

transportation TODAY

Innovation Block Offers Quick Construction Solution

The Stone Strong® precast retaining wall system uses a series of 5,800-lb blocks, each with a 24-sq-ft face. Three-ft tall and 8-ft wide, the innovative hollow design offers a variety of advantages. First, the hollow cavity means less weight per square foot. "That translates into a much faster, easier, and less costly installation process," says John Gran, vice president of Stone Strong Systems of Lincoln, NE.

In addition, the design provides a built-in drainage system that alleviates the potential for water damage or drainage system failure. "This innovative block design is the world's first big block to be fully engineered both structurally and geotechnically," says Gran. The block does not require tiebacks or additional mechanics and can withstand up to 12 ft of dirt, depending on site and soil conditions. With engineering, a Stone Strong wall can go as high as 40 ft.

The block's tapered sides accommodate both straight and winding designs—including convex, concave, and circular options. The Stone Strong system accommodates a variety of transportation applications by offering three sizes of blocks, custom patterns and the ability to match any color. ■



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