

Concrete Connections is an annotated list of websites where information is available about concrete bridges. Links and other information are provided at www.aspirebridge.org.

IN THIS ISSUE

<https://www.aspirebridge.com/magazine/2018Spring/CBT-PracticalSolutionForSkewedGeometry.pdf>

This is a link to a Spring 2018 *ASPIRE*® article, “Practical Solution for Skewed Geometry on Decked-Girder Bridges,” by Nicholls and Kovich. That article, which is mentioned in the Focus article on page 5, describes a simplified method to calculate bearing elevations of individual girders on a skewed bridge that takes into consideration camber and cross and longitudinal slopes.

<https://www.txdot.gov/business/resources/design-tools-training/txdot-fhwa-engineering-software.html>

The Concrete Bridge Technology article about cracking on page 22 discusses the challenges associated with defining mass concrete and managing the heat of hydration generated by mass concrete during curing. This link is to the publicly available software package (ConcreteWorks) mentioned in the article. The software allows users to make multiple adjustments to manage heat generation and dissipation to minimize the risk of thermal cracking.

<https://aspirebridge.com/magazine/2015Winter/Project-PlatformSpansManhattan.pdf>

The concrete segmental bridge that supports a skyscraper for the Manhattan West project in New York City is noted in the Concrete Bridge Technology article on page 19. This link is to the Manhattan West project article published in the Winter 2015 issue of *ASPIRE*.

Pennsylvania Launches Accelerated Construction Inspector Pipeline to Address Infrastructure Workforce Shortage

On February 25, 2026, Pennsylvania’s Construct PA initiative graduated its first cohort under the Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program (CWTP), a program designed to address labor shortages in the construction and infrastructure sectors. Established by executive order in July 2023 and funded through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CWTP is a first-of-its-kind state-level job training grant program that targets companies, contractors, and unions working on infrastructure projects.

The four-week accelerated training provides the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s Transportation Construction Inspector certification; field experience with earthwork equipment and concrete testing; and certifications in worksite safety, flagging, and safe driving. Participants also complete coursework in construction mathematics, plans reading, and professional skills. On completion, graduates are connected directly with employers seeking to expand their teams.

Eligible participants are 18 to 24 years old, hold a GED or high school diploma, possess a valid driver’s license, and have had prior contact with the justice system. The program provides safety equipment, and support services covering childcare and transportation costs are available.

Having launched in Harrisburg, Construct PA is expanding to additional Pennsylvania communities in 2026. Pennsylvania has increased funding for career, technical, and apprenticeship programs by roughly 50% since 2023, with the 2026–2027 budget proposing further workforce investment. Other states facing similar infrastructure labor shortages may look to the CWTP model as a replicable framework.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. 2026. PennDOT Statewide News, February 26, 2026. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/news-and-media/newsroom/statewide>.

<https://nationalconcretebridge.org/webinars>

The LRFD article on page 43 refers to an August 20, 2025, webinar hosted by the National Concrete Bridge Council (NCBC), which focused on implementation of Agenda Item 39 from the June 2025 meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ Committee on Bridges. A recording of the webinar, “The New PCI Recommended Practice to Assess and Control Prestressing Strand/Concrete Bonding Properties,” can be accessed from this link.

<https://abc-utc.fiu.edu/mc-events/deldots-accelerated-and-innovative-entirely-precast-bridges-us-13-over-blackbird-creek>

The Project article on page 14 and the Concrete Bridge Technology article on page 26 highlight the successful application of accelerated bridge construction techniques and ultra-high-performance concrete technology in a Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) project to replace two bridges over Blackbird Creek. This is a link to a recorded Florida International University webinar about the project, titled “DelDOT Accelerated and Innovative Entirely Precast Bridges – US 13 Over Blackbird Creek.”

**You Matter.
Your Mental Health Matters.**

Scan the QR code to access PCI Wellness resources, including mental health support, prevention tools, and on-demand learning.

- Support designed for the construction industry
- Confidential mental health and prevention resources
- Webinars and eLearning focused on stress, resilience, and well-being
- Tools to help break the stigma and encourage seeking help

