

## **Silk Memorial Bridge Project Executive Summary**

The Silk Memorial Bridge project is located in the City of Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. S.R. 0403, Section 008 consisted of replacing the existing 222' - 2 span concrete arch bridge that was originally constructed in 1923 and was considered structurally deficient and need of replacement. The new structure is a 226' - 2 span steel haunched plate girder bridge.

Public perception was a primary consideration since the existing bridge was in a highly visible location in downtown Johnstown. Various elements were included in the design to replicate the historic appearance of the existing bridge (arched girders, open barriers, etc.) and enhance the appearance of the new bridge (simulated stone, concrete stain, decorative lighting). There is heavy pedestrian traffic in the area due to downtown events, including the nearby War Memorial Arena. A pedestrian detour was provided during construction. The new structure was provided with wide sidewalks on both sides to maintain safe pedestrian traffic flow.

The downtown location of the project presented access and utility challenges during construction. Close coordination with the utility companies and careful planning and sequencing of the construction activities adequately addressed the many challenges.

The project was successful on several levels including serving as an excellent example of context sensitive bridge design with all of the architectural elements and incorporated aesthetic treatments, securing a timely permit in this flood-sensitive area, improving sight-distance, and ultimately restoring an important link, both pedestrian and vehicular, in the Johnstown community.