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In this issue, we highlight recently developed features in the release of FB-MultiPier v6.1.0 along with Coupled Vessel Impact Analysis (CVIA), and an announcement of Bridge Software Institute's participation in the upcoming Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting 2025.

Engineers making use of software produced by the Bridge Software Institute (BSI) are encouraged to reach out with suggestions for new features and program improvements. Inquiries ranging from project-specific to general program usage are welcomed. We firmly believe that your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future direction of our software.

The announcement and enhancements featured in this newsletter include:

a) BSI at 2025 TRB Annual Meeting;b) Minimum Pile Tip Embedment (MPTE);and;c) Dynamic Coupled Vessel Impact Analysis (CVIA).



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BSI at 2025 TRB Annual Meeting

BSI will be participating in the **2025 TRB Annual Meeting**, hosted in **Washington**, **DC**, from **January 5th-7th**, **2025**. We invite you to **visit us at Booth 427**, where our team will be showcasing live demonstrations of the latest advancements in our software solutions. You'll have the opportunity to explore new features, enhancements, and innovative tools now available to support your projects.

Our experts will be on hand to provide personalized insights into how BSI software can contribute to the success of your projects. Whether you're looking for advice on optimizing program usage or interested in exploring future developments, we welcome all questions and discussions.

We look forward to seeing you at Booth 427 to discuss innovative solutions and advancements that drive progress in software development for the transportation and engineering sectors.

Minimum Pile Tip Embedment (MPTE)

In this section, we address frequently asked questions regarding the FB-MultiPier MPTE option. Additional information can be found at FB-MultiPier Help Manual (Section 2.5.2, and Section 5.6.1) and in the Spring 2018, and Fall 2019 Newsletters.

This option, developed with funding from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), provides a convenient, automated routine to establish the minimum driven pile embedment for an individual pile or foundation pile group.

The required axial capacity may be reached during pile driving at an embedment shorter than anticipated. When an MPTE is specified in the construction documents, other factors may govern the final embedment requirement. These conditions are welldocumented in the **AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications (Section 10.7.6)** and typically relate to lateral soil resistance and, possibly axial soil tension resistance (pile pull-out). FALL **2024**

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Following the **FDOT Structures Manual (Section 3.5.9)**, a design procedure for determining MPTE is outlined. A high tip end bearing compression resistance for the pile(s) is input to prevent axial compression failure. This high tip resistance is maintained during all embedment lengths as the software steps through the automated reduction of the embedment length. It is recommended that engineers check Project Settings dialog for Soil Tip Property Data selected as 'Per Soil Set", as shown in **Fig. 1**.

Project Settings	×
Environment General Model Input Positioning Soil Analysis Analysis Page	Soil Tip Property Data Per Soil Set Per Soil Layer Notes Select 'Per Soil Set' to specify one set of soil tip properties for each soil set. Select 'Per Soil Layer' to specify one set of soil tip properties for each soil set. Select 'Per Soil Layer' to specify one set of soil tip properties for each soil layer.
	 Soil layer. When changing from 'Per Soil Layer' to 'Per Soil Set', the first soil layer's tip properties in each soil set will be used. Project Settings apply to the current project (input file) only.
	OK Cancel

Figure 1. Project Settings dialog

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To demonstrate this procedure, consider a substructure where the pier is supported at cap level by a spring representing the superstructure resistance with a stiffness of 350 kip/inch and a vessel impact load of 3500 kips is applied as shown **Fig. 2**.



Figure 2. 3D View window

If the FB-MultiPier model contains multiple load cases, it is advisable to identify the key load cases which control lateral movement and run a separate model analysis. The MPTE analysis can be time-consuming due to the number of trial cases considered.

From the Model Data window, select Lateral Stability (**Fig. 3**) and check the box for Run Minimum Pile Tip Embedment Analysis. Note that the pile's original embedment length is 70 ft, with a final embedment depth of 20 ft and 11 trial embedments are selected. The analysis will be conducted over a 50 ft length (assuming all trials converge on a solution), subdivided into 5 ft long pile element sections. The first analysis uses the original pile length, followed by 10 trial lengths, thus 50/10 = 5 ft pile length increments.



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V Model Data							×
Model Data Global Data -Model -Analysis Settings Design Specs. Dynamics Lateral Stability Substructure Pile Soil Pier Soil Pier Extra Members Load Springs Mass/Damper Retained Soil	Lateral Stability Pushover Pushover Control Pushover Analysis Number of Steps Load Increment Factor Minimum Pile Tip Embedment Control Public Tip Embedment Substructure of Interest Model Embedment Length Final Embedment Length Number of Trial Embedments	10 Inent Analysis : Pier v 70.00 20.00	ft ft	Elevation	-96.00 -46.00	ft	
Bridge Span Load	Proximity to Collapse	Edit					
-							i

Figure 3. Lateral Stability Page

By selecting 29 nodes (**Fig. 4**) for the embedded pile length, the node spacing is calculated as 2.5 ft (70/(29-1)). The 5 ft segment lengths for the trials match the current geometry. While the software attempts to keep pile segments reasonably equal in length to maintain comparable stiffnesses and soil resistance within embedment trials, this is considered good practice.

Pile Nodes	×
Free Length Nodes	5
Embedded Nodes	29
Notes	
1. The Free Length Node Embedded Nodes input the currently selected pi	es and is pertain to le.
2. The total number of n pile within a substructur including cases when so a free standing length a are fully embedded.	odes on every e is the same, me piles have nd other piles
ОК	Cancel

Figure 4. Pile Nodes dialog



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After completing this analysis, we can review a plot of the maximum pile head movement relative to pile embedment, as shown in **Fig. 5** and **Fig. 6**.

oad Combination Selection	Full Tables				
• All Load Combinations	Minimum Pile Tip Embedment				
\bigcirc Custom Set of Load Combinations	Internal Forces at Pile Heads				
Choose Load Combinations	Internal Forces for All Piles				
Report Options	Condensed Tables				
• Excel	Max Axial Forces at Pile Heads				
○ PDF	Max D/C Ratios for All Pile Sections				
⊖ Text	Max D/C Ratios for All Column Sections				
Show Page Footer	Pier Cap Shear Design				
Date Version Number	Pier Cap Moment Design				
🕑 Time 🔍 Filename	Pier Cap Envelopes				
Pier Cap Torsion Design	Extended Tables				
	Max Forces for All Pile Sections				
All Condensed and Extended Tables	Max Forces for All Column Sections				
Cover Sheet	Max Forces for All Extra Member Sections				

Figure 5. Design Table Generator dialog

It is useful to review the analysis with only 20 ft of embedment to evaluate the failure mode. A quick way to do this is to run the model with 20 ft of embedment and review the UI graphical output. From the Axial pile results (**Fig. 7**), we observe no tension (+) values, indicating that the failure mode is not related to loss of soil skin friction (pull-out).



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Figure 6. Minimum Pile Tip Embedment dialog

Close



Figure 7. Pile Results - Axial Force along all Piles (20ft embedment trial)

Excel

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From the 3-D results view (**Fig. 8**), we can observe that the pile tips are beginning to move laterally, and all the pile heads are now hinged.



Figure 8. 3D Results View – Displaced Shape (20ft embedment trial)

From **Fig. 6** and the table, we observe that at approximately 32 ft of embedment, pile displacements begin to increase between trial embedments. To determine the minimum embedment for the contract documents, we utilize the FDOT procedure:

- 20% of 32 feet is 6.4 ft.
- Therefore, 5 ft is added to the 32 ft, resulting in an MPTE of 37 ft.

Review the 3-D results (**Fig. 9**) with the required 37 ft embedment. When the minimum embedment of 37 ft is input, we can observe that the pile hinging is no longer present. The pile tip movement is reduced to 0.00035 inches, and the pile curvature shows reversal. The piles are stable and meet both FDOT Structures Manual and AASHTO LRFD specifications.

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Figure 9. 3D Results View – Displaced Shape (37ft embedment trial)

Dynamic Vessel Collision Impact Analysis (CVIA)

The <u>Spring 2016</u> newsletter demonstrated the use of FB-MultiPier for dynamic analysis, which may be referenced for a step-by-step procedure. In this newsletter, we will conduct a dynamic analysis for a channel pier of the Bryant Patton Memorial Bridge (Saint George Island Bridge), Franklin County, Florida.

We have selected a 3191 ton barge with 260 ton push boat, resulting in a combined displacement weight being 3451 tons (or 6902 kips). The barge is 53 ft wide and 250 ft long, and the push boat is 25 ft wide and 75 ft long. They are assumed to be traveling at 11.8 ft/sec (8 miles/hour) when colliding with a channel pier.

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The **Fig. 10**, **Fig. 11**, and **Fig. 12** depict the 12 span bridge section and the OPTS model for channel pier 3.







Figure 12. Bridge Plan View for the OPTS model

We will apply the vessel impact at Node 15 as a transverse loading to the bridge pile footing as shown in **Fig. 13** and **Fig. 14**.

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Figure 13. Vessel Impact Load at Node 15

We have selected a 14 ft collision width to represent a reasonable Flat Surface collision. While the footing is 28 ft wide, using engineering judgement we can assume that the complete contact over the entire width is not realistic. The Vessel Bow Force Deformation Relationship is automatically generated by the software and used in the analysis. As **Fig. 14** illustrates, for a collision width of 14 ft, vessel deformation and impact force are linearly related to each other up to 2 inches of barge deformation and 3250 kips of impact force. For vessel deformation levels that exceed 2 inches, the impact force remains constant. That is, the overall force-deformation curve is elastic (at low vessel deformation levels) and plastic (at higher vessel deformation levels).

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Vessel Weight	6902	kips	4000.0	Ves	sel Bow Fo	orce-Deform	ation Relation	ship
Hydrodynamic Mass Coefficient	1.05		4000.0					
Vessel X Velocity	11.8	ft/sec	3000.0	» – Г				
Vessel Y Velocity	0	ft/sec	(kips)					
Max. Separation Time	1	sec ?		»				
npact Conditions			1000.0	»				
Collision Type	Collision	on Flat Surface						
Collision Width	14	ft	0.0	0.000	5.000	10.000	15.000	20.00
Yield Load	0	kips				Deformation	/ (in)	
Crush Depth at Yield	0	in	U Wide Vie	ew			-	Loading C
	Edit L	oading and Unloading Curves						
Iotes . Vessel Collision Load can be applie	d only to a	single non-bearing node in the r	odel.					

Figure 14. Vessel Collision Dialog (Flat Surface Collision)

It is also of interest to observe the form of the barge force-deformation curve if a collision on a round surface had instead been selected, and applied over the full footing width of 28 ft (that is, the full pile cap width). As shown in Fig. 15, this change results in a dramatic reduction of maximum force developed, with the maximum force being only 2250 kips due to the hull deformation on the rounded surface.

mpact Parameters			Ver	al Paur Farr	. Defermatio		h :
Vessel Weight	6902	kips	3000.00	sei bow roro	e-Deformatio	on Relations	
Hydrodynamic Mass Coefficient	1.05		2500.00				
Vessel X Velocity	11.8	ft/sec					
Vessel Y Velocity	0	ft/sec	<u><u><u></u></u> 2000.00</u>				
Max. Separation Time	1	sec ?	1500.00				
npact Conditions			500.00				
Collision Type	Collision	on Round Surface \sim	500.00				
Collision Width	28	ft	0.00	5.000	10.000	15.000	20.00
Yield Load	0	kips			Perormation (in)		
Crush Depth at Yield	0	in	Wide View				oading Ci
	Edit Lo	pading and Unloading Curves					
lotes							
. Vessel Collision Load can be applie	ed only to a s	ingle non-bearing node in the mo	del.				

Figure 15. Vessel Collision Dialog (Round Surface Collision)

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In the Model Data window (**Fig. 16**), we input parameters for the dynamic analysis. The damping coefficients are automatically calculated, a time step of 0.002 seconds is selected, and 300 steps are specified. The analysis will terminate at 300 * 0.002 = 0.6 seconds. The channel pier substructure is relatively stiff and the maximum hull crushing force of 3199 kips is reached at just 0.016 seconds, as shown in **Fig. 17**. The hull crushing force (impact force on the bridge) versus time is displayed in the text "vessel" output in a file, with '.VES' extension (**Fig. 17** and **Fig. 18**).

Model Data			
📮 Global Data	Dynamics		
Model Analysis Settings Design Specs.	Analysis Type	Dynamic Relaxation ☑ Static Dead Load Global Damping	Loading Option O Applied Load vs Time
Lateral Stability	# 5	☑ Damping	O Applied Accel. vs Time
 Substructure Pile Cap 	Advanced	Rayleigh Damping Factors Mass Stiffness	
Pile Soil	Time Stepping Parameters	Pier 0.203898 0.008569	(All nodes)
Pier Extra Members	O Average Acceleration	Soil 0.203898 0.008569	Vessel Collision
Load Springs	Wilson Theta	Modal Analysis Damping Damping Level 0 %	O Acceleration vs Period
Mass/Damper Retained Soil	Time Step 0.002 sec	Soil Mass	Dynamics Print Options
■ Superstructure ■ Bridge		Percentage 0 % ?	Node List
···· Span Load			

Figure 16. Dynamic Page

* * * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * *	* * * * * * * * * *
* C0	UPLED VESSEL IM	PACT ANALYSI	IS RESULTS
* * * * * * * *	* * * * * * *	* * * * * *	* * * * * * * * * * *
	TMPACTING VESS		
*****	*************	********	******
Vessel Weight	(includes CH) =	7247.1000	kips
X-Velocity	=	11.8000	ft/sec
Y-Velocity	=	0.0000	ft/sec
**************************************	******	**********	**********************
*	IMPACT F	ORCE-HISTORY	۲ ۱
******	**********	*********	*****
TTME	TMPACT FORCE	CRUSH DEP	отн
sec	kips	choon bei	in
2.0000000E-03	4.5076221E+02	2.8179972E	-01
4.0000000E-03	9.0095727E+02	5.6324516E	-01
6.000000E-03	1.3486980E+03	8.4315547E-	-01
8.000000E-03	1.7936121E+03	1.1212992E+	+00
1.000000E-02	2.2352637E+03	1.3974024E+	+00
1.200000E-02	2.6731746E+03	1.6711677E+	+00
1.400000E-02	3.1068666E+03	1.9422954E+	+00
1.600000E-02	3.1991690E+03	2.2108995E+	+00
1.800000E-02	3.1991690E+03	2.4772804E+	+00
2.000000E-02	3.1991690E+03	2.7415304E+	+00
2.200000E-02	3.1991690E+03	3.0036067E+	+00
2.400000E-02	3.1991690E+03	3.2634850E+	+00
2.600000E-02	3.1991690E+03	3.5211741E+	100
2.800000E-02	3.1991690E+03	3.7766966E4	100
3.0000000E-02	3.13310305+03	4.0300823E4	100

Figure 17. Coupled Vessel Impact Analysis Results (.VES)



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Figure 18. Impact Force-History

Upon observing the impact force versus time (**Fig. 17**, and **Fig. 18**), it is interesting to note that the maximum impact force is reached at just 0.016 seconds. After this, the impact force 3199 kips remains constant, as the barge hull is deformed into the plastic region. At 0.184 seconds (time step 92), the maximum footing displacement of 2.15 inches is reached, as shown in **Fig. 19**, and **Fig. 20**. From the graphical output we are able to observe the translation through time of the pier footing (**Fig. 19**).



Figure 19. X Translation through time of the pier footing



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Figure 20. 3D Results Window

The total lateral force applied to the piles is conveniently obtained from the sum of total soil forces at time step 92, which equals 3564 kips (Fig. 21).

Sum of Total Soil Spring Forces	for Piles			
Xp Direction	=	3564.0431	kips	
Yp Direction	=	-13.2236	kips	
Zp Direction	=	8000.4823	kips	
Sum of Tip Forces	=	2226.4828	kips	

Figure 21. Sum of Total Soil Forces at Time Step 92 in .out file

The sum of the bearing forces (or sum of the shears in the columns) results in a force being transmitted to the superstructure, 806 kips. Therefore, the total lateral force on the substructure is 3564 + 806 = 4370 kips, which is approximately 37% larger than the constant applied force of 3199 kips, generated by the barge and applied over time.

This demonstrates the dynamic nature of impact-momentum analysis.

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GeoStat

BSI Program Status

FB-MultiPier v6.1.0 Download a FREE demo today! Released July 2024 - Continuing Development - Technical Support Available



FB-MultiPier

FB-MultiPier allows for the modeling of bridges, bridge piers, pile bents, and other foundation structures. In addition to allowing for multiple load cases and AASHTO load combinations, FB-MultiPier is also capable of performing dynamic analysis (time-history and RSA). For more information about FB-MultiPier, click here.



FB-Deep v3.1.0 Download a FREE demo today!

Released Feb 2022 - Continuing Development - Technical Support Available

FB-Deep is used to estimate the static axial capacity of drilled shafts and driven piles. The methodology is based upon Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reports. FB-Deep guides the user through pile and shaft materials data, shape and dimensional inputs, soil properties, and boring log info. For more information about FB-Deep, click here.

GeoStat v1.1.2

Released Dec 2020 - Continuing Development - Technical Support Available

GeoStat allows engineers to leverage statistical methods when estimating pile/shaft axial resistance quantities, variability, and uncertainty. GeoStat accepts collections of borings/corings, performs both spatial variability analysis and method error estimation, and then generates through-depth profiles of both factored resistance and associated variability. For more information about GeoStat, click here.



Atlas v7.2.0

Released Dec 2021 - Limited Web Support Available

Atlas is a finite element analysis program that is used for the design/ analysis of cable supported traffic signal systems. The Atlas program models dual cable supported systems including single-point, and twopoint attachments systems. For more information about Atlas, click here.



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