



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**BUREAU OF ENGINEERING**  
SUITE 700, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING  
505 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402  
(615) 741-0791

**JOHN C. SCHROER**  
COMMISSIONER

**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

TO: Charles Rychen  
Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations

FROM: Jim Moore  
Director of Program Development and Administration

**SUBJECT: Proprietary Item Request and Justification**

State Project No. 94LPLM-F3-080 / Contract No. 110314 / PIN No. 114960.00

The Program Development and Administration Office requests approval to utilize the following proprietary item in the subject project:

Simpson Strong-Tie ZMAX Deck Tension Ties - Model No. DTT2Z-SDS2.5

**Project Description**

The City of Spring Hill is proposing to construct the Tanyard Springs Walking Trail (State Project No. 94LPLM-F3-080, Contract No. 110314, PIN No. 114960.00) which is a 230 linear foot pedestrian bridge to connect existing sidewalk to a Safe Route to School project completed by the City of Thompsons Station. The bridge will be constructed from pressure treated wood. The bridge spans across a drainage path, and the walkway will be elevated with posts and concrete footers. The walkway will also be constructed with a handrail on both sides. The handrails of the bridge will be connected to the structure using the deck tension ties listed above. Attached is a letter from the manufacturer stating the materials used to make the connectors comply with Buy American Act.

**Justification**

The use of the Simpson Strong-Tie connector is essential because no equally suitable alternative exists. The structural calculations/design are based on the load capacities of this specific component. The component provides the necessary design loadings to fit within the width and height requirements established by the site layout. Only one other manufacturer was found to produce a similar connector; however, the structural capacity of it does not meet the structural design requirements.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dan Allen, P.E., Spring Hill Assistant City Administrator & Infrastructure Director at (931) 489-6678 or by email [dallen@springhilltn.org](mailto:dallen@springhilltn.org).

I, Jim Moore, Program Development Division and Administration Director, of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, do hereby certify that in accordance with the requirements of 23 CFR 635.411(a) (2) that no equally suitable alternative exists for this patented or proprietary item.

*Jim Moore*

Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations

*6/29/15*

Date

*John J. [Signature]*, Director, Traffic Operations Division  
Recommended for Approval



\*REVISED  
PROPRIETARY  
MATERIALS  
REQUEST  
REVIEWED AND  
APPROVED FOR  
JIM MOORE'S  
INITIALS

HER HANSEN  
6/11/15

June 9, 2015

Ms. Whitney Sullivan  
Transportation Manager  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Local Programs Development Office  
505 Deaderick St., Ste 600 James K. Polk Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0341

**RE: PIN No. 114960.00 Tanyard Springs Walking Trail  
Proprietary Material Approval for Simpson Strong-Tie Connector**

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

In an effort to provide a safer route for children to commute to school, the City of Spring Hill continues to install safer pedestrian infrastructure.

One such project is the Tanyard Springs Walking Trail, which connects a subdivision in Spring Hill to a Safe Routes to School Project completed by Thompson's Station. The proposed walkway is to be an elevated wooden structure over an existing drainage path. The use of the Simpson Strong-Tie Deck Tension Tie connector is essential because no equally suitable alternative exists. The structural calculations/design are based on the load capacities of this specific component to fit within the width and height requirements established by the site layout. Only one other manufacturer was found to produce a similar connector; however, the structural capacity of it does not meet the structural design requirements.

In consideration of the statements presented above, the City of Spring Hill requests that the Simpson Strong-Tie Deck Tension Tie connector be allowed for use on this project.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please give me a call at (931) 489-6678 or via email at [dallen@springhilltn.org](mailto:dallen@springhilltn.org)

Sincerely,

Daniel Allen, PE  
Assistant City Administrator & Infrastructure Director