



Project Profile

*...connecting a
community with
pedestrian bridges*

21 and 22 Mile Pedestrian Bridges Shelby Township, Michigan

Shelby Township in western Macomb County, Michigan, is bisected by the north-south M-53 freeway. Although motorists have convenient crossings over or under M-53 every mile, pedestrians and bicycle riders had to be very careful because existing bridges and underpasses were not accommodating to non-motorized travel. Some of Shelby Township's 73,000 residents (Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments estimate) could not walk or ride their bike to nearby parks, trails or shopping on the other side without assuming risk.

AEW was commissioned to design and engineer two pedestrian bridges over M-53 at 21 Mile and 22 Mile roads as part of the township's ongoing goal of completing pedestrian facilities along major roadways.

The bridges and approach embankments had to be kept within the existing road right-of-way, while maintaining longitudinal slopes that satisfy barrier-free requirements. A retaining wall – up to 18 feet high – was needed for the 21 Mile pedestrian overpass to stay within the right-of-way and reduce the impact on nearby homes.

The 21 Mile bridge/sidewalk is 2,200 feet long, providing a link between Whispering Woods Park and the Knights of Columbus Park. The 1,500-foot overpass/sidewalk at 22 Mile connects Lombardo Park with Riverbends Park and gives residents living in the east side of Shelby Township a direct pedestrian connection to a large regional trail system. Both bridges have safe, luxurious 7-foot-wide sidewalks.

Both pedestrian overpasses were finished in fall 2007, at a cost of \$1,360,000 for the 21 Mile bridge and \$775,000 for the 22 Mile bridge. Funding for the projects came from local sources and the township's Transportation Enhancement Program.



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