Lessons learned from Testing and Construction of Drilled Foundations

Dan Brown, Associate Professor

Department of Civil Engineering, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

In recent years, the technology has developed to allow more effective testing of drilled foundations for load bearing capacity and structural integrity. At the same time, drilled shaft foundations are being used in ever increasing diameters and depths and are designed for extremely large seismic and other flexural loadings. The feedback on performance and integrity characteristics provide a basis for working to improve the quality of drilled foundations and structural integrity is more critical than ever for large diameter shafts. The most common difficulties occur with respect to concrete workability and congested reinforcement.

This presentation will provide an overview of some of the more common difficulties with drilled shaft construction and provide an overview of the key elements needed to ensure successful construction of quality drilled foundations.