

2015 ACEC/PA Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence

Juniata River Bridge Replacement Project, Juniata County, PA

Category H – Transportation

Executive Summary

A design team led by Erdman Anthony was asked to design a replacement for the four-span truss bridge carrying PA Route 35 over the Juniata River between Mifflin and Mifflintown that was structurally deficient and flood prone. Because the two boroughs function as one community in many ways, socioeconomic considerations were a primary concern, and the community was engaged in project decisions from the outset. Relocating the bridge approximately 1500 feet downstream improved traffic flow through the boroughs and enabled the old bridge to be used during construction, eliminating the need for a detour. A pedestrian bridge constructed at the site of the old bridge maintains an important “Main Street” link for walkers and bicyclists. Additional project features on each side of the new bridge address a variety of social, economic, and functional needs. On the Mifflintown side, a roundabout in front of Tuscarora Middle School and Juniata High School improves bus operations and student safety. On the Mifflin side, a ramp connects the elevated bridge approach to local streets, an underpass provides pedestrian access to Central Juniata Park, and a two-span bridge over Norfolk Southern was replaced under heavy train traffic. In addition, a waterfront ramp in the park area provides river access for fire department and recreational use. The project was delivered ahead of schedule and within budget, and the completed bridges enhance the daily lives of local residents, including their access to the Juniata River view shed, while preserving the overall cohesiveness of this rural community.