

# gene hartzell memorial bridge over the lehigh river (sr 33)

<b>Location:</b>	Bethlehem and Easton, Northampton County, District 5-0
<b>Completion Date:</b>	1.1.2002
<b>Construction Cost:</b>	\$41,600,000
<b>MPMS #:</b>	55129
<b>Contact Information:</b>	John Krafczyk 610.791.6046   jkrafczyk@state.pa.us
<b>Themes:</b>	Money counts; Develop local governments as strong land use partners
<b>Project Overview:</b>	<p>The project involves extending State Route 33 to the south and connecting it with Interstate Route 78. The extension, which includes an 1,870 ft composite weathering steel truss bridge is expected to create 25,000 jobs, \$300 million in annual income, and \$50 million in tax revenue. The project included innovations in handling structural redundancy, difficult foundation conditions and schedule acceleration. In a competitive environment with concrete alternate bridges, aesthetics were maintained. The truss design is classical and the colors selected compliment the historic river setting.</p> <p>During the Environmental Impact Study, steel and concrete were considered with a 594 foot main span. Early in the design process a single structure was selected to reduce cost and minimize the construction schedule. Design considerations included environmental assets, right-of-way restrictions, scenic waterway designation, Norfolk Southern rails, the Lehigh canal, and the Palmer Township bike path. Several superstructure types were studied and ultimately a truss with weathering steel was specified to minimize painting, reduce costs and provide an aesthetically pleasing appearance.</p>
<b>Lessons Learned:</b>	<p>It is important to involve the community through both the design and construction of a project. The community indicated a desire for the bridge to have an “old time” feel. The truss bridge satisfies this concept by providing a superstructure from another era yet incorporating modern design concepts that provide economy and aesthetics.</p> <p>The public was involved through-out design and construction phases. Pedestrian access was maintained on the bike path throughout construction. An observation platform was constructed in the area of the bike path, which gave the public an excellent vantage point from which to observe the construction and at the same time eliminated a safety problem. The observation platform was well received within the local community.</p> <p>The Department offered guided tours during all phases of construction and were visited by several Elementary Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Boy Scouts and Engineering groups. Bus tours were given to any interested resident, and in one weekend over 1,200 people took a guided tour of the project.</p>
<b>Awards:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AISC 2003 Prize Bridge Competition Major Span Category</li></ul>

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