

boulevard of the allies bridge gateway to oakland

Location:	City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, District 11-0
Completion Date:	11.01.08
Construction Cost:	\$19,500,000
MPMS #:	111C031
Contact Information:	William Gibson, PE 412.429.4930
Themes:	Leverage and preserve existing investments; Develop local governments as strong land use partners
Project Overview:	<p>The bridge is part of a main roadway connection between Downtown and Oakland Neighborhood, the City's medical, educational and cultural center. The bridge is also adjacent to two prime redevelopment sites within the City. The goals of the project were to not only upgrade derelict bridges to safe and efficient traffic channels for pedestrians and vehicles but also to create a gateway to the region and the neighborhood.</p> <p>Regular meetings with the Oakland Task Force (OTF), a planning and development group representing local institutions, ensured community consensus with various project issues. The Oakland Transportation Management Association (OTMA) also provided input into project planning and design. Local agencies, such as the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works and the Port Authority of Allegheny County played an important role in coordination and planning for issues such as lighting, drainage and pedestrian access.</p> <p>The Oakland Community Design Assistance Team – Forbes-Allies Bridge (CDAT) was a community initiative formed to provide input to PennDOT on the bridge design. CDAT was made up of representatives from various groups with diverse skill sets to bring to the table. It was comprised of neighborhood leaders, city staff and officials, District engineers, designers. CDAT conducted public design charettes, consulted professional designers and worked cooperatively with PennDOT.</p> <p>A number of enhancements not originally proposed were included in the final design after the community consultations. These include additional sidewalks, more attention to aesthetics and landscaping, smaller-scale lighting, retaining wall treatments and more. The resulting design was a neo-art deco style with unique bridge features such as arched beams, specially designed roadside barriers, earth tone colors, landscaping, articulated retaining walls, architecturally detailed lighting, and eagle emblems on the bridge wing walls framed by pilasters.</p>
Lessons Learned:	Meaningful and early collaboration with the stakeholders resulted in a bridge design that is a landmark and asset to the Oakland community.
Awards:	Pennsylvania Planning Association - 2003 Outstanding Planning Award for a Special Community Initiative to the Oakland Community Design Assistance Team

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