



Sauk Rapids Regional Bridge *Sauk Rapids, MN*

Project Award
2008 MSPE Seven Wonders of Engineering Award

Stearns County and the City of Sauk Rapids retained the WSB/SRF team to review alternatives being prepared for Benton County for the Sauk Rapids bridge replacement in downtown Sauk Rapids. This included several alternatives with grade-separated and at-grade crossings of the BNSF tracks. This project involved a substantial coordination effort with the BNSF and Mn/DOT

Office of Railways. Several meetings were held to discuss both the ultimate configuration, as well as the temporary configuration during construction of the bridge crossing. The project involved an analysis of the existing train traffic and vehicular traffic. The cost benefit of a railroad at-grade crossing versus a railroad grade-separated crossing was analyzed.



Crews worked literally around the clock during the winter of 2005-2006 to keep pier construction on schedule.

included the construction of two bridges, a concrete one to span the BSNF railroad and a steel one to span the Mississippi, and a pedestrian helix ramp to allow foot traffic direct access to the park located beneath the bridge.

The project included:

- Right of way coordination
- Demolition plan review
- Construction oversight
- Contract administration
- Roadway design for all bridge approaches
- Detailed information process involving the public, businesses, and governmental agencies
- Substantial MnDNR coordination requiring a steel design with less pier impact versus the proposed concrete design

Client: City of Sauk Rapids, Stearns County, City of St. Cloud, St. Cloud Area Planning Organization

Total project cost: \$58.7 million

Completion: December 2007



4.8 million pounds of steel were used, with the longest span at 295 feet in length.