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s I began to pen this editorial, I reflected back on recent conversations I’ve had with a number of consulting bridge engineers and state bridge engineers.

Past engineering and construction trends are changing and while small intermediate steps are comfortable for some, bold ideas, innovation, and speed of delivery are desirable by others.

ASPIRE™ has and will continue to address both… the tried and true methods and the latest innovations appearing in the marketplace for delivering quality transportation assets.

What is your business culture? What is the culture of the direct and indirect customers you serve? I’m reminded of the old adage… “is this a push or pull technology”? Will your customer push you to change or will you help pull the industry to improve and achieve more durable solutions that can be constructed faster and more economically.

Past—The creators of this publication have provided a unique, high quality platform to publish your professional contributions and outstanding work to a vast and diverse audience. Your efforts and energy do not go unnoticed. Innovations and creative techniques take time to refine and develop into applications embraced by the broader engineering community. Clear and concise communication and development into applications embraced by the broader engineering community.

Future—As a second-generation engineer, I have picked up a few sayings and habits along the way that will, on occasion, show up in this column. Consider yourself forewarned! My father always told me to try and “Hold it between the ditches,” meaning avoid distractions and stay focused on the important things in front of you. In the coming 2013 calendar year, the ASPIRE team will continue to highlight the attributes of bridge projects and how these examples best utilize concrete’s resiliency and robustness. Keep sending the team your ideas and creative concrete solutions and remember: Hold it between the ditches.

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