

# Trout Run Trail Bridge Completed and Recognized with an ACEC Engineering Excellence Award



The City of Decorah and Winneshiek County, Iowa recently completed construction on the final segment of the Trout Run Trail system, an 11 mile recreational loop around Decorah, Iowa. The City wanted a “signature” bridge where the trail crosses State Highway 9. The Trout Run Trail Bridge is one of the first bridges in the State of Iowa to utilize a longitudinally post-tensioned concrete slab structural system. The post-tensioned frame system produces an ultra-thin superstructure with a 125’ center span that completely spans the highway.

WHKS performed the structural design and created plans for the three span bridge. Several key aesthetic features were incorporated into the project, including MSE walls, colored concrete sealer, cable railing, and a programmable LED lighting system. Erdman Engineering of Decorah performed the trail design and was responsible for construction observation and administration services. The project was completed in September 2012.

Since the bridge opened, the City has received a lot of positive feedback concerning the bridge and the completion of the trail. The project “is a stellar example of structural aesthetics, integration with the environment, and trail infrastructure enhancement in Iowa,” said Kimball Olson, the Iowa DOT Office of Bridges and Structures Aesthetic Coordinator.

The Trout Run Trail Bridge provides a visual reminder of engineering excellence to the residents and visitors of Decorah and Winneshiek County. Decorah City Manager Chad Bird said, “The Trout Run Trail has become a focal point of the entire community in Decorah. Increasingly more people are using the trail to enjoy the amenities and scenery of the trail and bridge due to the beauty and accessibility of the trail.”

The project received the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Honor Award in the Transportation Category of the 2013 **American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa Excellence Awards Competition.**

## Hodel Presents at 2012 ACEC-Illinois/ILDOT Bridge Seminars



**Chad Hodel, P.E., S.E.**, Senior Structural Engineer with WHKS, recently gave a presentation at the ACEC-Illinois/ILDOT Bridge Seminars held in Springfield and Lisle, Illinois in September 2012.

Chad presented the research, structural analysis, and design efforts performed by WHKS to assist the ILDOT Bureau of Bridges and Structures (BBS) with their effort to increase the application of integral abutments. The efforts resulted in a policy with new limits for integral abutments that are anticipated to be applicable to over 90% of Illinois' bridge inventory and substantially reduce the Department's future maintenance costs associated with failed, leaking expansion joints.

Happy New Year from the Board and Staff of WHKS