



FACT SHEET

Design, Fabrication, and Installation of a Standard Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Composite Bridge Drain System

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE

Advanced Composite Materials in New England's Transportation Infrastructure: Design, Fabrication, and Installation of ACM Bridge Drain System

STUDYTIMELINE

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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MORE INFORMATION

[NETC Coordinator will add link to the final report on NETC website](#)

The New England Transportation Consortium, a cooperative effort of the transportation agencies of the six New England States, funded this research. Through the Consortium, the states pool professional, academic and financial resources for transportation research leading to the development of improved methods for dealing with common problems associated with the administration, planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of the region's transportation system.

The NETC is hosted by the University of Vermont Transportation Research Center



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Introduction or What was the Problem?

The project report presents the design and fabrication of a standard fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) composite drain that can be produced economically for use throughout New England bridges. The installation of the fabricated drain system in representative bridge applications in New England is documented to provide information on its performance, and ease of construction. The major obstacles or gaps for the implementation of FRP drains in highway bridges are the lack of material, fabrication and installation specifications, the unavailability of standard designs, and the unknown performance during service. The proposed standard FRP drain system can be used both for new construction and rehabilitation projects.



Methodology or What was done?

The following activities were conducted to address the current gaps, and design, fabricate and install the standard FRP composite drain: 1) Establish specific performance requirements for FRP composite drains for highway bridges; 2) Draft standard specifications for FRP drains in bridge applications; 3) Identify and contact qualified composite manufacturers to get input on the standard practice for fabrication and installation of FRP drains; and 4) Identify representative bridges to demonstrate and document the FRP drain installation methods.

Conclusion or What are the next steps?

Two FRP drain suppliers provided composite material samples for testing and qualification for use in bridge drains according to Appendix A of the specification. This one time series of tests was conducted to ensure materials used would be durable and meet the requirements of bridge projects. The material coupons for the two suppliers met the specification criteria.

FRP drains were inspected on two bridge projects. One of these bridges, the Union Street Bridge in Bangor, ME, used the NETC FRP drain specifications. Maine DOT also implemented the FRP bridge drain specifications developed in this NETC project for the Howland-Enfield Bridge and the corresponding shop drawings were presented in the technical report.

What are potential impacts?

NETC FRP bridge drain details and specifications have been drafted and are available in the technical report, as follows:

- FRP Composite Bridge Drain Components Specification
- Appendix A: FRP Composite Drain and Pipe Material Requirements
- Appendix B: Preferred Inlet/Scupper Sizes And Overall Geometries.