

Village of Muir stays connected with bridge

Tiny community funds needed reconstruction with diverse array of sources

The Village of Muir needs a new bridge over the Maple River for safety, convenience, and economic reasons, and nothing has stopped this community from making it happen.

The current bridge is over 100 years old, yet is a vital link to health and safety services for the residents. “Alternate routes would add 10–15 miles to one’s trip,” says Prein&Newhof Project Manager Jason Washler, PE. “They need this bridge.”

The project has a \$3.6 million price tag. Muir began tackling this challenge in May 2011, by applying for an MDOT Local Bridge Grant. The Village received a \$2.9 million commitment from MDOT in January of 2012. Muir developed a fundraising strategy to raise the remaining balance from other grant agencies, local stakeholders, and with community events.

“It has been incredible to see a community pull together and achieve this,” Washler says of the three-year fundraising effort. “They don’t give up. That’s why they’ll see this bridge get built.”

Grass roots fundraising efforts included a jelly bean sale at the Ionia County Fair, a lemonade stand, Lions Club lotteries and engraved brick sales. To date, Village leaders have volunteered nearly 900 hours of their personal time to raise money for this project.

Village President Doug Hyland has made multiple presentations to other local stakeholders to find support for the project. After these efforts, the Village of Muir is within \$50,000 of reaching its fundraising goal for this project.



January’s groundbreaking marked a major milestone in the project, after a three-year effort by the citizens of Muir to raise enough money to make this needed bridge a reality.

The Project Vision

The Village of Muir hired Prein&Newhof and HH Engineering to design a new two-lane bridge to replace the existing structure spanning the Maple River just south of the Village’s central business district. The old bridge will accommodate traffic during the construction of the new bridge. Once the new bridge is open for use, the old bridge will be rehabilitated and restored to its historical appearance and will take on new life as a non-motorized trail that connects the CIS trail segment through Muir.

Construction on both the new bridge and the non-motorized bridge is scheduled for completion by summer 2016.

Have an infrastructure project that seems impossible? Contact **Jason Washler, PE** at (616) 364-8491 or jwashler@preinnewhof.com.

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Jason Washler, PE
Project Manager



A rendering of what the two bridges will look like when the project is complete. The old bridge is on the right and the new bridge is on the left.



A bird’s eye view of the old bridge over the Maple River. The Village of Muir is nestled among the trees near the top of the photo.

Prein&Newhof selected for PSMJ 2015 Circle of Excellence

PSMJ Resources, Inc. is a leading management consulting firm for the architecture/engineering industry. Each year it conducts a financial performance benchmark survey of firms in the A/E industry. The top 20% of those surveyed in 13 key performance metrics, which reflect performance in a wide range of business management area, are recognized by PSMJ with the Circle of Excellence designation. PSMJ recently announced that Prein&Newhof has been selected as a 2015 Circle of Excellence member.

While the sample size of 328 firms is small in comparison to the size of the A/E industry, the survey results are a good indication of overall performance. This award distinguishes those firms that are not only good at their practice but also at running their practice as a business.

Prein&Newhof recognizes that this honor reflects the quality of our clients, the relationships our employees have with them, and the foundation of integrity on which our business stands.

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P&N welcomes twelve more new employees

Steve Oosting, PE joined Prein&Newhof in February to work from our Grand Rapids office. He is helping clients with asset management work. Steve is a 2003 graduate of Calvin College with a B.S in Engineering (Civil concentration).

Julie Swierenga joined Prein&Newhof as an intern in February. Having now graduated from Calvin College with a B.S. in Engineering (Civil/Environmental concentration), Julie is an engineer in training (EIT) working on hydraulic modeling and GIS from our Grand Rapids office.

Tyler Pullen joined us in May after graduating from Michigan Technological University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. Tyler works as a Construction Observer from our Cadillac office.

Denny Bishop joined P&N this spring after retiring from Georgetown Township as Director of Public Works. Denny is working from our Holland office as a Construction Observer.

Brian Merk joined Prein&Newhof in May after graduating from Michigan State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering (Transportation focus). Brian is working on our Airport team observing construction at Gerald R. Ford International Airport this summer.

Mark DeHaan began his career with P&N in May after graduating from Calvin College with a B.S. in Engineering (Civil/Environmental concentration). Mark is and EIT working from our

Grand Rapids office as a Construction Observer this summer.

Michael Presta started working as an EIT from Prein&Newhof's Kalamazoo office in June. He graduated from the University of Michigan this spring, with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering.

Jeremy Kamp joined Prein&Newhof this summer after graduating from Calvin College with a B.S. in Engineering (Civil/Environmental concentration). Jeremy is an EIT in our Grand Rapids office who is working as a Construction Observer this summer.

Richard Taglione joined P&N this summer after graduating from Michigan Technological University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He is working from our Muskegon office.

Jonathan Nelson began his career at P&N this summer after graduating from Michigan Technological University with both an M.S. and B.S. in Civil Engineering. He is working as an EIT with a focus in hydraulics and hydrology.

Tyler DeNooyer joined P&N this summer after graduating from the University of Illinois with a M.S. in Civil Engineering (Energy-Water-Sustainability focus). He earned his B.S. in Engineering (Civil/Environmental concentration) from Calvin College. Tyler is working as an EIT from our Muskegon office.

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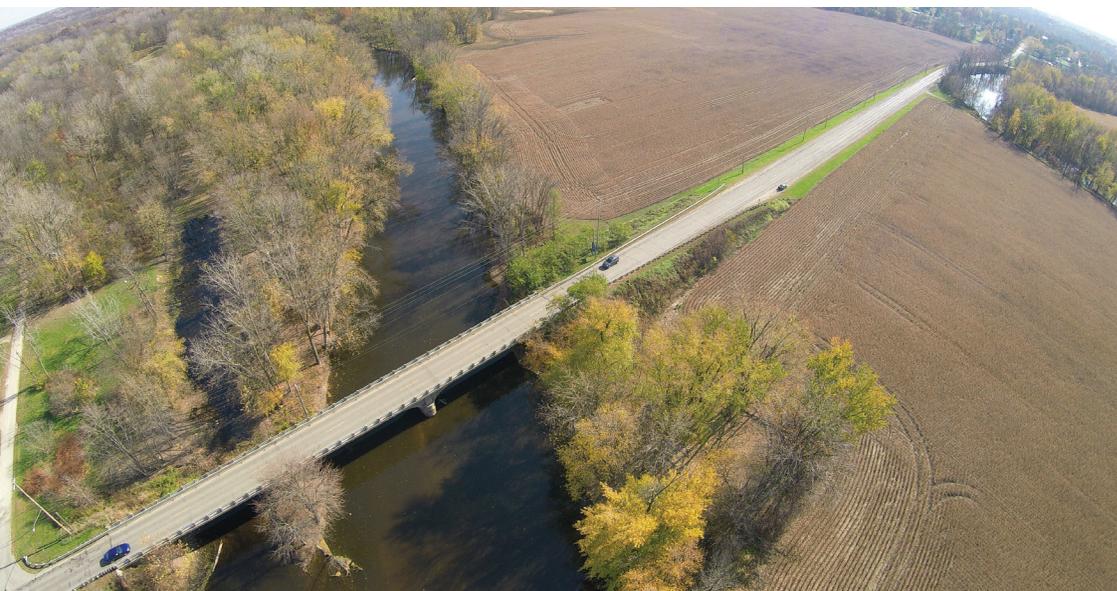


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