



# Implementing Transverse Profile Certification Standards

John B. Ferris, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof., Mechanical Engineering  
Dir., Vehicle Terrain Performance Lab

John B. Ferris, Ph.D.  
Managing Member  
Road Scholar Solutions, LLC



**Road Scholar Solutions**

# AASHTO Standards

Developed under TPF-5(299)/(399) 24 State DOTs (FHWA Admin.):

*Improve the Quality of Pavement Surface Distress and Transverse Profile Data Collection and Analysis*

Thanks to

- Andy Mergenmeier, FHWA
- Project Panel: John Andrews, John Coplantz, David Luhr,  
Jenny Li, Rick Miller, Stephanie Weigel

# AASHTO Standards

Created as Research Program at Virginia Tech

PI: John Ferris

Thanks to

- My former students
  - Savio Pereira, Ph.D. now at RobotWits LLC
  - Craig Altmann, Ph.D. now at Virginia Military Institute
- VTTI: Gerardo Flintsch, Edgar de Leon Izeppi, Samer Katicha



# AASHTO Standards

Implementing through FHWA TOPR with **Quality Engineering Solutions**

Thanks to

- Sherry Morian, Dennis Morian, Doug Firth

Including a subcontract to **Road Scholar Solutions**

- John Ferris, Managing Member

# Outline

Overview, Definitions and Approach

Transverse Pavement Profiler (TPP) Assessment Tests

Ground Reference Equipment (GRE) Measurements

Assessment of GRE and TPP

# Overview

Requirements Definition

Process Flow

Reporting/Decision Analysis

Data Interpretation (e.g. quarter-car simulation)

Data Analysis (e.g. filtering, smoothing, outlier removal)

Data Acquisition (e.g. mapping and location sensor data)

Sensor Requirements (e.g. mapping sensor specifications)

D

C

B

A

**Data Requirement Calculations:**  
- Rut depth  
- Cross-slope  
- Edge location/height

**Signal Processing:**  
- Filtering  
- Lateral Shift  
- Outlier Removal

**Test Conditions:**  
- Calibration surfaces  
- Excitation  
- Speed

**Sensor/System Specifications:**  
- Transverse Resolution  
- Transverse Width

**Data Requirement Assessment:**  
- Accuracy & Precision

**Gridded Data Assessment:**  
- Edited regularly spaced data

**Point Cloud Assessment:**  
- Unfiltered/unedited data

**Verification Tests:**  
- Ensure system specifications are met

# Definitions

## Mapping Sensor

*measure road surface  
relative to TPP coordinates*

### Examples:

- Laser/Lidar
- Camera
- Radar

## Localization Sensor

*georeference TPP system  
in global coordinates*

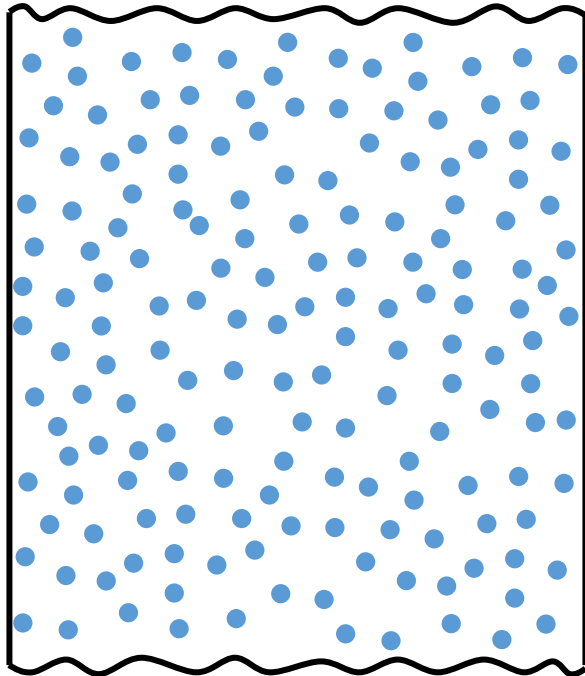
### Examples:

- Inertial Nav. (GPS, IMU)
- Accelerometers

Fused to form georeferenced road surface data (point cloud)

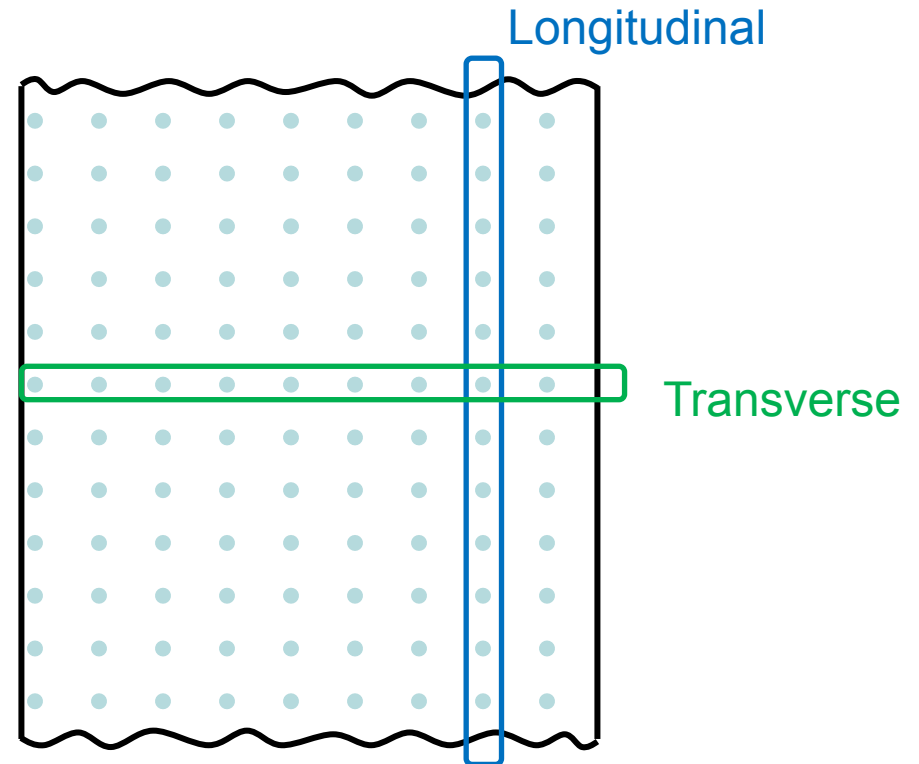
# Definitions

## Point Cloud



Georeferenced, but not filtered/edited

## Gridded Data



Filtered/edited & interpolated to regular grid

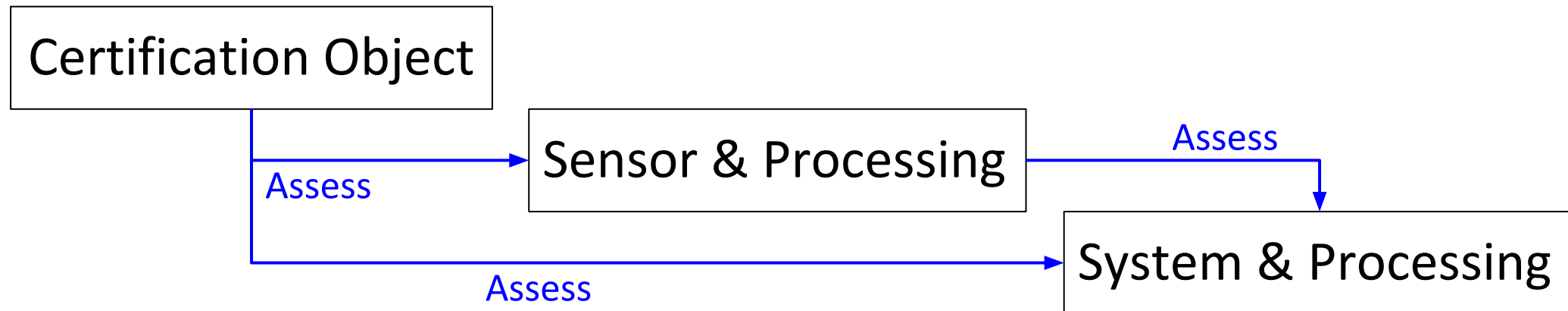
Top View



# Approach

## *Chain of Traceability to Certification Objects*

- Certification Objects
  - Dimensions measured by a certified laboratory (NIST, ISO...)
  - Dimensions known to some accuracy and precision traceable to Cert. Lab



- Subsequent assessments limited by the accuracy of previous step

# TPP Assessment Tests

## **Static performance**

Evaluate static road surface measurement ability  
Assess mapping sensors

## **Body motion cancelation**

Evaluate ability to remove body movement  
Assess localization sensors, fuse mapping and localization

## **Navigation drift mitigation**

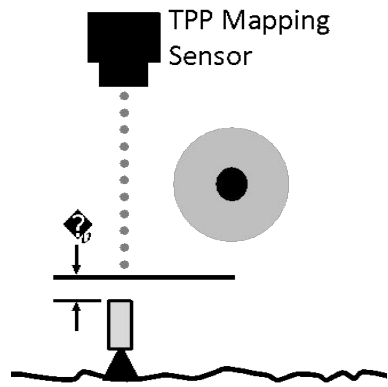
Evaluate drift in global position  
Assess localization sensors, fuse localization sensors

## **Typical highway**

Evaluate complete TPP during typical highway operations

- Transverse Capability
- Ground Reference\*

# Static Performance

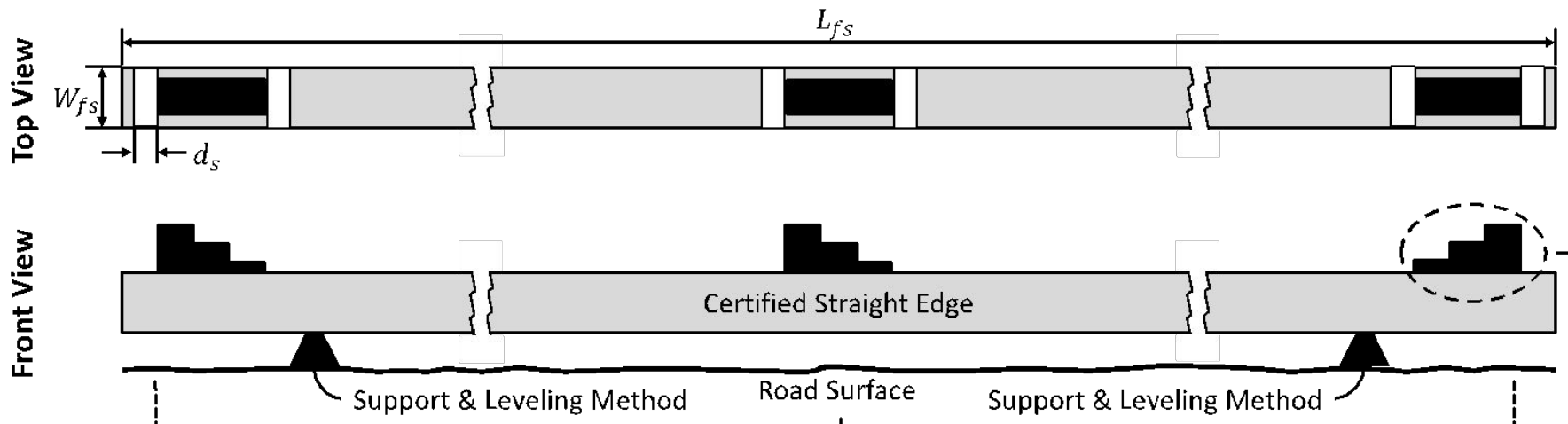


Side View

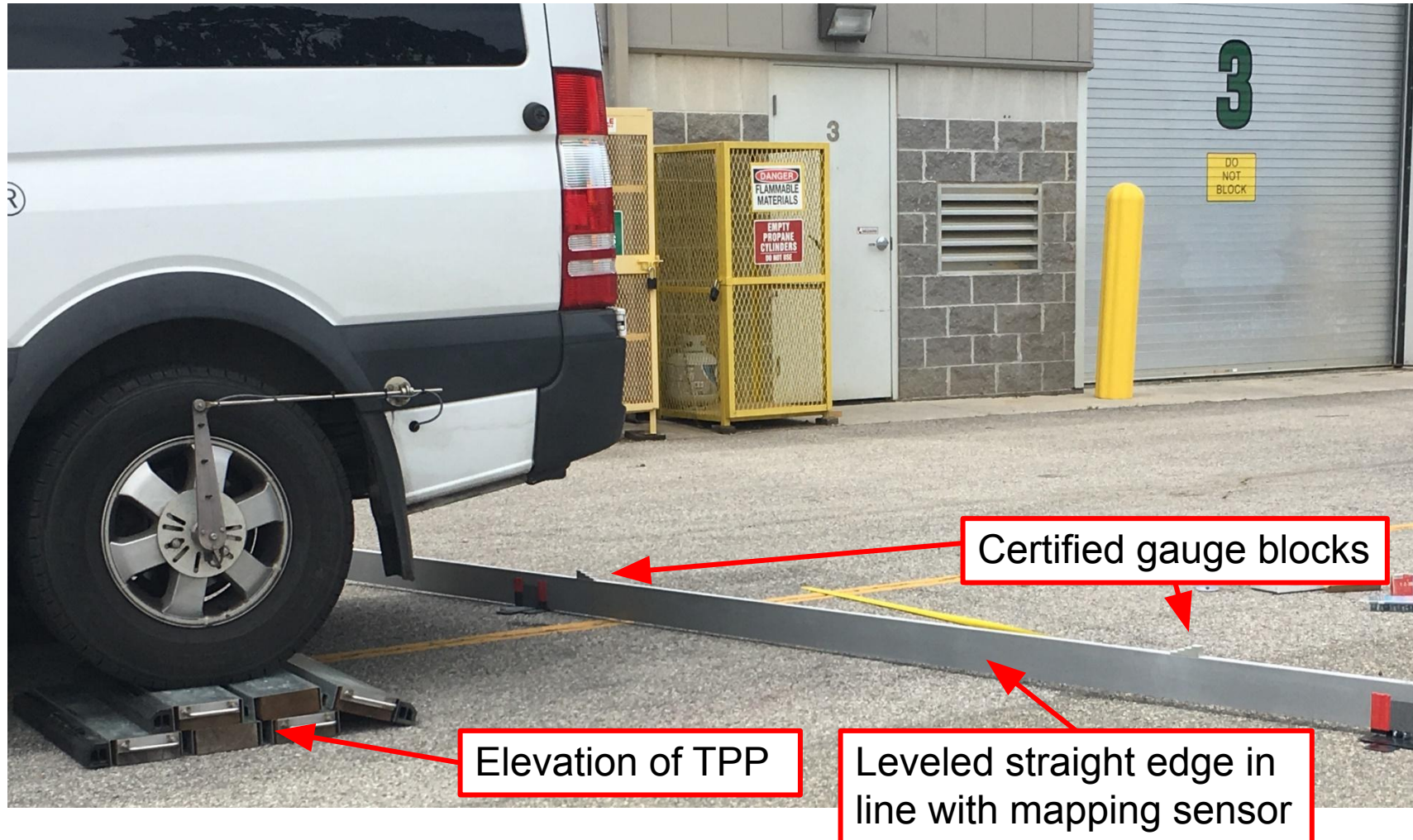
Assess:

- Mapping sensors (lasers)

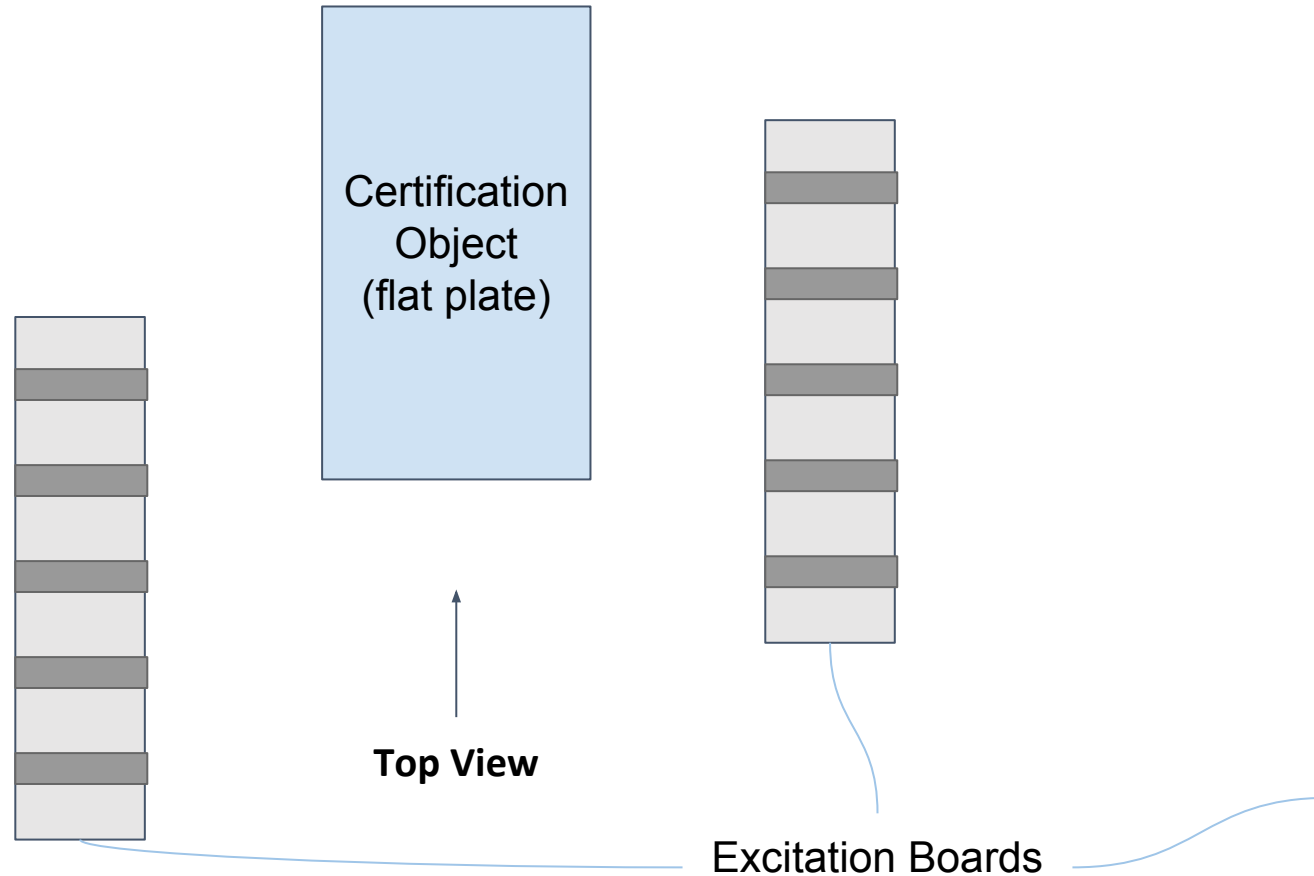
Output Test Statistics
Transverse Measurement Resolution
Transverse Measurement Error
Vertical Measurement Resolution
Vertical Measurement Error
Total Transverse Width
Straightness Error



# Static Performance



# Body Motion Cancelation



## Output Test Statistics

Vehicle Body Motion Error

### Assess:

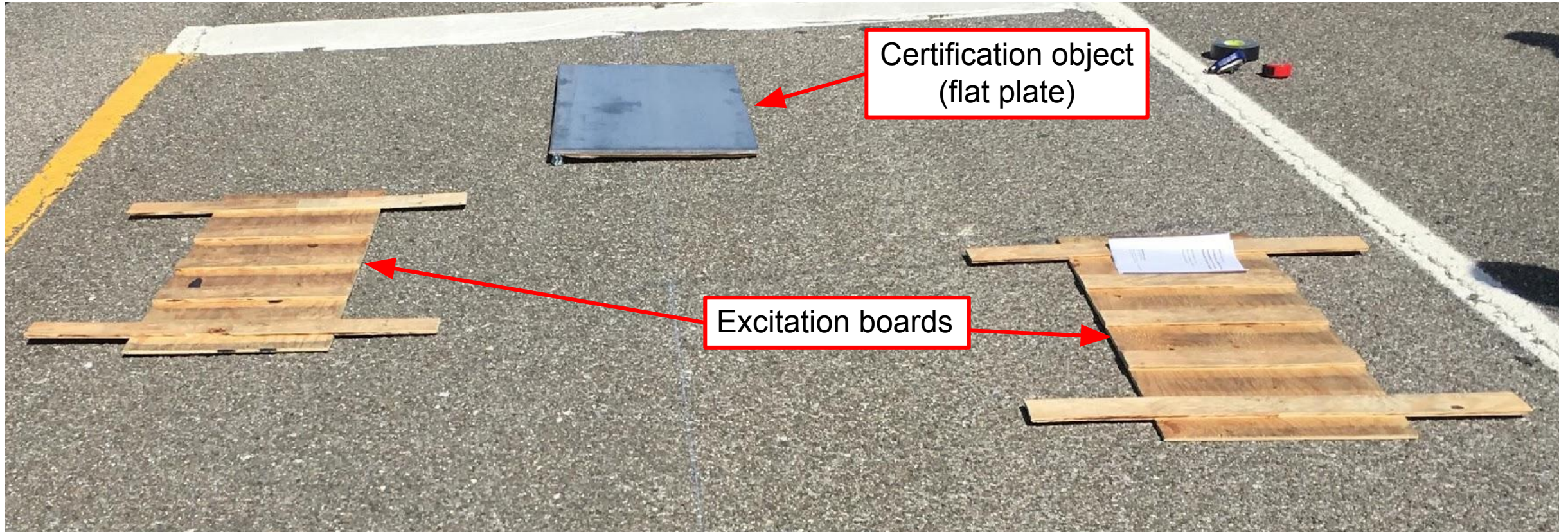
- Localization sensors (IMU/gyro, accels)
- Processing: Fuse mapping and localization sensors

### Induce:

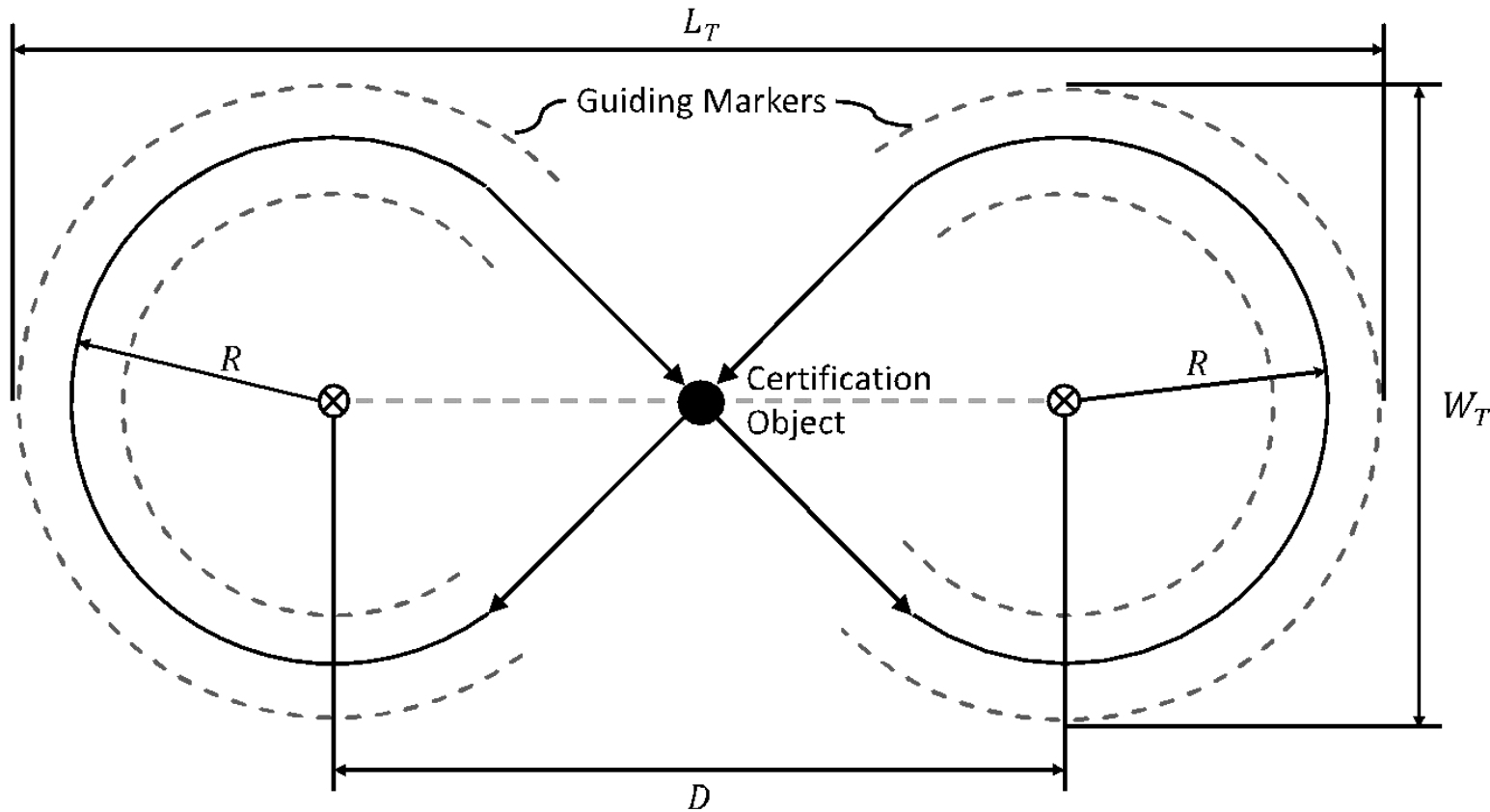
- Roll
- Pitch
- Primary Bounce (~1.5 Hz)
- Secondary Bounce (~15 Hz)



# Body Motion Cancelation



# Navigation Drift Mitigation



Top View

## Output Test Statistics

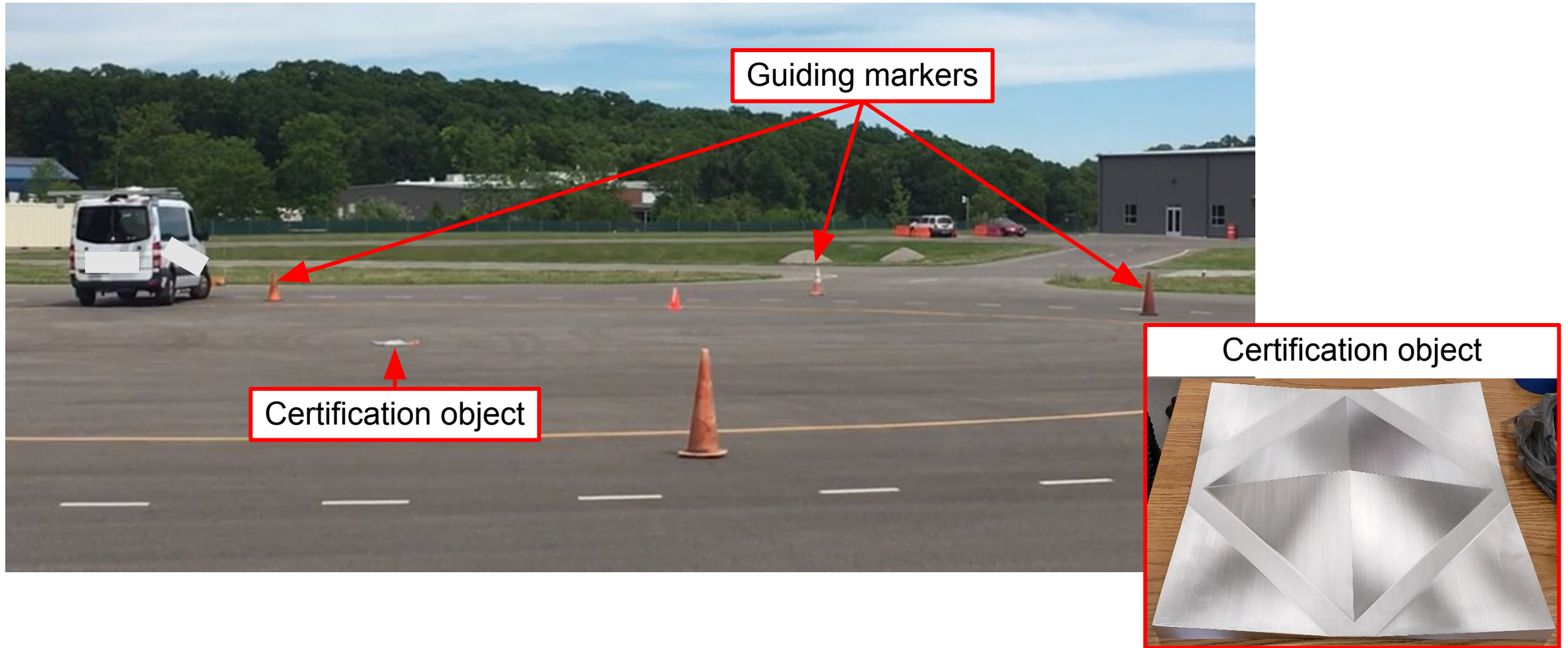
- Easting Position Error
- Northing Position Error
- Elevation Position Error

## Assess:

- Localization sensors (GPS, IMU/gyro, accels)
- Processing: Fuse various localization sensors

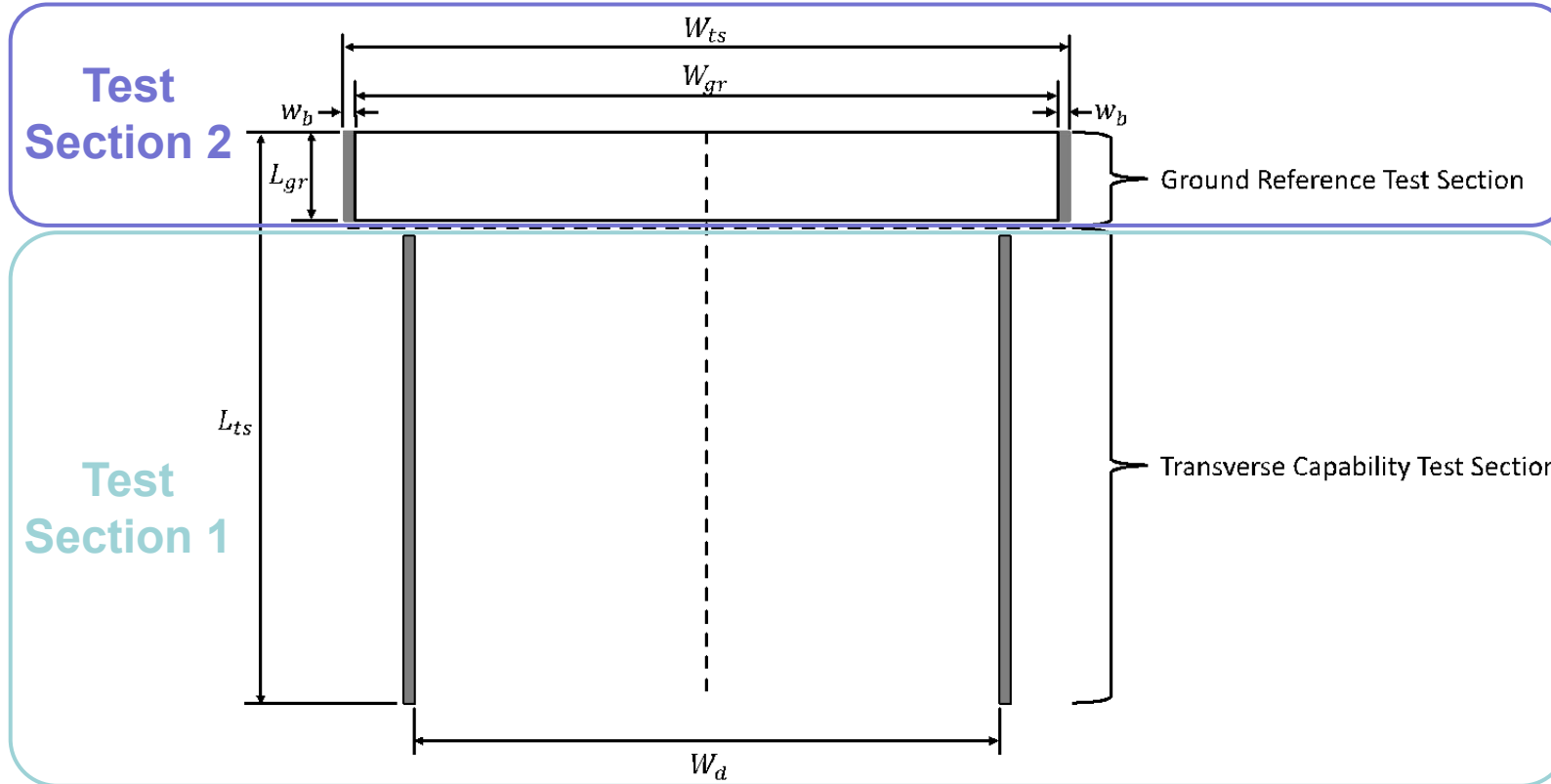


# Navigation Drift Mitigation





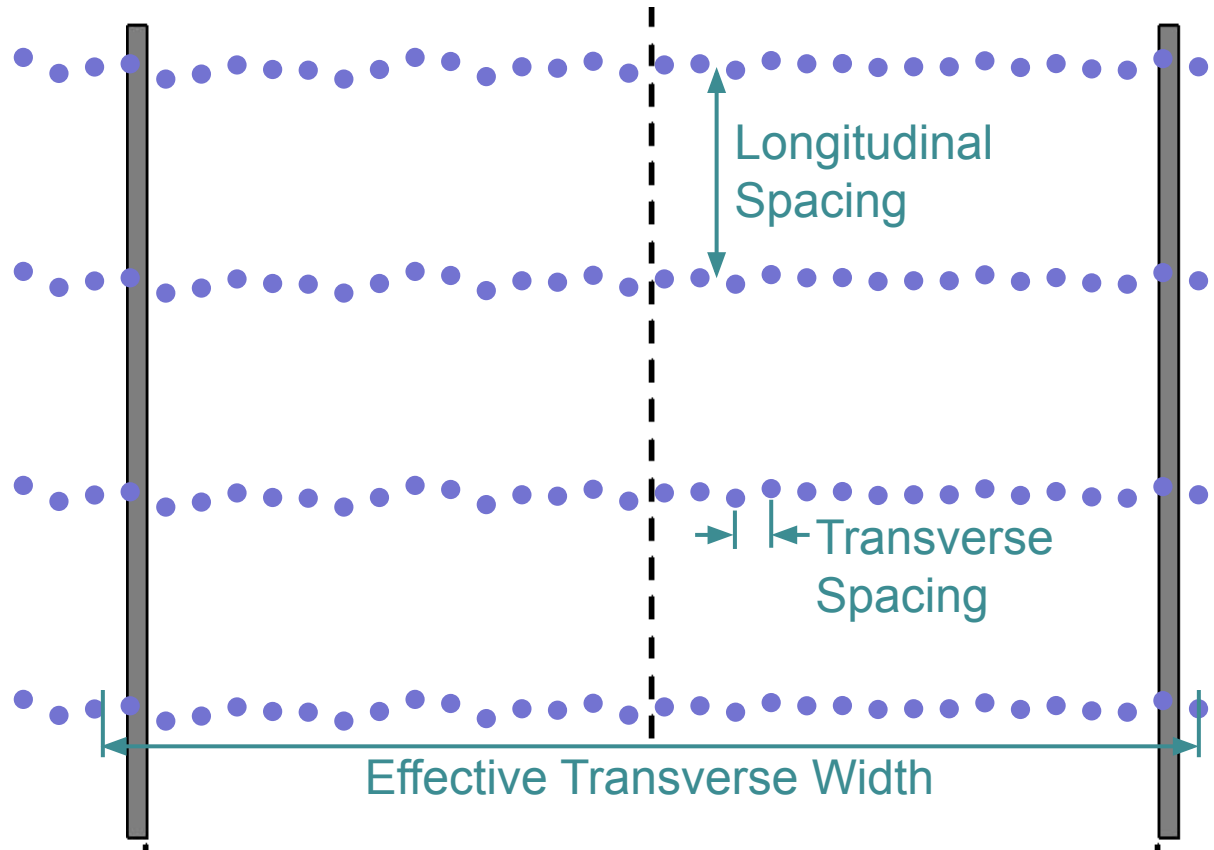
# Typical highway performance



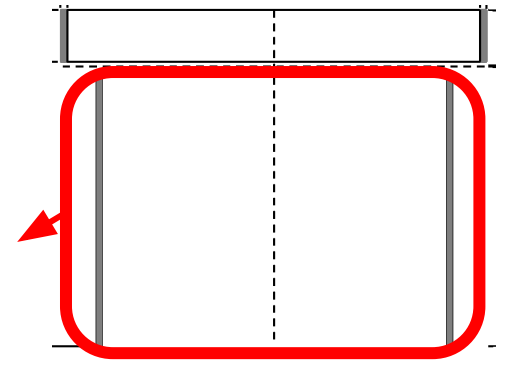
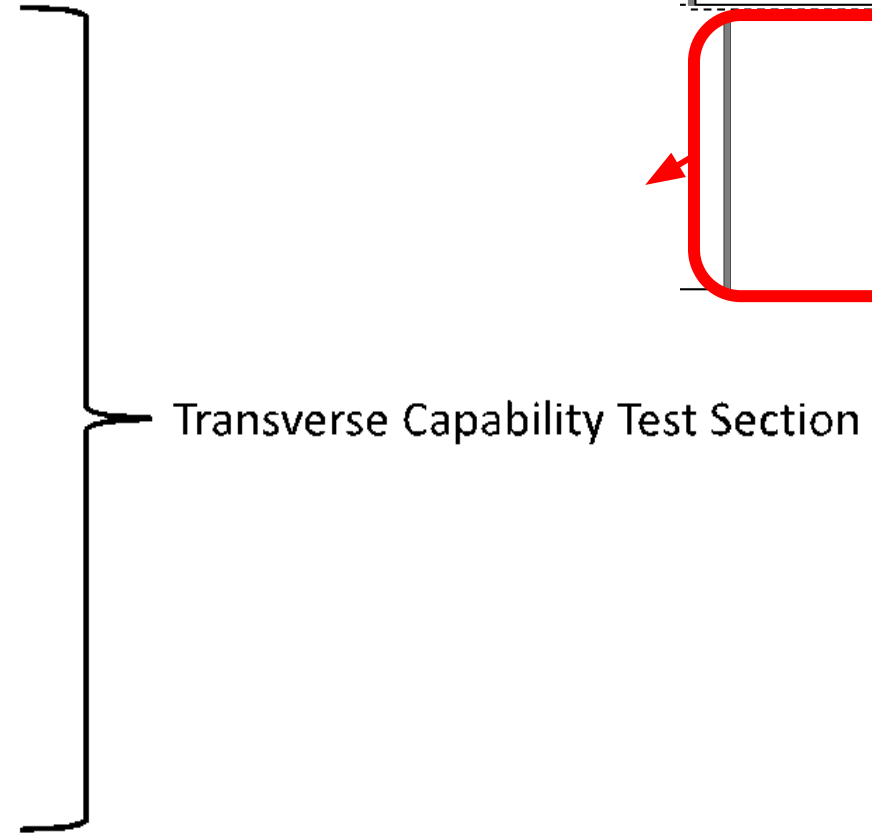
Top View

Output Test Statistics
Transverse Measurement Spacing <sup>1</sup>
Effective Transverse Width <sup>1</sup>
Vertical Measurement Spacing <sup>1</sup>
Longitudinal Measurement Spacing <sup>1</sup>
Point Cloud Vertical Error <sup>2</sup>
Gridded Data Vertical Error <sup>2</sup>
Cross Slope Error <sup>2</sup>
Rut Depth Error <sup>2</sup>
Edge/Curb Transverse Location Error <sup>2</sup>
Edge/Curb Vertical Magnitude Error <sup>2</sup>

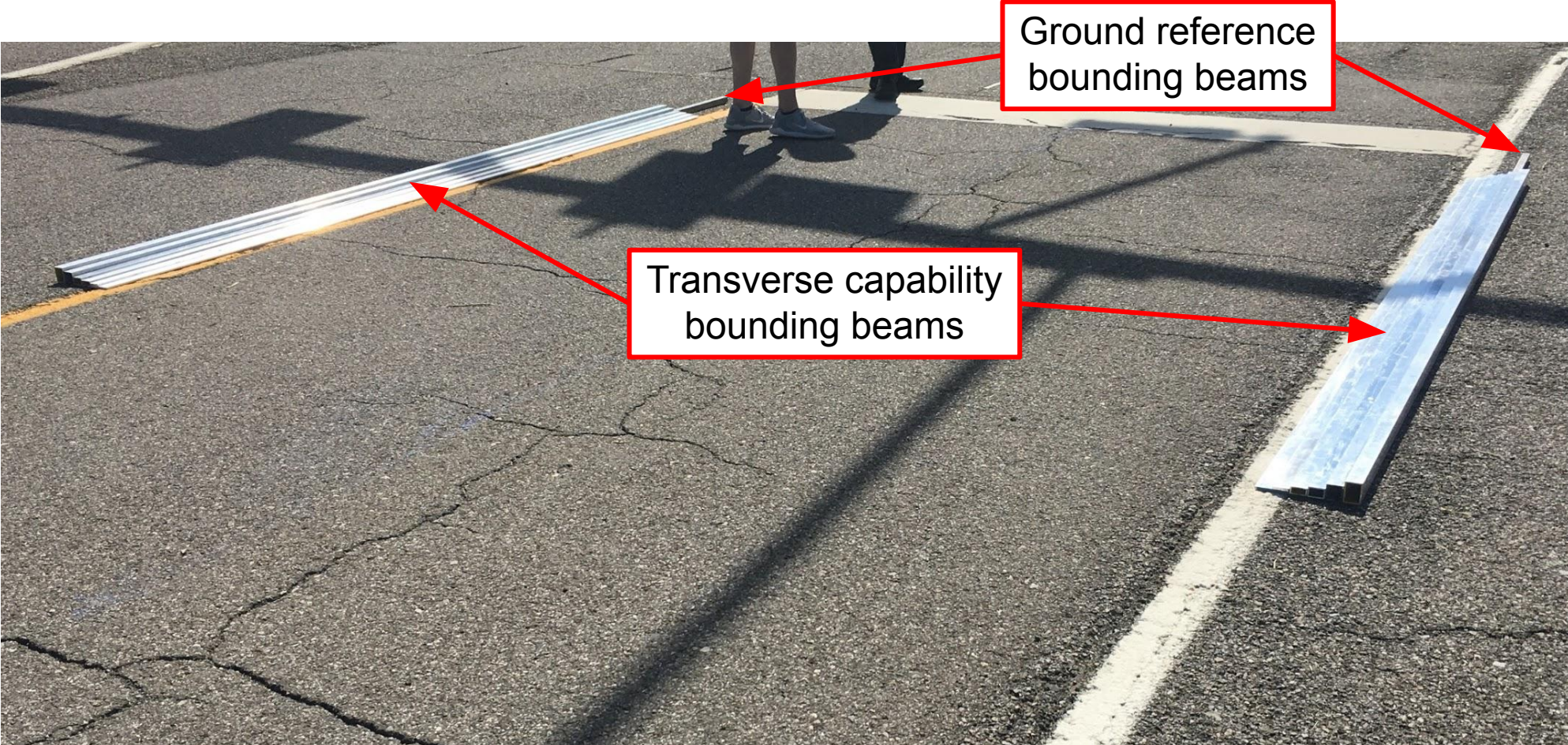
# Transverse Capability Test – Section 1



Top View



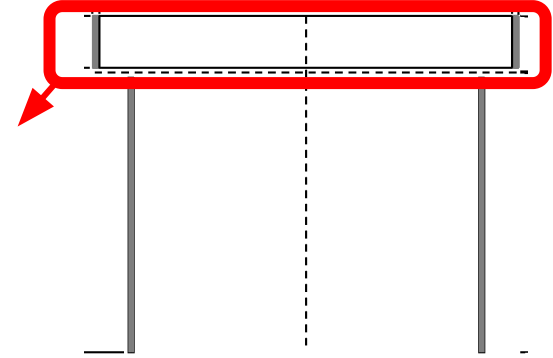
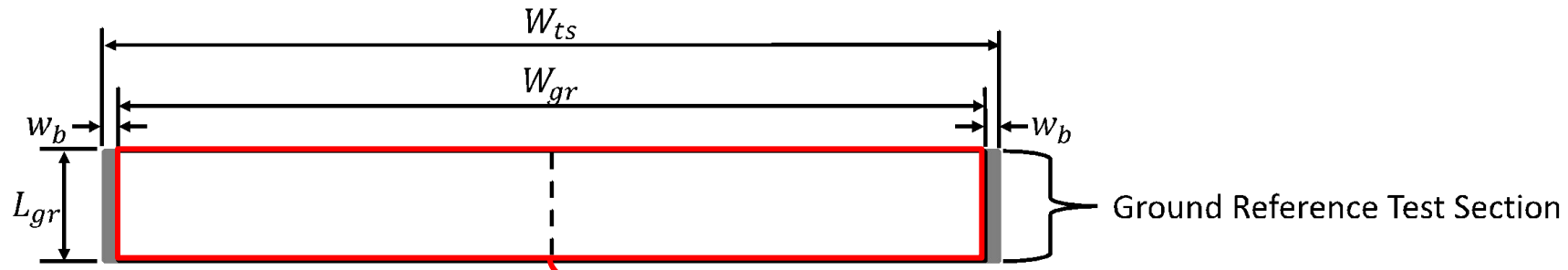
# Typical highway performance





# Ground Reference Test – Section 2

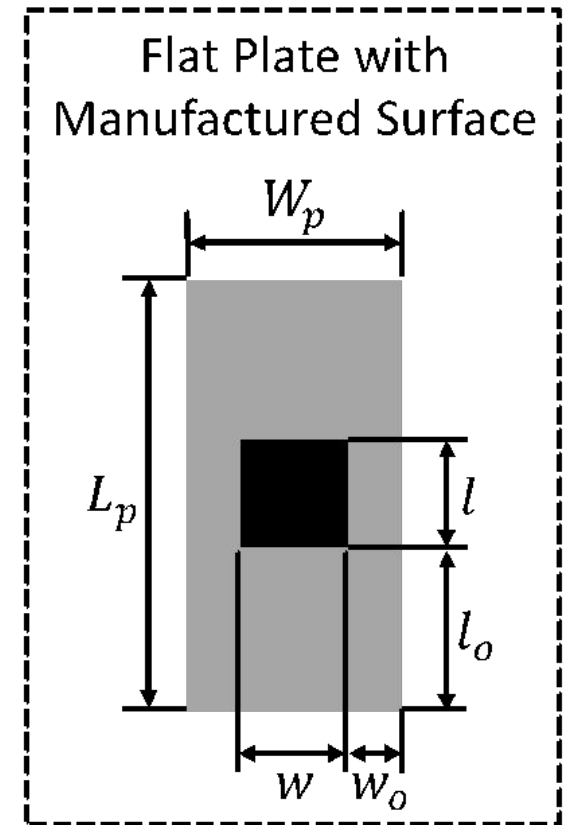
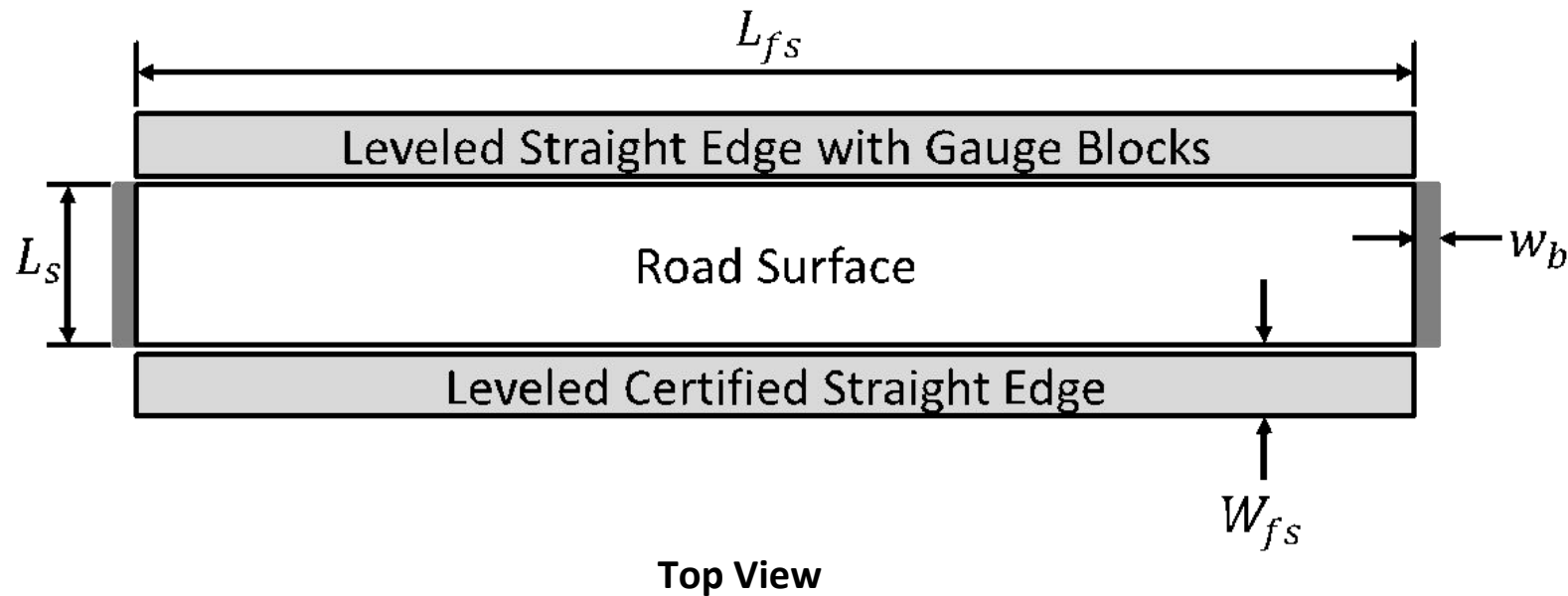
*Section with **reference** measurements is required*



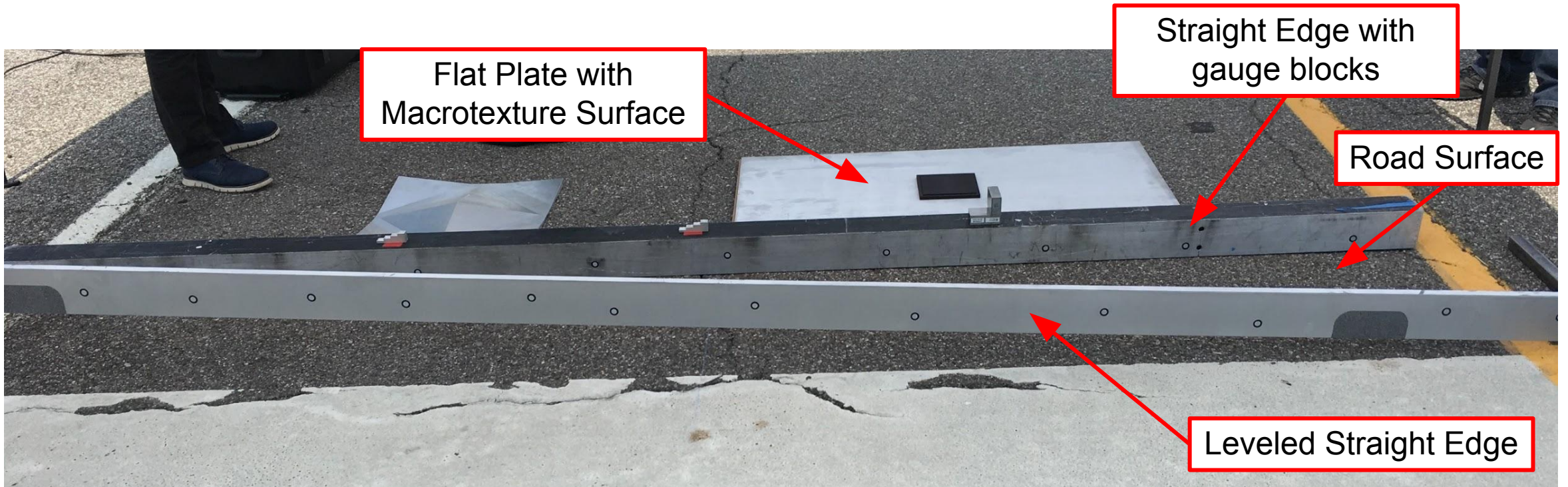
Top View

# Acceptance of GRE Measurements

*Use the proposed TPP certifications as a guide for developing GRE certifications*



# Acceptance of GRE Measurements

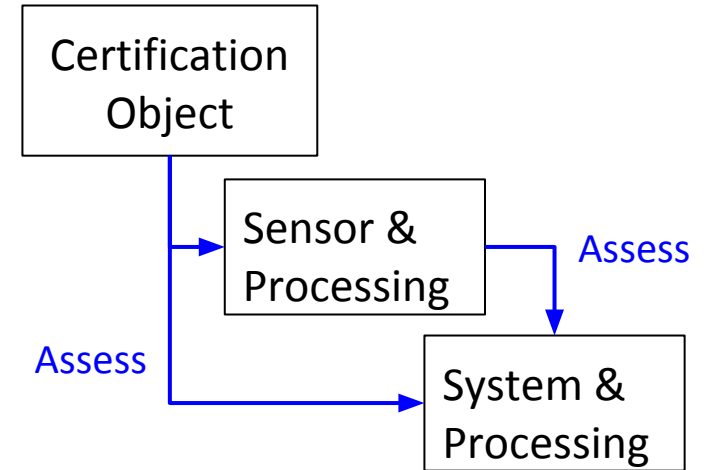




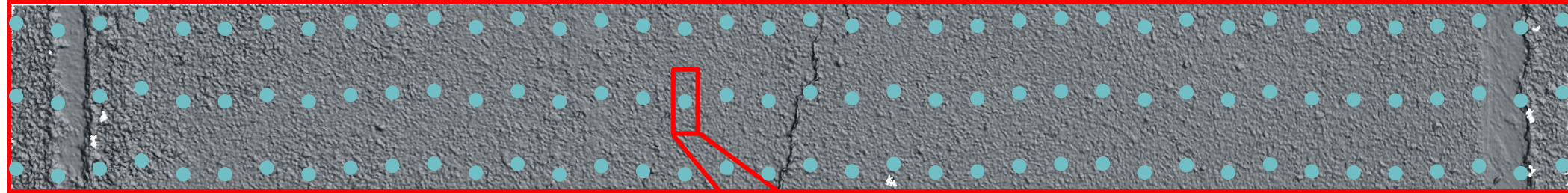
# Acceptance of GRE Measurements



Recall Chain of Traceability:

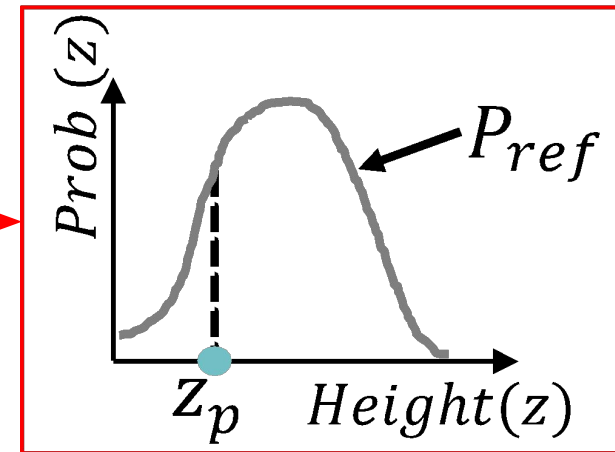
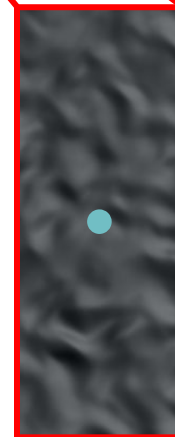


# Ground Reference Test: TPP Measurements



Top View

*Account for uncertainty  
in measurements*





# Precision and accuracy of TPP vs Requirements

## Data Requirements *Requirements Statement (RS)*

Accuracy and Precision					
	Lower Bounds (mm)		Bias	Upper Bounds (mm)	
	90% (5%)	50% (25%)		50% (75%)	90% (95%)
Rut Depth Error	-2.5	-1.0	NA	1.0	2.5
Cross Slope Error (%)	-0.4	-0.15	NA	0.15	0.40
Edge/Curb Transverse Location Error	-50	-25	NA	25	50
Edge/Curb Vertical Magnitude Error	-2.5	-1.5	NA	1.5	2.5

## TPP Capabilities *Capability Statement (CS)*

Accuracy and Precision					
	Lower Bounds (mm)		Bias	Upper Bounds (mm)	
	90% (5%)	50% (25%)		50% (75%)	90% (95%)
Transverse Measurement Error					
Vertical Measurement Error					
Transverse Measurement Resolution					
Vertical Measurement Resolution					
Transverse Width					
:					

# Summary

- Tests for Transverse Pavement Profiler (TPP)
- Overview of Ground Reference Equipment
- Assessment of TPP Capabilities with respect to Requirements

Thank you