Bridges, analyzing “Component Assets” was used

A singular “dot” and singular asset analysis was not enough

Full 3D Modeling of every element is desirable but was too much

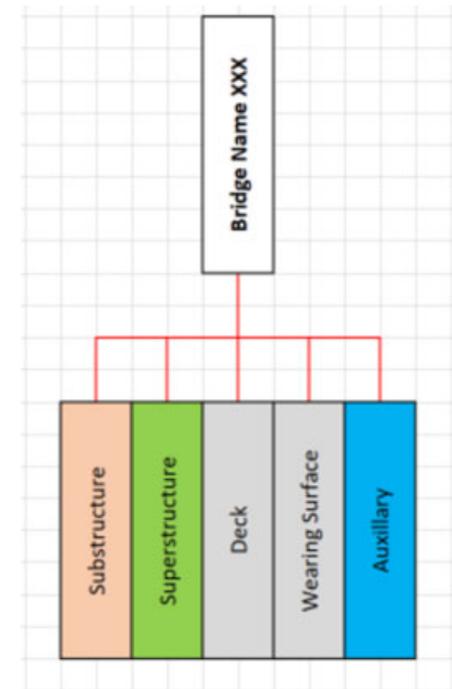
What Components does the Bridge Industry Commonly Consider?



# AM CHALLENGES

## FBCL Initial Policy

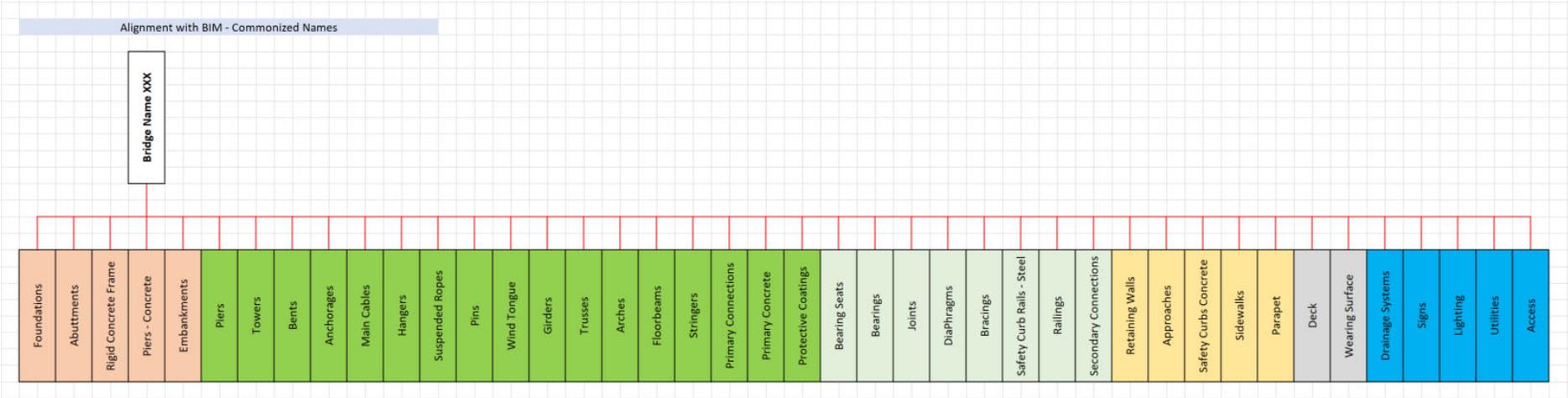
- 5 Basic Component Groups
- Did not adequately identify Major & Minor Assets
- Did not adequately address the Useful Lives of Assets
- Did not effectively match the historical inspection records
- Did not reflect the Bi-National Component Definitions



# AM CHALLENGES

## Canadian BIM – 42 commonly used Components

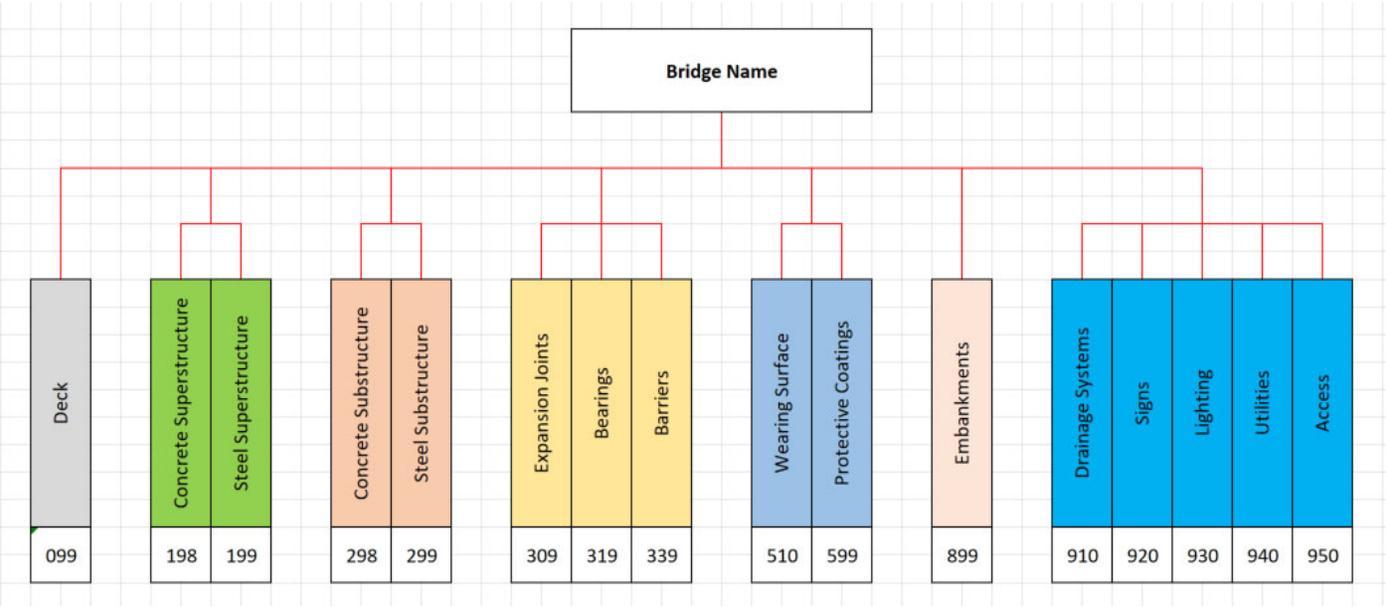
(similar to OSIM)





# AM CHALLENGES

## FBCL Recommended – 16 Components



Aligns with Canadian & USA Component “Groups”



# AM CHALLENGES

## Geo-Database Numbering – Bridges in GIS

Admin – Asset – **Component** - Element

ABC – DDD – **EEE** – FFF

Example 116 – 161 – **309** - 121

BWB – First Bridge – **Expansion Joint** – Joint #121 at Pier #121

The creation of Unique Identifiers was an essential task

**BUT**

Asset Numbering Hierarchies would be a topic for another day!



# AM CHALLENGES

## GIS Standards for Bridge Components Do Not Exist

With the Component Assets Defined  
and  
The Numbering System & Geo-Database Created

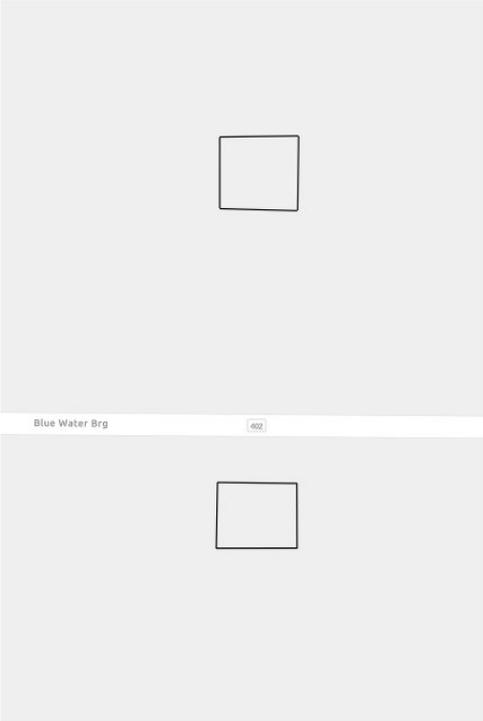
GIS Graphics and Symbologies were needed

**NEW GIS Graphics were created as a Proposed Standard**



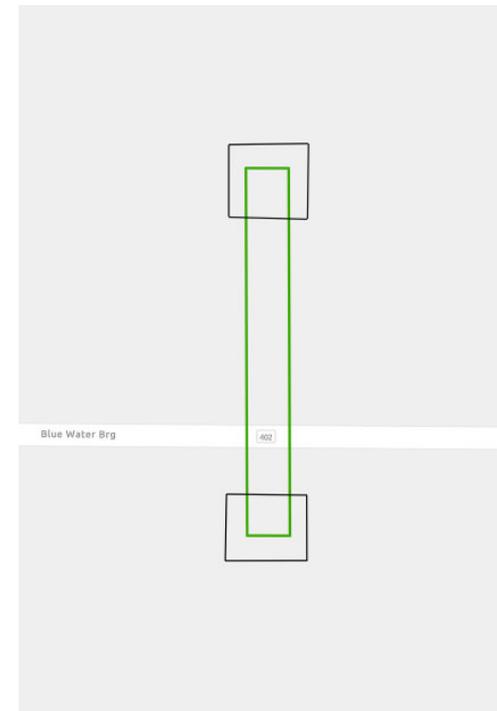
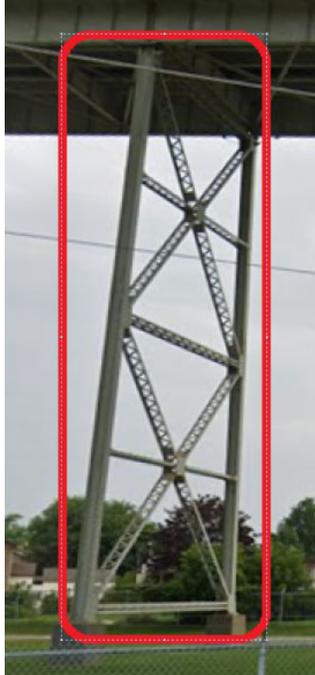
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## Concrete Substructure – “Foundations”



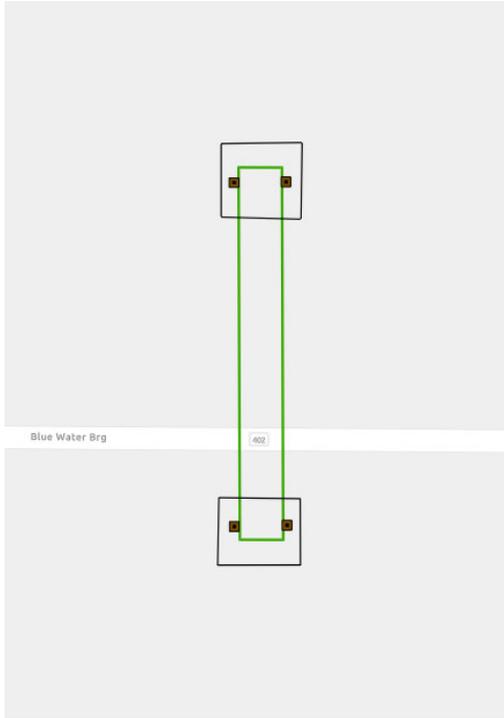
# AM CHALLENGES

## Steel Substructure – “Piers” or “Bents”



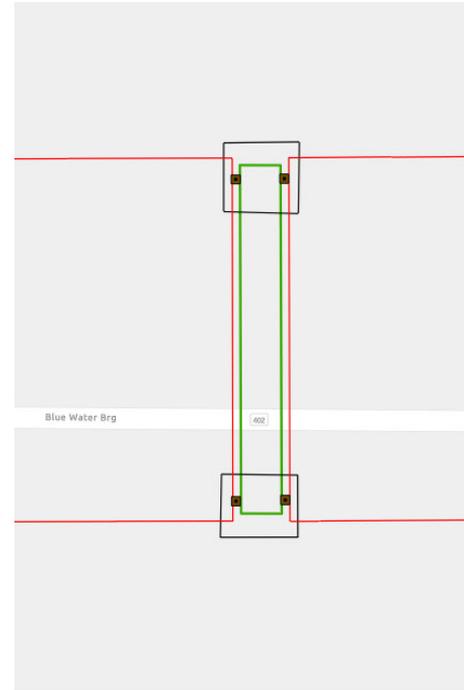
# AM CHALLENGES

## Bearings



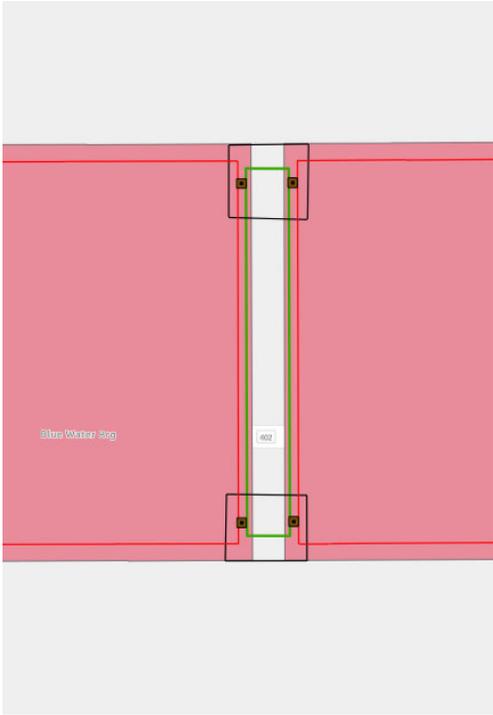
# AM CHALLENGES

## Steel Superstructure – “Spans”



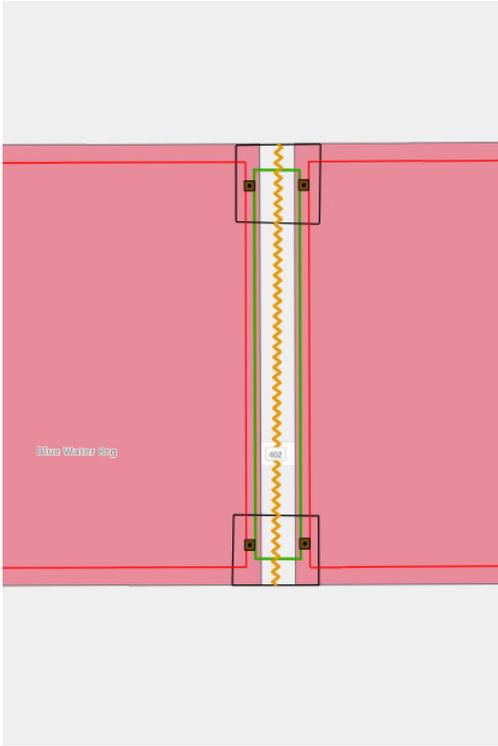
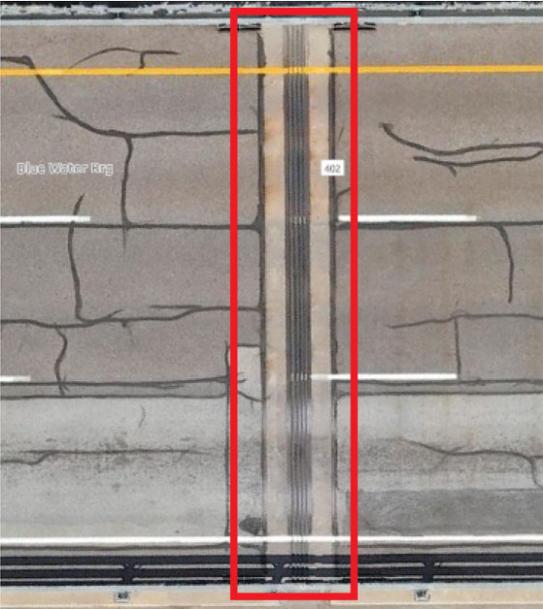
# AM CHALLENGES

## Deck



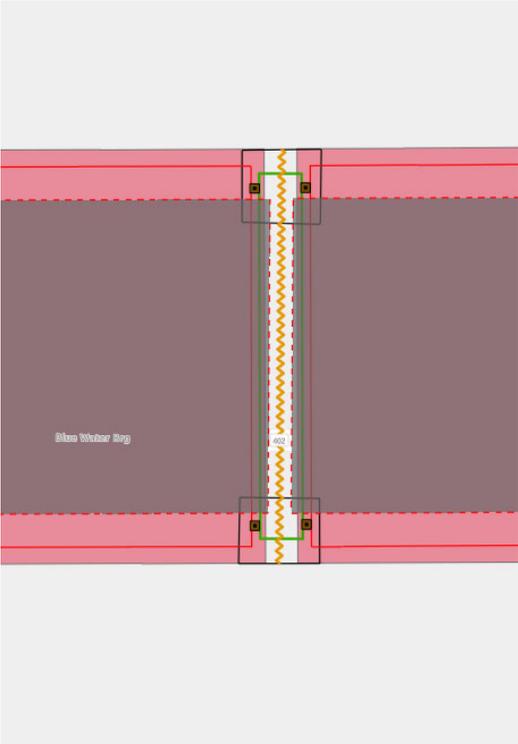
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## Expansion Joints



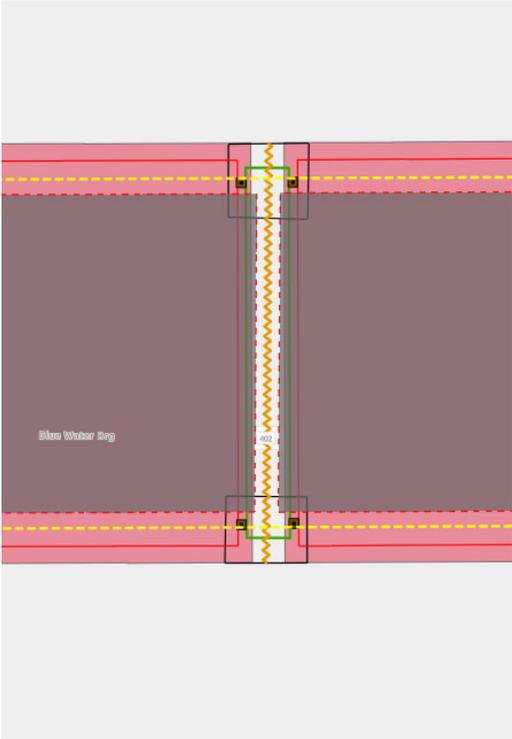
# AM CHALLENGES

## Wearing Surface – Waterproofing & Asphalt



# AM CHALLENGES

## Barriers – Pedestrian & Vehicular



# AM CHALLENGES

## Protective Coatings – Paint or Sealers



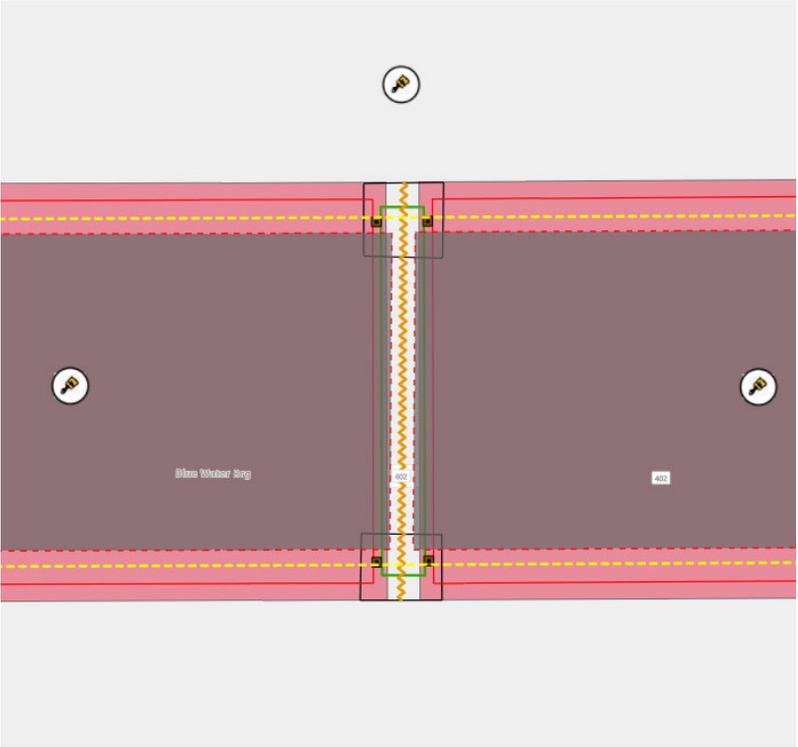
Before / After



High



& Low



# AM CHALLENGES

**Auxiliary Components** – Minor features considered as “systems” on the entire bridge

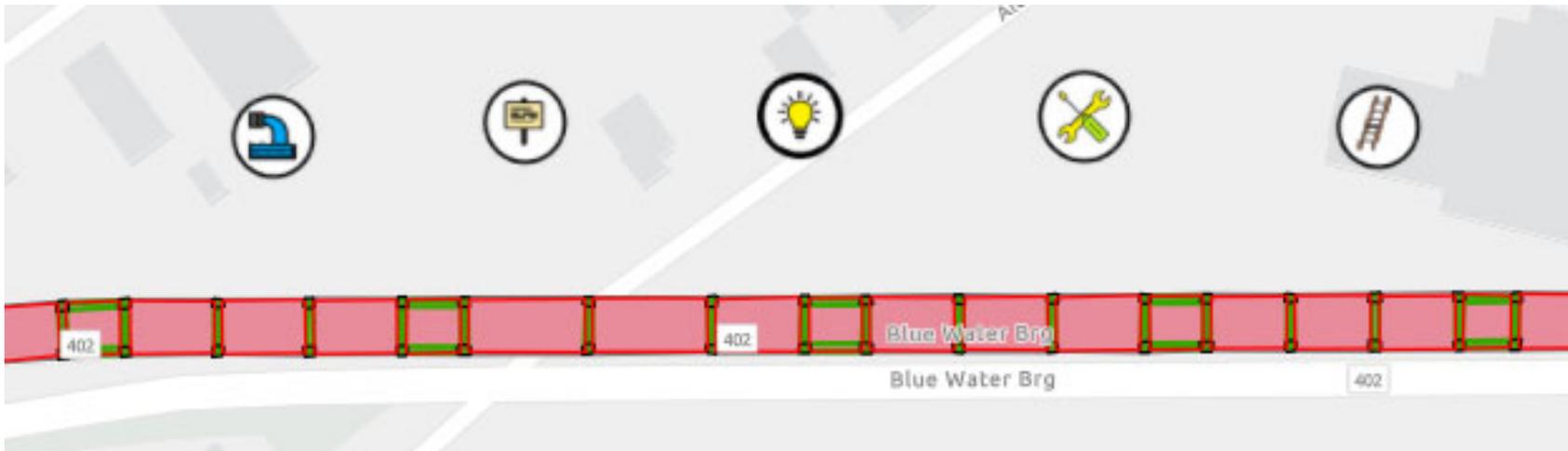
Drainage

Signage

Lighting

Utilities

Access



# AM CHALLENGES

## Bridge Overview Graphic



# AM CHALLENGES

## Asset Management for Large Bridges

Given the Component Assets & Numbering Hierarchy  
and  
Using these NEW GIS graphics

FBCCL is now positioned to analyze all of its 10 Bridges



# AM CHALLENGES

FBCL is willing to Share the Proposed Standards



Thanks for Listening....

# AM CHALLENGES

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