PRESS RELEASE

CATBI at UNR Receives University Transportation Research Center (UTC) Grant to Study Prefabricated Bridges under Earthquakes and other Hazards

M. Saiidi- 9/27/2013

A University Transportation Center on Accelerated Bridge Construction has been approved by the US DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) at UNR, announced Dr. Saiidi, a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. Together with Dr. Itani, Saiidi and a team of research assistants will investigate seismic and other extreme load effects on prefabricated bridges used in accelerated bridge construction (ABC). UNR is partnering with the Florida International University (the lead) and the Iowa State University who will study other aspects of ABC.

UNR is the only national center to address the issue of extreme loading in ABC. Use of prefabricated bridge elements substantially saves time of the traveling public and results in safer bridges. Despite the tremendous advantage of ABC, it cannot currently be used in California, Nevada and other moderate and high seismic states because no methods are available. Saiidi and a large number of doctoral research assistants have been investigating conventional and innovative methods of ABC in the past 10 years through multiple research grants from the National Science Foundation and the California Department of Transportation to remove inherent hurdles that prevent widespread use of ABC. Four of these projects are currently in progress. Through the ABC-UTC grant these projects will be expanded and integrated with the ultimate goal of widespread implementation of ABC in areas with high potential for seismic events, hurricanes, and storms, among others.

For further information about ABC-UTC-Seismic, please visit:

http://wolfweb.unr.edu/homepage/saiidi/USDOT/index.html