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# **Scour – A FHWA Perspective**

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## **Abstract**

Recognizing opportunities to improve the FHWA's scour program, the agency adopted a common vision, and implementation, of a forward-thinking Next Generation Scour Program (NextScour). The NextScour program is an initiative with the goal to improve the estimation of erosion and waterway instabilities (scour) that affect highway assets, including bridges, culverts, and embankments. The primary focus of the initiative is on bridge scour. Scour describes the forces imposed by water (loads), causing the erosion of soil at bridge foundations and their geotechnical effects (resistance). Within the NextScour initiative, the FHWA seeks to strike a balance of continuing the support of our current scour analysis while also recognizing the need to advance the state of practice for scour analysis through research. NextScour's goal is also to meet the FHWA's strategic plan goals for safe, economical and innovative bridge foundation design. NextScour will accomplish this through adopting programmatic direction, research, technical guidance and deployment of new innovative scour analysis approaches that accounts for hydraulic and geotechnical components.