



Marysville Pedestrian Bridge

Marysville, OH

Ohio Department of Transportation

The Marysville Pedestrian Bridge provides a direct connection to the City of Marysville over US Route 33. Photo by Korda/Nemeth Engineering.

The Marysville Pedestrian Bridge provides an important link from the Mill Valley neighborhood to the rest of the City of Marysville.

CONTEXT

- Suburban setting.
- Midwest.
- \$1.6 million.
- Completed in 2015.



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

- The bridge carries hundreds of pedestrians and bicyclists per day over a busy limited-access highway.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

The Marysville Pedestrian Bridge over US Route 33 was built to connect the Mill Valley neighborhood to the rest of the City of Marysville. Before the pedestrian bridge was constructed, the 4,800 residents of Mill Valley were disconnected from the rest of town if they did not have access to a motor vehicle. US Route 33 was built as a four-lane controlled-access highway through the Northern part of the

city to improve regional mobility and access to opportunities. However, land use changed over time and as development surrounded the highway, the roadway became an obstacle to residents, especially pedestrians, bicyclists, and non-drivers trying to access Marysville High School, Marysville Early College High School, Millcreek Park, and other amenities.

The pedestrian bridge was identified through the Safe Routes to School Program as a way to eliminate the need to bus students a short distance to schools. The project was funded by the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Transportation Enhancement Program, which provided a \$1.3 million grant to the City of Marysville. The city provided the remaining \$300,000. ODOT's Transportation Enhancement Program provides federal funds to projects that strengthen the cultural, environmental, and/or aesthetic value of the State's transportation system. These funds can be used in a variety of applications, including bicycle and pedestrian projects, historic preservation projects, and environmental mitigation activities.

HOW DID THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?

The Marysville Pedestrian Bridge links the neighborhoods on the north side of Marysville to the rest of the city with a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists over the busy highway. Previously, a paved walking path had run beneath the highway, but this trail tunnel was poorly lit and it was unusable for a large portion of the year due to frequent flooding. Ohio DOT constructed new pathways at both ends of the bridge that lead to the high school, the nearby Union County Fairgrounds, downtown Marysville, and a bike trail that runs parallel to Route 33. The 12-foot-wide, 285-foot-long bridge also includes LED lights for users after dark.

With the new bridge and pathways, residents can access services and opportunities such as school, work, football games, the county fair, and Uptown Marysville's economic centers by walking or biking. Marysville has also included the bridge as part of its Safe Routes to School program. The community had previously identified a need for new ways of facilitating children walking or biking to school from the neighborhoods on the north side of Marysville.

A partnership between the city and Dominion Homes was instrumental in completing these trail connections as the developer donated three lots to the city on which to build the paths.

WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS?



RESTORE

The Marysville Pedestrian Bridge represents a vital connection for an area where residents had to drive to access schools, recreation, and economic opportunities. The bridge has drastically increased mobility and safety in the area while encouraging physical activity. The project also extends its benefits to other areas of the city as students who live in the main part of the city are now able to safely walk or bike to schools and parks in the Mill Valley area.

The bridge is also an example of place-making and **Context Sensitive Solutions** as it provides a unique landmark while improving the overall aesthetic of the highway corridor.



Users now enjoy a safe, well-lit route directly over US Route 33. Photo by Ohio Department of Transportation.

For more information: <https://marysvilleohio.org/bids.aspx?bidID=24&MOBILE=ON>