



Structural Condition Assessment Report

Harborwalk Timber Boardwalk and Floating Docks

September 28, 2023

Prepared for:
City of Georgetown, SC



Prepared by:

COLLINS
ENGINEERS INC.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project: City of Georgetown –Structural Condition Assessment of the Harborwalk Timber Boardwalk and Floating Docks

Purpose of Project: To perform an above and underwater condition assessment of the Harborwalk Timber Boardwalk and Floating Docks in accordance with the ASCE Manual No. 130 *Waterfront Facilities Inspection and Assessment*.

Inspection Team: Team Leader – Jonathan Chapman, P.E. – Collins Engineers, Inc.
Team Member – Eric Beach, E.I.T. – Collins Engineers, Inc.
Team Member – Charlie Stephens – Collins Engineers, Inc.

Inspection Date: August 21-22, 2023

Summary of Significant Findings:

Deteriorated elements were observed at a number of locations along the Harborwalk and adjacent floating docks. The following is a summary of the significant deterioration observed:

- Less than 5 percent of the pile caps along the Harborwalk exhibited significant deterioration and should be replaced in-kind. The remaining pile caps exhibited rot and/or fungal decay with negligible section loss.
- Approximately 10 percent of the piles along the Harborwalk exhibited marine borer activity near/below the low-water line. Moderate Condition marine borer activity was typically localized to a quadrant of the pile and estimated maximum section loss of approximately 15 percent. The remaining piles exhibited rot and/or fungal decay with less than 5 percent section loss.
- Approximately 20 percent of the cross bracing along the Harborwalk exhibited marine borer activity near/below the low-water line with section loss up to 25-to-50 percent of the cross section. The remaining cross bracing exhibited moderate rot and/or fungal decay primarily within the tidal/splash zone.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Scope

Collins Engineers Inc. (Collins) was engaged by the City of Georgetown (the City) to perform a structural condition assessment of the above-water and underwater components of the approximately 1,480-foot-long Harborwalk and two floating docks located along the Sampit River in Georgetown, South Carolina. The Harborwalk is composed of a fixed timber walkway with numerous floating finger-piers which are used for berthing. Collins was also engaged to provide repair recommendations cost estimates for observed deficiencies. See Figure 1.1-1 for an overall view of the site.



Figure 1.1-1. Aerial View of the Harborwalk from Google Earth 2023 with Annotation from Collins

1.2 Site Description

The Harborwalk, which was reportedly constructed in the 1980's along the northeastern bank of the Sampit River in the 1980's, extends approximately 1,480 feet in the northwest-southeast direction parallel to the river, from Station 0+00 at the Screven Street entrance to Station 14+80 at the King Street entrance. According to the City, no original construction drawings exist, but a set of renovation plans generated by Collins Engineers, Inc. dated January 2010 were available for review (Appendix B). The dock is composed of a 12-foot-wide walkway (Appendix B, Fig No.2, Section B-B) between Stations 0+00 and 10+40 and an 8-foot-wide walkway (Appendix B, Fig No. 6, Section H-H) between Stations 10+40 and 14+80. Landings were constructed at various locations along the Harborwalk. The structural elements typically consist of treated southern yellow pine timber, with untreated Brazilian ipe timber for decking and handrails. Refer to Appendix B, Figure 1.1-1 for stationing and Figure 1.2-1 through 1.2-2 for inspection nomenclature.

The east floating dock is located at Station 0+00 and the west floating dock is located at Station 5+12. Both are constructed with untreated Brazilian ipe timber decking supported by treated yellow pine timber frames on top of plastic floats and secured to timber piles. The east floating dock was approximately 60 feet long and 8 feet wide. It was composed of two 44-foot-long fingers to the east and two 22-foot-long fingers to the west. The west floating dock was approximately 54 feet long and 8 feet wide. It was comprised of two 22-foot-long fingers to the east and two 44-foot-long fingers to the west. Refer to Appendix B, Figure 1.1-1 for stationing and Figure 1.2-3 for inspection nomenclature.



Figure 1.2-1: Typical Bent – Southeastern section, 12 foot wide (Sta. 0+00)



Figure 1.2-2: Typical Bent – Northwestern section, 8 foot wide (Sta. 13+50)



Figure 1.2-3: Typical Floating Dock – East Floating Dock (Sta. 0+00)

1.3 Inspection Team

The assessment was performed on August 21, 2023 and August 22, 2023 by a three-person team, one of whom is Professional Engineer licensed in the State of South Carolina. The assessment was purely visual and tactile in nature; no destructive testing or material sampling was performed.

2.0 OBSERVATIONS

2.1 Procedure

The assessment was conducted from the waterway via a kayak and commercial scuba equipment. The Level-I inspection was performed on 100 percent of the piles using visual and tactile methods in accordance with the ASCE Manual No. 130 *Waterfront Facilities Inspection and Assessment*. A Level-II inspection was performed on up to 10 percent of the piles where marine growth was removed at suspect locations to better assess the underlying substrate. Prior established stationing was followed along the Harborwalk starting from the southeastern end (Sta. 0+00) and moving to the northwestern end (Sta. 14+80). Refer to Appendix B for a plan view of the Harborwalk with stationing.

2.2 Condition Assessment at Harborwalk

Overall, the boardwalk was in *Fair Condition*: most primary structural elements are in sound condition, but minor to moderate defects/deterioration were observed. The typical structural deficiencies observed included minor-to-moderate marine borer activity in the piles and cross bracing, minor-to-major splitting of the split-cap and cross bracing, and minor-to-major deterioration of the connection hardware. General defects are defined below in Section 2.2.1 and significant defects are described in Section 2.2.2. Defect ratings (Minor, Moderate, Major, Severe Condition) are defined below and in Appendix C.

2.2.1 Typical Conditions

Defects and conditions that were observed throughout the Harborwalk are documented below based on general size of defect, location on the structural element, and condition rating. Specific defects are documented in Section 2.2.2. Percentages and estimates are based on engineering experience and are approximate.

1. Timber Piles- approximately 90 percent of piles exhibited rot and/or fungal decay with less than 5 percent section loss in Minor Condition (Photograph 1). Approximately 10 percent of the piles exhibited marine borer activity near/below the low-water line. Moderate Condition

marine borer activity was typically localized to a quadrant of the pile and estimated maximum section loss of approximately 15 percent (Photo 2). With the exception of the piles with observed marine borer activity, the wood treatment appears to be functioning.

2. Split Cap/Pile Cap- Approximately 95 percent of the caps were in Minor Condition: all exhibited rot and/or fungal decay with negligible section loss (Photograph 3). Approximately 50 percent of the caps also exhibited minor checking less than 1/8 in. wide that had not penetrated through the entire member cross section. The remaining 5 percent were in Major Condition with splits that penetrated the full width of the member and extended up to its full length. The caps rated in Major Condition are outlined in Section 2.2.2.
3. Connection Hardware- Approximately 75 percent of the connection hardware was in Minor Condition with surface rust and oxidation of the galvanized coating (Photograph 4). Approximately 20 percent of the connection hardware was in Moderate Condition with pitting and flaking corrosion that was typically localized to the washer and bolt (Photograph 5). The remaining 5 percent was in Major Condition with 25-to-50 percent section loss (Photograph 6); the significantly corroded hardware was typically located within the tidal/splash zone and was connecting cross bracing to piles (not a primary structural connection).
4. Cross Bracing- Approximately 20 percent of the braces were observed to have marine borer activity with section loss up to 25-to-50 percent of the cross section in Major Condition (Photograph ~~PHOTO~~ 7). The remaining 80 percent exhibited rot and/or fungal decay primarily within the tidal/splash zone; approximately 5-to-10 percent section loss in Moderate Condition was typically observed in this zone (Photograph 8).

2.2.2 Inspection Records

Defects and conditions that were atypical or significant enough to potentially reduce the load-carrying capacity of the structure are described in the below table. Photographs of defects follow the table.

Table 1: Inspection Record

ELEMENT	DEFECT	DIMENSION	STATION	RATING
Cap	Shake with Associated Area of Section Loss	4 in wide by 6 in long by full member width	0+90	Major (Photograph 9)
Cross Bracing	Split	1/8 in wide by 10 in long by full member width	2+50	Major (Photograph 10)
Cap	Split	1/2 in wide by full length of member by full member width	2+66	Major (Photograph 11)
Cap	Split	1/8 in wide by 24 in long by full member width	6+52	Major (Photograph 12)
Cap	Split	1/8-in wide by 16-in long by full member width	9+26	Major (Photograph 13)
Cross Bracing	Decay at Connection	100 percent loss of section	12+40	Severe (Photograph 14)

2.3 Condition Assessment at Floating Docks

Overall, the floating docks were in *Fair Condition*: most primary structural elements are in sound condition, but minor to moderate defects/deterioration were observed. The typical structural deficiencies observed included minor-to-moderate checking in the piles and timber frame, and minor-to-major deterioration of the connection hardware. General defects are defined below in Section 2.3.1 and significant defects are described in Section 2.3.2. Defect ratings (Minor, Moderate, Major, Severe Condition) are defined below and in Appendix C.

2.3.1 Typical Conditions

Defects and conditions that were observed throughout the two floating docks are documented below based on general size of defect, location on the structural element, and condition rating. Specific defects

are documented in Section 2.3.2. Percentages and estimates are based on engineering experience and are approximate.

1. Timber Piles- 100 percent of the piles exhibited minor checking less than 1/8 inch wide. The wood treatment appears to be functioning. Steel cable retainers were missing at four piles along the northeast finger of the East floating dock.
2. Timber Frame - 100 percent of the timber frames exhibited minor checking less than 1/8 inch wide (Photograph 15). Less than 1 percent of the timber frame exhibited isolated connection failure at the lower frame of both floating docks (Photographs 15 through 17).
3. Plastic Floats –100 percent of the plastic floats were in Satisfactory Condition.
4. Timber Decking –100 percent of the timber decking was in Satisfactory Condition with minor checking, weathering, and warping observed.
5. Connection Hardware- 100 percent of the connection hardware exhibited minor surface rust and oxidation of the galvanized coating.

2.3.2 Inspection Records

No defects or conditions that were atypical or significant enough to potentially reduce the load-carrying capacity of the structure were observed.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are Collins' recommendations for the Georgetown Harborwalk.

- Pile Caps – Repair the deficient split caps listed in Table 1. Splitting in the caps with minor and moderate ratings should be monitored on a two-year above-water inspection cycle.
- Cross Bracing – Repair deficient cross bracing and cross bracing connections at Station 12+40.

Following are Collins' recommendations for the adjacent floating docks.

- Timber Piles – The missing steel cable retainers should be replaced at the East floating dock.
- Timber Frames – the isolated timber frame connection failures on the underside of both floating docks should be repaired.



4.0 CONCLUSION

Collins Engineers, Inc. (Collins) performed an above and underwater structural condition assessment of the Harborwalk and adjacent floating docks in Georgetown, South Carolina. The assessment was performed on August 21, 2023 and August 22, 2023 to determine the condition of the Harborwalk and adjacent floating docks and to determine any necessary recommendations of repair. Deteriorated elements should be monitored and repaired as necessary to ensure continuous operation of both the Harborwalk and adjacent floating docks.

No warranty, expressed or implied, is provided by Collins Engineers, Inc. for this assessment or report.

Collins appreciates the opportunity to work with the City of Georgetown on this project and looks forward to working with you in the future. We would be happy to discuss any aspect of this report with you in person or via phone or email.

Respectfully submitted,
COLLINS ENGINEERS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy D. Weeks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "T" and "W".

Timothy Weeks, P.E.

Originated by:
Eric Beach, E.I.T.



Appendix A: Photographs



Photo 1: Pile – Minor Rot or Fungal Decay

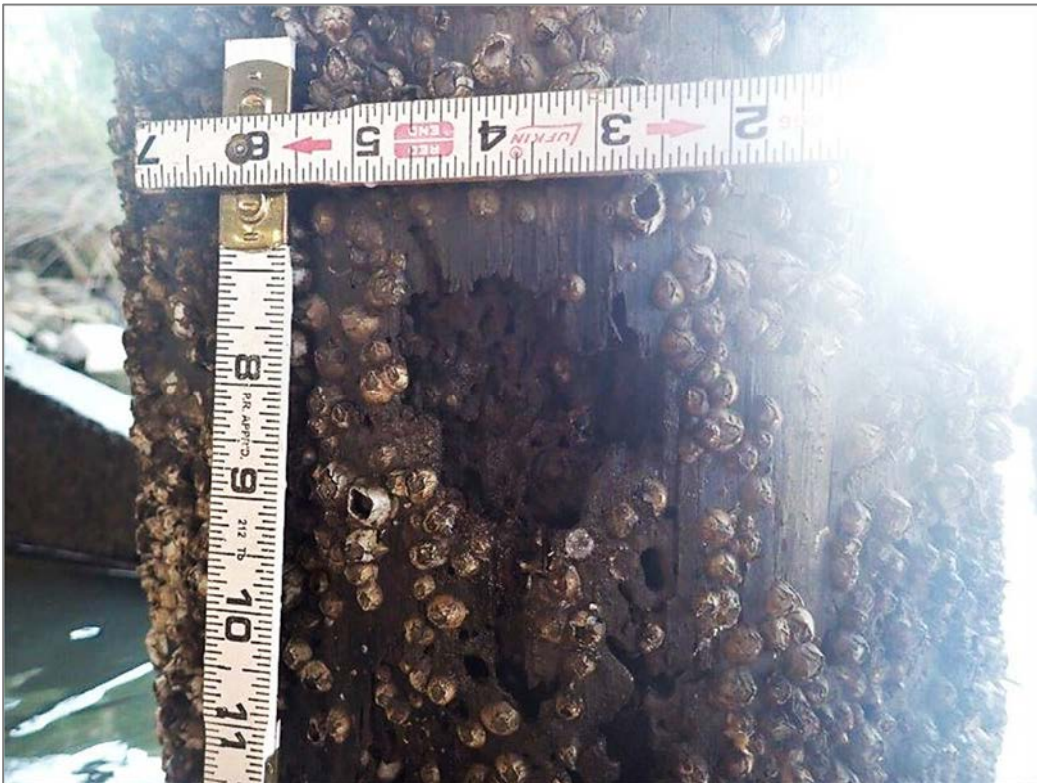


Photo 2: Pile – Moderate Marine Borer Activity



Photo 3: Cap – Minor Rot or Fungal Decay



Photo 4: Hardware – Minor Surface Corrosion



Photo 5: Hardware – Moderate Flaking Corrosion



Photo 6: Hardware – Major Corrosion with Section Loss



Photo 7: Cross Bracing – Major Marine Borer Activity



Photo 8: Cross Brace – Moderate Decay or Fungal Rot



Photo 9: Cap – Major Full Width Split/Shake with Area of Associated Section Loss, Station 0+90



Photo 10: Cross Bracing – Major Full Width Split, Station 2+50



Photo 11: Cap – Major Full Width Split, Station 2+66



Photo 12: Cap – Major Full Width Split, Station 6+52



Photo13: Cap – Major Full Width Split, Station 9+26



Photo 14: Cross Bracing – Severe Decay with 100 Percent Loss of Section, Station 12+40



Photo 15: Floating Dock Frame – Minor Checking and Connection Hardware Failure, Screven St. Floating Dock



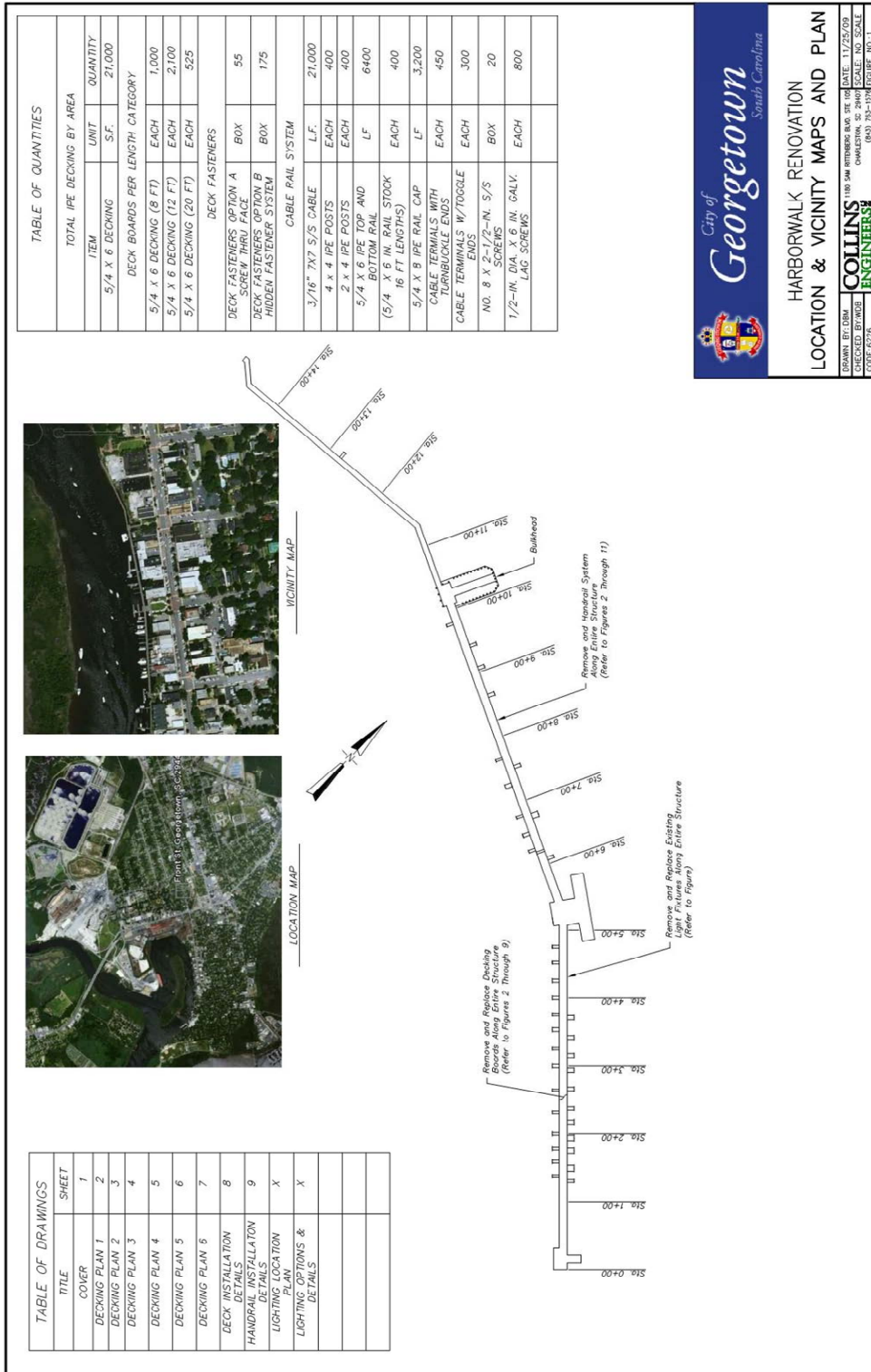
Photo 16: Floating Dock Frame – Connection Failure, Screven St. Floating Dock



Photo 17: Floating Dock Frame – Connection Failure, Broad St. Floating Dock



Appendix B: 2010 Historic Renovation Plans

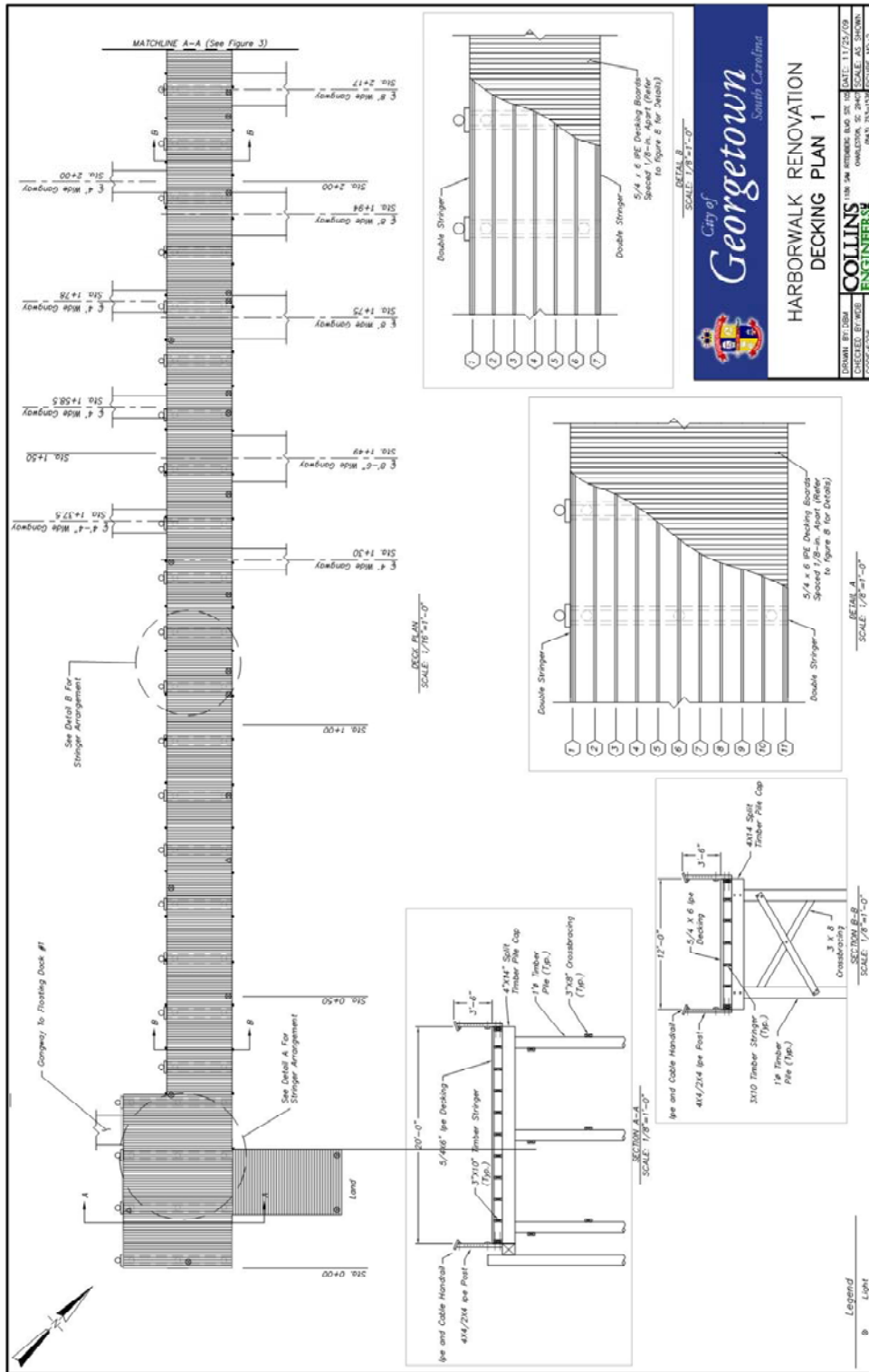


TITLE	SHEET
COVER	1
DECKING PLAN 1	2
DECKING PLAN 2	3
DECKING PLAN 3	4
DECKING PLAN 4	5
DECKING PLAN 5	6
DECKING PLAN 6	7
DECK INSTALLATION	8
HANDRAIL INSTALLATION	9
LIGHTING LOCATION PLAN	X
LIGHTING OPTIONS & DETAILS	X

City of Georgetown
South Carolina

**HARBORWALK RENOVATION
LOCATION & VICINITY MAPS AND PLAN**

DRAWN BY: DDM 1108 JAM FITZGERALD, P.E. DATE: 11/25/09
CHECKED BY: WJB COLLENS ENGINEERS CHARLESTON, SC 29403 SCALE: NO SCALE
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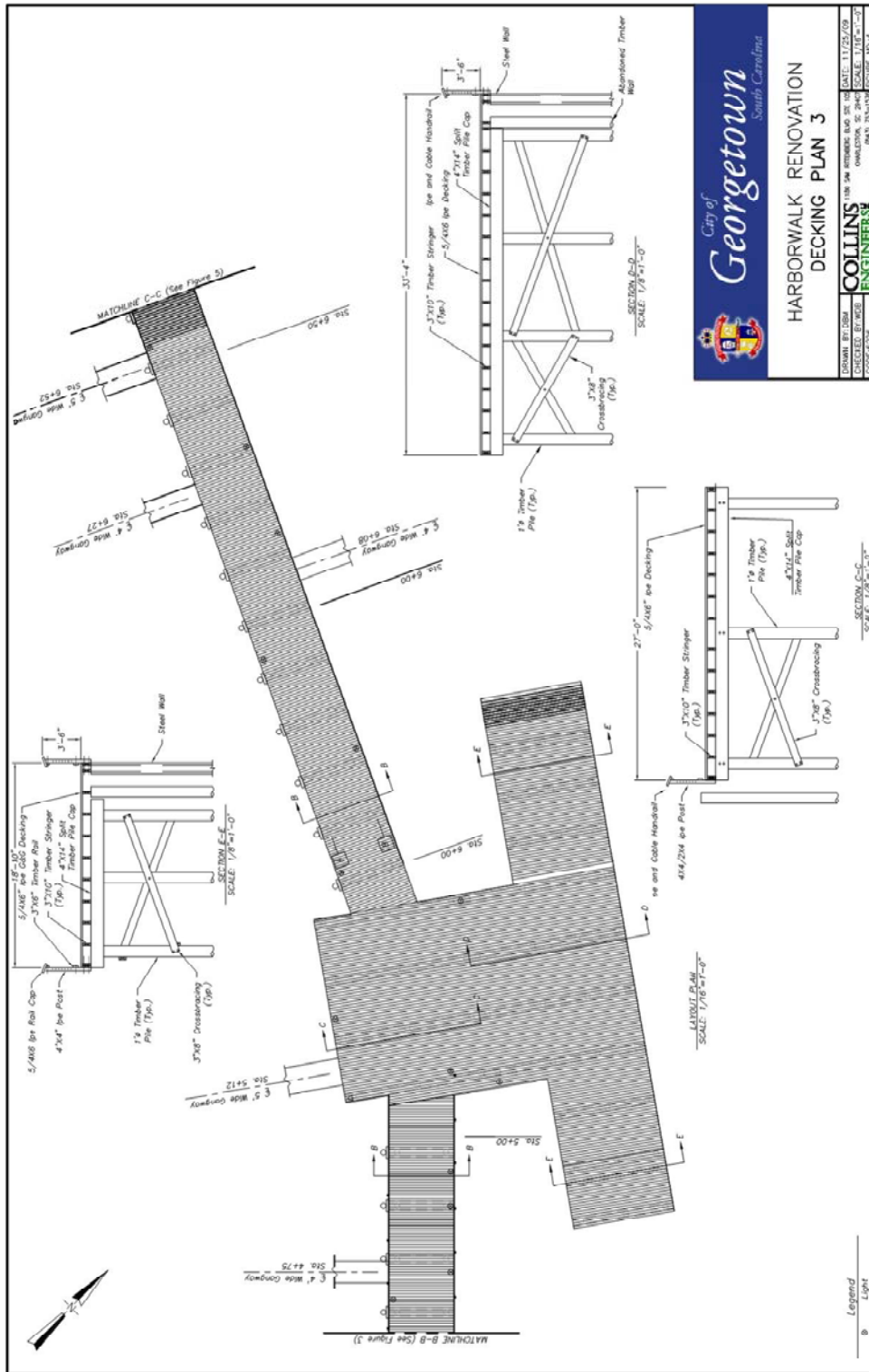
City of
Georgetown
 South Carolina

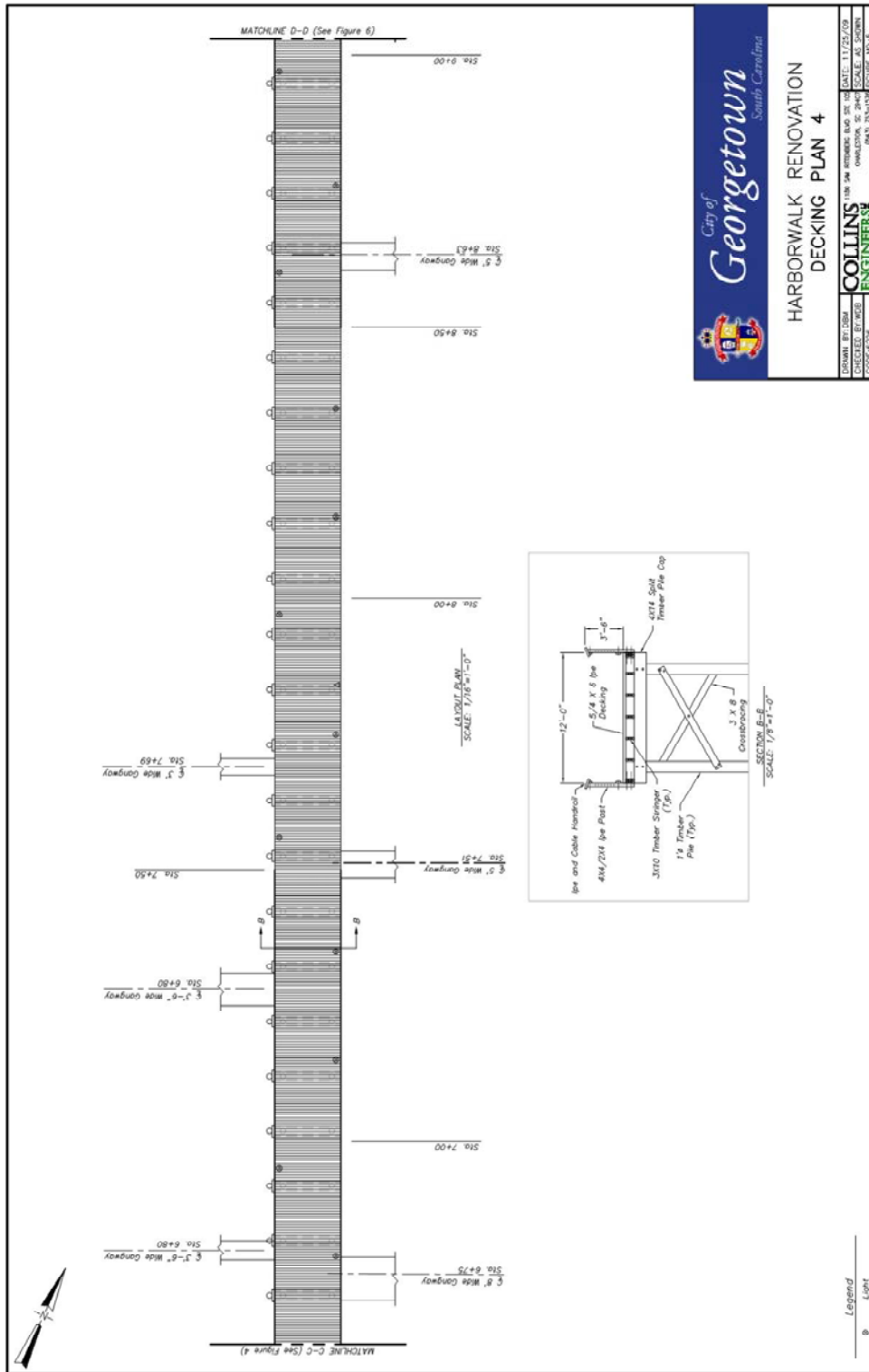
**HARBORWALK RENOVATION
 DECKING PLAN 1**

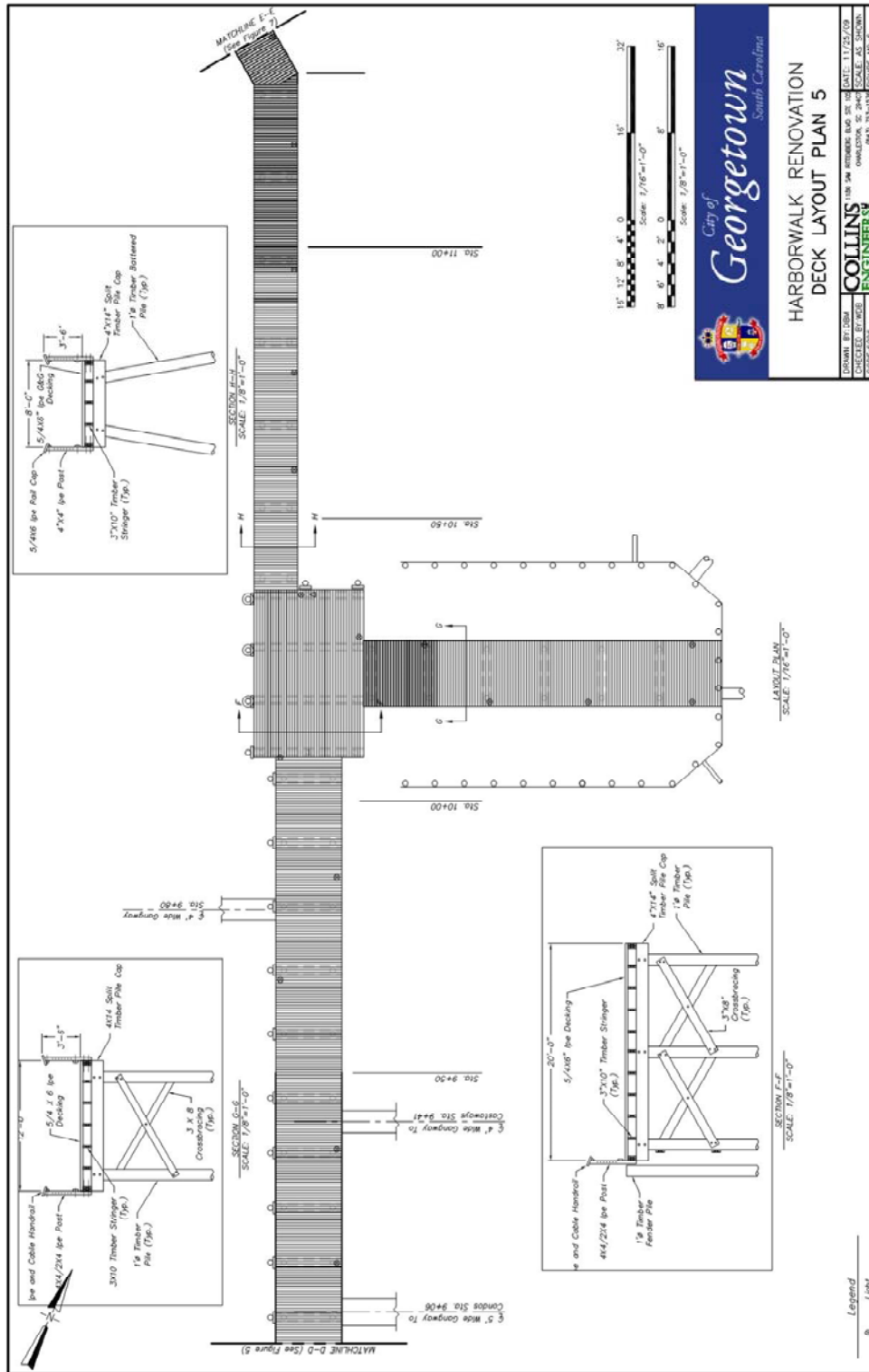
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 CHECKED BY: WEB
 CODE: 6-23-2

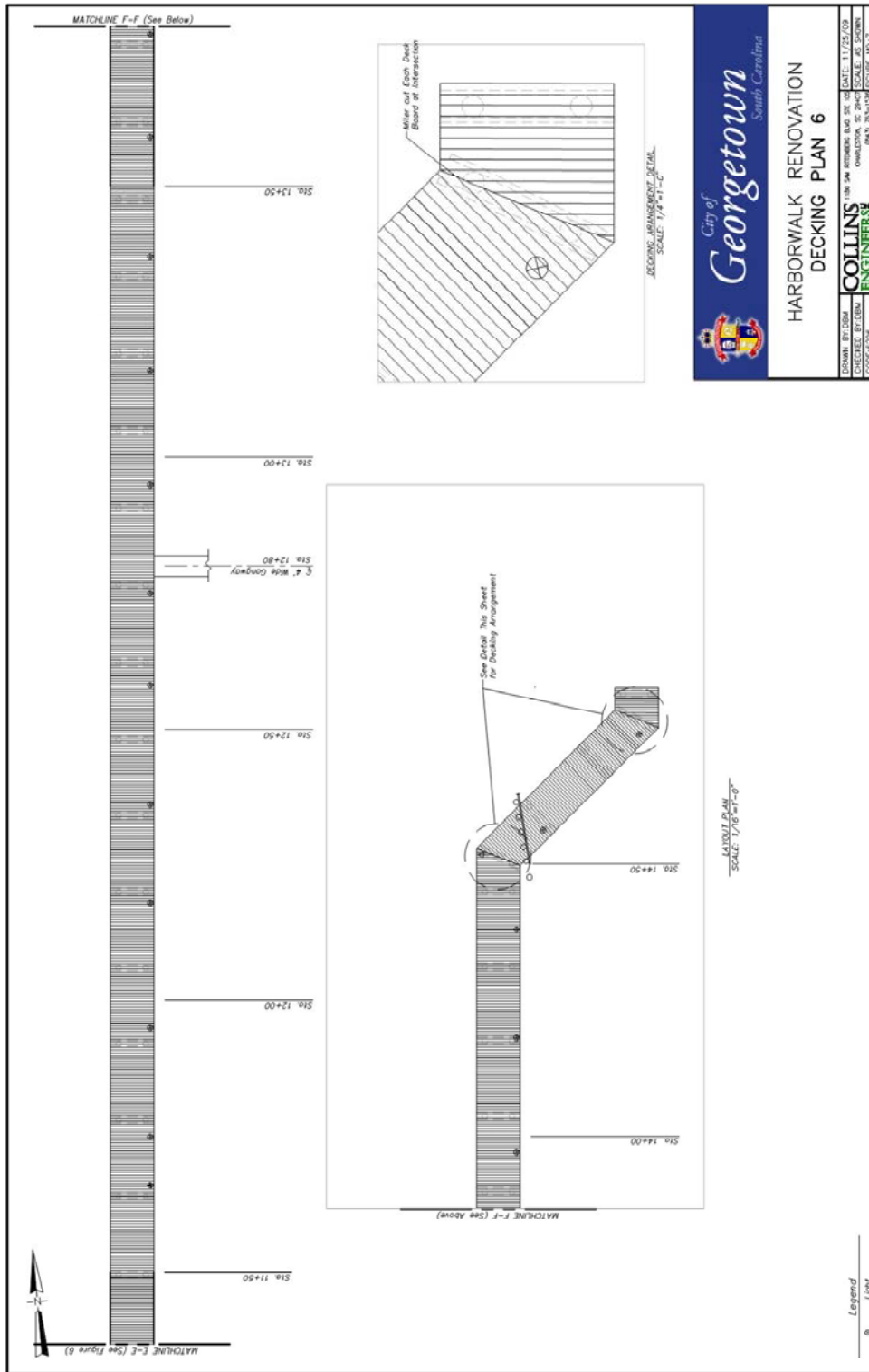
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COLLINS ENGINEERS
 943 75-1334









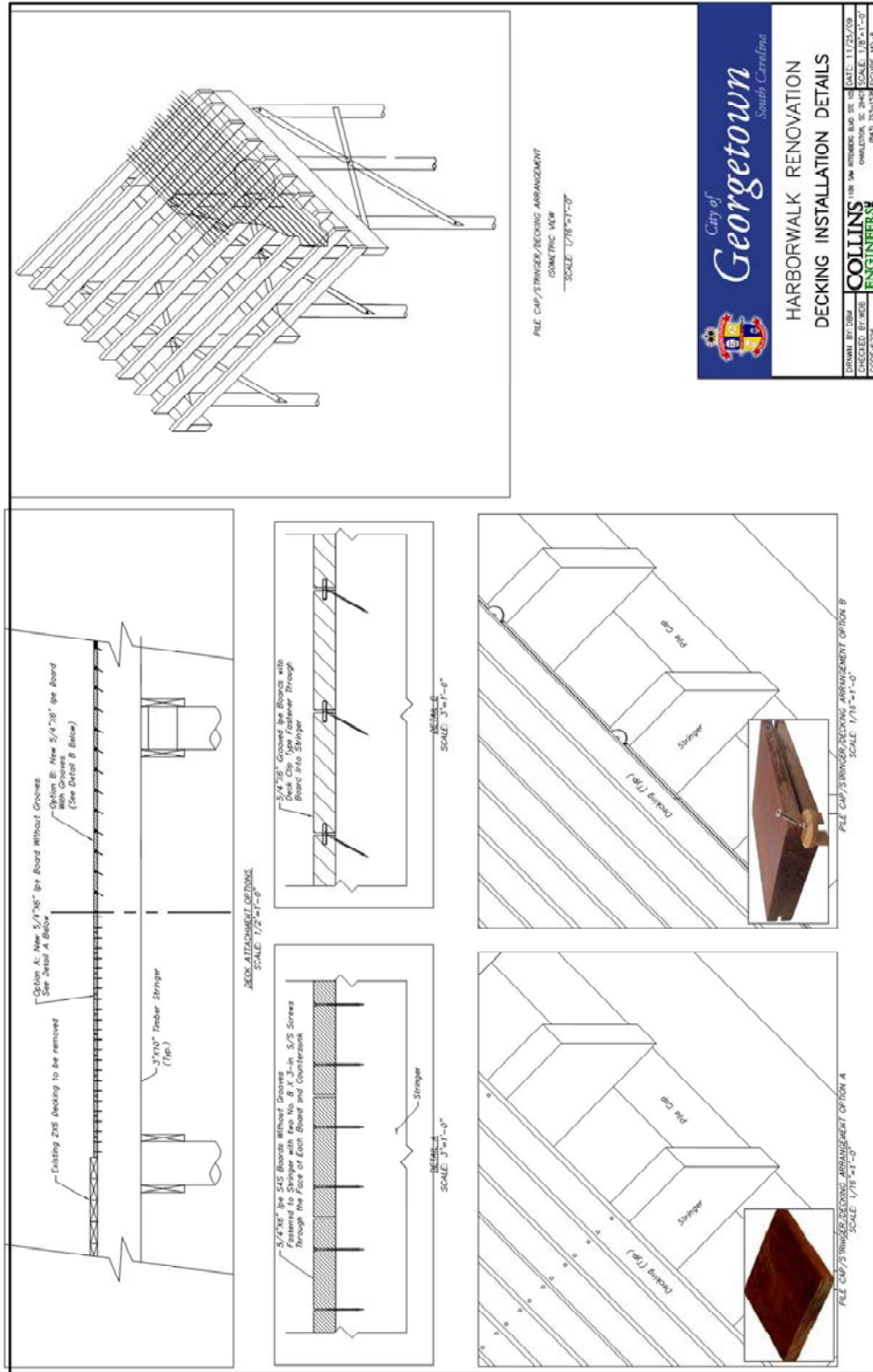
City of
Georgetown
 South Carolina

**HARBORWALK RENOVATION
 DECKING PLAN 6**

DESIGNER: B.T. OSM
 CHECKED: B.T. OSM
 CODE: 6-228

DATE: 11/25/20
 SCALE: AS SHOWN
 DRAWING NO.: 2402
 PROJECT NO.: 2402
 SHEET NO.: 2

COLLINS ENGINEERS

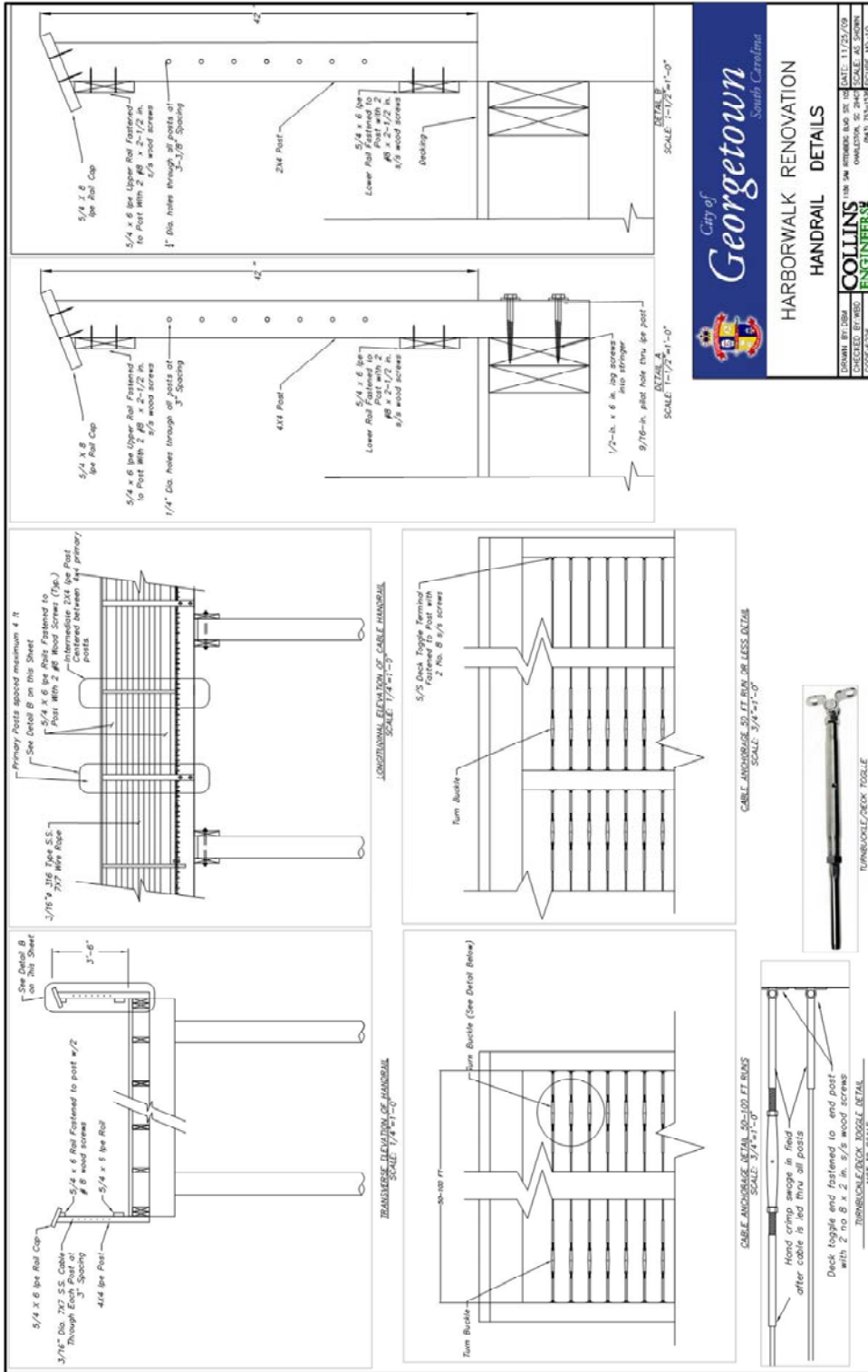


City of
Georgetown
 South Carolina

HARBORWALK RENOVATION
 DECKING INSTALLATION DETAILS

DESIGN BY: GSA
 CHECKED BY: JEB
 CODE: 6-23-8

COLLINS
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 108 W. PARKWAY BLVD. #101
 WASHINGTON, DC 20007
 843.753.1346
 843.753.1348
 843.753.1349



City of
Georgetown
 South Carolina

**HARBORWALK RENOVATION
 HANDRAIL DETAILS**

ISSUED BY: GSA
 CHECKED BY: WSO
 CODE: 6-23-26

DATE: 11/25/20
 SCALE: AS SHOWN
 DRAWING NO. 24CT
 PROJECT NO. 19-134
 SHEET NO. 10

COLLINS ENGINEERS



Appendix C: ASCE Waterfront Inspection Manual Excerpts

The following tables and graphics are taken from the ASCE Manuals and Reports on Engineering Practice No. 130, "Waterfront Facilities Inspection and Assessment."

Table 2-14. Condition Assessment Ratings

Rating	Description
6 Good	No visible damage or only minor damage noted. Structural elements may show very minor deterioration, but no overstressing observed. No repairs are required.
5 Satisfactory	Limited minor to moderate defects or deterioration observed, but no overstressing observed. No repairs are required.
4 Fair	All primary structural elements are sound, but minor to moderate defects or deterioration observed. Localized areas of moderate to advanced deterioration may be present, but do not significantly reduce the load-bearing capacity of the structure. Repairs are recommended, but the priority of the recommended repairs is low.
3 Poor	Advanced deterioration or overstressing observed on widespread portions of the structure, but does not significantly reduce the load-bearing capacity of the structure. Repairs may need to be carried out with moderate urgency.
2 Serious	Advanced deterioration, overstressing, or breakage may have significantly affected the load-bearing capacity of primary structural components. Local failures are possible, and loading restrictions may be necessary. Repairs may need to be carried out on a high-priority basis with urgency.
1 Critical	Very advanced deterioration, overstressing, or breakage has resulted in localized failure(s) of primary structural components. More widespread failures are possible or likely to occur, and load restrictions should be implemented as necessary. Repairs may need to be carried out on a very high-priority basis with strong urgency.



Table 2-4. Damage Ratings for Timber Elements

Damage Rating		Existing Damage ^a	Exclusions [Defects Requiring Elevation to the Next Higher Damage Rating(s)]
NI	Not Inspected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not inspected, inaccessible, or passed by^b 	
ND	No Defects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound surface material 	
MN	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checks, splits, and gouges less than 0.5 in. wide Evidence of marine borers or fungal decay 	Minor damage not appropriate if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of cross section Marine borer infestation Displacements, loss of bearing, or connections
MD	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining diameter loss up to 15% Checks and splits wider than 0.5 in. Cross section area loss up to 25% Corroded hardware Evidence of marine borers or fungal decay, with loss of section 	Moderate damage not appropriate if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Displacements, loss of bearing or connections

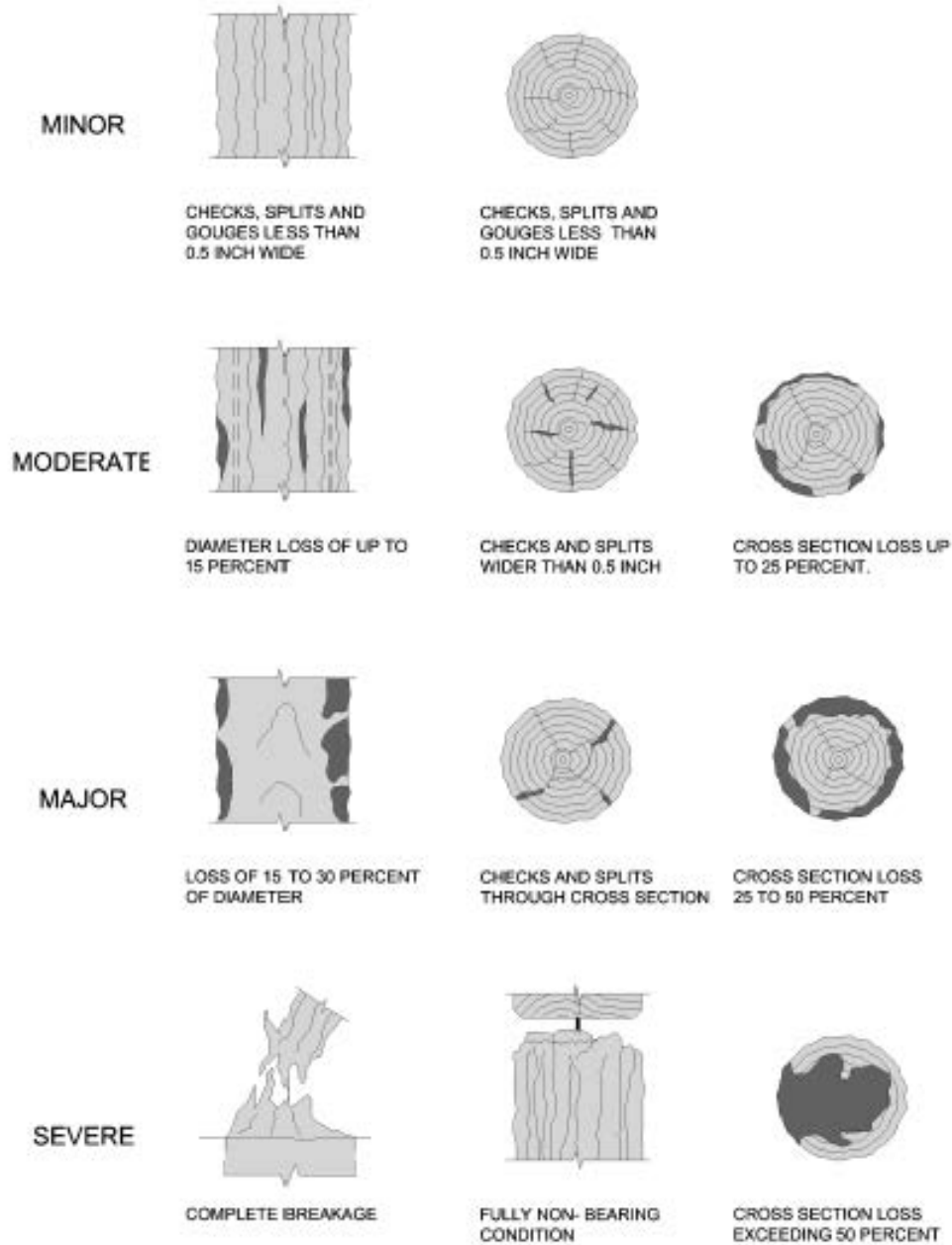
(Continued)

Table 2-4. Damage Ratings for Timber Elements (Continued)

Damage Rating		Existing Damage ^a	Exclusions [Defects Requiring Elevation to the Next Higher Damage Rating(s)]
MJ	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining diameter loss 15 to 30% Checks and splits through full depth of cross section Cross-section area loss 25 to 50%; heavily corroded hardware Displacement and misalignments at connections 	Major damage not appropriate if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial or complete breakage
SV	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining diameter loss more than 30% Cross section area loss more than 50% Loss of connections and/or fully nonbearing condition Partial or complete breakage 	

^a Any defect listed below is sufficient to identify relevant damage grade.

^b If not inspected due to inaccessibility or passed by, note as such.



*Fig. 2-2. Condition ratings for timber elements
Source: Courtesy of CH2M HILL, Inc. and COWI, Inc., reproduced with permission.*



Appendix D: Repair Cost Estimate



Table 1: Harborwalk Boardwalk Repairs

ENGINEERS' ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST							
CITY OF GEORGETOWN				COLLINS ENGINEERS, INC.			
				5955 CORE RD, STE 522			
HARBORWALK & FLOATING DOCK REPAIRS				NORTH CHARLESTON, 29406		ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE	
ESTIMATE BY: JEB				(843) 790-8998		COLLINS Project No. 40-14787	
MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION				QTY	UNIT	\$/UNIT	Cost
Mob/demob							\$5,280
Subtotal							\$5,280
REPAIR EXISTING BENTS & DOCKS				QTY	UNIT	\$/UNIT	Cost
Replace 4 Caps & 2 Braces (labor+material)							\$13,980
Install 4 Pile Guides (labor+materials)							\$3,840
Subtotal							\$17,820
GRAND TOTAL							\$23,100
							Class 4 Estimate +/- 40%