

M-22: Crystal River Bridge Replacement

Context

The new bridge is located in Glen Arbor and spans the Crystal River in Leelanau County. Tourists are attracted to the natural beauty of Glen Arbor and the surrounding area.

Purpose and Description

This project involved removing and replacing the M-22 bridge spanning the Crystal River in Glen Arbor. The structure was in poor condition and was replaced with a bridge structure that included pedestrian walkways on each side.

Public Engagement

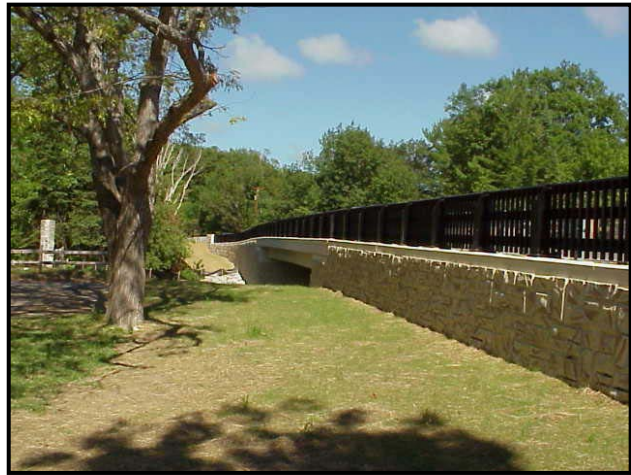
During the planning process, MDOT worked closely with the local community and elected officials to offer and to listen to what aesthetic options for the bridge would best fit their community. An open house was held during the design phase of the project to inform the general public of the upcoming project.

Challenges

The project included partnering with the Leelanau County Road Commission to overlay a detour route on the county road system, allowing MDOT to close the bridge to traffic during the removal and replacement of the bridge. Design considerations also needed to incorporate the removal of a sound wall and landscaping of a historic Griss Mill located immediately adjacent to the bridge structure.

Context Sensitive Solutions Approach

Given the importance of tourism in northwest Michigan and local requests from the community, MDOT worked hard to improve the aesthetics of the structure. A simulated stone pattern was used on the concrete walls and a pedestrian walkway with decorative rail was added on both sides of the bridge. A separate detour was established which allowed MDOT to shorten the duration of the project by allowing full demolition of the bridge.



Outcome

The project started in early spring of 2003 and the end result was an attractive asset to the village of Glen Arbor. The residents in the area appreciated the one on one involvement and input to the project. The new bridge accommodates a non-motorized path and Glen Arbor has taken pride in the bridge.

Funding

The \$2.1 million project is part of North Region's annual Bridge Reconstruction budget.

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