



American Concrete Institute

## Increasing Shear Capacity within Existing Reinforced Concrete Structures – ACI PRC 364.2

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*Always advancing*

**PRC-364.2-21**  
*TechNote*

**INCREASING SHEAR CAPACITY WITHIN EXISTING  
REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURES—TECHNOTE**



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# Session Outline

- Scope of TN 364.2
- Structural strengthening in general
- Various methods of shear strengthening
  - Section Enlargement
  - Internal Reinforcement
  - External Reinforcement
  - Near-surface-mounted Reinforcement
  - External Post-Tensioning
  - FRP Composite Systems
  - FRCM Systems
- Considerations for selecting a suitable method

# Scope of TechNote 364.2



## INCREASING SHEAR CAPACITY WITHIN EXISTING REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURES—TECHNOTE

**Keywords:** external reinforcement; fabric-reinforced cementitious matrix (FRCM); fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP); internal reinforcement; post-tensioning; section enlargement; shear strengthening.

### Introduction

Rehabilitation projects often involve the need to increase the load-carrying capacity of members within existing concrete structures that are deficient due to increased load demand associated with change of use, deficiencies in the original design or construction, or deterioration. Such strengthening often includes increasing shear capacity.

### Question

What options are available to increase the shear capacity of members within existing reinforced concrete structures?

### Answer

The following sections describe various techniques for shear strengthening or reduced shear demands of existing reinforced concrete members such as beams, columns, slabs, and walls. Some considerations in selecting a suitable method are also provided. The shear strengthening measures described are intended for nonseismic applications. For seismic applications, refer to ACI 360.1 and ASCE 41. ACI 546R, ACI 549.4R, ACI 440.1R, ACI 440.2R, and ACI 437R provide additional information on structural strengthening. All shear strengthening should be performed by or under the guidance of a licensed design professional (LDP) who is familiar with the selected technique and licensed in the jurisdiction where the work is being performed, and in accordance with the evaluation and repair design requirements set forth in the current building code for that jurisdiction. Selected shear strengthening methods should be approved by the applicable authority having jurisdiction.

# Structural Strengthening

- May be needed due to:
  - Higher loads (change of use, additional equipment, planters)
  - Deterioration (corrosion, concrete deterioration)
  - Damage (impact, overloading, fire)
  - Deficient design (older detailing requirements)
  - Construction errors (missing or misplaced reinforcement)
- Always requires engineering analysis and design by LDP

Source: ICRI No. 330.1





# METHODS OF SHEAR STRENGTHENING

# Section Enlargement



*Section enlargement of a joist*

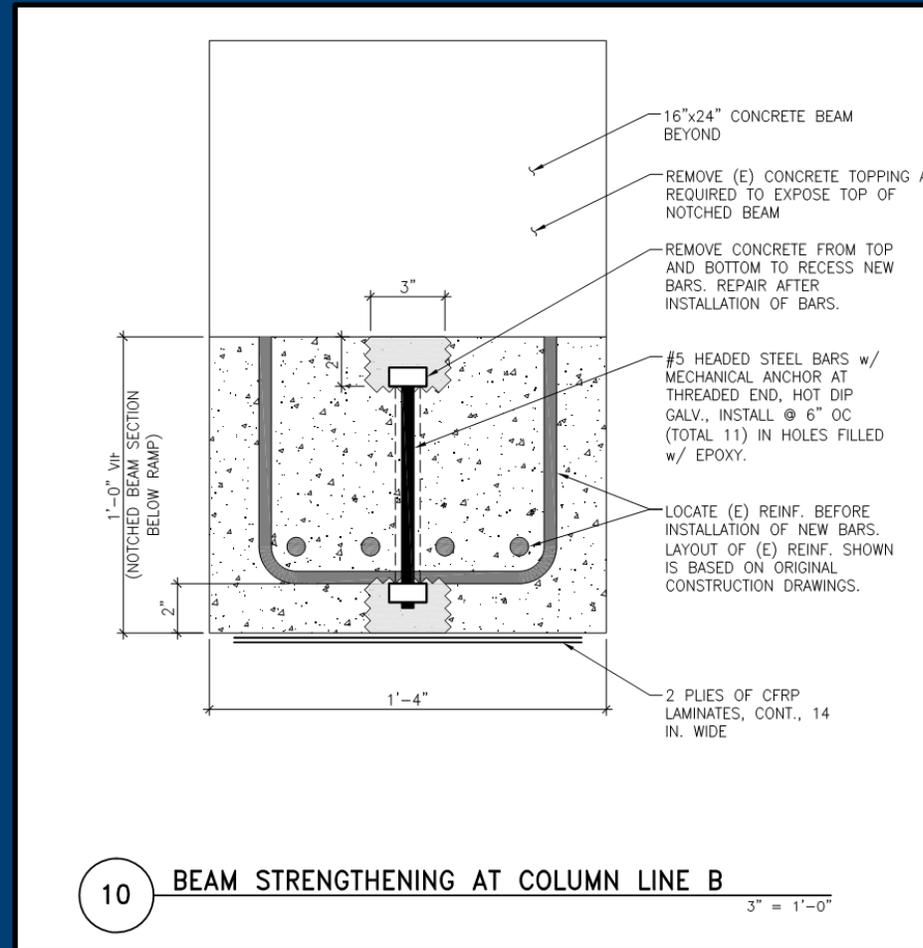


*Section enlargement of a column to increase slab punching shear capacity*

Source: ICRI No. 330.1



# Internal Reinforcement



# Internal Reinforcement

## Considerations

- Passive method.
- Use non-destructive testing to avoid cutting or damaging existing reinforcement and conduits.

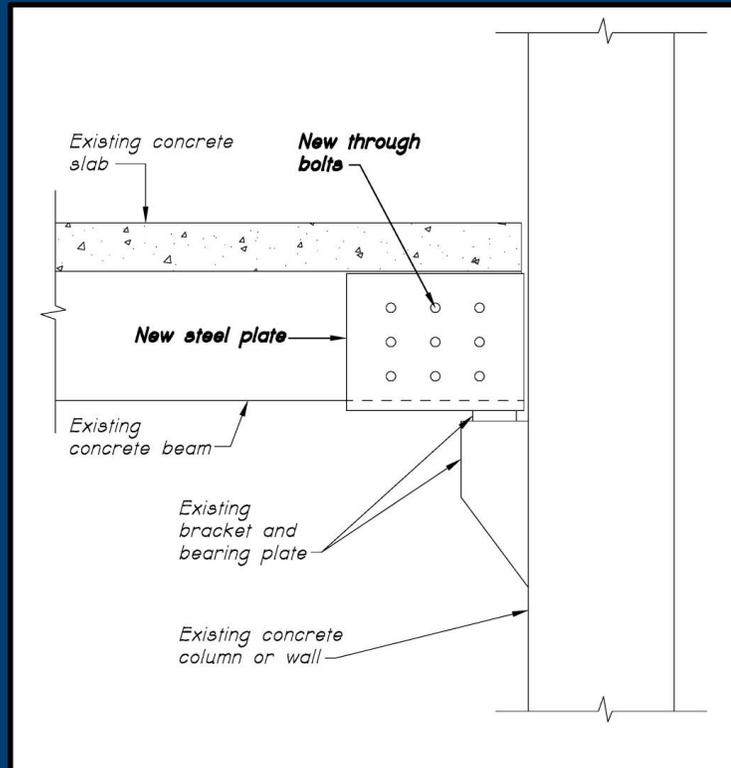
## Advantages

- Relatively easy
- Uses commonly available equipment

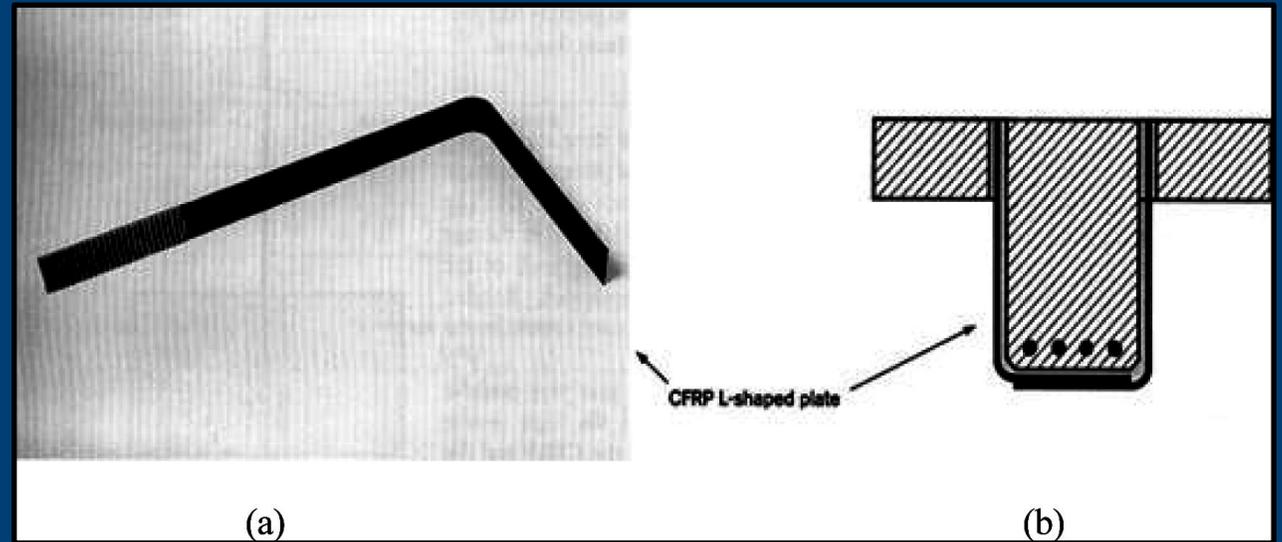
## Disadvantages

- Difficult to develop the reinf.
- Difficult to install reinf. in heavily-reinforced members.
- Need space around member in order to install reinf.

# External Reinforcement



*External reinforcement of a beam using steel plates*



*External reinforcement of a beam using FRP strips*

# External Reinforcement

## Considerations

- Passive method
- Edge distance and group action of bolts
- Surface preparation
- Composite behavior
- Corrosion protection
- Fire protection
- Moisture diffusion

## Advantages

- Useful where space constraints limit use of internal reinforcement
- FRP members have high strength-to-weight ratio

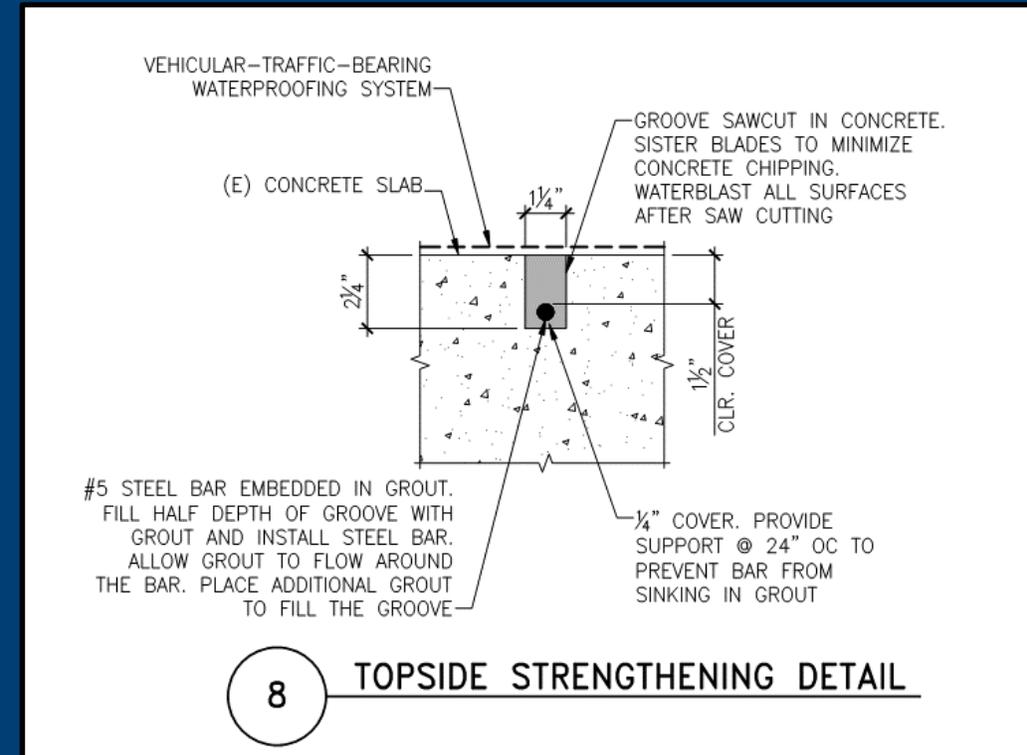
## Disadvantages

- Structure needs to have a minimum unrepaired strength
- Steel members difficult to install due to weight
- Steel members may be expensive
- Potential degradation of epoxy adhesive over time
- Aesthetics

# Near-surface-mounted Reinforcement



*Sawcut grooves for NSM reinforcement*



Source: Dr. Laura De Lorenzis

# Near-surface-mounted Reinforcement

## Considerations

- Passive method
- Not typically used for shear strengthening
- Depth of concrete cover
- Corrosion protection
- Development length

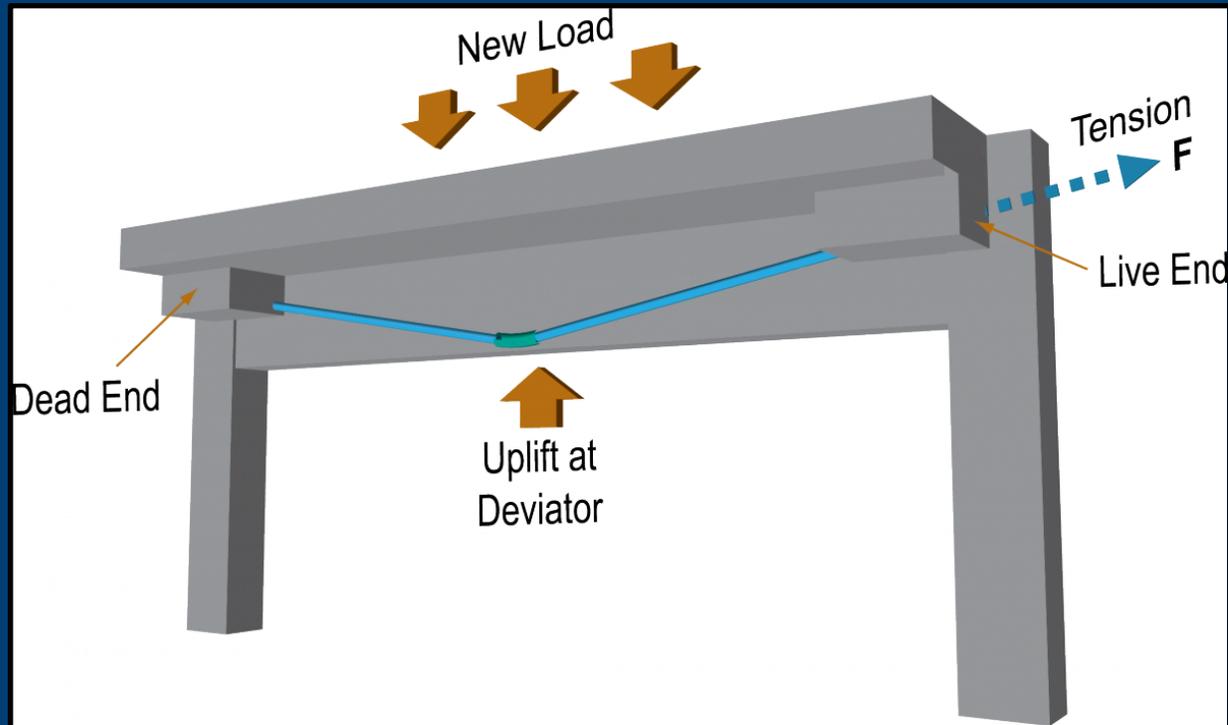
## Advantages

- Reduced chance of damaging existing reinforcement

## Disadvantages

- Difficult to develop the bar
- Limited applications

# External Post-tensioning



*External PT of DT beams*

Source: [structuraltechnologies.com](http://structuraltechnologies.com)

Source: [pullman-services.com](http://pullman-services.com)

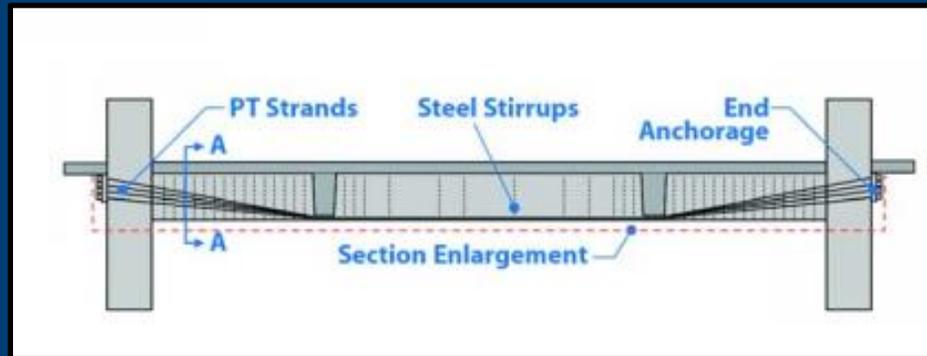
# External Post-tensioning

## Considerations

- Active method
- Primarily used for flexure
- Corrosion and fire protection
- Balance of strength and serviceability
- Significant internal forces
- Bursting stresses at anchorages
- Effects on adjacent construction
- Post-tensioning losses

## Advantages

- Provides greater strength increases than passive methods
- Closes existing cracks



## Disadvantages

- Structure needs to have a minimum unrepaired strength
- Difficult to install in congested interior locations
- Requires specialty contractors
- Aesthetics

Source: Alkhrdaji and Thomas 2002

# Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Composite Systems (FRP)



*FRP composite system installed  
on a spandrel beam*



*FRP composite system installed  
on a shear wall*

Source: Alkhrdaji 2015

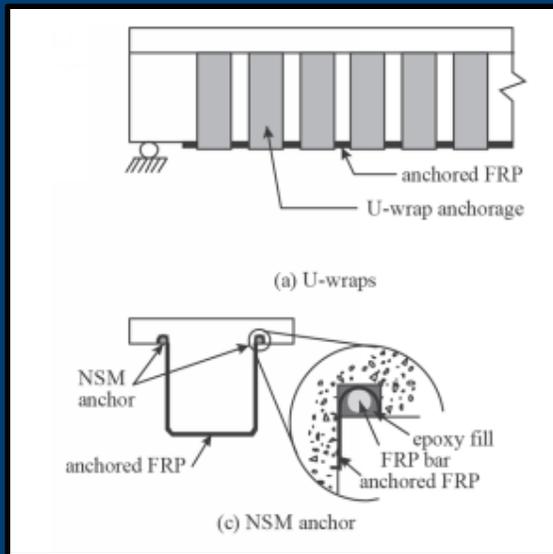


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# Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Composite Systems (FRP)

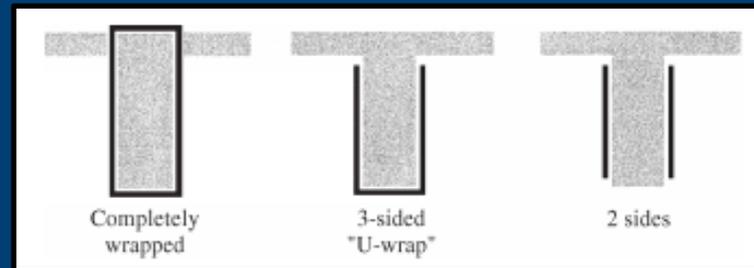
## Considerations

- Passive method
- Bond-critical application
- Surface preparation
- Repair deteriorated concrete



## Advantages

- High strength
- Light weight
- Conform to various geometries
- Easy installation
- Non-corrosive
- Cost-effective



## Disadvantages

- Structure needs to have a minimum unrepaired strength
- Applications are limited on moist surfaces, at high humidity, and low temps.
- Acts as a vapor barrier.
- Aesthetics
- Requires trained contractors

Sources: ACI PRC-440.2  
Alkhrdaji and Thomas 2002  
De Luca and Tumialan 2014  
Arnold 2014

# Fabric-Reinforced Cementitious Matrix Systems (FRCM)



*Installation of FRCM on a wall*



*Installation of FRCM on an arch*

Source: strongtie.com

Source: De Luca and Tumialan 2014



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# Fabric-Reinforced Cementitious Matrix Systems (FRCM)

## Considerations

- Passive method
- Bond-critical application
- Surface preparation
- Repair deteriorated concrete

## Advantages

- Better performance under elevated temperature, humidity, and UV than FRP systems.
- FRCM is non-combustible.
- Easy installation.

## Disadvantages

- Relatively new material.
- Not frequently installed by contractors.
- Results of durability testing are limited.

Source: De Luca and Tumialan 2014





# CONSIDERATIONS IN METHOD SELECTION

# Considerations in Method Selection



- Cause for strengthening
- Magnitude of strength increase required
- Passive vs. active methods
- Size of project
- Cost and schedule
- Environmental conditions
- Indoor air quality
- Strength of existing concrete substrate
- Dimensional / clearance constraints
- Accessibility
- Operational constraints
- Aesthetics
- Availability of materials, equipment, and qualified contractors

Source: ICRI No. 330.1

# References

## American Concrete Institute

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- ACI PRC-440.2-17 Guide for the Design and Construction of Externally Bonded FRP Systems for Strengthening Concrete Structures
- ACI PRC-546-14 Guide to Concrete Repair
- ACI PRC-549.4-13 Guide to Design and Construction of Externally Bonded Fabric-Reinforced Cementitious Matrix (FRCM) Systems for Repair and Strengthening Concrete and Masonry Structures
- ACI CODE-562-16 Code Requirements for Assessment, Repair, and Rehabilitation of Existing Concrete Structures and Commentary

## American Society of Civil Engineers

- ASCE 41-17 Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Existing Buildings

## International Concrete Repair Institute

- ICRI No. 330.1-06 – Guideline for the Selection of Strengthening Systems for Concrete Structures

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