

Location:	City of Pittsburgh, District 11-0
Completion Date:	8.01.10
Construction Cost:	\$47,000,000
MPMS #:	ECMS no. 47881
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Themes:	Build towns not sprawl

Project Overview: This multifaceted project is located at the West End Circle within the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the project is to accommodate existing and forecasted travel demands within the SR 19 corridor, improve safety, enhance the continuity of roadways, improve access to the north shore sports facilities, and attain consistency with the local master plan by providing a direct connection between Saw Mill Run Boulevard and the West End Bridge (SR 19). This direct connection is accomplished by grade separating Saw Mill Run Boulevard, SR 19, from South Main Street and the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

The project includes seven structures, several intersections, a shared use path, railways, and improvements in signage, lighting, pavement markings, and aesthetics. Aesthetic features of the structures, such as wall and abutment facades as well as bridge beam colors, were well coordinated with the public and local community groups.

The integration of a shared use path through the project area was done through close coordination with the local bicycling interest groups. Bituminous pavement was specified for the path to accommodate multiple users (e.g., people on roller blades). Pedestrian and bicycling patterns of the area were also reviewed, and discussed with the community during public involvement activities. Issues such as tying the pedestrian and bicycle routing of the West End Community with Downtown and the river side were considered when determining the final location of sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

The project team worked with the West End community group (West Pittsburgh Partnership) to develop aesthetic features including a retaining wall façade pattern and bridge beam colors. The bridge parapet type (PA Barrier) was also selected by the community. The District also coordinated with representatives of the Pittsburgh Wheelmen, the City of Pittsburgh, and Mount Washington Community.

Lessons Learned: Engage the public early during the design process and determine how to accommodate their desires and then determine the impacts associated with accommodating their desires. Coordinate issues with these folks and have them be part of finding a solution.

west end improvement

