

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS

National Project of the Year Award

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

AWARD CATEGORY (Check	One): ☑ Under \$20 Millio	on □ Over \$20 Million	
SPONSORING REGION (Che	eck One):		
Northeast	☐ Great Lakes	□ Northwest	
☐ Mid-Atlantic	☐ North Central	☐ Rocky Mountain	
☐ Southeast	☐ South Central	□ Southwest	
CONTACT INFORMATION	N FOR SUBMITTING RE	GION:	
Contact Name: Scott R. Eshenaur	ASHE Region Pos	ition: Judging Committee Chairperson	
	(Mobile): 717.580.8426	E-Mail Address: sreshenaur@modjeski.com	
PROJECT INFORMATION			
ENTERING AGENCY/COMPANY'S NA			
PROJECT NAME: Dookers Hollow Bridge		TYPE: Bridge Replacement	
PROJECT LOCATION: Bell Avenue, East			
	COUNTY: Allegheny	STATE: PA	
FINAL CONSTRUCTION COST: \$9,966,		NSTRUCTION COST: \$11,947,553	
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: Opened	12/16/2021		
PROJECT ASHE SECTION: Pittsburgh	ASHE SECTION CONTAC	CT NAME: Jason Zang	
PHONE (OFFICE): 412.429.5007			
· · · · · ·			
PROJECT TEAM:			
PROJECT OWNER: Allegheny County			
STREET ADDRESS:542 Forbes Avenue,	COB 509B		
CITY: Pittsburgh	STATE: PA	ZIP: 15219	
CONTACT PERSON: Michael Burdelsky			
	E-MAIL ADDRESS: Michael	ael.burdelsky@alleghenycounty.us	
PROJECT DESIGN FIRM: AECOM Techn	nical Services, Inc.		
STREET ADDRESS: Gulf Tower, 707 Gran			
CITY: Pittsburgh	STATE: PA	ZIP: 15219	
CONTACT PERSON: Lori Rossetti	PHONE: 412.400.8836		
	E-MAIL ADDRESS: lori.ro	E-MAIL ADDRESS: lori.rossetti2@aecom.com	
PRIME CONTRACTOR: Allison Park Con			
STREET ADDRESS: 4383 Gibsonia Road			
CITY: Gibsonia	STATE: PA	ZIP: 15044	
CONTACT PERSON: Ken Greb	PHONE: 412.965.3870		
	E-MAIL ADDRESS: KGre	b@allisonparkcontractors.com	
Entry Form Completed By: Lori Ro	ssetti	Date: 1/27/2023	

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DOOKER'S HOLLOW BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

[AECOM, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, ALLISON PARK CONTRACTORS]

2023 National Project of the Year—ASHE Pittsburgh

Executive Summary

Originally built in 1940, the Dooker's Hollow Bridge functions as an important community connector between Bell Avenue in North Braddock to Center Avenue in East Pittsburgh. The bridge is owned by Allegheny County and was rehabilitated in 1979, 1984 and 2001. The existing bridge was rated poor in recent inspection reports and was posted for a 31-ton weight limit.

In 2010, Allegheny County selected the AECOM team to design the bridge. In preliminary design, AECOM explored both rehabilitation and replacement options. Ultimately the County selected replacement as the most cost-effective solution. An active business and several residences sit on the East Pittsburgh side of the bridge and a church on the North Braddock side. Maintaining access between these locations throughout construction was key to the success of the project. The new bridge is a five-span steel girder bridge with two 12-foot traffic lanes with four-foot shoulders, along with a sidewalk separated by a traffic barrier on the eastbound side. The bridge carries 2500 vehicles per day and spans O'Connell Boulevard 140 feet below the deck surface.

Complexity

The original Dooker's Hollow Bridge was a three-span, 598-foot-long steel deck truss. The five-span replacement structure is both narrower and longer than the original structure. The new super structure is made of four 66-inch-deep welded steel plate girders while the existing structure was 16 feet, 10 inches deep at each abutment and 60 feet deep at each pier. Due to the significant reduction in superstructure depth, lengthening the new structure to 660 feet from centerline to centerline of abutment bearings was required to catch up with the steep hillside and allow for an economical abutment design.

The original bridge had a cantilever sidewalk on both sides of the bridge, one of which was removed by the County in 2001. The new sidewalk on the eastbound side of the bridge has narrowed the overall bridge width by ten feet compared to the original. Narrowing the bridge allowed for significant cost savings but increased the technical complexity of the design. At the Abutment 1 end of the bridge the approach slab width is flared to match the existing wider approach roadway. The driveway of a local business is located approximately 15 feet, 6 inches from the centerline of the bearing at Abutment 2. This required the deck to be flared to meet the existing roadway width at the beginning of the bridge. The deck overhang in this flared section was greater than that allowed to use the deck rebar tables in BD-601 so a separate custom design check was completed.

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The new five-span steel girder bridge is founded on full depth abutments with H-piles at Abutment 1 and a spread footing at Abutment 2. The different types of foundations required unique designs for each abutment. The four piers are configured as dual columns with a cap with Piers 1 and 4 founded on drilled caissons, Pier 2 founded on a footing with H-Piles and Pier 3 on a spread footing. Pier 2 and Pier 3 provide consecutively fixed support conditions, are both over 120 feet tall, and required a special design to check second order effects due to their height. Multiple software programs were used to design the piers.

The plate girders are made of weathering steel rather than typical painted steel.

New Application of Existing Techniques/Originality/Innovation

The Dooker's Hollow project was constructed as a standard design-bid-build project with Allison Park Contractors, Inc. (APC) awarded the construction contract in April 2020.

The steep site conditions presented several challenges for contractor access. Allegheny County Landslide Susceptibility Mapping indicated ancient landslides throughout the Dooker's Hollow Valley. With this is mind, the hillside was benched, and access roads were added to bring in the required materials and equipment. Due to the unique conditions of the valley, conventional demolition methods were ruled out and the existing bridge was imploded on February 13, 2021, after a two-day delay due to wintry conditions. The contractor placed timber pads on O'Connell Boulevard to protect it and the utilities below from the nearly 500-ton weight of the falling steel structure. A thermal imaging drone provided by Michael Baker was utilized the day of the demolition to verify onlookers were outside of the blast radius and determine where the detonators did not detonate.

Bell Avenue is the main pedestrian route for residents of North Braddock to cross into East Pittsburgh and catch the P68 or P76 bus into downtown Pittsburgh. During its closure pedestrians were left with essentially no way to move between communities. As an innovative solution, the County established a free shuttlebus service to run Monday through Friday during peak commuting hours, serving pedestrians who typically cross the bridge on foot. The shuttle service operated throughout the entire duration of construction.

A temporary driveway constructed behind the business adjacent to Abutment 2 provided access to the business owner throughout construction.

The project was designed to avoid addition of new paved area thereby avoiding the need for stormwater management measures. All road runoff drains to a 66" brick teardrop combined sewer under O'Connell Blvd at the bottom of the valley. No watercourse remains on the surface



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in the valley bottom. Because brick sewers are delicate, AECOM developed a special detail for connection of new storm pipes.

Given limited space in the valley bottom, compost sock sediment traps were specified. Use of stacked socks allow a narrower, steeper embankment to confine ponded water in the trap compared to an earthen sediment trap. Compost sock traps also disperse overflow over a wider width than earthen embankment traps, which helps prevent downstream erosion where there is no defined channel to receive the flow.

Social/Economic Considerations

Coordination was required with multiple entities. In the early design stages, AECOM held two pro-team meetings with representatives from Allegheny County and PennDOT D-11 to determine the direction of the project. A public meeting was held in 2015 with officials from North Braddock, East Pittsburgh, the owners of the business adjacent to the bridge and other members of the community. The team presented the project and listened to the community's concerns. AECOM maintained constant communication with APC, Allegheny County and the Michael Baker International construction inspection team throughout construction to efficiently work through 45 different RFIs and over 90 different shop drawing submittals.

Safety

The Dooker's Hollow Bridge included upgraded sidewalks to meet current ADA requirements along with LED luminaires and poles. The street light pole foundations on the bridge were incorporated into the bridge barrier to maintain ADA requirements between the foundations and the pedestrian fence. The existing cable guide rail was replaced with Type 31-S guide rail with an impact attenuator at the western end of the bridge. AECOM worked with Allegheny County, PennDOT and Gumpher, Inc. at the northeast corner to accommodate access at this location while keeping safety and mobility in mind when entering and exiting the business.

Aesthetics and Sustainable Features

Allegheny County designated Bell Avenue as a possible future bike route as part of its "Active Allegheny" plan. The deck width accommodates future striping of a five-foot bike lane on both sides and a fence was added on the non-sidewalk side to protect future cyclists.

Several design choices will minimize future maintenance. Weathering steel was used in the girders to eliminate the need for future painting. high-load multi-rotational disc bearings provide superstructure support. Drain troughs were installed directly under the neoprene strip

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seal joints at both abutments to divert runoff and debris away from the girders, bearings and substructure members. The drain trough adds the environmental benefit of carrying runoff into a designed drainage system rather than directly out into the surrounding landscape.

From an aesthetic point of view, the new bridge is very different from the original structure. The increased height of the new piers (from 40 feet to over 100 feet) gives the structure a grand feel for observers looking at it from below. While the new piers may be taller, they retain the two-column with a cap look of the original bridge for historical continuity.

Meeting and Exceeding Owner's/Client's Needs

The contractor maintained an aggressive schedule to open the bridge to traffic within 14 months of closure. At the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the bridge on December 16, 2021, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and officials from East Pittsburgh and North Braddock Borough expressed gratitude that the communities were once again connected.

Conclusion

The importance of the new \$9.96m Dooker's Hollow Bridge can be summed up in a statement made by County Executive Rich Fitzgerald at the opening ceremony. He said "We are thrilled to celebrate completion of this important infrastructure project. Connecting folks to jobs and amenities is so important, especially in places like the Mon Valley that haven't seen as much growth and investment. The previous bridge was in poor condition and eventually would have needed to be closed. Instead, by working together at the federal, state and local levels, we have ensured that this vital transportation link between two communities can be used for generations to come."



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Statement of Commitment

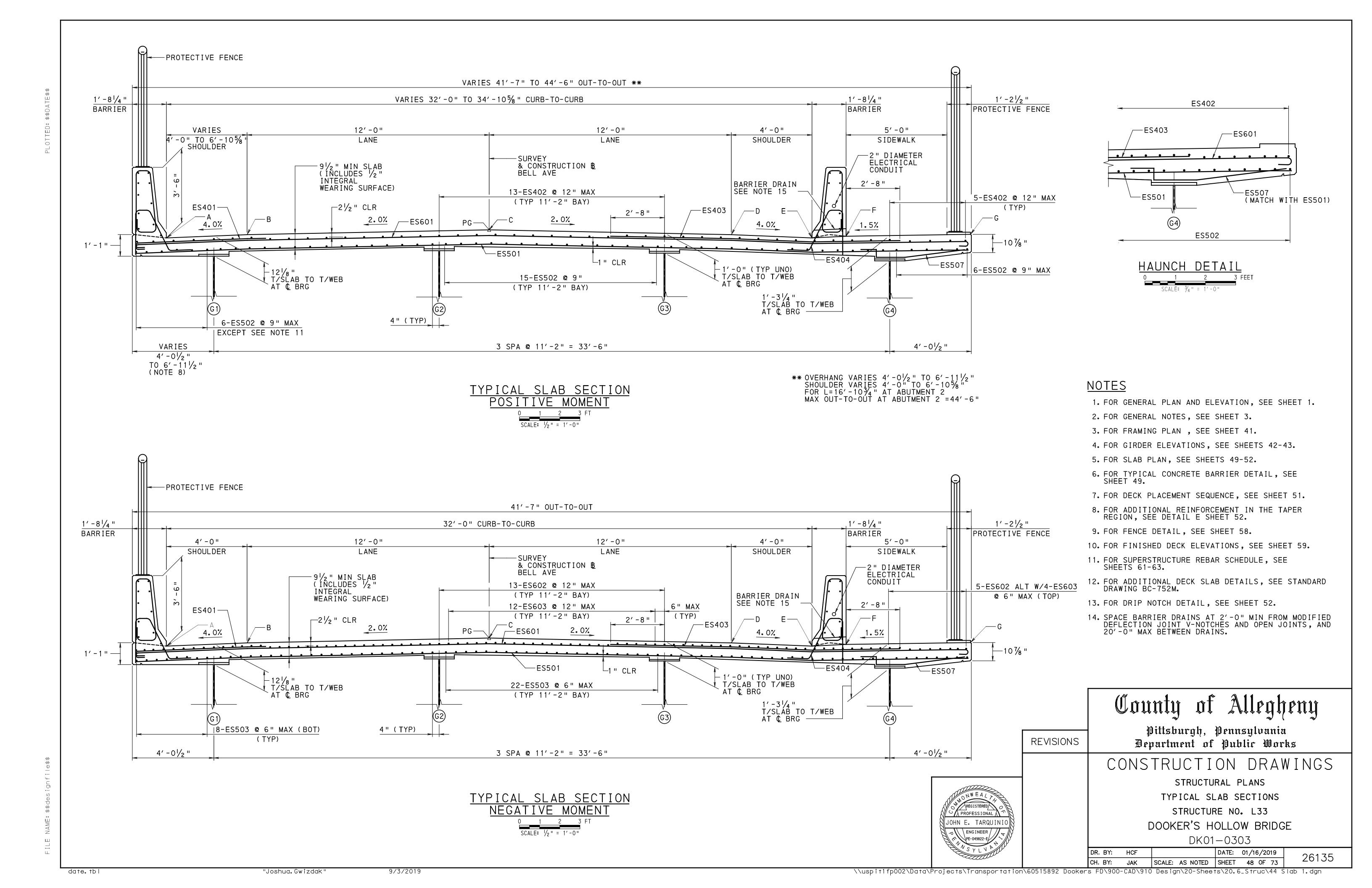
AECOM commits that at least one representative of our project team will attend the awards luncheon.

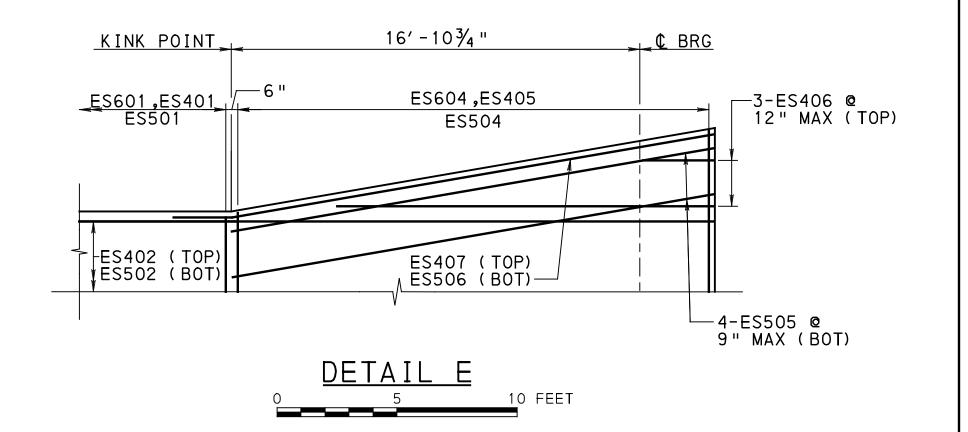
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NOTES:

- 1. FOR GENERAL PLAN & ELEVATION, SEE SHEET 1.
- 2. FOR GENERAL NOTES, SEE SHEET 3.
- 3. FOR TYPICAL SLAB SECTIONS, SEE SHEET 48.
- 4. FOR SECTION AF-AF, SEE SHEET 53.
- 5. FOR FENCE DETAIL, SEE SHEET 58.
- 6. FOR FINISHED DECK ELEVATIONS, SEE SHEET 59.
- 7. FOR SUPERSTRUCTURE REBAR SCHEDULE, SEE SHEETS 61-63.
- 8. FOR ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL AND LIGHTING POLE ANCHORAGE DETAILS, SEE BC-721M & BC-722M.
- 9. FOR ADDITIONAL DECK SLAB DETAILS, SEE STANDARD DRAWING BC-752M.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Department of Public Works

CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS

STRUCTURAL PLANS SLAB PLAN 4

STRUCTURE NO. L33 DOOKER'S HOLLOW BRIDGE

DK01-0303

DATE: 01/16/2019 DR. BY: 26135 SCALE: AS NOTED SHEET 52 OF 73 CH. BY: JAK

DRIP NOTCH DETAIL NO SCALE

5" MAX 3/4"

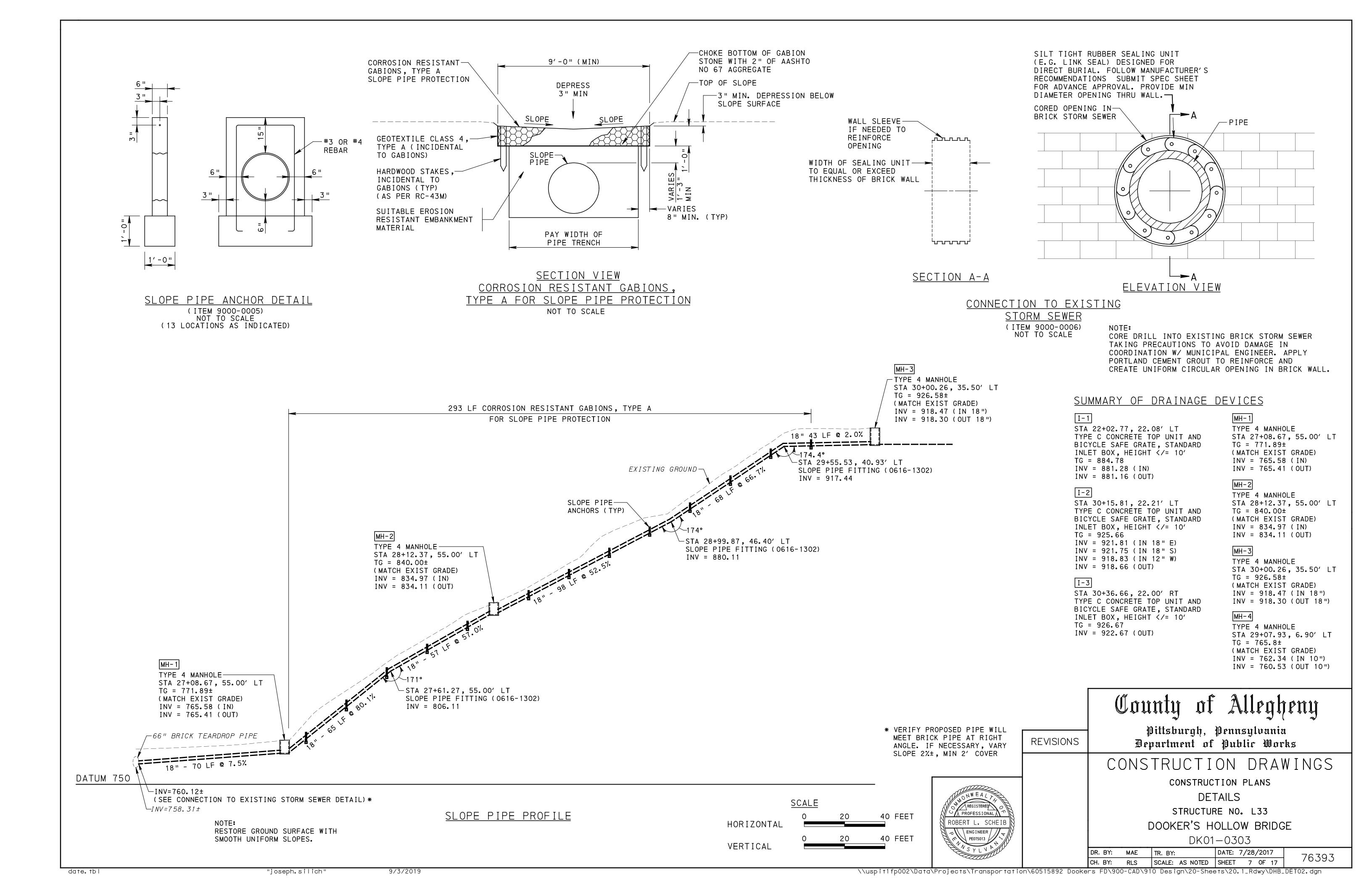
PROTECTIVE COATING DETAIL

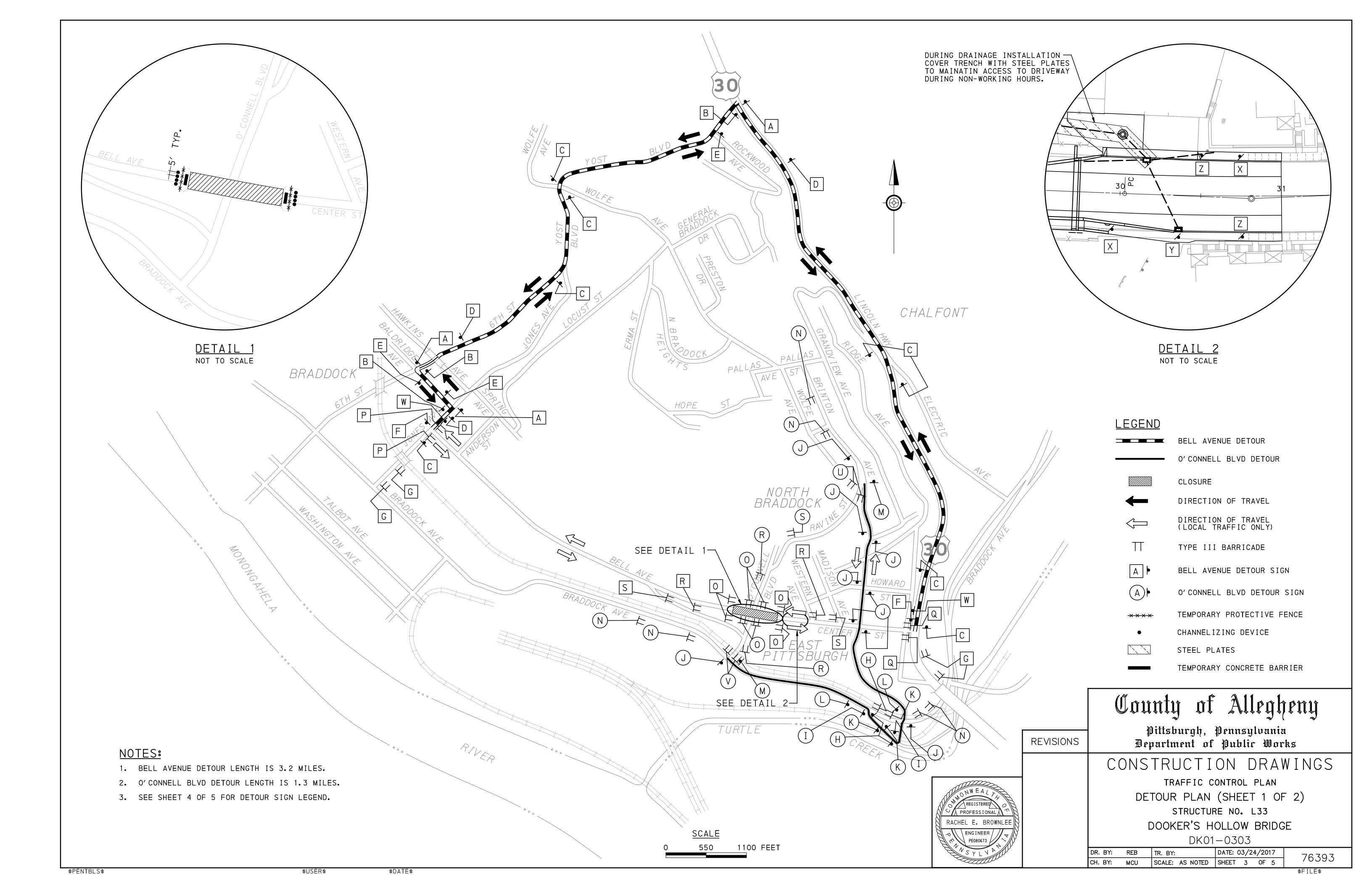
NO SCALE

date.tbl

REVISIONS

JOHOHNE.E.TATAGRAGIUNIIN



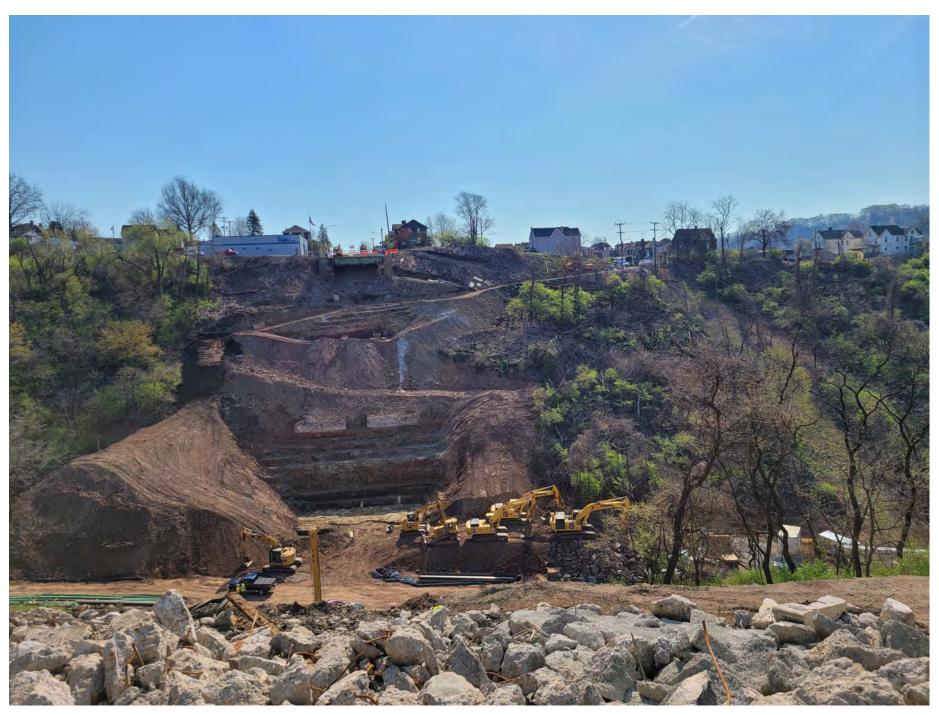




01 - Completed Dooker's Hollow Bridge



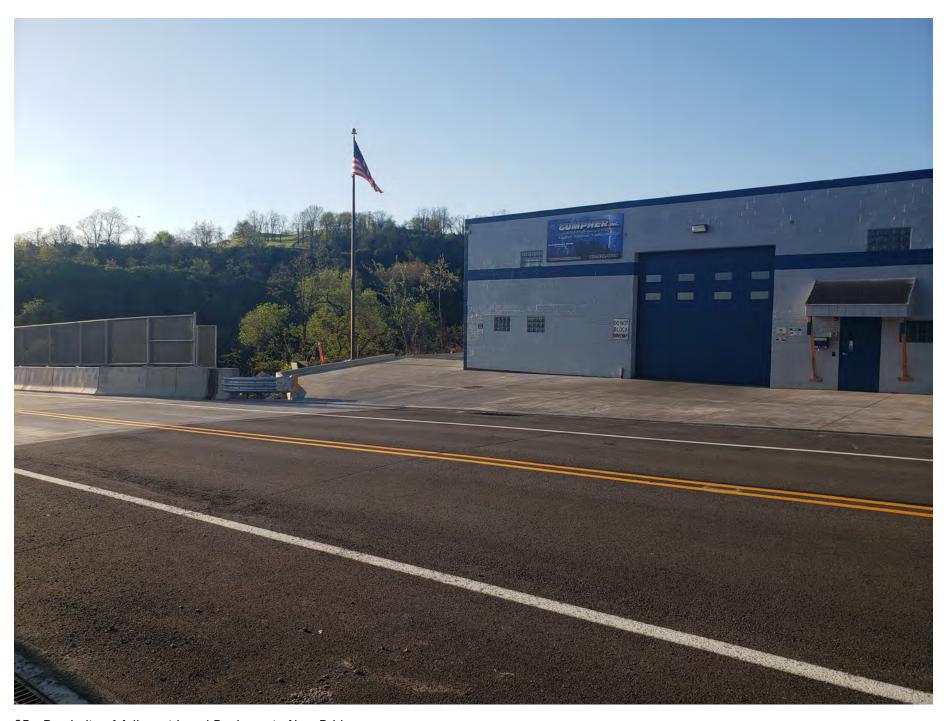
02 - Imploded Bridge Lands on O'Connell Boulevard



03 - Earthmoving Required on Steep Hillside



04 - Girder Erection over the Valley



05 - Proximity of Adjacent Local Business to New Bridge



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 16, 2021

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Fitzgerald, Officials Celebrate New Dooker's Hollow Bridge with Ribbon Cutting

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald was joined today by Senator Jim Brewster, officials from East Pittsburgh and North Braddock, and Public Works department staff to cut the ribbon and open the newly replaced Dooker's Hollow Bridge. The bridge carries Bell Avenue in North Braddock and Center Street in East Pittsburgh over O'Connell Boulevard.

"We are thrilled to celebrate completion of this important infrastructure project," said Fitzgerald. "Connecting folks to jobs and amenities is so important, especially in places like the Mon Valley that haven't seen as much growth and investment. The previous bridge was in poor condition and eventually would have needed to be closed. Instead, by working together at the federal, state, and local levels, we have ensured that this vital transportation link between two communities can be used for generations to come."

The old structure, which opened in 1940, was a 635-foot arched cantilever truss bridge with three spans. It had deteriorated to the point where a 31-ton weight limit needed to be implemented and rehabilitation was no longer a cost-effective option. It was closed for construction on October 19, 2020 and imploded on February 13, 2021 using 96 explosives placed at 54 locations – safely bringing down 470 tons of debris into the valley below.

The new structure is a 660-foot steel girder bridge with five spans. The added length and number of spans makes it more structurally sound and brings its design up to current standards. The bridge is expected to carry about 3,000 vehicles daily.

Construction of the new bridge, which began last March, required laborers and ironworkers to perform some of their work 140 feet – or about 13 stories – above the valley floor. More than 3,500 cubic yards of concrete was used to complete the structure – enough to fill about 17,000 standard bathtubs. Also, 1.7 million pounds of steel was used, which is the weight of about 500 passenger cars. In addition to replacing the bridge, crews also installed new drainage, pavement, sidewalk, curb, fencing, lighting, pavement markings, and signage. A section of O'Connell Boulevard will be repaved next spring.

"Removing the old structure and constructing a new bridge of this size over the steep valley presented immense challenges, but I'm proud to say Public Works and its partners were more than up to the task," said Stephen Shanley, P.E., Public Works Director. "Thank you to everyone involved who made this very necessary project possible through hard work and collaboration."

The \$9.95 million project, which began on July 13, 2020, was funded by the Federal Highway Administration, PennDOT, and Allegheny County. It was led by Public Works and done by Allison Park Contractors (contractor), AECOM (consultant designer), and Michael Baker International (construction management and inspection).

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Office of County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

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