



C · E · R · M

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
RISK MANAGEMENT

# Geotechnical Monitoring of Slopes in Central Georgia Highways

STGEC - September 2025  
Thomas Tye, PE

Atlanta | Mobile | Orlando | Tampa



## CERM At A Glance

Successful delivery of more than 4,000 projects over 30 years has created economic opportunities for over 130 families across the Southeast.



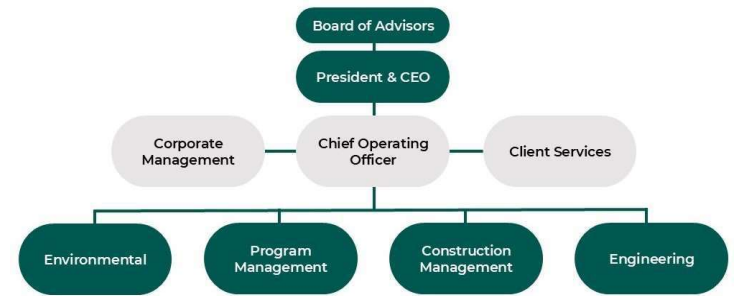
**4 Regional Offices**  
serving 10 States



**Certified**  
**MBE | DBE | VOB**



**130+**  
**Employees**



**≡ZERO≡**

**Recordable**  
**Injuries**  
**in 2024**



**CERM Staff**  
**Gen X – 45%**  
**Baby Boomer – 24%**  
**Millennial – 23%**  
**Gen Z – 7%**



CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT

## Our Services

CERM's technical team consistently delivers a broad range of high-quality civil engineering services for our clients.



### Construction Management



- Construction Engineering Inspections (CEI)
- Construction Materials Testing (CMT)
- Construction Reviews
- Pre-Construction Services
- RFI Reviews
- Project Closeout



### Program Management

- Project Management
- Contract Management
- Community Engagement
- Regulatory Reporting
- Quality Control Inspections
- Facility Commissioning, Operations & Maintenance



### Engineering Services



- Construction Material Testing & Special Inspections
- Geotechnical
- Site Design
- Stormwater Permitting & Management
- Water & Wastewater Management
- Roadway Engineering



### Survey & Mapping



- ALTA
- Asset Inventory
- Boundary Surveys
- Construction Staking
- Construction Verification
- Right-of-Way and Deed Research
- Easements
- Streetscape
- GIS
- Topographic



### Environmental Management



- Brownfields Consulting
- Due Diligence & Compliance
- Phase I, II, and III ESAs
- NEPA
- Environmental Planning and Permitting
- Industrial Hygiene
- Safety Management



### Remediation & Contracting

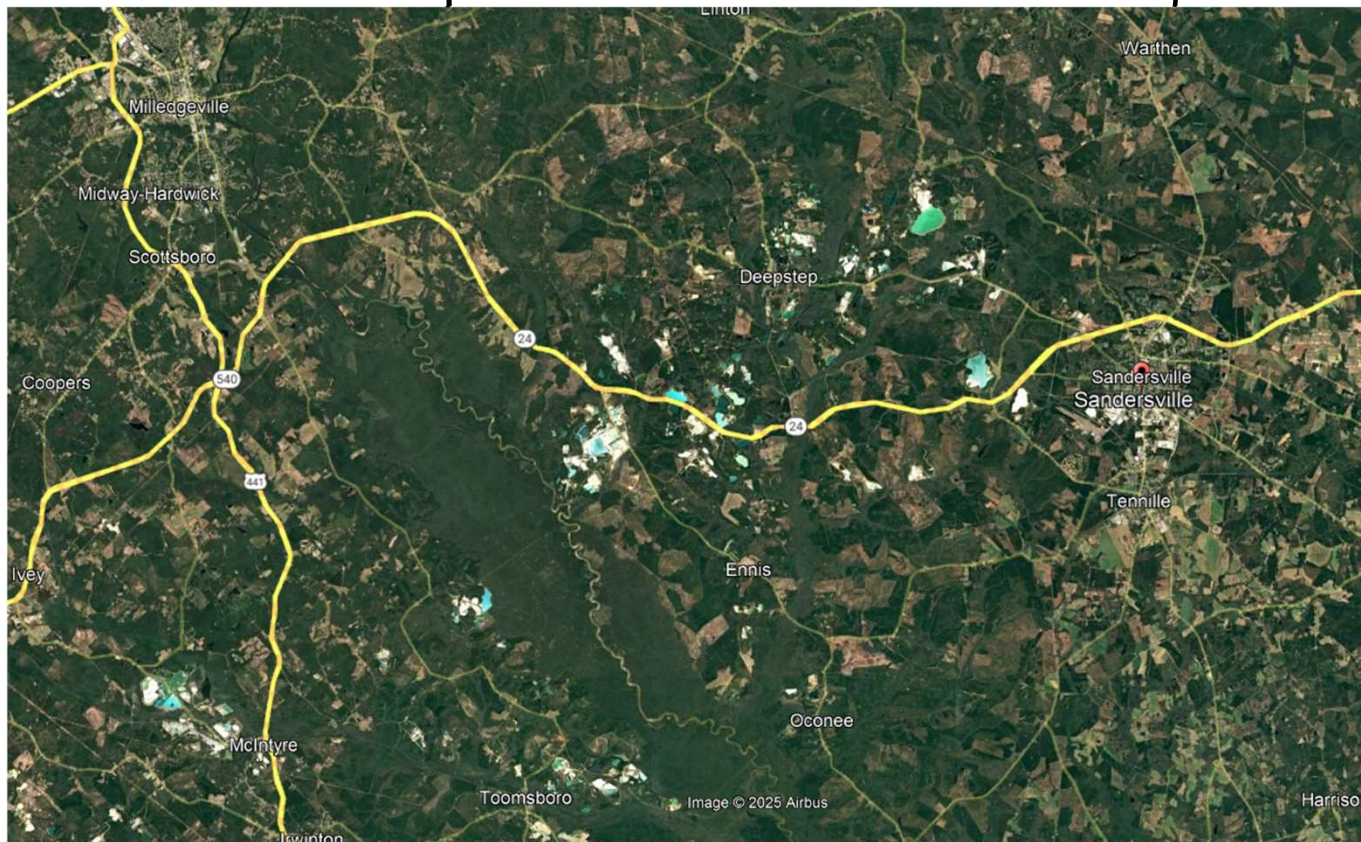


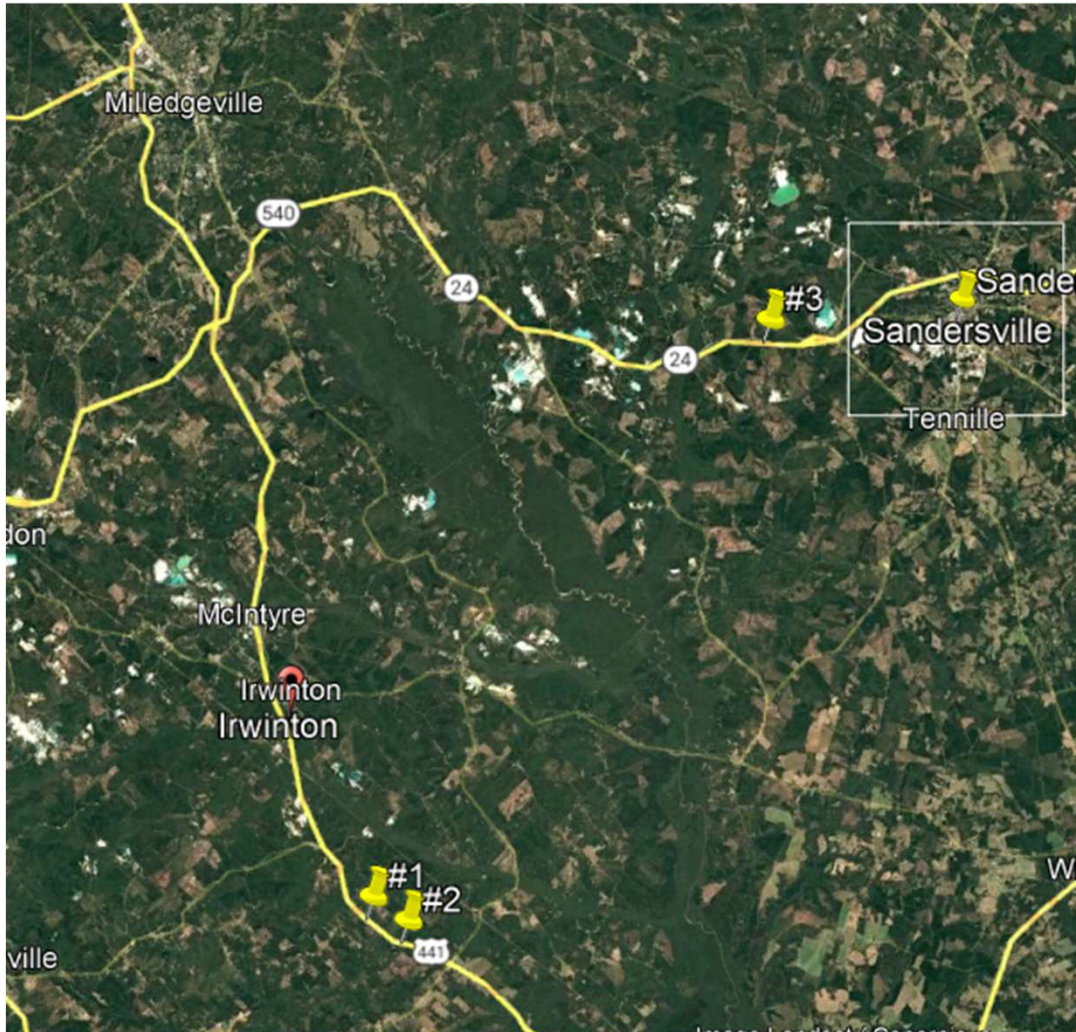
- Asbestos, Lead, & Mold Abatement
- Demolition Services
- Environmental Restoration
- Soil & Groundwater Remediation
- Storage Tank Decommissioning
- Underground Storage Tank Removal



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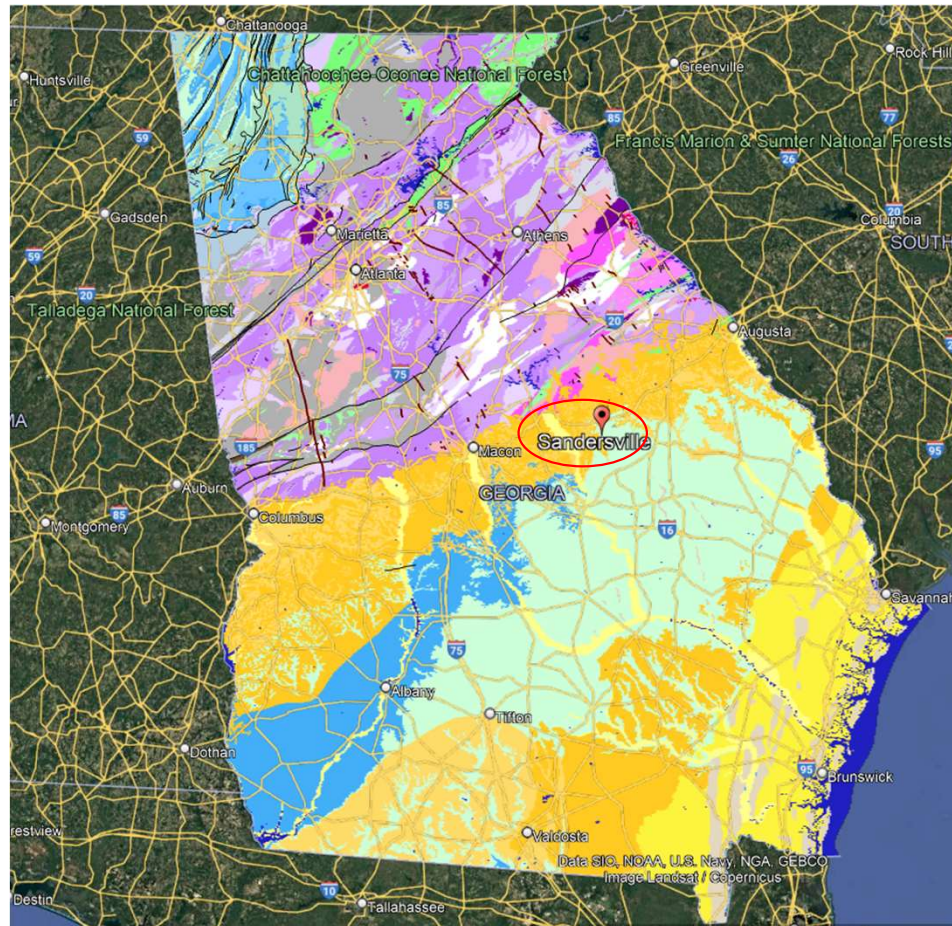
# Roadways Slope Failures in “Kaolin Capital of the World” ~\$1B





Three sites within 20 miles in Central Georgia

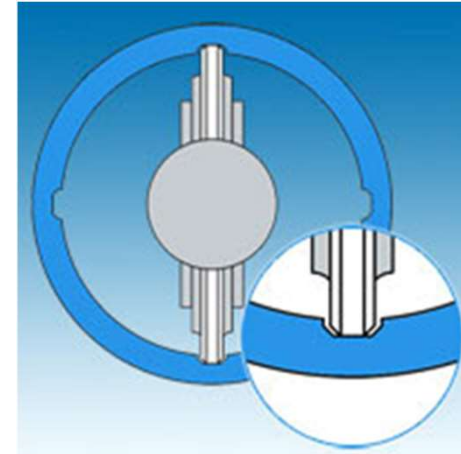
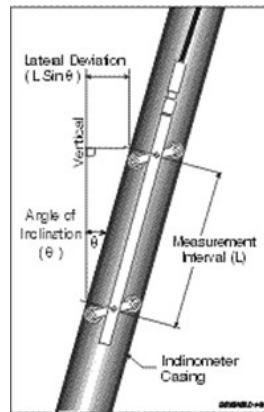
# Sandersville/Irwinton, Geology



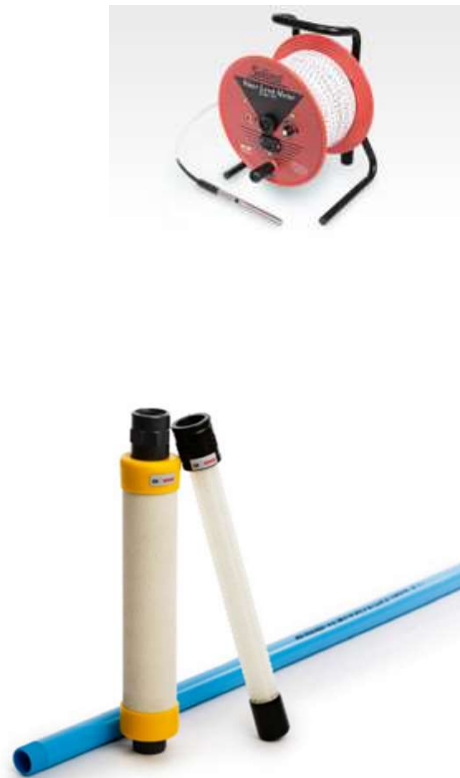
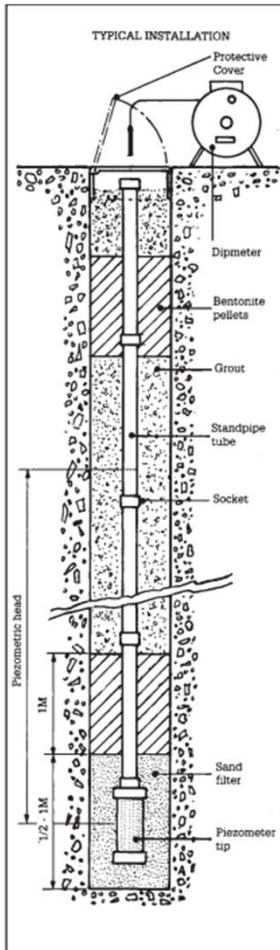
# Purpose of Presentation – Geotechnical Instrumentation

- Discuss the instrumentation used in slope failures in “Kaolin Country” roadways
- Methods employed and the difficulty of interpreting with variability of results
- Discuss the value of the data obtained
- Show how this data was used in the analysis
- Illustrate the value of “real-time” data

# Geotechnical Instrumentation - Inclinerometers



## Geotechnical Instrumentation - Piezometers

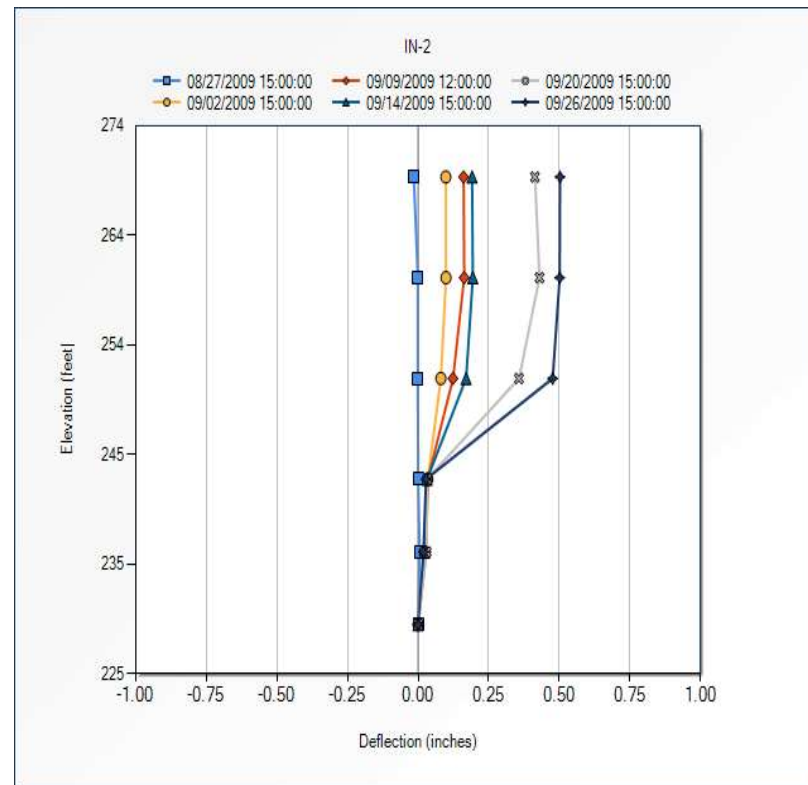


## US 441 – Roadway Slope Failure (#1)

- Roadway cracking for ~5 years (2009)
- Multiple overlays
- Need to define problem – failure plane
- Moving so existing slope indicator piping crushed
- Part of fix to evaluate the problem
- Manual and automated monitoring of 4 inclinometers
- Excessive movements detected in large rain event



## US 441 – In-Place Inclinoimeters



## US 441 (SR 29) near Highway 112 (#2)



## US 441 – Roadway Slope Failure (#2)

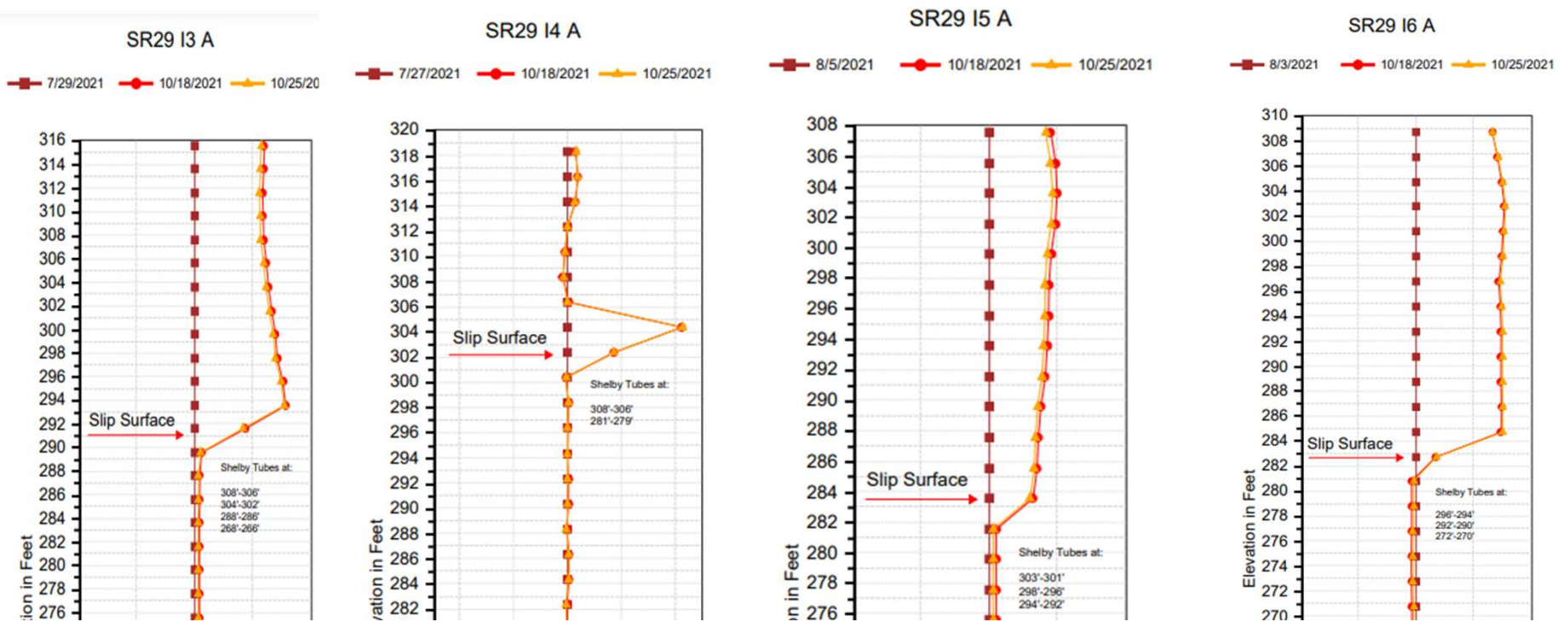
- Less than 1.5 miles south of #1 failure
- Similar with several overlays
- Need to define problem – failure plane
- Design fix to evaluate the problem
- Manual monitoring of 11 inclinometers
- Movements detected in rain events



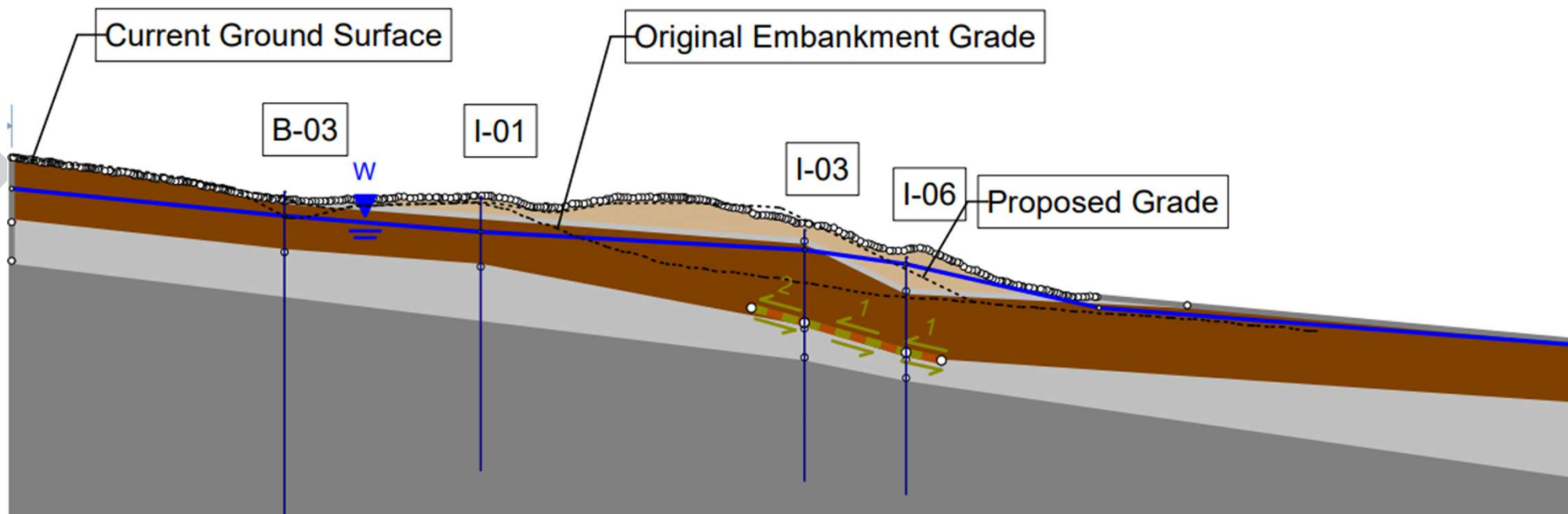
# US 441 Slide area for 2300 lf



# US 441 (SR 29) Inclinometer Readings



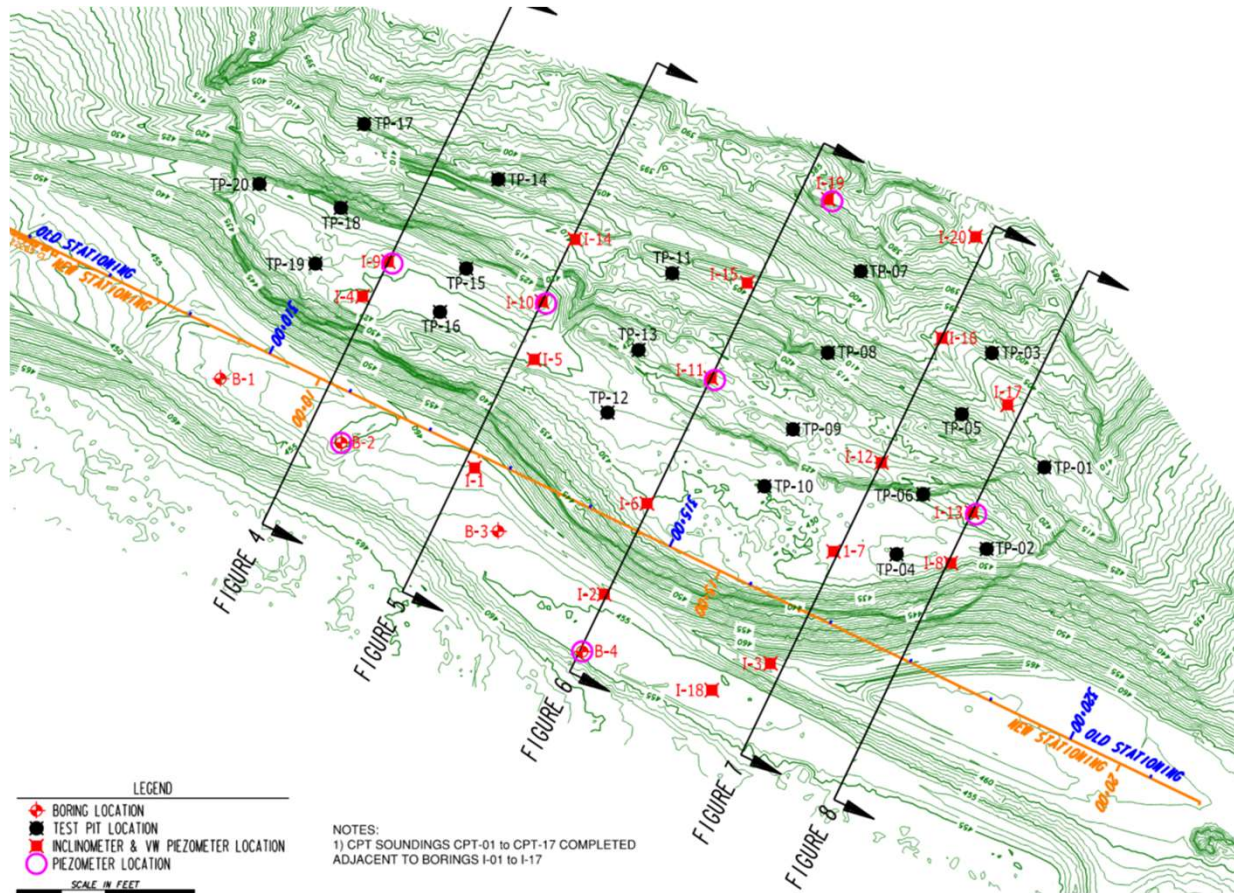
# Movement along interface below water table



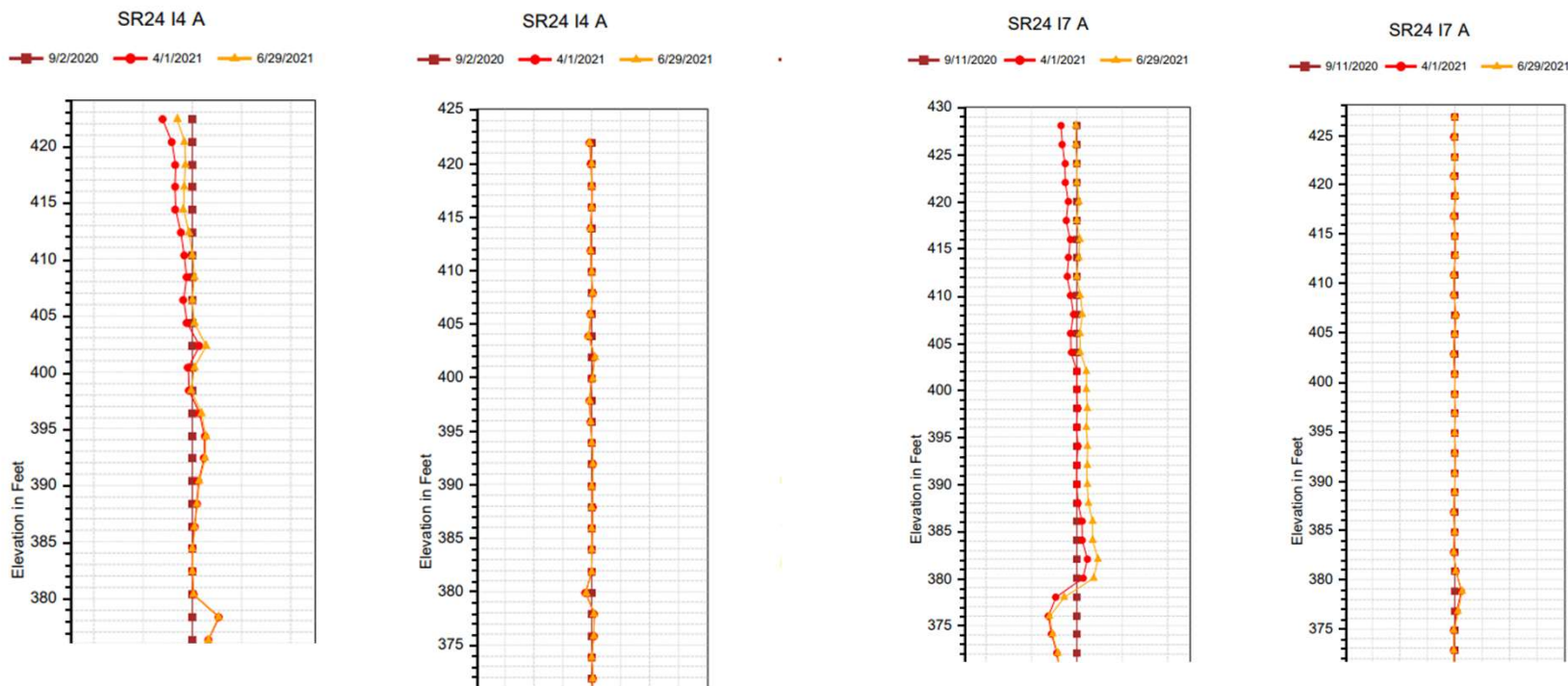
## SR 24— Large Slope Failure



# SR 24— Extensive exploration and Monitoring

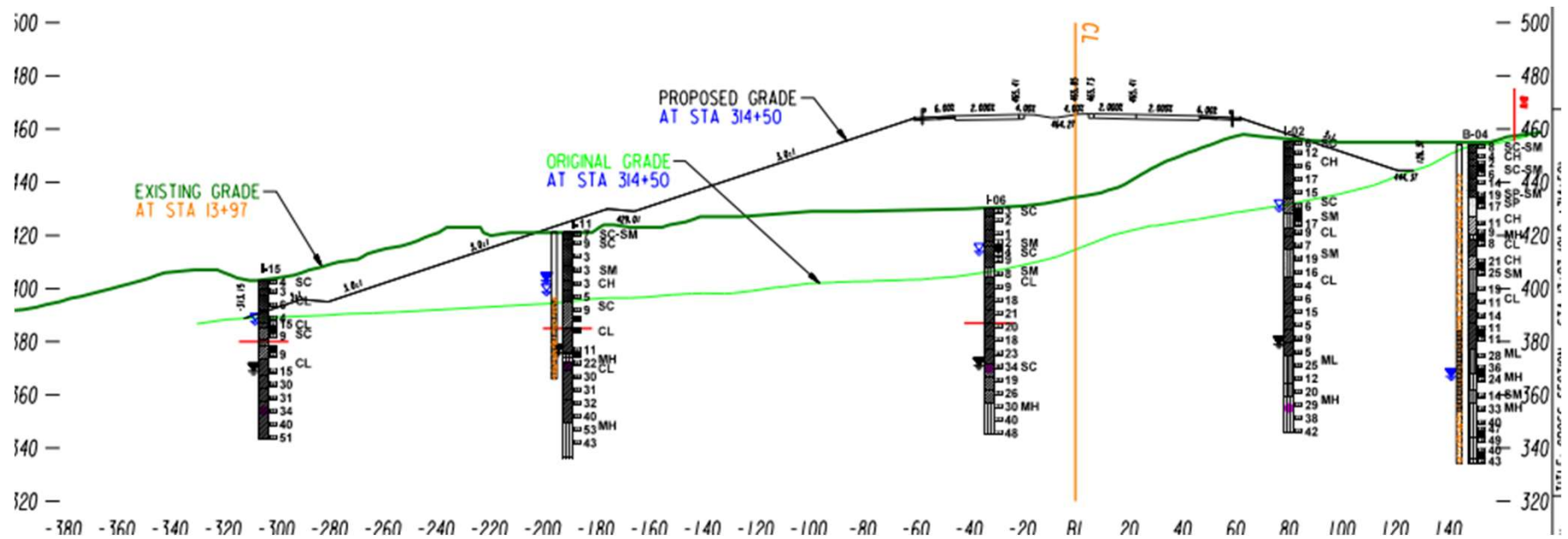


# Varying readings/conditions – Tilt Change Used



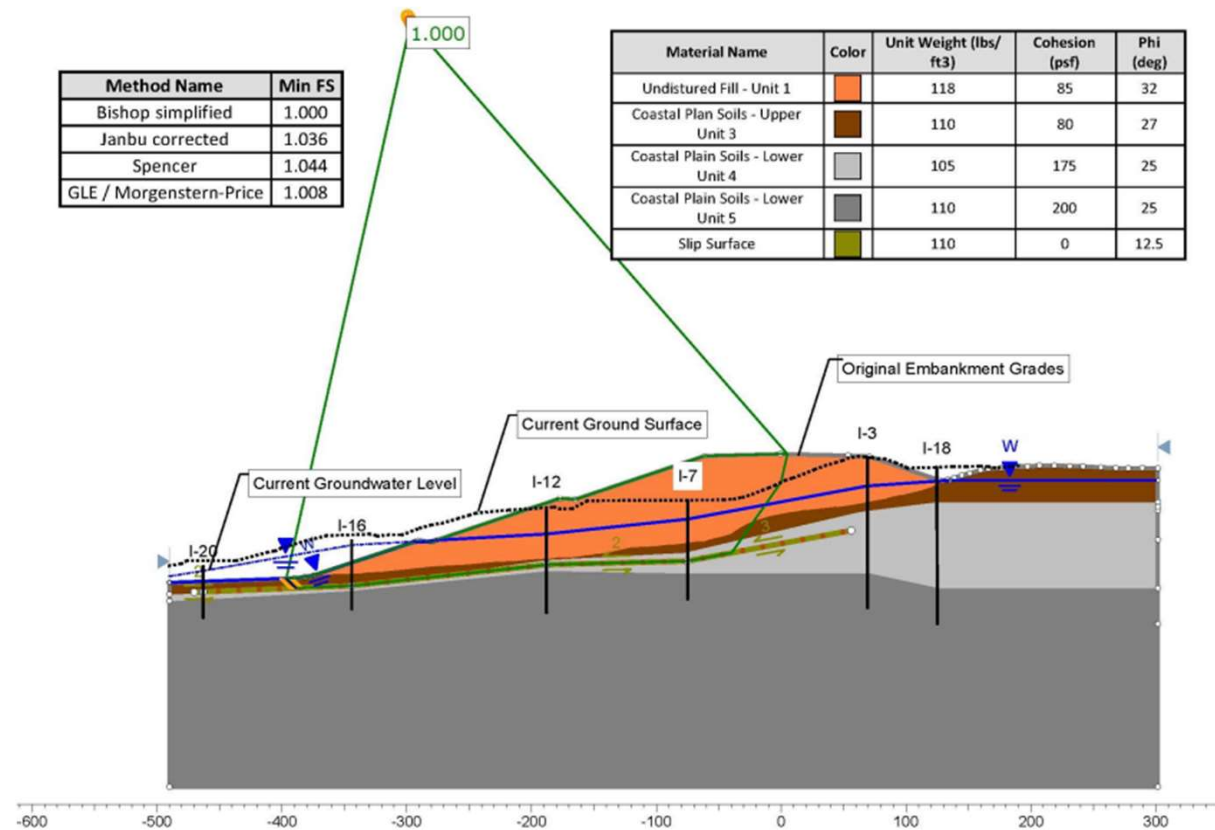
# SR 24 - Sandersville

- Collapse of roadway



# Conclusions

- Active slope failures will usually result in inclinometer data showing failure surface
- Allow enough time and usually rainstorms to see movement
- Profile change will likely reveal failure elevation
- Very large failures may not move quickly, may require tilt-change function to identify failure surface
- Water level readings are important for analysis.
- Automated data acquisition is valuable tool in measuring movements and can save time provide more data.



*Questions?*

*Thank You*

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INTEGRITY  
LOYALTY  
INITIATIVE

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