

Historic trail in Maryland open to bikers again—

Greenhorne & O'Mara, Cherry Hill Construction, Inc., and the Montgomery County, Md., Department of Public Works and Transportation receives the Design-Build Institute of America's National Capital Chapter Excellence Award

—by Charlee Hardy,
Greenhorne & O'Mara

In a first-ever design-build project conducted in Montgomery County, Maryland, the Georgetown Branch Interim Trail was upgraded to include a bicycle and pedestrian trail and a bridge over Rock Creek.

The trail, which is an extension of the Capital Crescent Trail, is a must for any biker in the Greater Washington area. The centerpiece of the newly opened dual-purpose trail is a pedestrian bridge, converted into its current form from an abandoned railroad trestle structure.

Built in 1892, the trestle has over the years suffered significant deterioration, ranging from decay and rot to fire damage, and other significant destruction in 1972 from Hurricane Agnes. This damage posed a major obstacle to building a safe pedestrian walkway.

Design-build projects are particularly suitable for infrastructure restoration projects, often leading to considerable reduction in project duration. “The cooperation and constant communication among the team members—Greenhorne & O'Mara and Cherry Hill Construction, Inc.—was instrumental in bringing this project to completion within budget and to the satisfaction of the citizens of the County,” commented Holger Serrano, P.E., Deputy Division Chief, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

“The most challenging task for the team was to develop an innovative solution for the trestle bridge design and construction that would meet the budgetary and time constraints, while providing a structure that complements the site and still maintains the historical appearance of the existing bridge,” commented Simon Simon, P.E., G&O Vice President, Corporate Structural Engineering.

Design-build is a unique method of project contracting and delivery where the project owner, the designer, and the contractor collaborate as a team



from the beginning of the design portion of a project. The owner stipulates the specifications for the project, and the design-build team bears the entire responsibility for completing the project as specified, on time and on budget. “This successful, award-winning project validates the benefits of this method of project delivery,”

said Greg Andricos, P.E., Bridge and Structures Division Manager, Cherry Hill Construction.

Greenhorne & O'Mara is a national, full-service engineering consulting firm that has provided solutions in the areas of general civil, transportation, environmental, water resources, and hazard mitigation and security services for more than 55 years. Cherry Hill Construction, Inc., has for 30 years been providing all types of civil construction jobs for the public and private sectors. Cherry Hill has regional operations in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Florida, and the District of Columbia.