



**ATLAS PIERS**  
OF ATLANTA, INC.



## Hospital Renovated

### Helical Piers Allow Project Completion Despite Limited Access

Atlanta, Georgia

COMMERCIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Atlas Piers of Atlanta completed a project for the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The Shepherd Center is a private, non-profit hospital specializing in medical treatment and research for various conditions, including spinal cords and acquired brain injuries.



The lowest level of their parking deck slab, constructed in 2006, was built upon unsuitable and uncompacted material. Choate Construction contracted Atlas Piers of Atlanta to design and build a permanent repair for their issue.

Their initial concept involved a structural slab on grade beams supported by 174 ECP 2-7/8" x 0.276" helical piles with 8"/10"/12" helices. The design was accepted and approved by Mr. Bob Turton, a professional engineer for Oakhurst Geotechnical Services.



In an cooperative effort with Choate Construction, the grade beams were ultimately substituted for concrete capitals. Atlas ended up installing 190 ECP Helical Piers with new construction caps on top, along with 6 additional piles utilizing footing support brackets for a small section of the CMU masonry wall at the electrical room. The piles were installed to an average depth of 28 feet.



The Atlas crew of 4 men completed the installation of all 190 piles in just 7 working days, working eight hours per day. Choate Construction formed and poured the slab immediately afterwards completing the project from demo to pour in 30 days.



The subgrade was riddled with utility banks, GAS, power, and water drains. Access to the work area was difficult with only one way in and out within an operational patient parking deck. Buried rock and debris in some areas also proved to be a challenge. To solve these issues, prior to mobilizing, a utility locate was performed and a contingency plan for moving piles on the fly was developed. The plan was implemented during construction allowing for a quick response to unforeseen conditions. The Atlas team was given “creative control” to move a given pile without permission provided they maintained the minimum and maximum separation. They also predrilled a few pilot holes in areas to penetrate rock/cobble laden soil.

ECP delivered the helical piles straight to the site. The material was moved into the work area and staged in pods of 50 leads and 150 extensions in the predesignated areas.



Atlas Piers of Atlanta installers: Hollis Myers, Gavin Sarver, David Sanchez, Alan Garcia.



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page 3

