Graf Road over Little Beaver Creek

Project Description

This project involved the removal and replacement of a badly deteriorated bridge carrying Graf Road over Little Beaver Creek in McHenry County, Illinois. The bridge had deteriorated to the point that a posted weight limit for vehicles was in place and the only viable solution was total bridge replacement. Due to the amount of heavy farm machinery that frequently uses this bridge, it was imperative that the bridge be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. In rural projects such as this, adequate bridge width needs to be available to allow larger farm equipment and passenger vehicles to use the bridge simultaneously.

BLA prepared various bridge alternatives for replacement, including a Three-Sided Precast Concrete Structure alternative. The precast structure not only proved to be much more economical than a conventional bridge, but it also allowed construction to be completed ahead of schedule. The new bridge provides increased lane widths and shoulders so that motorists no longer need to stop and wait for farm equipment to pass over the bridge.

Project Highlights

This project was completed on time and within budgeted cost as a result of the hard work by the McHenry County Division of Transportation and Bollinger, Lach & Associates. The bridge design not only saved the County money, but it significantly reduced the time required for the road closure and for construction.

This was the first time that this type of structure was utilized by the McHenry County Division of Transportation and now provides them an economical and time saving alternative that can be used on future bridge replacement projects.

Client:

McHenry County Division of Transportation

APWA Chicago Metro Chapter
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Winner of APWA Chicago Metro Chapter — Fox Valley Branch
2007 Public Works Project of the Year: Structures
Less than $2 million

Engineering Consultant:

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Bollinger, Lach & Associates, Inc.