

Integral Abutment and Jointless Bridges

Author(s): Cristian-Claudiu Comisu

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Abstract text:

Integral bridges, or integral abutment and jointless bridges, as they are more commonly known in the USA, are constructed without any movement joints between spans or between spans and abutments. Typically these bridges have stub-type abutments supported on piles and continuous bridge deck from one embankment to the other. Foundations are usually designed to be small and flexible to facilitate horizontal movement or rocking of the support. Integrally bridges are simple or multiple span ones that have their superstructure cast integrally with their substructure. The jointless bridges cost less to construct and require less maintenance than equivalent bridges with expansion joints. Integral bridges present a challenge for load distribution calculations because the bridge deck, piers, abutments, embankments and soil must all be considered as single compliant system. This paper presents some of the important features of integral abutment and jointless bridge design and some guidelines to achieve improved design. The goal of this paper is to enhance the awareness among the engineering community to use integral abutment and jointless bridges in Romania.

Key Words:

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Author(s) Information

Cristian-Claudiu Comisu

Affiliation: „Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University, Jassy, Department of Transportation Infrastructure and Foundations.

Email: comisucc@ce.tuiasi.ro

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