

# New Directions in Scour Monitoring



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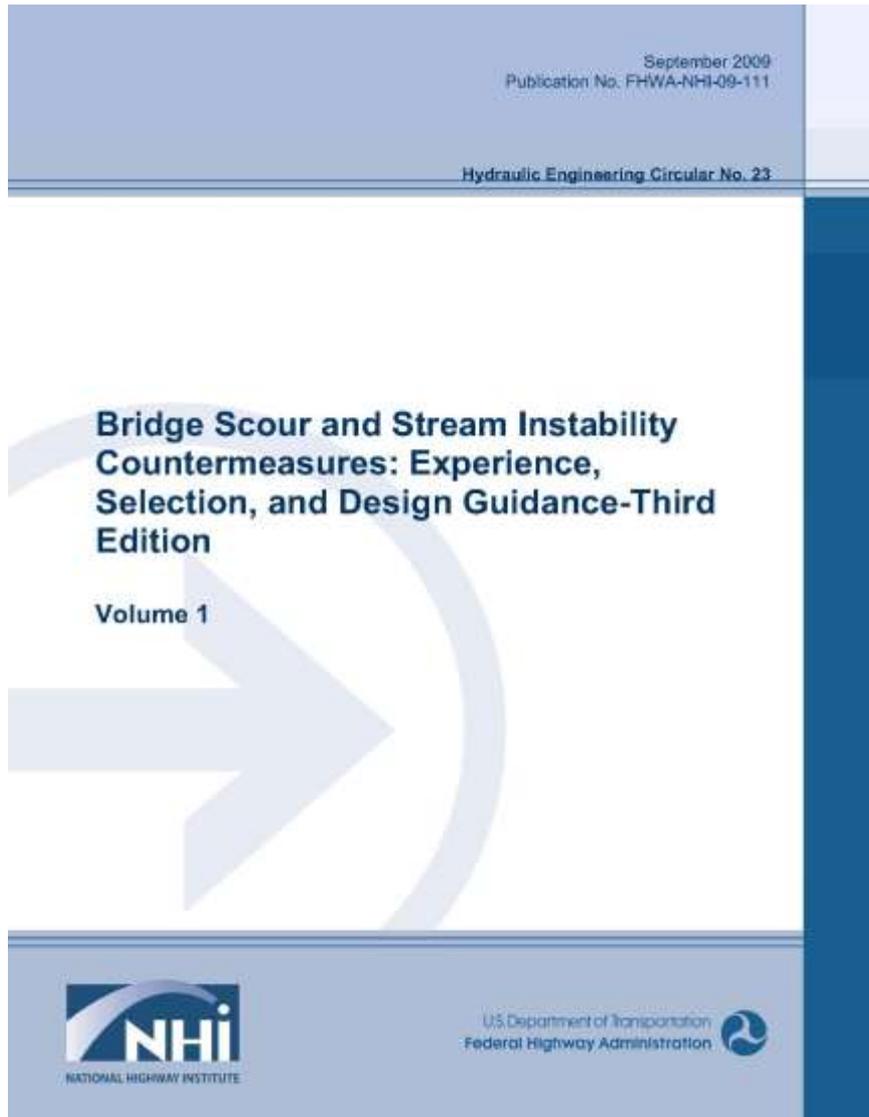
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Gerald Price, ETI Instrument Systems, Inc.

# New Directions in Scour Bridge Scour Monitoring

- Background
- New developments
- Revisions to U.S. FHWA HEC-18
- Conclusions

# National Guidance – FHWA HEC-23



Bridge Scour and Stream  
Instability Countermeasures

New Third Edition, 2009

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/pubs/09111>

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# Practice Report - NCHRP Synthesis 396

**NCHRP**  
SYNTHESIS 396

**Monitoring Scour  
Critical Bridges**



*A Synthesis of Highway Practice*

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

NATIONAL  
COOPERATIVE  
HIGHWAY  
RESEARCH  
PROGRAM

Monitoring Scour Critical Bridges

2009

[http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp\\_syn\\_396.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_syn_396.pdf)

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# Bridge Fixed Scour Monitoring Systems

- Real time monitoring
- Remote
- Wireless
- Data loggers
- Web-based
- Automatic alerts
- DATA ANALYSIS
- SENSORS

# Data Being Collected



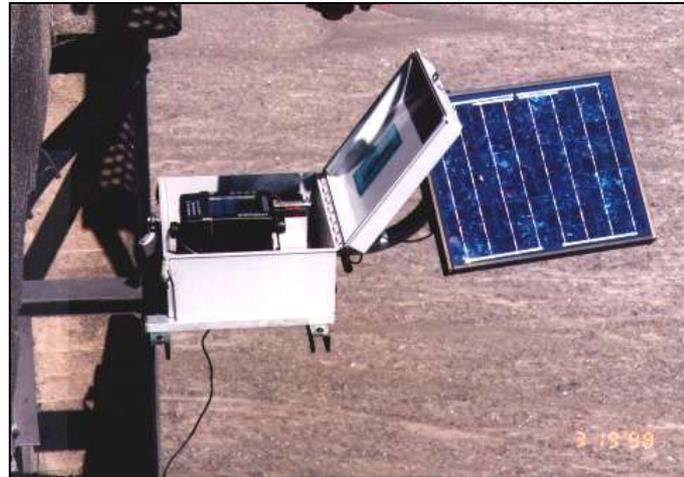
- Streambed elevations
- Bridge movements



- Water stage
- Velocity measurements
- Rainfall

# Telemetry Options

Landline



Satellite



Cellular

# Data Loggers



# Internet

RTMC Run-time - [C:\campbell\rtmc\rtmc\rtmc2]

File View Window Help

## Sensor Locations

Select any of the five remotes to display sensor data

Main Battery Voltages Stage 12 Hour Table

# Powering the System

Solar



Commercial Power



# Types of Fixed Scour Monitors – FHWA HEC-23 (2009)



Sonar



Tilt Sensor



Time Domain Reflectometer

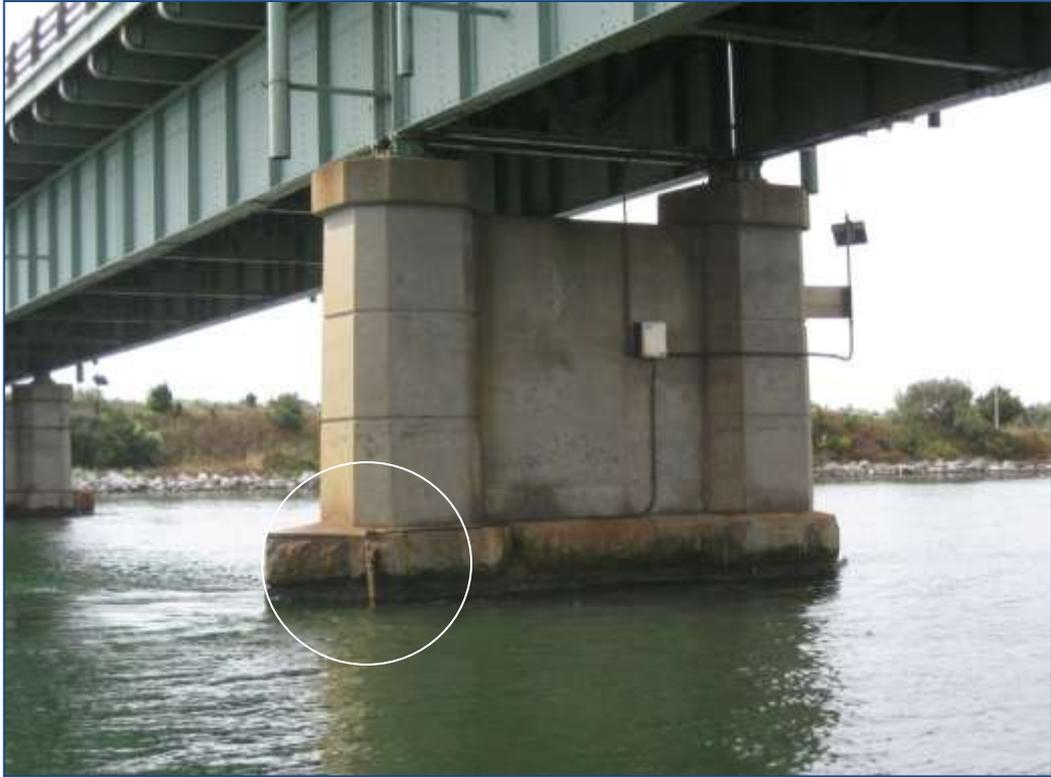
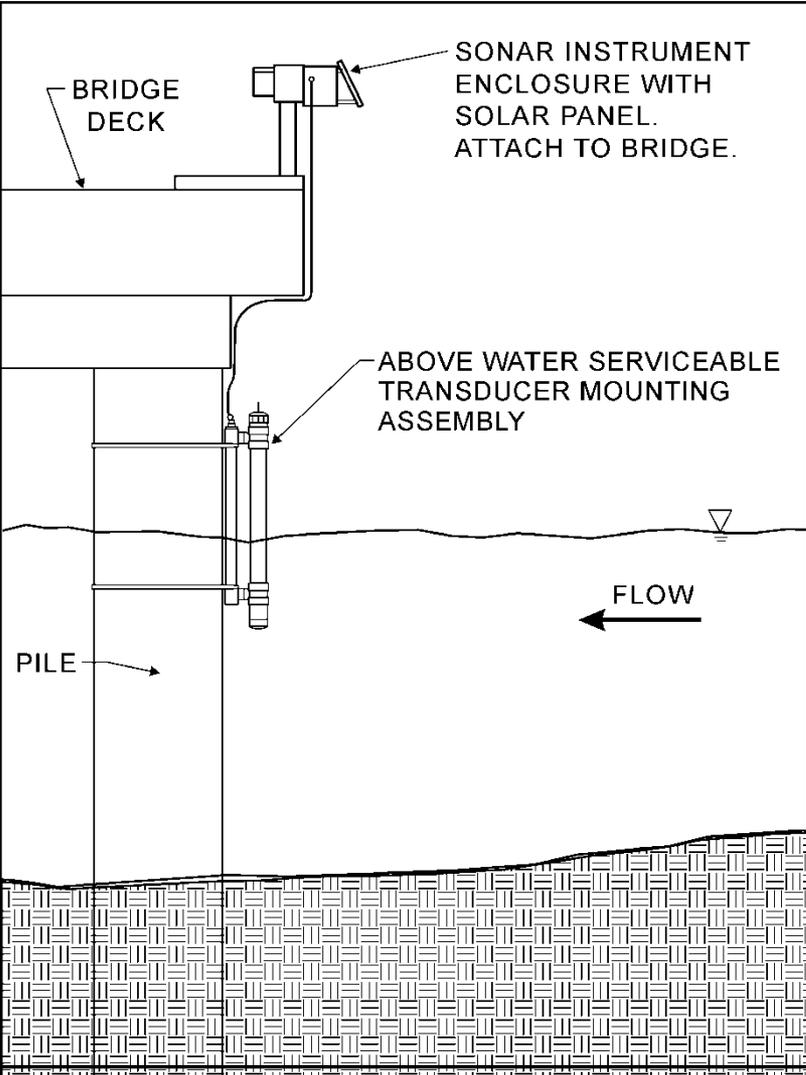


Magnetic Sliding Collar

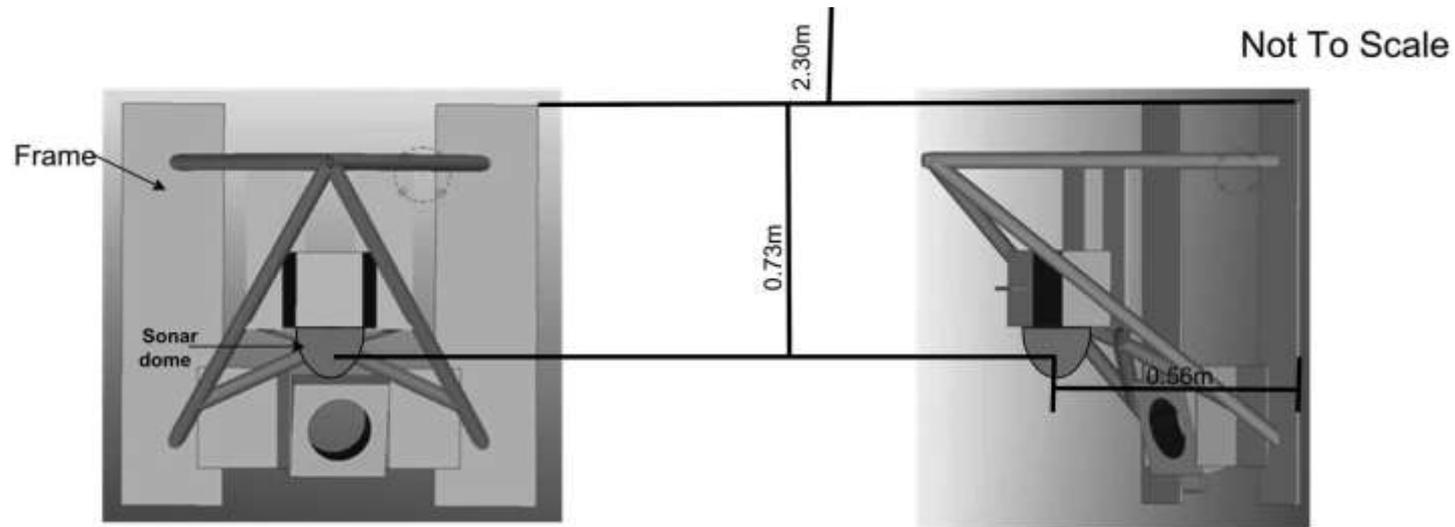


Float-out

# Sonar Scour Monitors

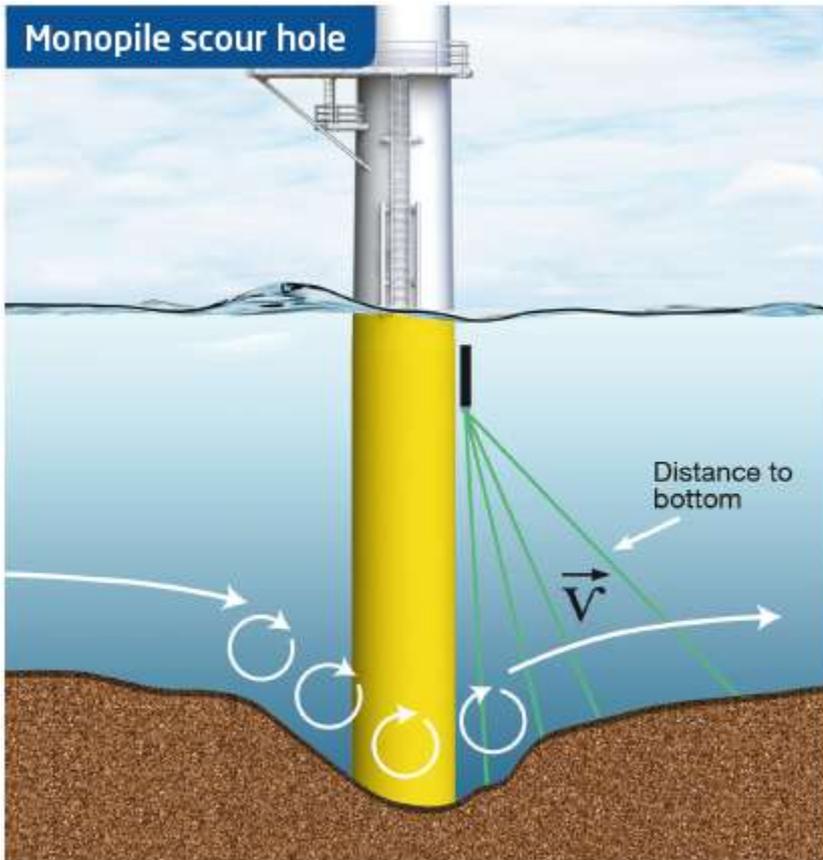


# 3-D Profiling Scanning Sonars

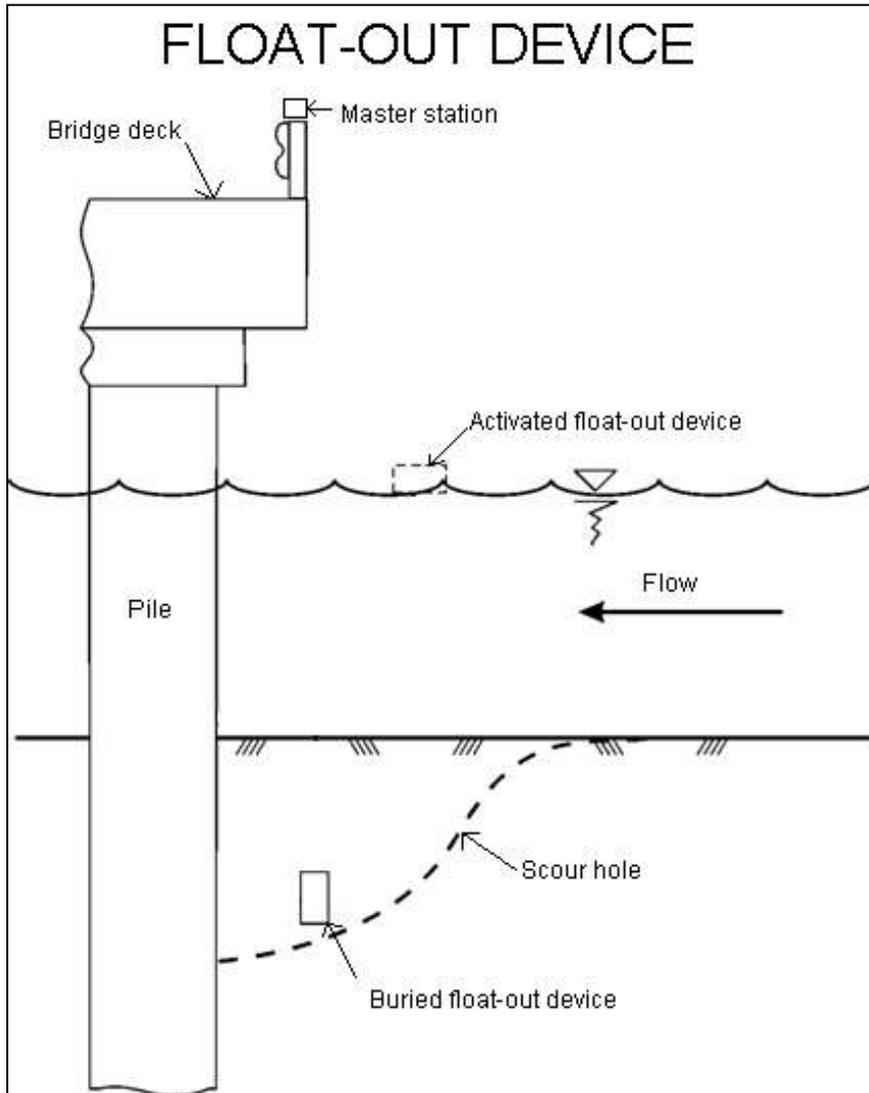


- Can observe wide areas of scour, 19,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Useful for monitoring armoring countermeasures

# Acoustic Measurements – Four Transducers



# Float-out Devices



Texas A&M



TXDOT

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# Tethered Buried Switches (TBS)



TXDOT

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# Wireless Smart Rocks

- Smart rocks - sensors packaged in rocks
- Passive sensors/rocks - directly read by instruments above water
- Active sensors/rocks - connected to a mobile vehicle with wireless communication systems
- Localization of smart rocks for scour information mapping on a GIS platform

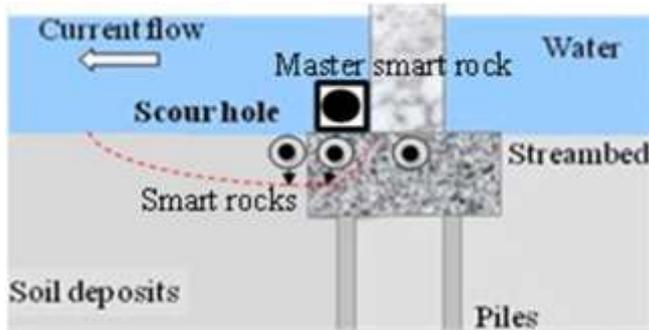


Fig. 1 Maximum Scour Depth Monitoring

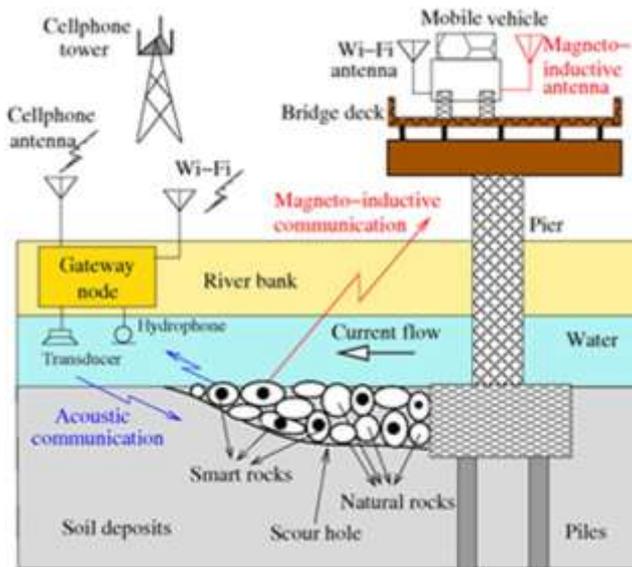
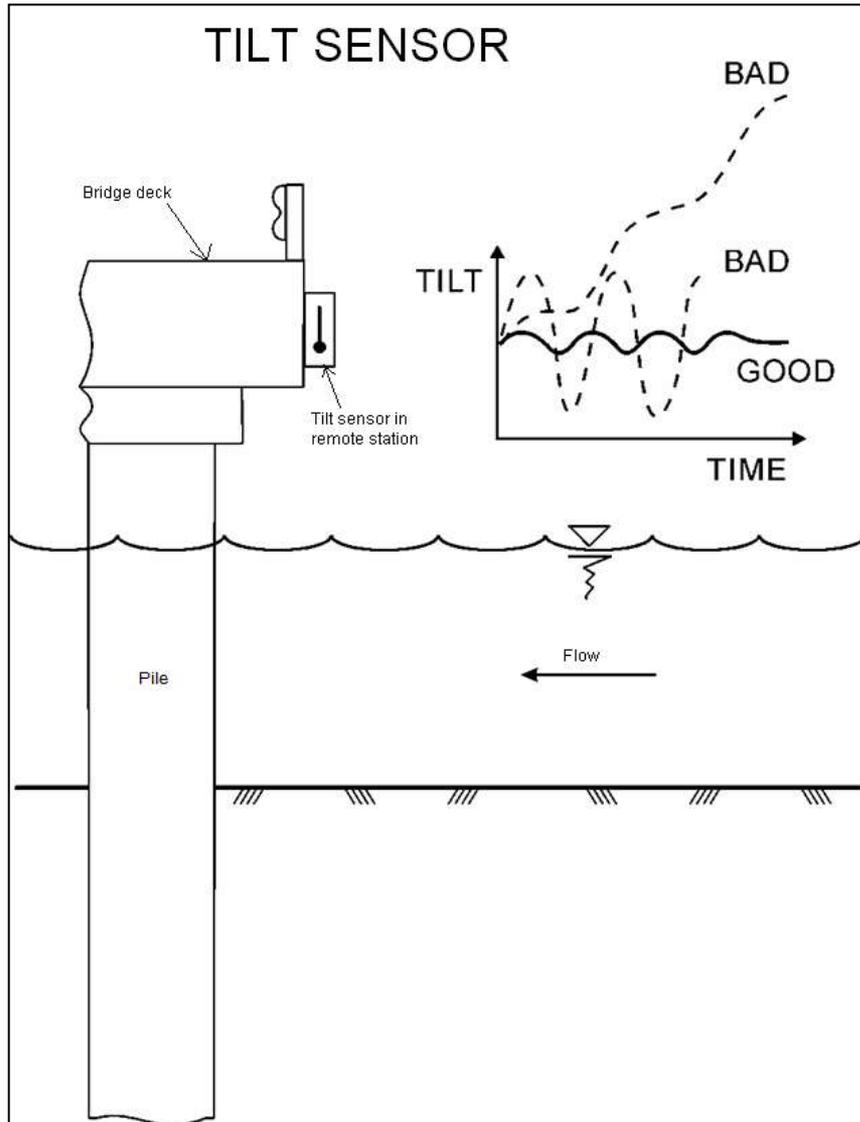


Fig. 2 Scour Countermeasure Monitoring

# Tilt Sensors



Texas A&M



Caltrans



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# Motion Sensors / Accelerometers



TXDOT

# Monitoring of 3 Bridges for Scour

## New York City Department of Transportation



**Mosholu Bridge  
(4<sup>th</sup> Vibrational Mode)**



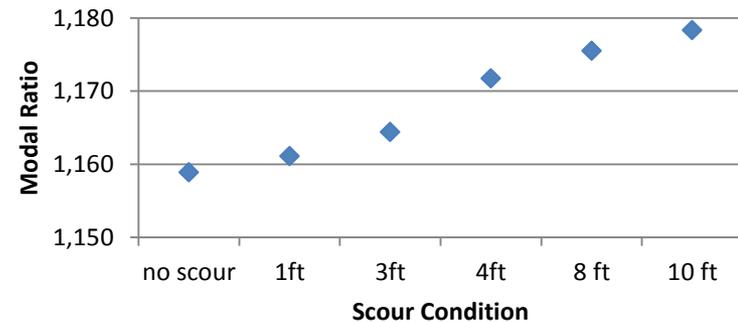
No Scour  
16.41 Hz.

With Scour  
16.19 Hz.

With 1ft Scour on  
Downstream Side  
of Pier #3  
16.35 Hz.

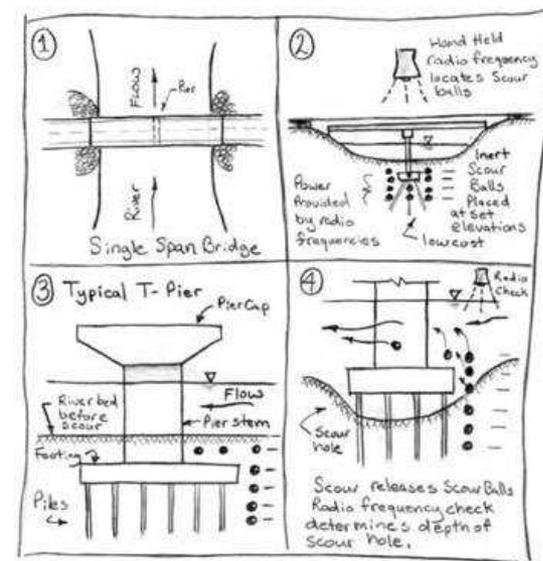
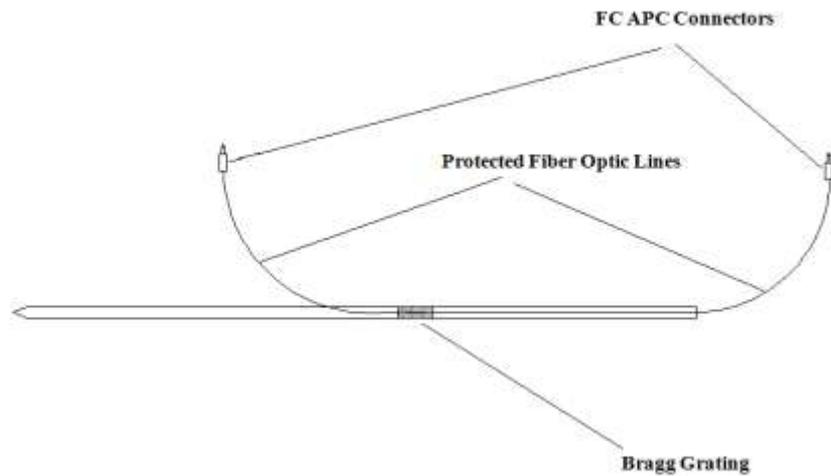
	no scour	1ft	3ft	4ft	
Frequency	14.16	14.09	13.99	13.86	
	14.73	14.70	14.69	14.67	
	15.58	15.55	15.52	15.48	
	16.41	16.36	16.29	16.24	
Modal ratio					
	1 to 2	1.040	1.043	1.050	1.058
	2 to 3	1.058	1.058	1.057	1.055
	3 to 4	1.053	1.052	1.050	1.049
	1 to 4	1.159	1.161	1.164	1.172

**Scour effect on modal ratio  
(4th to 1st)**



# Additional Studies

- Fiber Bragg Gratings (FBG) sensors – University of Illinois at Chicago (March 2011)
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) systems – The University of Iowa (January 2010)



SCOUR BALLS



# Bridge Scour Monitoring Technologies: Development of Evaluation and Selection Protocols for Application on River Bridges in Minnesota

Minnesota  
Department of  
Transportation

**RESEARCH  
SERVICES**

Office of  
Policy Analysis,  
Research &  
Innovation

Jeff Marr, Principal Investigator  
St. Anthony Falls Laboratory  
University of Minnesota

**March 2010**

Research Project  
Final Report #2010-14

*Your Destination...Our Priority*

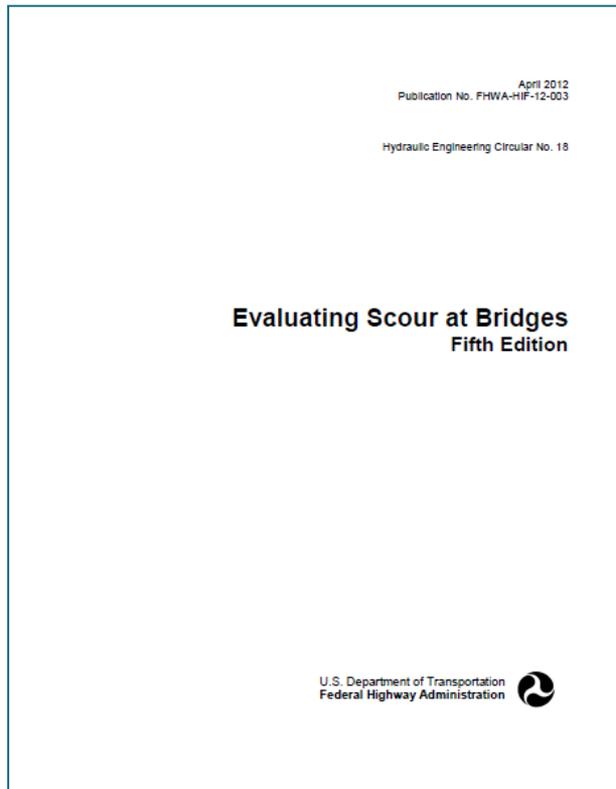


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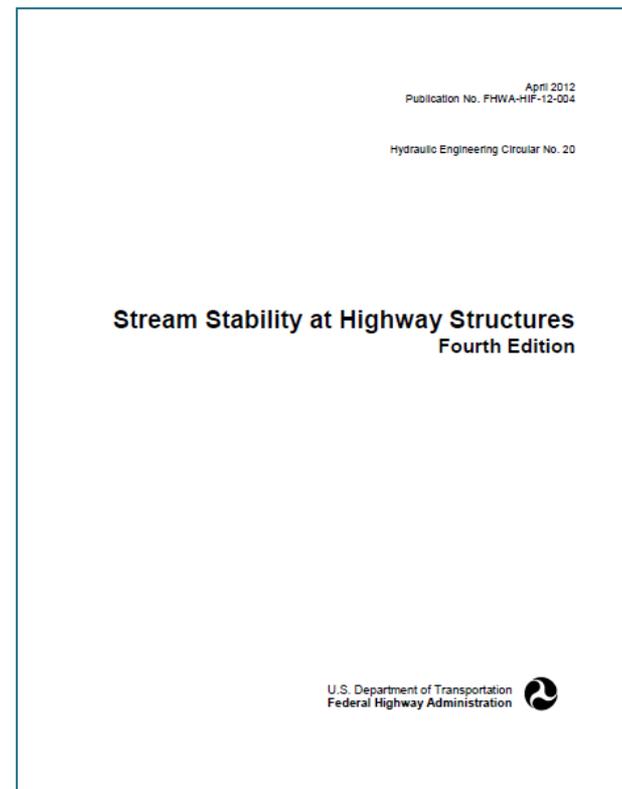
# Future Needs in Scour Monitoring Technology

- More robust devices - increased reliability and longevity
- Decreased costs
- Simpler installation techniques
- Less maintenance and repairs
- Devices more suitable for smaller and larger bridges
- Combine scour monitors with devices that measure additional hydraulic variables, structural monitors or cameras
- Funding for the scour monitoring program post-installation

# 2012 Revisions - FHWA Hydraulic Engineering Circulars



- 1991 – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition
- 2001 – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
- 2012 – 5<sup>th</sup> Edition



- 1991 – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition
- 2001 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
- 2012 – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

# New Edition of HEC-18

- Scour Program – Policy & Regulatory Basis
  - Scour Evaluations
  - Plans of Action
  - Scour Countermeasures
- Alternative Scour Equations
  - Contraction
  - Abutments
  - Piers
  - Bottomless Culverts
- New Chapter on Geotechnical Considerations
- Revisions to Chapter on Tidal Scour (HEC-25)

# FHWA Design Philosophy

- 2010: U.S. Congress Recommendations
  - For infrastructure initiatives and bridge program goals
  - Apply risk-based and data-driven approaches
    - Importance of the structure
    - Provide safe and reliable waterway crossings
    - Consider the economic consequences of failure
- 2011: FHWA implements risk/data to National Bridge Inspection Program (NBIP)
- 2012: FHWA issues Memorandum to apply risk/data to FHWA Scour Program
  - Scour evaluations, unknown foundations, POAs and countermeasures

# FHWA Policy & Regulatory Basis

**Tables 2.1 & 2.3: Hydraulic Design, Scour Design, Scour Design Check & Scour Countermeasure Design Flood Frequencies**

Hydraulic Design Flood Frequency ( $Q_D$ )	Scour Design Flood Frequency ( $Q_S$ )	Scour Design Check Flood Frequency ( $Q_C$ )	Scour Countermeasure Design Flood Frequency ( $Q_{CM}$ )
$Q_{10}$	$Q_{25}$	$Q_{50}$	$Q_{50}$
$Q_{25}$	$Q_{50}$	$Q_{100}$	$Q_{100}$
$Q_{50}$	$Q_{100}$	$Q_{200}$	$Q_{200}$
$Q_{100}$	$Q_{500}$	$Q_{500}$	$Q_{500}$

*Note: Table developed from 2012 FHWA HEC-18. Numbers shown in red are recommendations from FHWA guidance prior to 2012.*

# Conclusions

- Developments in sensors and data analysis are most needed
- Proof of concept in laboratory and fields tests are ongoing
- Goals for the monitoring systems:
  - Robust
  - Ease of installation, maintenance and repairs
  - Better long-term power
  - Longer transmission distances and through various surfaces
  - Simplification of data analysis
  - Lower costs
- Alternatives with revised U.S. FHWA HEC-18 guidance – re-evaluations and prioritization

ICSE-6 2012

PARIS Aug. 27-31, 2012  
6th International Conference on Scour and Erosion

Thank You



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