



# Seeing Farther

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## Greenville trail comes full circle

*Trail loop around Greenville completed with award-winning tunnel under M-57.*

Greenville had always planned to transform the beautiful Fred Meijer Flat River Trail into a complete loop around the city, but one thing stood in their way — Highway M-57, which passes straight through the center of town.

Built in three phases over the last decade, the 6-mile trail circles the city, connecting downtown Greenville, six parks, and Greenville High School. It also includes a spectacular, three-mile stretch along the scenic Flat River.

On the east end of town, the trail passes under the M-57 bridge over the Flat River. Creating a safe highway crossing on the west end of town was a much bigger challenge.

### Finding a Site

Greenville City Engineer Doug Hinken, P.E., and the Prein&Newhof design team decided that a tunnel under M-57 would be the best alternative. They found a suitable spot at the intersection of M-57 and Maplewood Street. The tunnel is bounded by Maplewood on its west and two private parking lots on its east.



“It’s near Greenville’s busiest commercial area and close to the high school, middle school, and hospital,” said Hinken. “It’s really on the way to where people want to go — people just out for a



walk, disabled people trying to get safely from their homes to their pharmacy, everyone.”

### Safety & Aesthetics

The City was dedicated to making the tunnel beautiful as well as useful. Its interior walls are decorated with 530 tiles hand-made by local artists of all ages. The tiles depict Greenville’s history and include impressions of items taken from archeological digs in the area.

The walls of the tunnel approach are lined with an attractive, natural stone finish and topped with concrete traffic-safety barriers to keep pedestrians safe.

“The tunnel is very unobtrusive and blends well with the area’s businesses,” said Hinken. “Some have suggested putting up signs to tell people where it is, because it can be easily missed.”

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“P&N worked with us on an as-needed basis throughout the construction so that we could be mindful of our budget and make use of in-house resources. They are very client minded.”

Doug Hinken, P.E.  
Greenville City Engineer

## P&N’s Davis to serve as Congressional Fellow

Have you ever wished you could understand how things work in Washington? P&N engineer Helen Davis, P.E., will get to do just that, thanks to a congressional fellowship from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

This September, Davis will be joining over 100 other professionals in a year-long fellowship program through the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS). Each of the fellows will work with a congressional committee, federal department, or individual U.S. Representative or Senator to help shape our national policy.

“I’m looking forward to offering a real-world perspective on legislation,” said Davis. “Most elected officials don’t know how water and sewer systems work, for example, but they have to pass laws funding and regulating them. They always talk about streamlining the permitting process, but they have never been through it.”

In her six years as a practicing civil engineer, Davis has helped design and get permits for several water, sewer, and stormwater extensions. She’s also done a lot with testing and assessing properties for environmental contamination — another process that involves regulation and cooperation with governmental agencies.

Davis believes the contacts she makes and the experience she gains will make her a better resource for her clients back in Michigan.

“Federal legislation needs to serve local communities,” she said. “I plan to stay involved and work with the contacts I’ve made in Washington to help make better public policy.

“I also hope to learn more about federal funding and how it gets to communities — how recipients get chosen, how the time line works, and so on.”

You can learn more about the ASCE Fellows Program at [www.asce.org/congressional-fellows](http://www.asce.org/congressional-fellows).



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Helen Davis, P.E., LEED AP  
Prein&Newhof Engineer

# Prein&Newhof opens new office in Traverse City

Prein&Newhof has acquired Traverse City-based Peckham Engineering, a 60-year-old company that specializes in airport engineering and design.

Peckham founder Bob Peckham plans to work as a P&N consultant, continuing to serve his clients — some of whom have been with his firm since opening their airports.

“My primary concern is taking care of my clients and my employees,”

Peckham said. “I believe P&N is the best partner to accomplish that.”

Prein&Newhof President Jim Cook believes P&N has a lot to offer the airports of northern Michigan: “We have several airport engineers and three decades of experience at airports in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Greenville, Allegan,

Lakeview and Oceana County. We also have a full range of in-house services, like surveying, GIS, lab testing, and environmental consulting.”



P&N is no stranger to Traverse City, having recently completed high-profile projects for the Boardman River Dams Committee and the Grand Traverse County Board of Public Works. The firm also has ongoing projects with Traverse City, Charlevoix, and the Conservation Resource Alliance.

“We’re honored to be working with Bob Peckham, and we’re excited about our future as we expand into Northwest Michigan,” said Cook. “We’ve been watching the area for a while now, and we’re impressed with its economic growth potential and vitality.”



## GREENVILLE – continued from front

To prevent vandalism, the tunnel is well-lit and includes electronic aluminum gates at each end that close every evening at dark.

### Technical Challenges

P&N designed the tunnel using pre-cast concrete culvert sections (each 16 feet wide and 12 feet tall) and a poured concrete floor. To keep the tunnel’s footprint as small as possible, the P&N design team added vertical concrete retaining walls on either side of the tunnel approaches.

Because the tunnel interferes with the stormwater system under M-57, the design

team re-routed several pipelines and added a small detention pond to the drainage system.

“The project was essentially advertised, bid, and constructed in less than 6 months,” said Hinken. “The public saw the project progressing very smoothly, and they waited for the grand opening with great anticipation.”

### Public & Professional Praise

Despite some early skepticism, the tunnel is very popular. “We’ve gotten so many positive comments,” said Hinken, “even from people who were vocally critical of the project before it started.”

The tunnel was also recognized with the *2011 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award* from the American Society of Civil Engineers (MI Section).

The \$1.4 million project was funded by MDOT grants, the Meijer Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, and Greenville’s Capital Improvements Fund.

If you’d like assistance with your next trail project, contact **Jim Hegarty, P.E.**, at (616) 364-8491 or [jhegarty@preinnewhof.com](mailto:jhegarty@preinnewhof.com).

Prein&Newhof

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Prein&Newhof specializes in civil and environmental engineering, environmental consulting, surveying, GIS, and laboratory testing.

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