

## Vita

Matius Andy Widjaja received his master's degree in structural engineering from Virginia Tech in June 2003. He was born on August 2, 1978 in Jakarta, Indonesia. His father, Jahja Widjaja, worked for a construction company for approximately ten years, and now owns his own construction company in Jakarta. His father took him to many construction sites when he was still a little boy. The tours around his father's construction projects made him interested in becoming a civil engineer.

In school, his favorite subject was mathematics. From the 9<sup>th</sup> grade until the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Matius participated in nine mathematics tournaments for high school students in Jakarta, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place or better in six of them, and finished 1<sup>st</sup> place in three of them.

After graduating from high school, Matius left Indonesia and came to the United States in August 1996 to study at the University of Wisconsin. As an undergraduate in civil engineering, he concentrated in construction engineering and management. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in August 2000, and decided to go to another university because Wisconsin winters were too harsh for him.

Therefore in August 2000 Matius moved to Blacksburg, Virginia to go to graduate school at Virginia Tech. There he enrolled in the structural engineering program. In September 2001, he started this research study, which was funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

On September 5, 2002, Matius started working full-time for Turner Construction Company, the largest construction company in the country, in its Arlington, Virginia office. He began his career in the estimating department. Then after six months, he was assigned to work as an assistant engineer at one of Turner's current biggest projects, the Dulles International Airport People Mover Station, where he currently works.