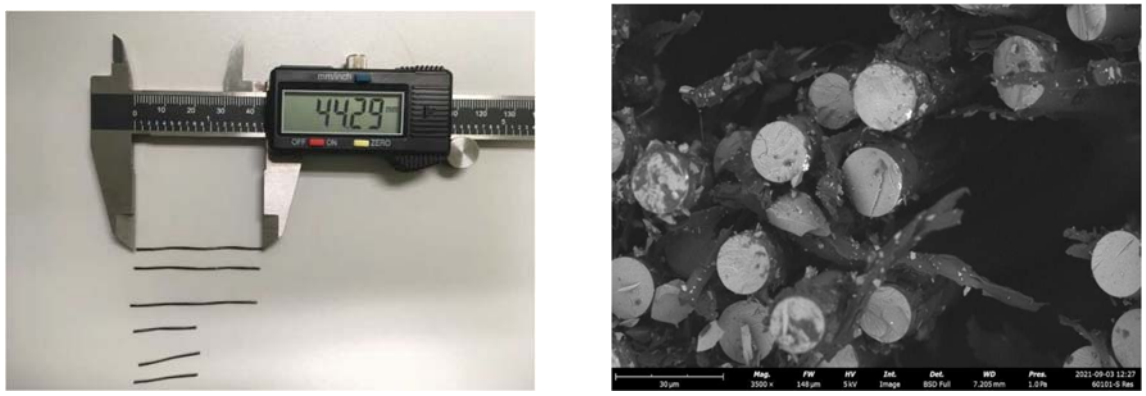
Quarterly Progress and Performance Indicators Report:
Project Number and Title: 3.5 Prevention of Stress-Induced Failures of Prestressed Concrete Crossties of the Railroad Track Structure
Research Area: New Systems for Longevity and Constructability
PI: *Moochul Shin and Western New England University*
Co-PI(s): *ChangHoon Lee and Western New England University*
Reporting Period: *10/1/2021~12/31/2021Period start and end dates (i.e. 7/1/2021-9/30/2021)*
Submission Date: *12/31/2021*

******IMPORTANT: Please fill out each section fully and reply with N/A for questions/sections with nothing to report. For ease of reporting to the USDOT, please do not remove, or change the order of, any sections/text. You may remove/add each rows in tables as needed. Thank you! ******
The report is due on the last day of the reporting period in .doc format to tidc@maine.edu.

Overview:

During the reporting period, the WNEU research team has been focusing on starting Phase 2 of the project (i.e. Task 1), while continually working on Phase 1 (i.e. Tasks 1.3 and 1.4). The research team was able to successfully develop fiber-reinforced concrete mixtures and explore the optimum doses of fibers to produce higher compressive strengths. Basalt fiber was selected to enhance the impact resistance, crack resistance, and corrosion resistance of concrete mixtures.

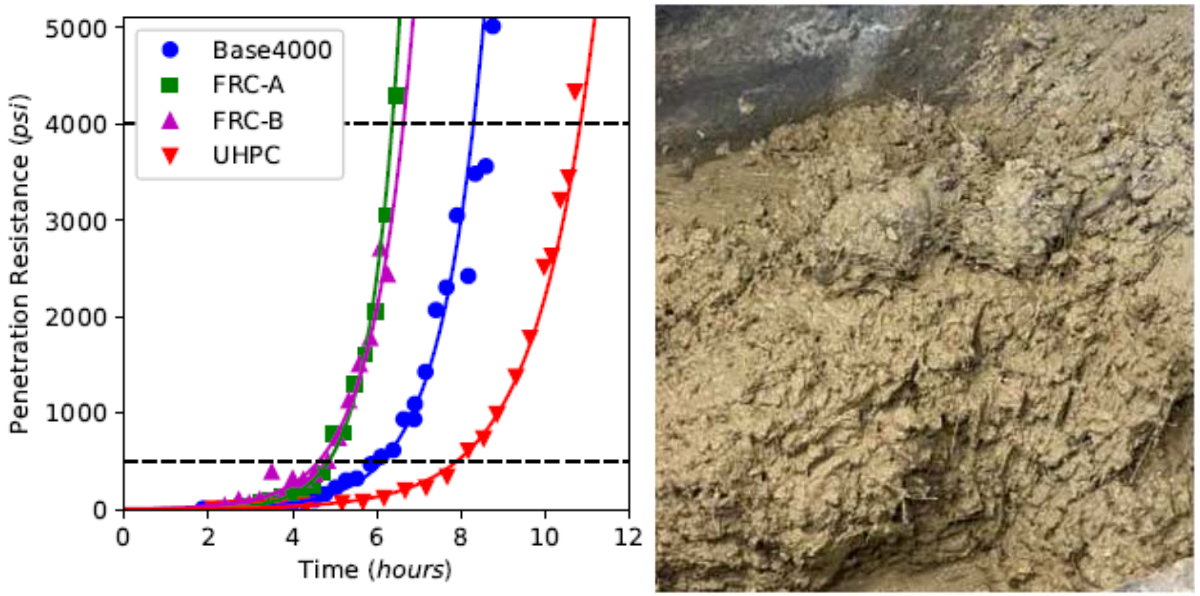
- Two types of basalt fibers were introduced: 1) 22 mm long fiber, and 2) 44 mm long fiber (see Fig.1.a).
- The Minibars (basalt fibers) composed of alkali-resistant glass has a specific gravity of 2.21, which prevents floating of the fibers. Fig.1.b. shows a SEM image of the Minibars's cross-section, demonstrating that the minibars are coated by thermoset resin.
- When a shorter length fiber (22 mm long) was used, the optimum volume of fiber for producing the higher compressive strength was found to be 0.9 %.
- When a longer length fiber (44 mm long) was used, the optimum volume of fiber for producing the higher compressive strength was found to be 1.1 %.



(a) (b)

Fig1. (a) A picture of the minibars (basalt fibers), (b) a SEM image of minibars

- The research team successfully conducted ASTM C403, penetration resistance test to measure the setting times of the fiber-reinforced concretes. Fig 2 shows the result of the Penetration Resistance test (ASTM C403) and a picture of the fiber-reinforced concrete mixture in a fresh condition.



(a) (b)

Fi2. (a) Penetration resistance result and (b) fiber-reinforced concrete mixture in a fresh condition

Meeting the Overarching Goals of the Project:

How did the previous items help you achieve the project goals and objects? Please give one bullet point for each bullet point listed above.

- The research team was able to find out the feasibility and suitability of the Minibars (basalt fibers) as potential fiber types to enhance the structural performance of the fiber-reinforced concretes which are targeted to prestressed concrete crossties.
- The shorter length fibers show promising results than the longer length fibers when they are mixed with the concrete whose compressive strength ranges from 4000 psi to 6000 psi.
- When fibers are mixed with high performance concrete (HPC), steam-curing or early-strength admixture may be necessary to obtain the required early high compressive strength (higher than 5000 psi within 12 hours~24 hours)

Accomplishments:

List any accomplishments achieved under the project goals in bullet point form…

- The selected basalt fibers are guarantees the promising workability with the concrete mixtures (i.e., 3 to 6 inches of slump depending on the dosage) and showed great potential to enhance the target properties of the fiber-reinforced ECM.
- Replacing about 1 % of the volume of concrete with fibers is an optimum dose in terms of compressive strength.

Task, Milestone, and Budget Progress:

Complete the following tables to document the work toward each task and budget (add rows/remove rows as needed, make sure you complete the Overall Project progress row and include all tasks even if they have ended or have not been started)…

Table 1: Task Progress			
Task Number: Title	**Start Date**	**End Date**	**% Complete**
Task 1.1: 3D FE Models	09/01/2018	12/30/2020	99 %
Task 1.2: 3D FE Models on HPC	03/01/2019	5/31/2021	99 %
Task 1.3: Crosstie Models	06/01/2020	09/30/2022	90 %
Task 1.4: Introduction of Engineered Cementitious Materials	12/01/2018	05/31/2022	95 %
Task 2.1 Development of fiber-reinforced ECM	10/01/2021	9/30/2022	10 %
Task 2.2 Investigation of the optimal steam-curing temperature profile	10/01/2021	9/30/2022	5 %
Task 2.3 Surface condition evaluation	2/01/2022	9/30/2022	0 %
Task 2.4 Accelerated corrosion test	2/01/2022	9/30/2023	0 %
Task 2.5 Pull-out test	10/01/2022	9/30/2023	0 %
Phase 1 Overall	09/01/2018	09/30/2022	93 %
Phase 2 Overall	10/01/2021	9/30/2023	5%

Table 2: Milestone Progress			
Milestone #: Description	**Corresponding Deliverable**	**Start Date**	**End Date**
Milestone 1: Development of Engineered Cementitious Materials (ECM)	Concrete cylinders; Report	12/01/2018	09/30/2022
Milestone 2: Numerical Concrete models	Report	09/01/2018	09/30/2022
Milestone 3: Development of fiber-reinforced ECM	Cylinders; Report	10/01/2021	09/30/2022
Milestone 4: Surface condition evaluations results	Report	2/01/2022	09/31/2023
etc.			

Table 3: Budget Progress		
Project Budget	**Spend – Project to Date**	**% Project to Date (include the date)**
$385,000	$ 349,434 to 11/30/2021	90.7 %
$260,000	$ 6,585 to 11/30/2021	2.5 %

Is your Research Project Applied or Advanced?

☐ **Applied** (*The systematic study to gain knowledge or understanding necessary for determining the means by which a recognized and specific need may be met.)*

☒ **Advanced** *(An intermediate research effort between basic research and applied research. This study bridges basic (study to understand fundamental aspects of phenomena without specific applications in mind) and applied research and includes transformative change rather than incremental advances. The investigation into the use of basic research results to an area of application without a specific problem to resolve.)*

Education and Workforce Development:

Answer the following questions (N/A if there is nothing to report):

1. Did you provide any workforce development or training opportunities to transportation professionals (already in the field)? If so, what was the training? When was it offered? How many people attended? (i.e. The research team provided an in the field training for the SAR technology for 3 maintenance crew members of the MassDOT on 3/31/2021. The members learned how to use the technology and interrupt the data.) *N/A*

2. Did you hold meetings with any transportation industry organizations or DOTs? If so, what was the meeting's purpose? When was it offered? How many people attended? *The research team held a meeting with Vossloh Tie Technologies (Rocla Concrete Tie, Inc.) to update them on the progress of the research findings and how the findings can improve the current practices on 11/17/2021. Three engineers were present at the meeting*

3. Did you host/participant in any K-12 education outreach activities? If so, what was the activity? What was the target age/grade level of the participants? How many students/teachers attended? When was the activity held? (i.e. 25 8th graders and 2 teachers visited the concrete lab and created small concrete trinkets like Legos on 3/31/2021. They learned about the different types of fibers that can be used in the concrete.) *N/A*

Technology Transfer:

Complete all of the tables below and provide additional information where requested. Please provide ALL requested information as this is one of the most important sections for reporting to the USDOT. ***ONLY provide information relevant to this reporting period.***

Use the table below to complete information about conference sessions, workshops, webinars, seminars, or other events you led/attended where you shared findings as a result of the work you conducted on this project:

Table 4: Presentations at Conferences, Workshops, Seminars, and Other Events

Type	Title	Citation	Event & Intended Audience	Location	Date(s)
i.e. Conference, Symposium, DOT/AOT presentation, Seminar, etc.	Presentation Title	Full Citation	Name of event (i.e. TIDC 1st Annual Conference) or who was the presentation given to?		
N/A					

Use the table below to report any publications, technical reports, peer-reviewed articles, newspaper articles referencing your work, graduate papers, dissertations, etc. written as a result of the work you conducted on this project. Please list only completed items and exclude work in progress.

Table 5: Submitted/Accepted Publications, Technical Reports, Theses, Dissertations, Papers, and Reports				
Type	**Title**	**Citation**	**Date**	**Status**
i.e. Peer-reviewed journal, conference paper, book, policy paper, magazine/newspaper article	Publication title	Full citation		i.e. Submitted, accepted, under review (by org. submitted to)
N/A				

Answer the following questions (N/A if there is nothing to report):

1. Did you deploy any technology during the reporting period through pilot or demonstration studies as a result of this work? If so, what was the technology? When was it deployed? *N/A*

2. Was any technology adopted by industry or transportation agencies as a result of this work? If so, what was the technology? When was is adopted? Who adopted the technology? *N/A*

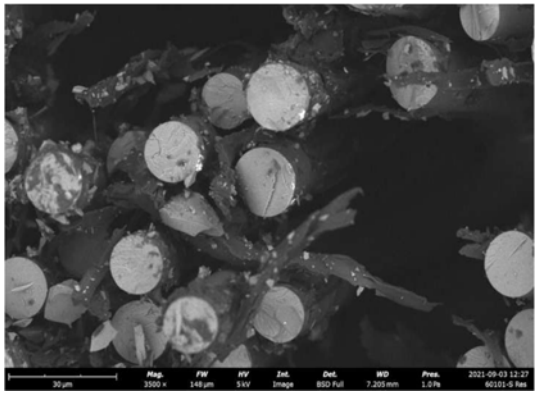
3. Did findings from this research project result in changing industry or transportation agency practices, decision making, or policies? If so, what was the change? When was the change implemented? Who adopted the change? *N/A*

4. Were any licenses granted to industry as a result of findings from this work? If so, when? To whom was the license granted? N/A

5. Were any patent applications submitted as a result of findings from this research? If so, please provide a copy of the patent application with your report. *N/A*

6. Did industry organizations or DOTs provide cost-share (cash or in-kind) to your research during the reporting period? Who was the organization? Please provide an in-kind support invoice from the organization with your report (this is kept confidential and used for record keeping purposes only). *Vossloh North-America, Inc. provided prestressing tendons (in-kind donation)*

Please add figures/images that can be included on the website and/or in marketing/social media materials to further clarify your research to the general public. This is very important to our Technology Transfer initiatives.



SEM image of basalt fibers cross-section (clearly shows thermo-resin coating individual and bundle of fibers)

Describe any additional activities involving the dissemination of research results not listed above under the following headings:

Outputs:

Definition: Any new or improved process, practice, technology, software, training aid, or other tangible product resulting from research and development activities. They are used to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of transportation systems. List any outputs accomplished during this reporting period: N/A

- Examples: New sensing technology was developed. This technology will… A UAV was created to hold new monitoring technology. This will allow maintenance crews to… A new college course was created based on the research findings. This will train future transportation professionals to…

Outcomes:

Definition: The application of outputs; any changes made to the transportation system, or its regulatory, legislative, or policy framework resulting from research and development activities. List any outcomes accomplished during this reporting period: N/A

- Example: The developed sensing technology was installed in Bridge A in town, state on 1/1/2021. This installation will… The UAV was successfully used by ___ Organization to inspect ___ Bridge in in town, state on 1/1/2021… The newly created college course was taken/completed by __ students in the 2021 fall semester.

Impacts:

Definition: The effects of the outcomes on the transportation system such as reduced fatalities, decreased capital or operating costs, community impacts, or environmental benefits. The reported impacts from UTCs are used for the assessment of each UTC and to make a case for Federal funding of research and education by demonstrating the impacts that UTC funding has had on technology and education. NOTE: The U.S. DOT uses this information to assess how the research and education programs (a) improve the operation and safety of the transportation system; (b) increase the body of knowledge and technologies; (c) enlarge the pool of people trained to develop knowledge and utilize technologies; and (d) improves the physical, institutional, and information resources that enable people to have access to training and new technologies. List any outcomes accomplished during this reporting period: N/A

- Example: The developed sensing technology's successful deployment resulted in the adoption of the technology by the StateDOT. The technology will be installed in all new bridge installments of this type. This adoption will… The new UAV monitoring technology was adopted by __ organization to be used for __ bridges inspections. This will allow inspectors to… The college course has been adopted by another member university…

Participants and Collaborators:

Use the table below to list individuals (compensated or not) who have worked on the project other than students.

Table 6: Active Principal Investigators, faculty, administrators, and Management Team Members

Individual Name & Title	Dates involved	Email Address	Department	Role in Research
Moochul Shin, Associate Professor	10/01/2021~12/31/2021	moochul.shin@wne.edu	Civil Engineering	PI
ChangHoon Lee, Assistant Professor	10/01/2021~12/31/2021	Changhoon.lee@wne.edu	Civil Engineering	co-PI

*Use the table below to list **all** students who have participated in the project during the reporting period. (This includes all paid, unpaid, intern, independent study, or any other student that participated in this project.) **ALL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED.***

Table 7: Student Participants during the reporting period

Student Name	Start Date	End Date	Advisor	Email Address	Level	Major	Funding Source	Role in research
Robert Halversen	10/01/2021	12/17/2021	Moochul Shin		UG	Civil Engineering	TIDC	Conducting fracture testing and analyzing test data
Evan Blake	10/01/2021	12/17/2021	ChangHoon Lee, Moochul Shin		UG	Civil Engineering	TIDC	Preparing testing samples
Christa-Elizabeth Cicerone	10/01/2021	12/17/2021	ChangHoon Lee		UG	Civil Engineering	Course credits	Conducting compressive strength test
~~Brian~~ Leclair	~~10/01/2021~~	~~12/17/2021~~	~~ChangHoon~~ Lee		UG	Civil Engineering	Course credits	~~Analyzing~~ test data

Daniel Doyle	10/01/2021	12/17/2021	ChangHoon Lee		UG	Civil Engineering	Course credits	Preparing concrete mix
Archer Parker	10/01/2021	12/17/2021	ChangHoon Lee		UG	Civil Engineering	Course credits	Preparing concrete mix

Use the table below to list any students who worked on this project and graduated or received a certificate during this reporting period. Include information about the student's accepted employment during the reporting period (i.e. the student is now working at MaineDOT) or if they are continuing their students through an advanced degree (list the degree and where they are attending).

Table 8: Students who Graduated During the Reporting Period

Student Name	Degree/Certificate Earned	Graduation/Certification Date	Did the student enter the transportation field or continue another degree at your university?
N/A			Please list the organization or degree

Use the table below to list any students that participated in Industrial Internships during the reporting period:

Table 9: Industrial Internships

Student Name	Degree/Certificate Earned	Graduation/Certification Date	Did the student enter the transportation field or continue another degree at your university?
N/A			Please list the organization or degree

*Use the table below to list **organizations** that have been involved as partners on this project and their contribution to the project during the reporting period.*

Table 10: Research Project Collaborators during the reporting period

Organization	Location	Contribution to the Project				
		Financial Support	In-Kind Support	Facilities	Collaborative Research	Personnel Exchanges
Texas Advanced Computing Center	Austin, TX			x		

*Use the table below to list **individuals** that have been involved as partners on this project and their contribution to the project during the reporting period.*

*(**List your technical champion(s) in this table.** This also includes collaborations within the lead or partner universities who are not already listed as PIs; especially interdepartmental or interdisciplinary collaborations.)*

Table 11: Other Collaborators				
Collaborator Name and Title	**Contact Information**	**Organization and Department**	**Date(s) Involved**	**Contribution to Research**
Rusty Croley, Senior Vice President of Operations and Engineering	Rusty.Croley@vossloh.com	Vossloh Tie Technologies, Rocla Concrete Tie Inc.	10/06/2021 11/17/2021	Technical champion
Hailing Yu	Hailing_yu@yahoo.com	Volpe Center (currently at STV)	11/30/2021	Technical champion

Use the following table to list any transportation related course that were taught or led by researchers associated with this research project during the reporting period:

Table 12: Course List						
Course Code	**Course Title**	**Level**	**University**	**Professor**	**Semester**	**# of Students**
i.e. CE 123		Grad or undergrad?	Where was the course taught?	Who taught the course?	Enter Spring, Fall, Summer, Winter and the year	How many students were enrolled in the class?
CEE310	Civil Engineering Research	Undergraduate	WNE	Chang Hoon Lee	Fall 2021	5
CEE410	Civil Engineering Research	Undergraduate	WNE	Chang Hoon Lee	Fall 2021	5

Changes:

No changes are expected at this moment

Planned Activities:

- The research team will be finalizing the modeling works proposed in Phase I.
- The research team will develop fiber-reinforced high performance concrete and investigate their properties.
- The research team will be evaluating surface conditions of the fiber-reinforced concrete mixtures using a reflectometer (LiDAR sensor)