



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**  
Office of Technology Applications  
Office of Engineering

# Reinforced Soil Structures MSEW and RSS

## *Demonstration Project 82*

Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls (MSEW) and Reinforced Soil Slopes (RSS) are two modern methods of earth fill construction which are extremely cost effective and aesthetically pleasing. The basic concept behind these related methods is to combine soil, reinforcing materials made of steel or polymers and an appropriate facing to produce a composite material with improved engineering properties. Both MSEW and RSS provide substantial construction time and cost savings as compared with other conventional types of earth retaining systems. The purpose of this Demonstration Project is to optimize the implementation of mechanically stabilized earth technology in routine transportation design and construction practice.

This Demonstration Project is intended for structural, geotechnical, roadway design and construction engineers and managers responsible for the selection, design, construction, and monitoring of earth retaining structures. The project scope has been tailored to adapt to local agency needs and issues. Federal, State and local public transportation agencies may select any or all of the project's available services. Transportation agency hosts are encouraged to invite consultants, industry and the academic community representatives who work on public sector transportation projects.



For more information, contact your local FHWA Division Office or Jerry A. DiMaggio, FHWA Office of Engineering, Washington DC, 202-366-1569, or via e-mail address [jerry.dimaggio@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jerry.dimaggio@fhwa.dot.gov)

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The showcase of this project is the development and distribution of comprehensive Design and Construction guidelines on MSEW and RSS applications. A parallel document on the Corrosion and Degradation of reinforcement materials has also been developed. Both publications were prepared with the benefit of extensive industry review and in close cooperation with AASHTO'S Technical Committee on Substructures and Retaining Walls. Services provided under the scope of Demonstration Project 82 include the following:

### **Workshops/Seminars**

- 2 1/2 Day Workshop on design/construction methods
- 1 Day Seminar on construction monitoring
- Hands on Training with FHWA computer software on the design and analysis of MSEW and RSS

### **Technical Assistance**

- Site assessment, design development and review, and construction troubleshooting, inspection and monitoring.
- Experimental evaluations of unusual and major applications.
- Development, and distribution of design and analysis software.



### **Accommodations and Facilities**

Individual agencies, who host the workshops and seminars, will be responsible for designating a local course coordinator to secure a suitable classroom, supply all necessary visual aid equipment, and assist with other workshop details.

### **Cost**

Free for Federal, State, and local government Transportation attendees. Attendance by non-Transportation agency personnel is at the discretion of the host agency.



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