

Reconstruction of New Jersey Route 18

THE ARCHWAY TO RENEWAL

New Brunswick, N.J.



The New Street Bridge

The New Street Bridge provides a grade-separated interchange for access to New Brunswick's downtown cultural arts and restaurant areas. It is adjacent to new residential development that is evidence of the urban renewal and investment in the rebirth of the city. With pedestrian accommodations, the New Street Bridge also provides access to the improved Boyd Park, the historic Delaware and Raritan Canal, and Middlesex County's Raritan River Boat Dock at New Brunswick. The basic bridge structure consists of a slightly curved, two-span, steel girder superstructure supported by mechanically stabilized earth (MSE)-type abutments and a concrete pier shaped to imitate arches, one of the main architectural themes of the project corridor. This project advances a positive public image of engineering excellence for two primary reasons. First, by staging construction and shifting traffic to non-worked areas of Route 18, the bridge was constructed without a major detour or highway shutdown. Second, special attention was given to the MSE walls and the desire to hide the joints along the edges of the MSE panels. To visually eliminate joints, the MSE panels were cast without the standard large-edge chamfers so the joints between the panels could be caulked to simulate the same width mortar joints as found elsewhere on the panels. The community hailed this breakthrough approach.