

TH 52: PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE DESIGN CONCEPTS

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
PARSONS

Project Scope and Context

As part of the reconstruction of TH 52 through Rochester, Minnesota the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) requested the conceptual design of two pedestrian bridges. Within Rochester, the highway serves as the main corridor of the urban zone. The local population heavily uses it for commuting to various personal and business destinations and significantly contributes to the quality of daily life.

Early in Mn/DOT's planning process, the issue of aesthetics was identified as a primary concern to be addressed through the reconstruction of TH 52. The City of Rochester and Mn/DOT realized that the visual quality of the Project could have a major influence on how the City is perceived by both visitors and local travelers. These bridges are perceived as gateways into the city of Rochester, and the design was to symbolize the area's rich life and character.

The TH 52 corridor is blessed with the Zumbro River valley, which provides an opportunity to emphasize the beauty and character of the Zumbro and Cascade Creek waterways. Limestone and sandstone outcroppings combined with the unique winding streams soften

the highway infrastructure. The dramatic setting of the Golden Hills area with its ancient bedrock surface that emerges, highlighting its natural prowess, affords the opportunity for a distinctive driving experience.

Design Solution

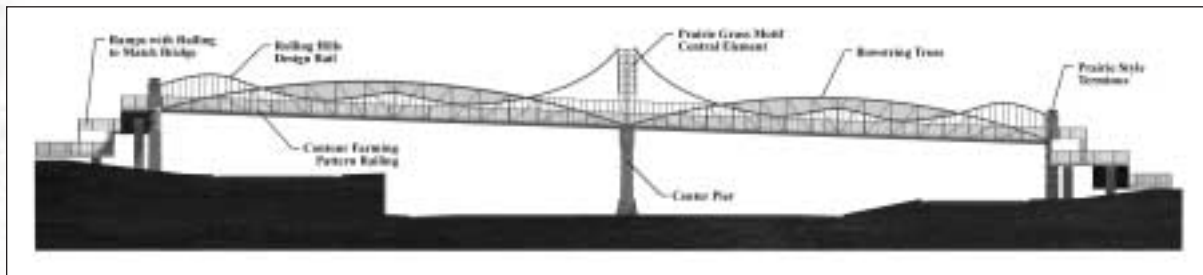
The two pedestrian bridge concepts proposed by the design team celebrate the regional setting and landscape of the Rochester area. Concept 'A' incorporates a prairie style influence, responding to the surrounding environment, while integrating a dominant rolling hills line theme, contour farming pattern railing, and strong central vertical element. Concept 'B' incorporates icon elements of local significance within the structure and railing, including the downtown skyline and geese, while integrating the rolling hills theme within its form.

Both concepts are unique design solutions for the bridge, railing and ramps that are slender and graceful, incorporate the intersecting rolling hills concept, use color to reinforce the visual theme, relate strongly to the site context, and are visually appealing. The pedestrian bridges also utilize uniform materials and forms along with creative lighting effects, symbolism and icons relevant to the Rochester area including prairie, the Rochester skyline, rolling hills, agriculture, geese, and other unique elements of the progressive City setting of Rochester.

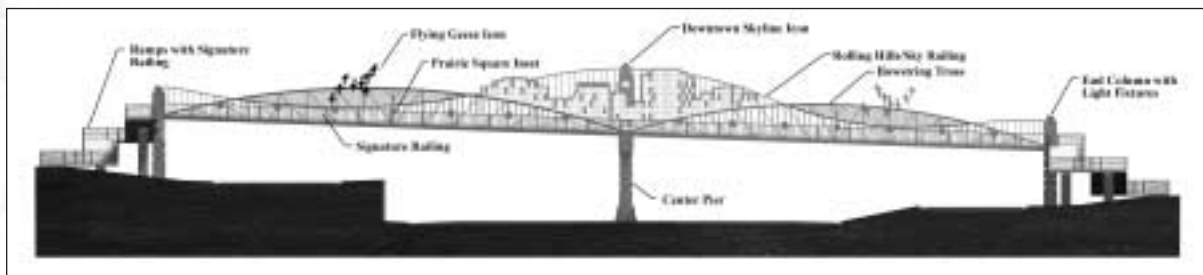
Landscape Architect's Role

The landscape architect led a design team of landscape architects, civil and structural engineers, and graphic artists in the development of the pedestrian

CONCEPT 'A' PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ELEVATION



CONCEPT 'B' PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ELEVATION



bridge concept designs. The landscape architect was critical to this leadership role, and was successful in developing creative designs that are within budget.

Project Significance

The playful design solutions embody the life and character of the City of Rochester, and fit within a

corridor that has a gradual transition from informal to formal, and from rural to urban. Aesthetically these concepts convey the City's pride in its natural and cultural heritage. The animated presentation style was successful in communicating the design intent to Mn/DOT and the City.

CONCEPT 'A' PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE | View from West Pedestrian Bridge Ramp Looking S.E.



CONCEPT 'B' PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE | View from West Pedestrian Bridge Ramp Looking S.E.

