

Abutment Backfill Process:

The base of the excavation subgrade behind the abutment shall be graded with a 4% slope away from the abutment footing and a 2% cross slope towards the subdrain outlet. This grading should be completed before the installation of the geotextile and backfill material.

Once the subgrade is shaped, the geotextile fabric shall be installed according to the details shown. The fabric is to be placed at the base of the excavation and extended vertically up the abutment backwall, wing walls, and excavation face, reaching a height approximately 1 to 2 feet higher than the porous backfill, as shown in the "Backfill Details" on this sheet. The fabric strips should overlap by about 1 foot and be pinned in place. The fabric should be attached to the abutment using lath folded into the fabric and secured with shallow concrete nails. The fabric against the excavation face must also be pinned.

After the fabric is installed, the subdrain shall be placed directly on it at the toe of the rear excavation slope. A slot should be cut in the fabric where the subdrain exits near the end of the abutment wing wall.

Porous backfill shall be placed and leveled without compaction.

Next, floodable backfill shall be used, followed by surface flooding and vibratory compaction. The floodable backfill material must conform to the Standard Specifications. It should be placed in lifts, surface flooded, and compacted with vibratory compaction to ensure full consolidation, with a maximum loose lift thickness of 2 feet.

Surface flooding for each lift should start at the high point of the subdrain and proceed to the low point where the subdrain exits the fabric. Water should be applied through a 2-inch diameter hose, sprayed in 6-foot to 8-foot increments for 3 minutes per increment to ensure uniform flooding.

The placement of floodable backfill, flooding, and compaction should continue until the full thickness of the abutment backfill is completed.

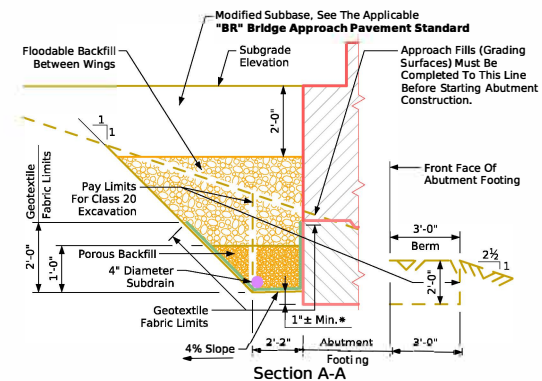
Water used for flooding, subdrains, porous backfill, floodable backfill, and geotextile fabric at the bridge abutments will not be measured separately for payment. The cost of this water shall be included in the contract unit price bid for "Structural Concrete (Bridge)".

Note:

Subdrain shall slope downward 2% from centerline approach roadway when outletting both sides of the abutment.

Subdrain shall slope downward 2% from high end when outletting at one end of the abutment.

The geotextile fabric shall be in accordance with **Article 4196.01, B, 6 of the Standard Specifications**. If the engineering fabric is lapped the laps shall be a minimum of one foot in length, shingle fashion with up slope lap piece on top and stapled for continuity.



Backfill Details

Note: Geotextile fabric shall be attached to the face of the abutment footing and wings.

* Dimension varies due to the 2% subdrain slope.

"W" Dimension	
Skew	Dimension
15 Degree	2'-2 1/4"
30 Degree	2'-6"
45 Degree	3'-0 1/4"

Note: For additional details not shown on this sheet, see **Subdrain Details** on Sheet **J40-53-25**.

Latest Revision Date Approved by Bridge Engineer	IOWA DOT Standard Design-40'-0" Roadway, 3 Span Bridge Continuous Concrete Slab Bridge July, 2025	
	Backfill Details - 15°, 30°, 45° Skew Abutments	
	J40-56-25	