

Load Paths

Civil Engineering

Where a load goes, from deck to soil.

Every load needs a continuous route to the foundation.

Gravity path

Load lands on the slab or deck

Slab spans to the beams

Beams frame into columns or walls

Columns carry down to foundations

Foundations spread into the soil

Lateral path

Wind or shaking reaches the cladding

Cladding to the floor diaphragm

Diaphragm to bracing, core or frame

Core carries down to foundations

Soil resists by friction and mass

Educational reference. Every path must be continuous, and each element checked to code by a qualified engineer.