



# Falling Weight Deflectometer on Concrete Pavements - current situation and perspective

Dipl.-Ing. Stefan Höller  
Federal Highway Research Institute (BAST)

EUPAVE Best Practices Workshop

"Non-Destructive Auscultation and Monitoring Techniques for Concrete Pavements"

22.05.2024 in Brussels

- 
1. History of bearing capacity measurements
  2. The Falling Weight Deflectometer
    - Functionality
    - Data evaluation
  3. Examples of trial sides in Germany
  4. Outlook

## 1. History of bearing capacity measurements

## 2. The Falling Weight Deflectometer

- Functionality
- Data evaluation

## 3. Examples of trial sides in Germany

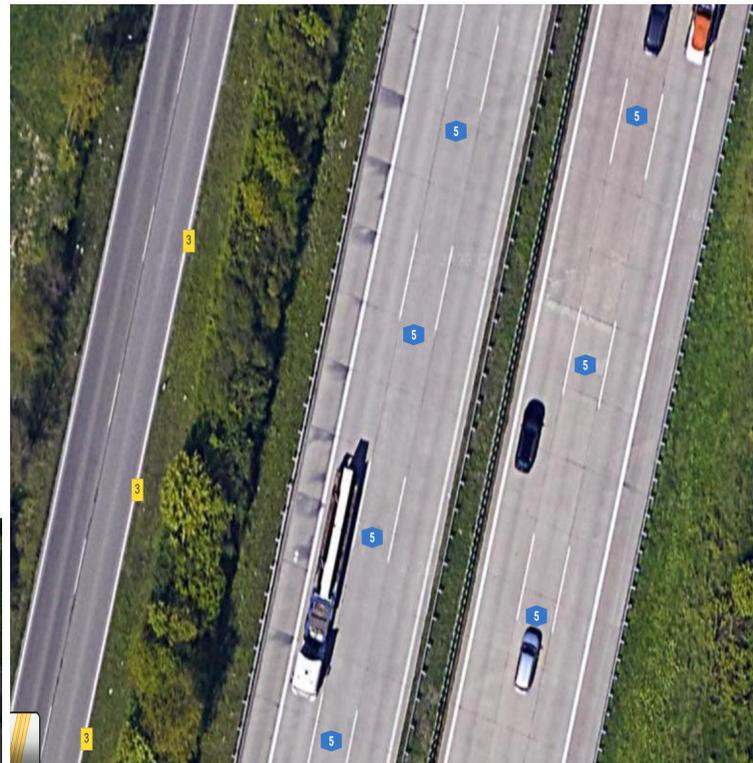
## 4. Outlook

## Damages to the structures of concrete pavements: here some examples from the application of Jointed Plain Concrete

Water leakage



Erosions  
(here: Bitumen from interlayer)



Longitudinal Crack



## Damages to infrastructure due to heavy rain events, current example A61, flooding in the Ahr valley

Autobahn  
destroyed



And here?  
First no visible  
Damage



## Possible maintenance measures for concrete pavement

Stabilising  
of slabs



stitching  
of cracks



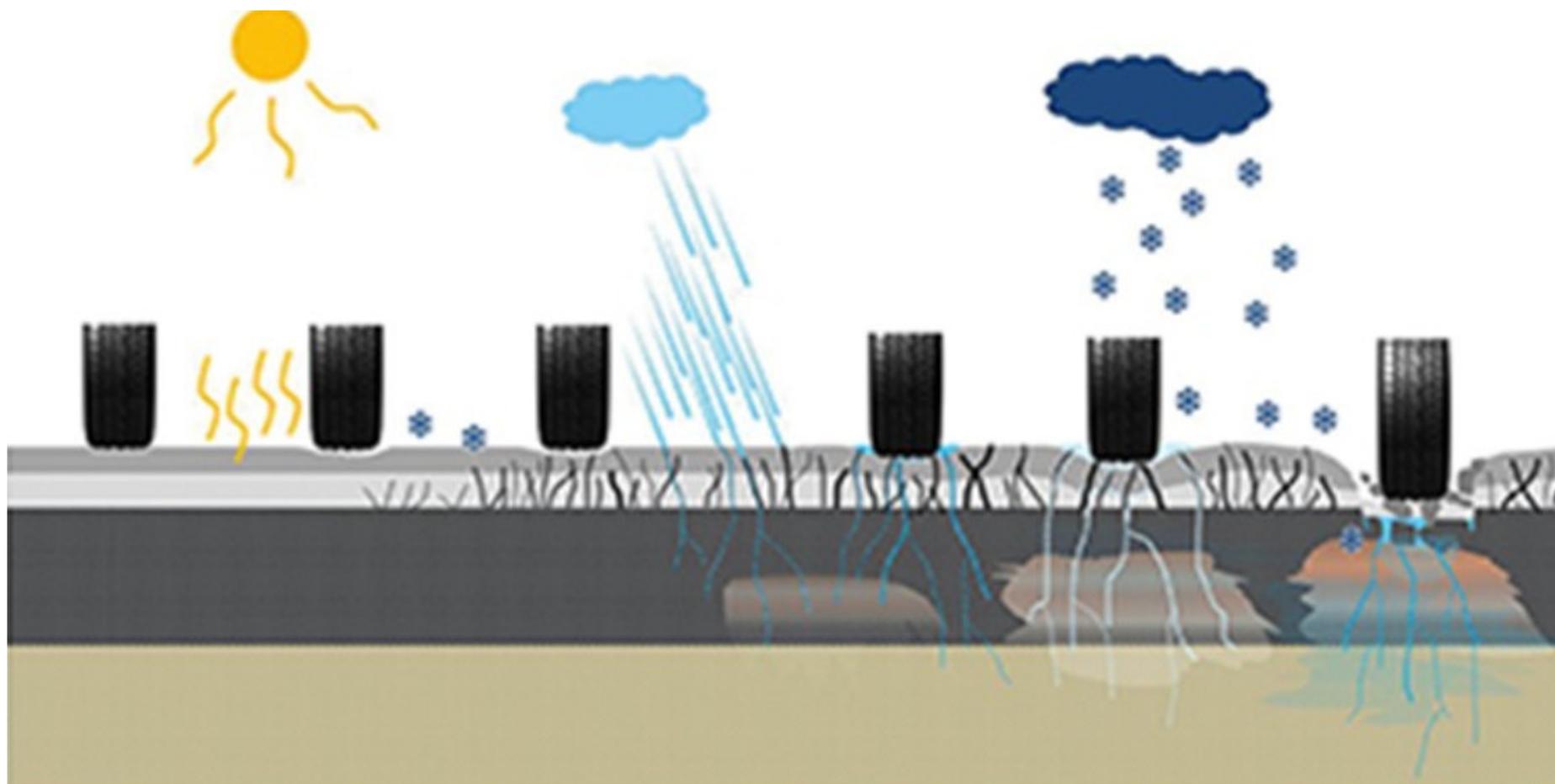
Replacement  
of single slabs



Complete  
reconstruction



## What phase are we in?



## Destructive investigations: Here an example of taking samples (drill cores)



### Advantages:

- Accurate information about the road construction and the current performance (adhesion, cavities, erosions)

### Disadvantages:

- High effort
- Traffic restrictions
- Selective statements

## Benkelman Beam / Modified Benkelman Beam



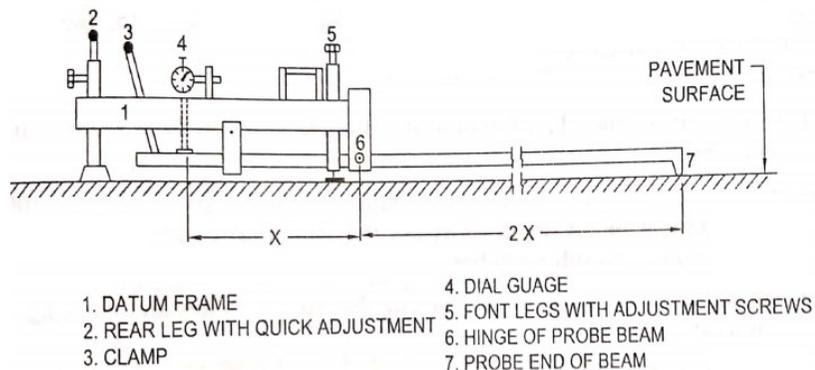
developed in 1952

advantages:

- Easy to handle

disadvantages:

- Measurement is time-consuming
- Truck axle as a load is not precisely defined
- Individual measurements
- output selective values
- Traffic restrictions required



**Fig. 10.11 Benkelman beam**

## Lacroix / Curviametro



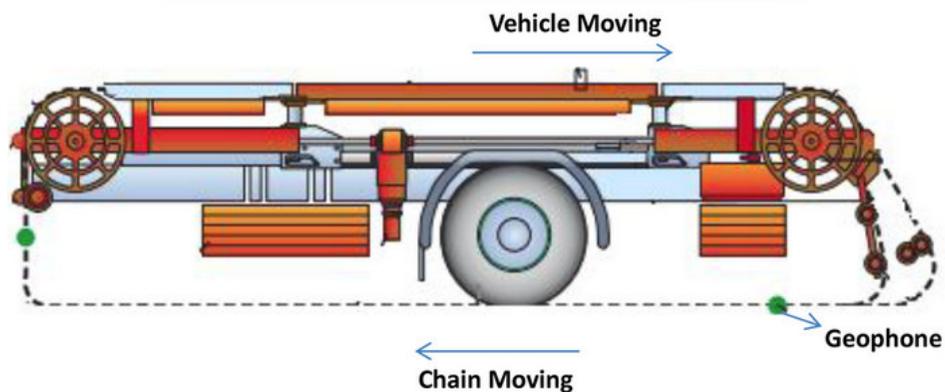
Developed in 1964

advantages:

- Low cost monitoring
- Fewer traffic restrictions
- required

disadvantages:

- Distribution of the device is limited



1. History of bearing capacity measurements

2. The Falling Weight Deflectometer

- Functionality
- Data evaluation

3. Examples of trial sides in Germany

4. Outlook

## Falling Weight Deflecometer



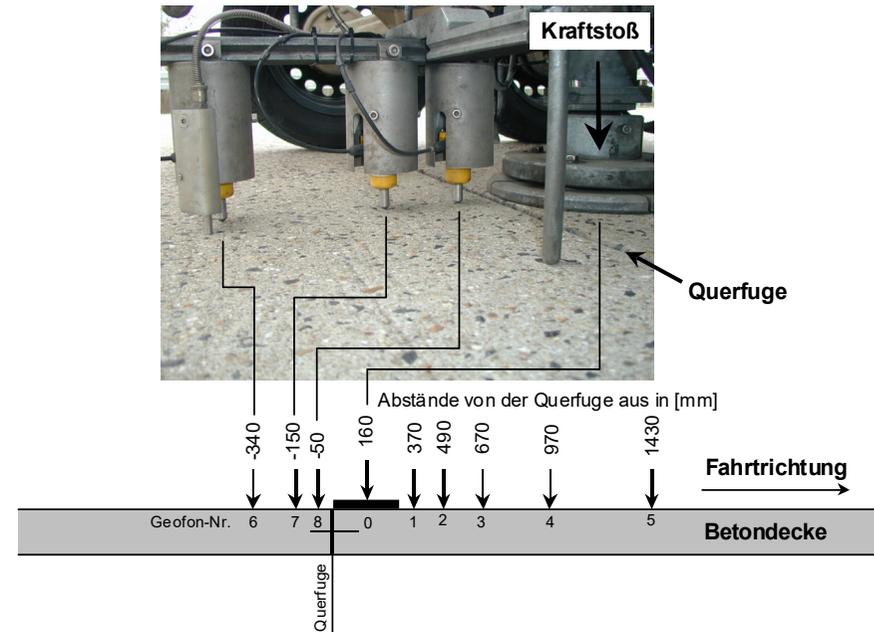
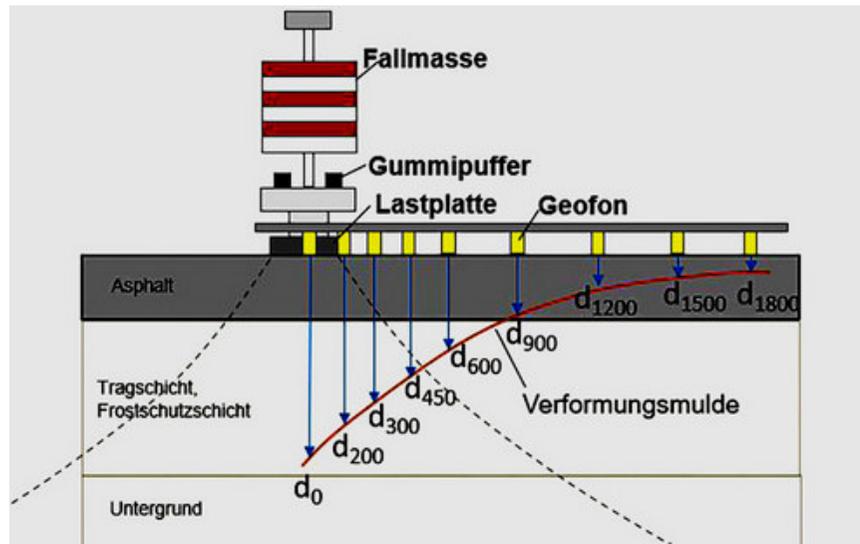
Developed in 1964

advantages:

- distribution of the device is high
- Easy to handle
- Load-plate is precisely defined

Disadvantages:

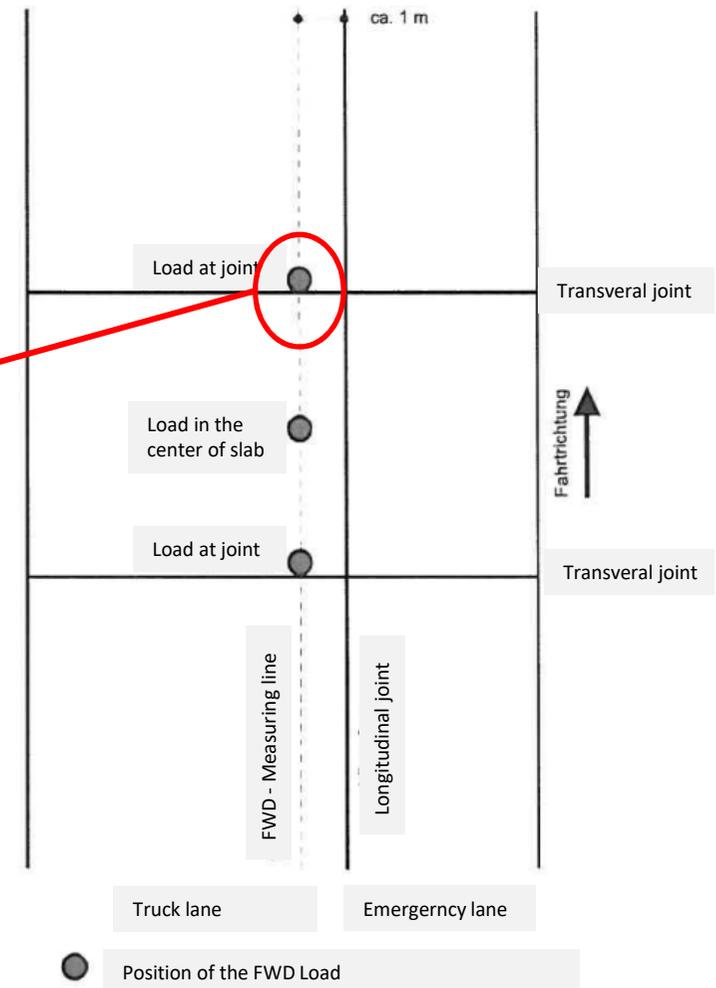
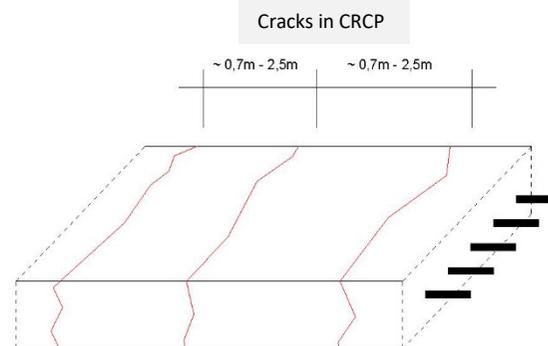
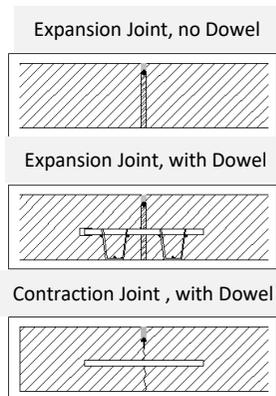
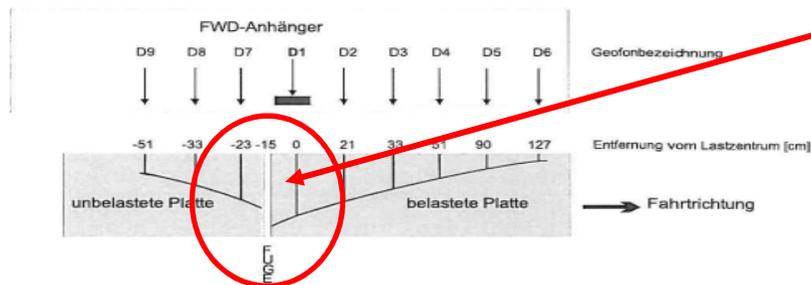
- Traffic restrictions required



## Falling Weight Deflectometer

### - Boundary conditions for the measurements on concrete pavement

- Force impact 30 – 300 kN (50 kN)
- Diameter of the load plate 300 mm
- Duration of the force impulse 25 – 30 ms
- Temperature range from + 5°C to + 30 °C
- No frost in the subsoil/substructure



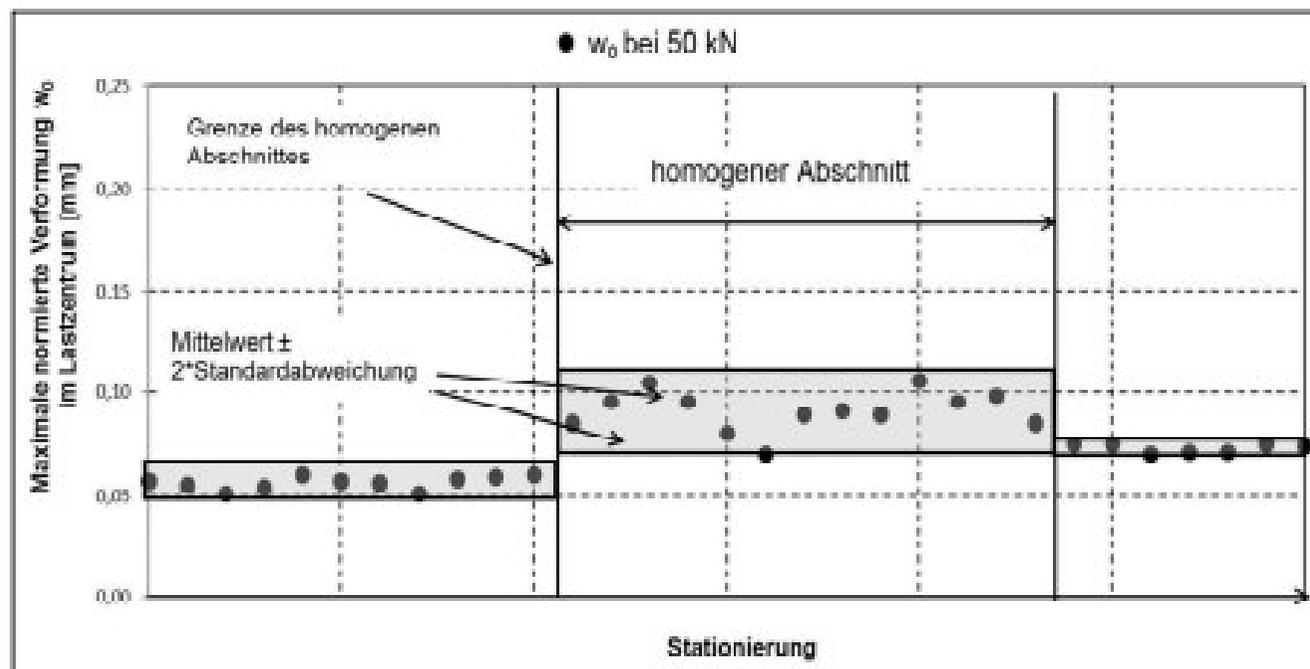
## Evaluation of the FWD raw data

- Maximum measured deflection
- Relative vertical joint movement
- Effectiveness index
- Standard deviations of the maximum measured deformation
- Standard deviations of relative joint movement
- Regression parameters or fictitious deformation
- Equivalent deformation modulus
- Bearing capacity ratio

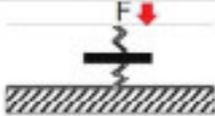
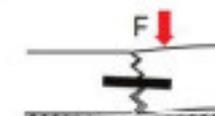


## the next steps in planning maintenance measures:

### Identification of homogeneous sections

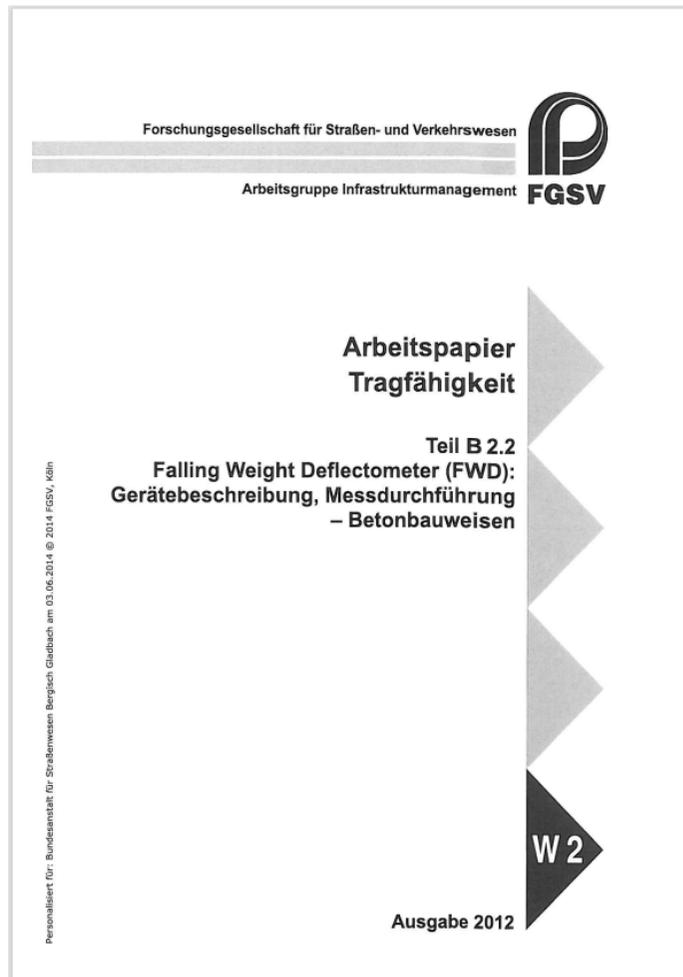


## the next steps in planning maintenance measures: Dividing of the homogeneous sections into categories

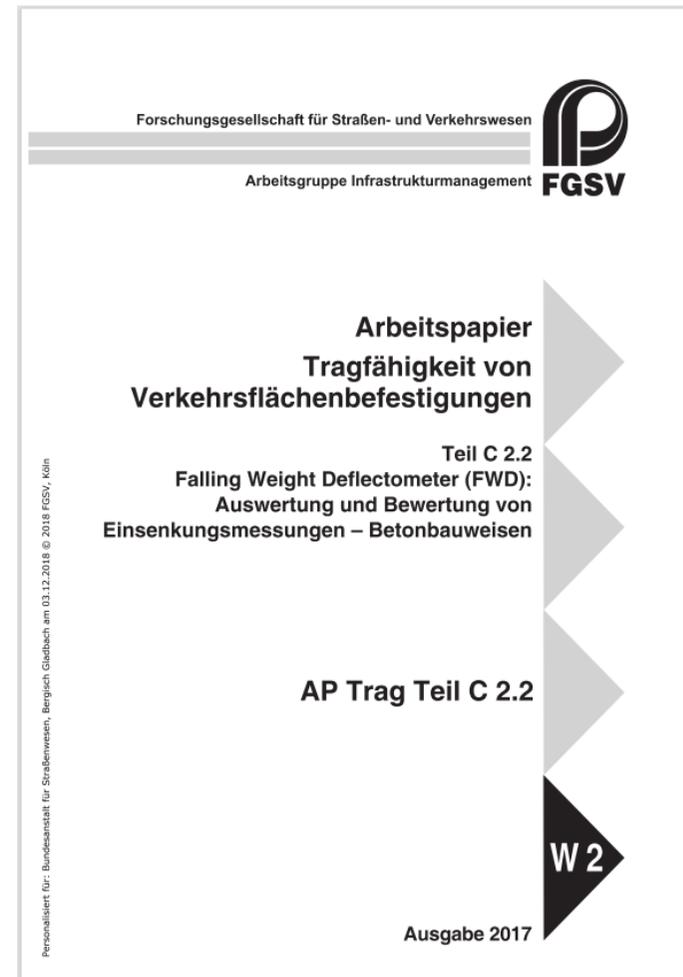
Kategorie	Regressions-Parameter	System	F/w <sub>0</sub> Diagramm	Erläuterung
I	$a \leq 0,00175$ $b \leq 0,015\text{mm}$ $b \geq 0,010\text{mm}$			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flach verlaufende Reg.- Gerade; die linear extrapolierte Gerade schneidet oder tangiert den Ursprung.</li> <li>- Neubau; neuwertige Konstruktion; Konstruktion nach anlagentechnischer Unterpressung</li> </ul>
II	$a \leq 0,00175$ $b < -0,010\text{mm}$			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flach verlaufende Reg.- Gerade; die linear extrapolierte Gerade schneidet oder tangiert den Ursprung.</li> <li>- Bereits ein geringer Kraftimpuls erzielt eine vergleichsweise hohe Einsenkung; bei weiterer Laststeigerung wird jedoch der Endzustand schnell erreicht.</li> <li>- Beginnende Verschlechterung der Auflagerverhältnisse.</li> </ul>
III	$a > 0,00175$ $b \leq 0,015\text{mm}$ $b \geq -0,010\text{mm}$			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steil verlaufende Reg.- Gerade; die linear extrapolierte Gerade schneidet oder tangiert den Ursprung.</li> <li>- Selbst bei max. Kraftimpuls wird der Endzustand nicht erreicht. Gestörte Auflagerverhältnisse bei noch vorhandener Querkraftübertragung. i. d. R. keine Schädigung erkennbar</li> </ul>
IV	$a > 0,00175$ $b \geq 0,015\text{mm}$			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steil verlaufende Reg.- Gerade; die linear extrapolierte Gerade schneidet oder tangiert den Ursprung</li> <li>- Bereits ein geringer Kraftimpuls erzielt eine hohe Einsenkung. Endzustand wird nicht erreicht.</li> <li>- Gestörte Auflagerverhältnisse bei reduzierter Querkraftübertragung.</li> </ul>
V	$a > 0,00175$ $b < -0,010\text{mm}$			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steil verlaufende Reg.- Gerade; die linear extrapolierte Gerade schneidet die y-Achse im negativen Bereich</li> <li>- Bei geringem Kraftimpuls noch gute Querkraftübertragung.</li> <li>- Bei Laststeigerung nehmen die Einsenkungen stark zu.</li> <li>- Endzustand wird nicht erreicht. Vermutlich ausgeprägte Hohlstelle bei geringer Querkraftübertragung.</li> </ul>

## FGSV Manuals on FWD

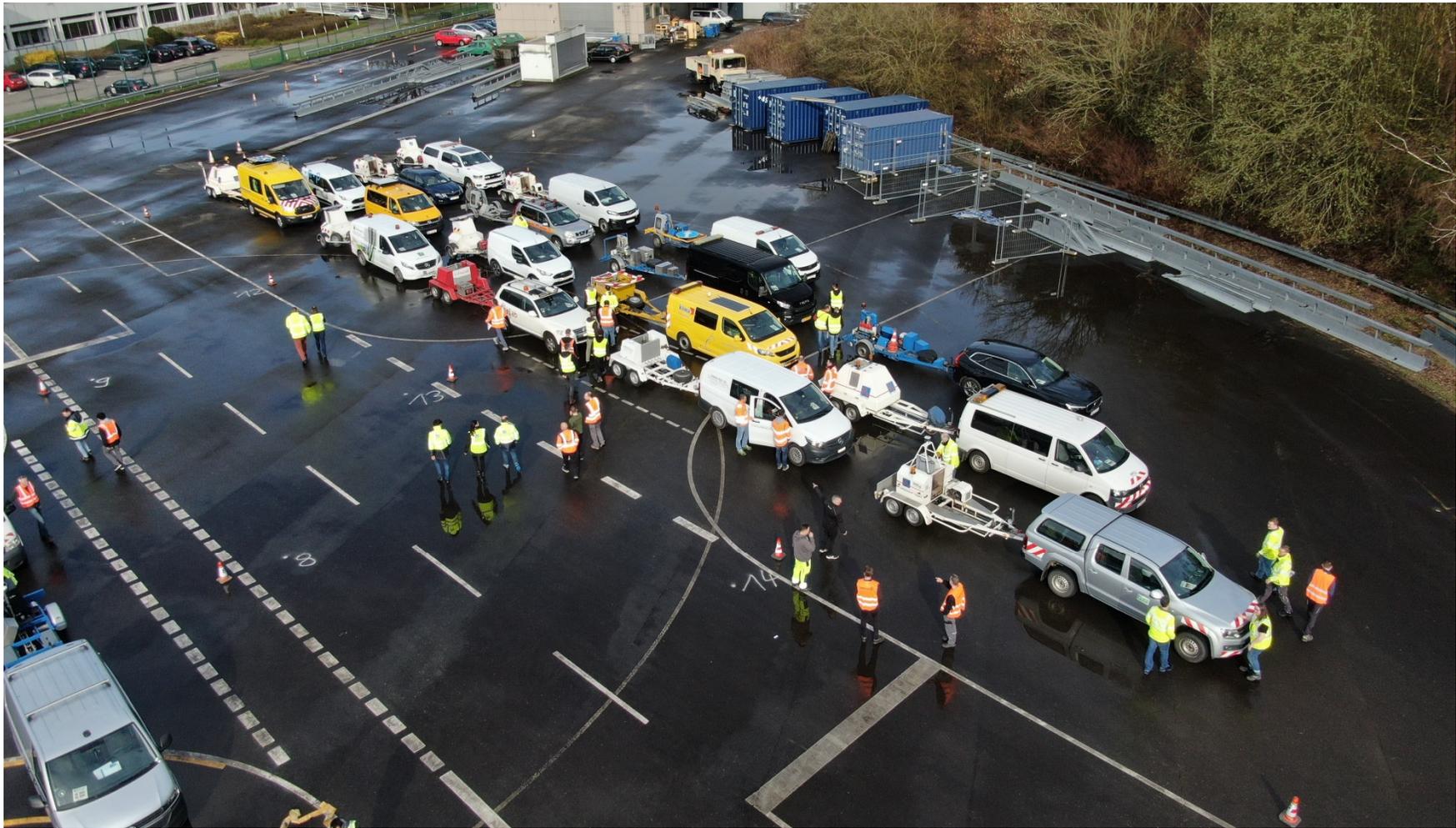
How to measure?



How to evaluated?



## Annual comparative measurement of FWD in Europe at BAST (here: April 2024)



To analyze the overall performance of the concrete pavement additional measurements will be needed, for example:

Position of the dowel bars



Georadar



Eveness  
(longitudinal and transverse)



1. History of bearing capacity measurements

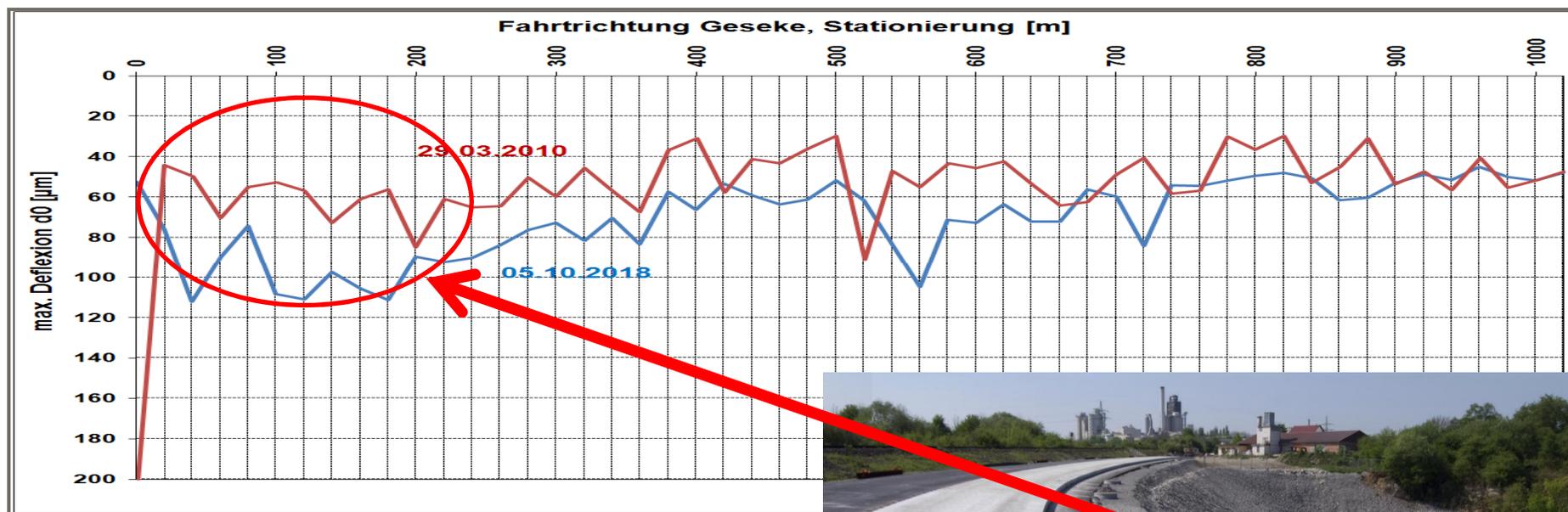
2. The Falling Weight Deflectometer

- Functionality
- Data evaluation

3. Examples of trial sides in Germany

4. Outlook

## CRCP, Access road near Geseke – after 11 years of service (with heavy trucks)

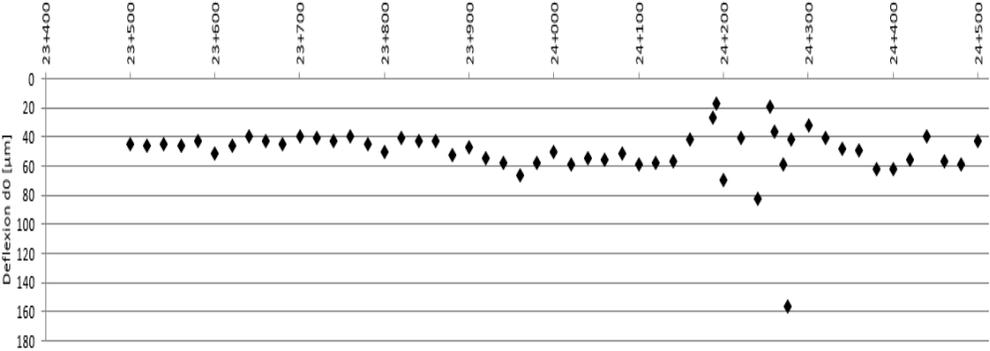


newly filled  
 embankment

# CRCP, E 313 Grobbendonk

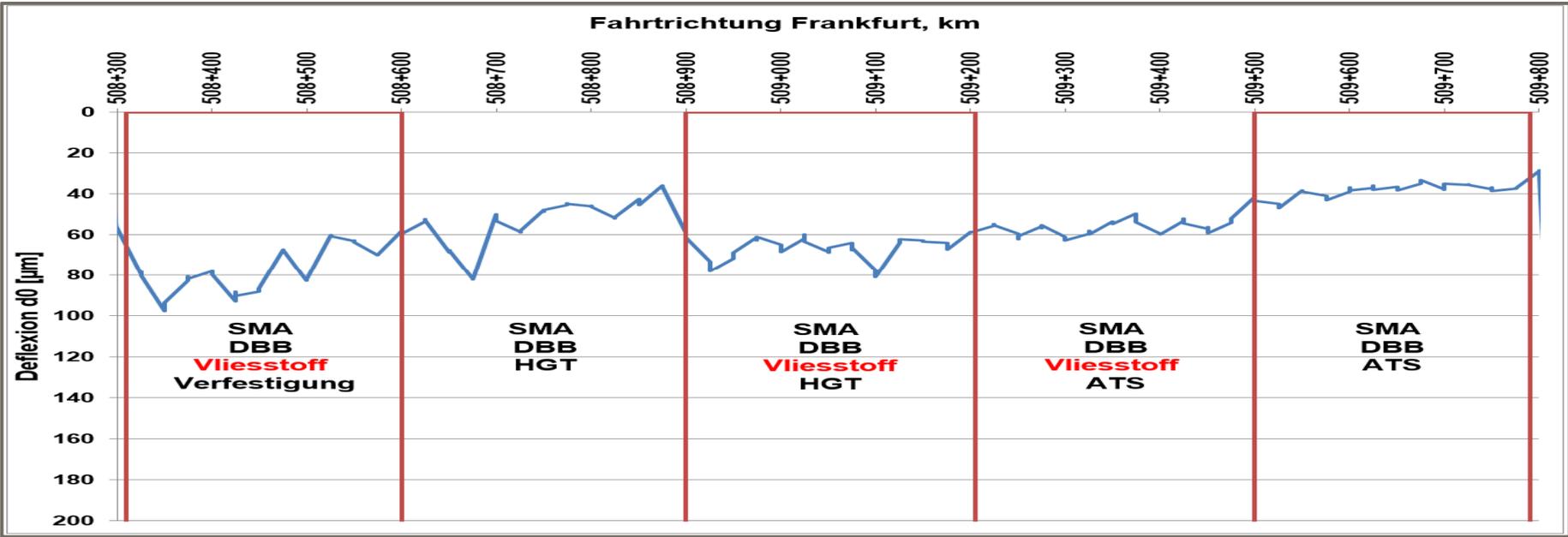
Small water leakage at the longitudinal joint  
 after 8 years of service

FWD Results in the load center

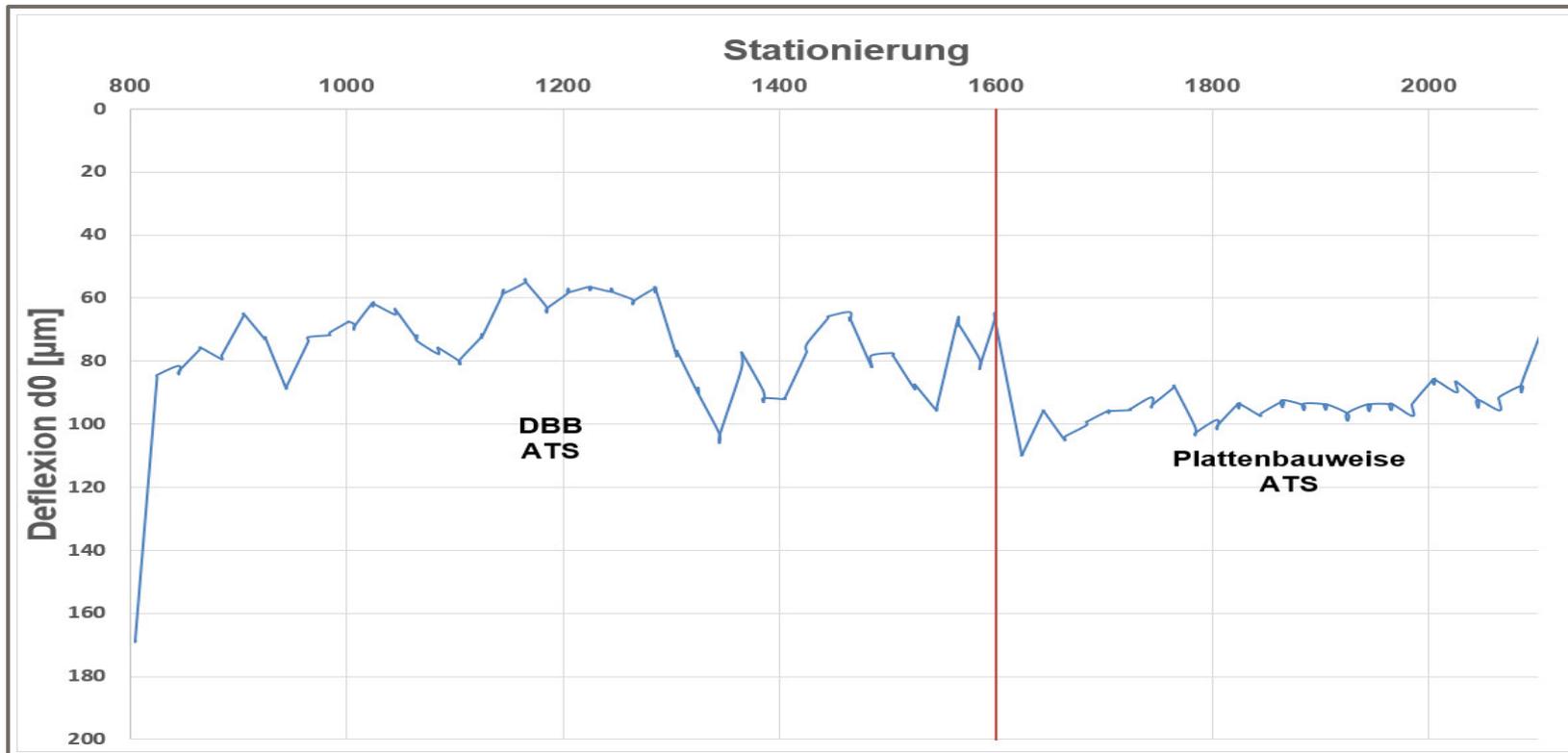


# CRCP on Autobahn A5 near Darmstadt

FWD results after 15 years in service with heavy traffic

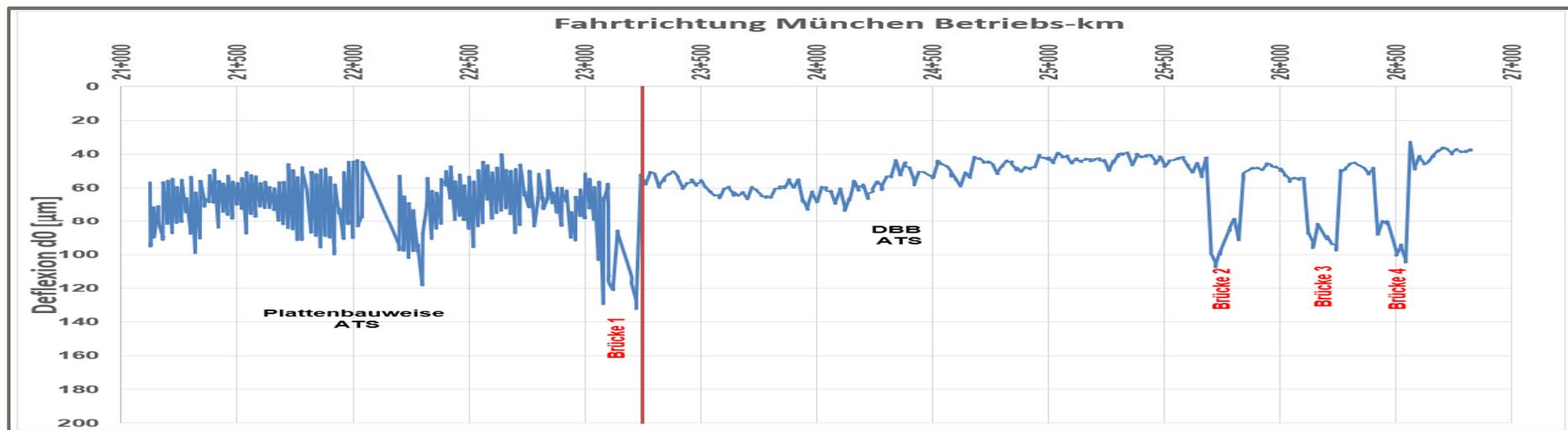


## FWD – Results after 22 years in service



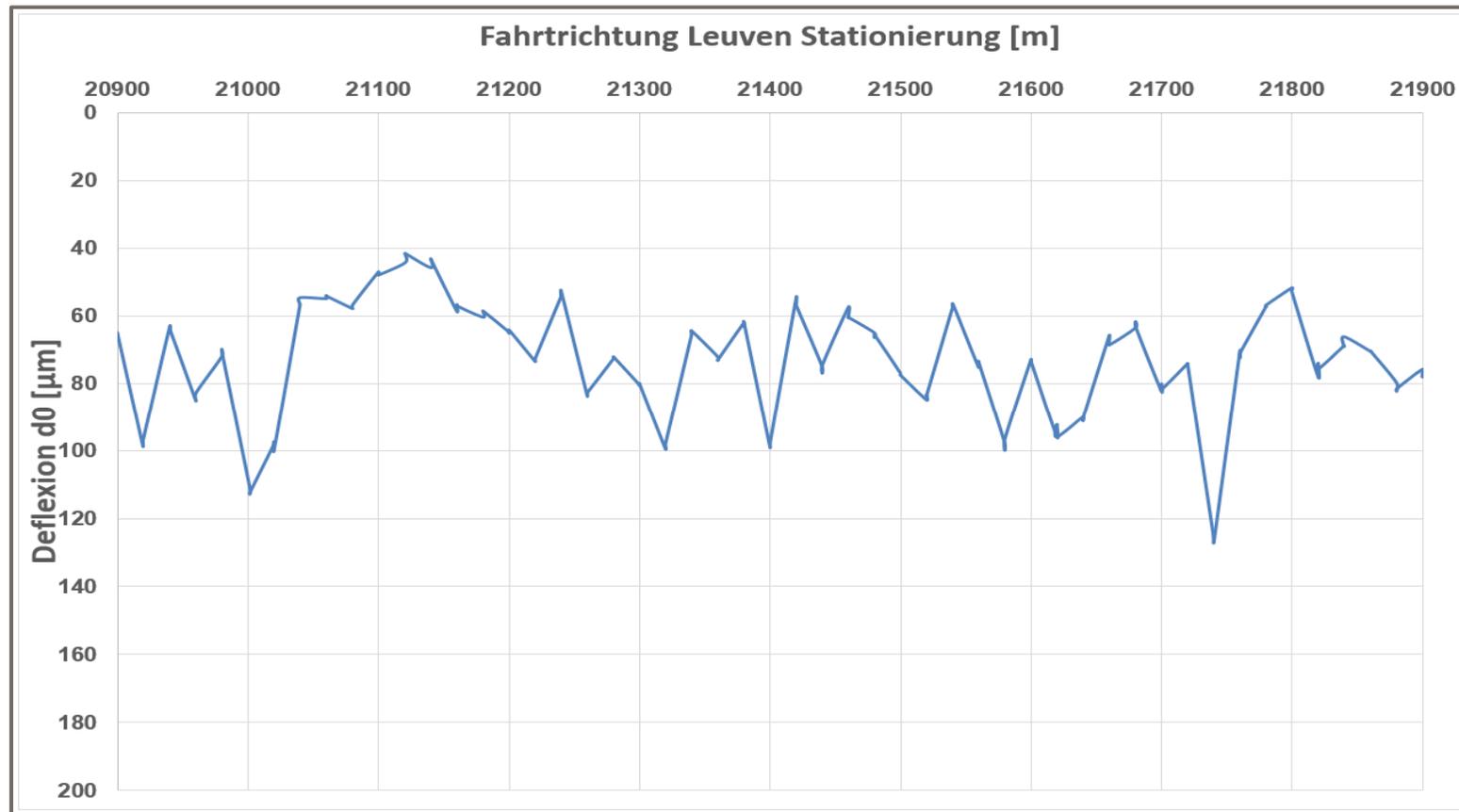
## CRCP, JPC and Asphalt on bridges on Autobahn A94 near Forstinning

FWD results after 8 years in service



## CRCP on E40 near Leuven

FWD results after 48 years in service with heavy traffic



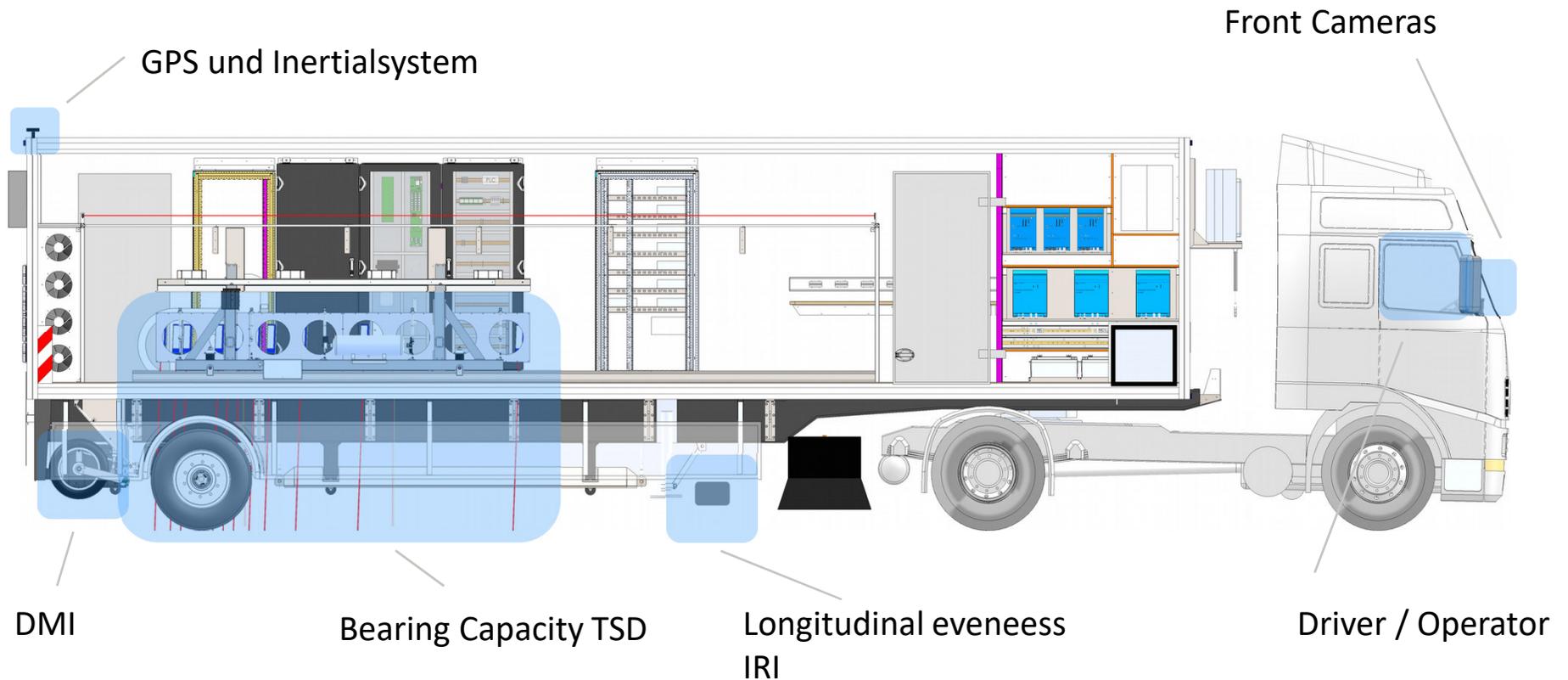
- 
1. History of bearing capacity measurements
  2. The Falling Weight Deflectometer
    - Functionality
    - Data evaluation
  3. Examples of trial sides in Germany
  4. Outlook

---

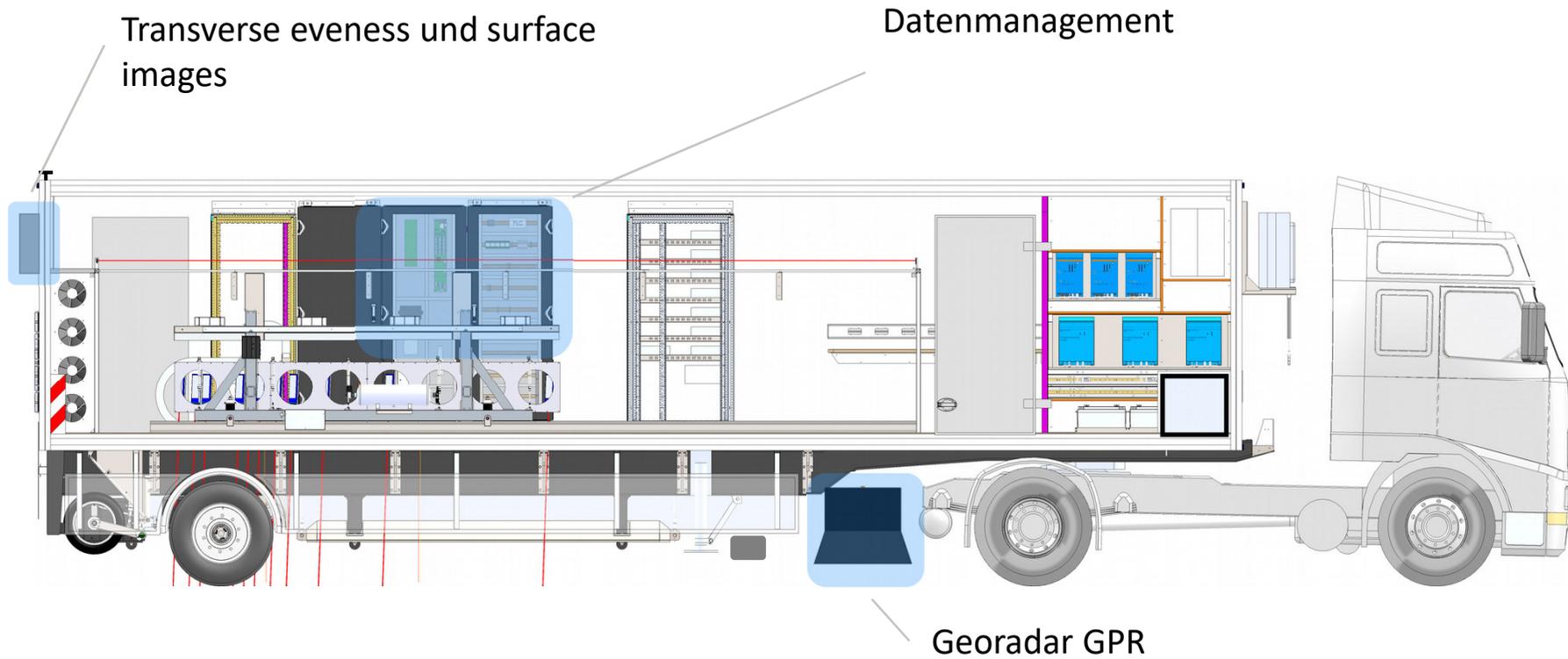
## Multifunctional assessment tool for the structural evaluation and the design of pavements (MESAS)



# Multifunctional assessment tool for the structural evaluation and the design of pavements (MESAS)



## Multifunctional assessment tool for the structural evaluation and the design of pavements (MESAS)



**Thank You**  
**for Your**  
**Kind**  
**Attention!**

