

Graf Road MP 1.01 Culvert Replacement Project

Questions during advertisement and Lewis County Answers

January 8, 2018 through January 22, 2018

Question: Special Provision 6-13 Structural Earth Walls--Can alternate blocks and/or retaining wall systems be proposed for the GRS-IBS that incorporates CMU blocks?

Lewis County Answer: The GRS wall/bridge abutment plans depict CMUs for the wall facing. Other wall facing systems would likely meet the minimum requirements for CMUs. Lewis County will not exclude any products that meet the minimum requirements listed in the Special Provisions and WSDOT Standard Specifications. However, the 2.5-ft minimum "IAZ to Int. Wall" dimension on Plan Sht 7/16 is required with any proposed wall facing material. Please be sure to account for all impacts when evaluating your proposed wall facing material (i.e., block depths greater than 8" would require a longer structure to maintain the bridge clear span length).

Additionally, Lewis County acknowledges many wall system manufacturers carry products that would meet or exceed performance requirements as outlined in the US DOT Federal Highway Administration's GRS-IBS Interim Implementation Guide—June 12, 2012 with May 24, 2012 errata (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/infrastructure/structures/11026/11026.pdf>) Contractors are encouraged submit bids that may include alternate wall systems that meet or exceed the required specifications in the FHA guidelines, the Contract Special Provisions, WSDOT Standard Specifications, and the Contract Plans. Our concerns for alternate wall systems include but are not limited to; meeting minimum bridge bearing requirements, guardrail post embedment near the wall system, GRS layer spacing/backfill performance assumptions, wall thickness (thicker wall may require a longer structure), etc. There is no guarantee alternate wall systems will be acceptable. However, Lewis County will make every effort to approve equivalent wall systems that meet or exceed the required specifications. Due to time constraints, alternate blocks or alternate wall systems will not pre-approved by Lewis County during bid advertisement.