Reconstruction of New Jersey Route 18

THE ARCHURY TO REMEWAL

New Brunswick, N.J.

As one of the most historic and largest cities in New Jersey, New Brunswick is a leader in the education, healthcare, and pharmaceutical industries. Once plagued by urban decay and a failing highway system, the City is revitalized with the reconstruction of Route 18, the main transportation artery carrying 85,000+ vehicles per day.

The highly urbanized project site presented many challenges in traffic safety and urban redevelopment. The original 1950s construction of Route 18 razed the undesirable industrial waterfront and severed the community from the historic Raritan River and Boyd Park. Additionally, Route 18 further dissected the five campuses of Rutgers University, making inter-campus navigation difficult and dangerous during peak traffic periods.

Utilizing an extensive and innovative community partnering approach, the reconstructed Route 18 reconnects New

Brunswick to the waterfront and Boyd Park with an innovative amphitheatre, picnic pavilion, riverfront walkway, public boat launch, and fishing areas.

More than five miles of multi-use pathways, three bus stops, and five pedestrian overpasses have created an efficient and safe transportation network for Rutgers University and New Brunswick.

The project's marquee is the George Street Bridge, one of the largest precast concrete arch bridges in North America, and the first in the world to combine precast concrete arches with lightweight cellular concrete overfill.

At its groundbreaking, this \$215 million project was the largest ever undertaken by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. It provides valuable engineering lessons for future collaborative partnering, urban renewal support, and complex bridge projects.









