

D3.3

Validation of the SUREBridge solution



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Colophon

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Table of contents

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	9
2	OUTLINE	11
3	CASE: SAN MINIATO BRIDGE	12
3.1	Introduction	12
3.2	Selection of the case study	12
3.3	Case study description	13
3.4	Structural analysis of the case study	13
3.5	From case study to prototype beams.....	15
4	MECHANICAL TESTING OF GFRP DECK ELEMENTS IN BENDING	17
4.1	Test description	17
4.2	Test specimen production and preparation	17
4.3	Test setup.....	21
4.4	Test observations	22
4.5	Summary and evaluation of test results	22
4.6	Validation of material properties for FEM	24
4.7	Tailor the samples of GFRP for further testing material properties.....	26
5	MECHANICAL TESTING OF GFRP-CONCRETE CONNECTION IN TENSION AND SHEAR	28
5.1	Test description and matrix	28
5.2	Test specimen production and preparation	28
5.3	Test setup.....	32
5.3.1	Direct shear test.....	32
5.3.2	Direct tensile test.....	34
5.4	Summary and evaluation of test results	34
5.4.1	Shear strength of connection proposals	34
5.4.2	Tensile strength of connection proposals	37
5.5	Selection of connection(s) for full-scale testing	40
6	MECHANICAL TESTING OF GFRP-GFRP CONNECTION IN BENDING AND SHEAR	41
6.1	Test description and matrix	41
6.1.1	Test specimens for bending test	41
6.1.2	Test specimens for shear test.....	41
6.2	Test specimen production and observations	43
6.3	Test setup.....	43
6.3.1	Test setup for flexural test.....	43
6.3.2	Test setup for shear test.....	44
6.4	Test observations	46
6.5	Summary and evaluation of test results	48
7	TESTING OF CFRP PRE-STRESSING METHOD AND DEVICE	49

7.1	Test description	49
7.2	Test specimens and set-up	49
7.3	Pre-stressing technique: principle and devices	51
7.4	Test result and discussion	52
7.4.1	Stepwise decreasing pre-stressing force in the designed region.....	52
7.4.2	No need of anchorage system at CFRP ends.....	53
7.4.3	Flexural performance in SLS and ULS	54
7.4.4	Failure modes and utilization ratio of CFRP at failure.....	55
7.4.5	Maximum crack width during loading	56
8	DEFINITION OF FULL-SCALE TEST.....	58
8.1	Scope: no widening, segmented deck, FRP deck in two directions, fear-bolts.....	58
8.2	Alternatives to be tested / test matrix / layouts	58
8.3	Practical considerations	58
8.3.1	GFRP.....	58
8.3.2	Concrete	58
8.3.3	Assembly FRP-concrete.....	59
8.3.4	Choice of mortar.....	60
8.3.5	Lab environment (materials/maximum achievable loading/health and safety/dimensions/weights/...)	61
8.4	Description of test setup / measurements / test plan	62
9	STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF FULL-SCALE TEST.....	66
9.1	Structural design of GFRP deck	66
9.2	Analytical design of CFRP strengthening	67
9.3	Structural design of prototype beams	67
9.3.1	Materials.....	68
9.3.2	Theoretical assumptions and practical rules for the design	69
9.3.2.1	Permissible mandrel diameters for bent bars.....	71
9.3.3	Test load configuration.....	72
9.4	Structural verifications	72
9.4.1	Bending moment verifications	72
9.4.2	Shear force verifications.....	74
9.4.3	Interfacial shear stresses.....	75
9.4.3.1	Calculation of the number of mechanical anchors.....	75
9.5	Construction stages.....	77
9.5.1	Lifting.....	77
9.5.2	Pre-stressing.....	78
9.6	Calibration of the finite element model for non-linear analyses.....	79
9.6.1	Finite element model with BRICK elements.....	80
9.6.2	Finite element model with BEAM elements	81
9.7	Preliminary finite element analyses of the full-scale prototype beams.....	90

9.7.1	Non-linear analysis of the specimens	90
9.7.2	Finite Element Modelling of GFRP panels	97
9.8	Assessment of load bearing capacity before/after strengthening of full-scale specimen in lab conditions.....	100
10	MANUFACTURING AND ASSEMBLY OF FULL-SCALE SPECIMENS	101
10.1	Concrete beam.....	101
10.1.1	Design and manufacturing procedure	101
10.1.2	Concrete roughening.....	101
10.1.3	Anchor installation.....	102
10.2	GFRP deck.....	103
10.2.1	Design and manufacturing procedure	103
10.2.2	Wear surface application.....	103
10.2.3	Anchor hole drilling.....	103
10.3	Pre-stressed CFRP strengthening	104
10.3.1	Pre-stressing device	104
10.3.2	Manufacturing procedure.....	104
10.4	FRP-Concrete connection.....	107
10.4.1	Epoxy bonded connection.....	107
10.4.2	Mechanical anchoring (below is the part from CTH)	108
10.4.3	Mortar injection	110
10.5	Assembly observations	111
10.6	Finished product	111
11	FULL-SCALE TESTING.....	113
11.1	Test observations	113
11.2	Test results.....	114
12	LESSONS LEARNED (PRACTICALITIES).....	118
12.1	Design of concrete beam	118
12.2	Design of FRP deck.....	118
12.3	Design of CFRP strengthening	119
12.4	Design interaction between concrete beam, CFRP strengthening and FRP deck	119
12.5	Manufacturing concrete beam	120
12.6	Manufacturing of the GFRP deck.....	120
12.7	Manufacturing of CFRP strengthening.....	121
12.8	Assembly of concrete beam, CFRP strengthening and FRP deck	122
13	CONCLUSIONS.....	123
14	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	123
15	REFERENCES	124
APPENDIX A.	RISK ANALYSIS OF USING EPOXY SK41	127

1 Executive summary

The SUREBridge project aims to develop a sustainable refurbishment solution for existing concrete bridges. The SUREBridge concept utilizes two innovative solutions to accomplish this. The first one is a glass-fibre reinforced polymer (GFRP) decking system developed by FiberCore Europe, applied at the top of the bridge, the second one is a pre-stressed carbon fibre polymer (CFRP) strengthening system developed by Chalmers University, applied at the bottom of the bridge.

Combining these two systems has the potential to more effectively strengthen an existing bridge than any of the two on its own. To accomplish this, novel connection methods between these strengthening systems to the existing (possibly deteriorated) concrete structure have been developed.

This deliverable presents the results of the tests done at the component level (the GFRP deck, joint between GFRP decking elements, joint between GFRP and concrete) as first presented in deliverable 3.2, and the test-setup for the full-scale test, based on the results from these component tests.

This continues the test program outlined in Deliverable 3.2, shown in Figure 1-1 below.

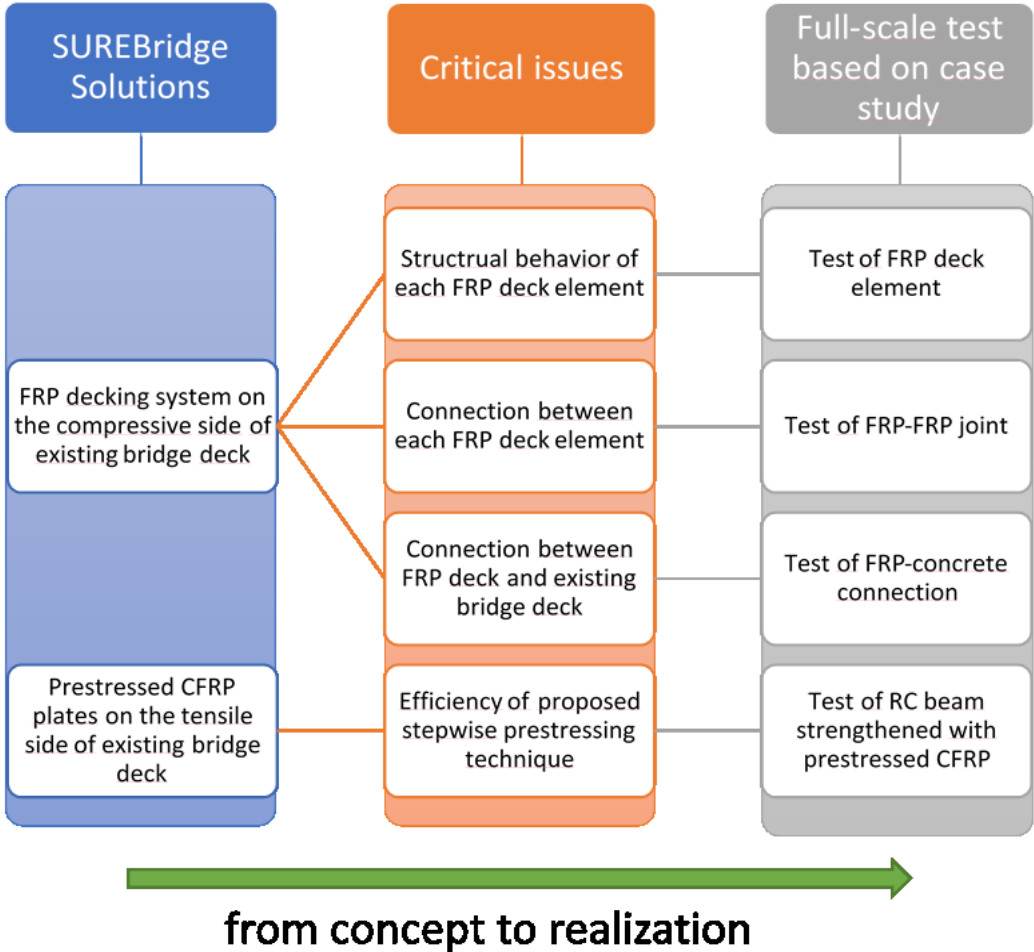


Figure 1-1: Experimental program and tests in the SUREBridge project (source: deliverable 3.2)

The design of the full-scale test sample is based on the SUREBridge case of the San Miniato bridge, which is described shortly in this deliverable. This case is used to derive design requirements and test requirements for the component tests for the selection of the components in the full-scale test.

Although a good match between the San Miniato design case and the test setup is achieved, and tests will provide specific results, real-life cases must be approached.

The results of the tests will be evaluated further and compared to the predicted values. This will be reported in the next and final Deliverable, where also the Design Tool will be presented, which is the specialist area of the third consortium partner, AICE Consulting, and its subcontractor the University of Pisa. The feasibility of the SUREBridge solution can be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using that Design Tool.

In addition to the tests and their results, the fabrication of the components and their installation on a representative concrete beam, were part of the experiment as well. Experiences and lessons-learned in doing so have been captured and will serve future constructions.

Although the preliminary conclusion is that a good match between the San Miniato design case and the test setup has been achieved and tests will provide specific results, real-life cases must still be approached. The first step for this is finding a pilot project bridge refurbishment and performing all necessary steps. These steps are both technical and organisational, mimicking a real-world application.