



The Padden Parkway Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge



Problem

Communities in east urban Clark County were divided by the Padden Parkway, a four-lane parkway with few at-grade crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists. It became obvious that as development in the area continued, a separate access bridge was needed to allow for pedestrian and bicycle crossings.

Background

Development in the form of subdivisions, services, and commercial activities are planned on both the north and south sides of the Padden Parkway. This new development generated the need to create a pedestrian/bike bridge over the parkway to meet the needs of the growing community. The county’s 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan stresses the linkage between land use and transportation and the pedestrian-bike bridge crossing over Padden Parkway was a crucial development for the implementation of this plan.

Solution

Planning for the Padden pedestrian/bicycle bridge began in 1998. The design and construction of the bridge took four years and was completed in August of 2003 at the cost of \$2.6 million. The bridge is 560 feet long, 14 feet wide and is ADA accessible. The bridge over Padden Parkway connected at each end to a multi-use path that was separated by the parkway. The bridge also led to the future site of a park and ride facility on the Padden Parkway. The area surrounding the parkway’s pedestrian/bike bridge connected two extremely isolated parts of the community that would otherwise only be accessible by automobile. Surrounding undeveloped land would most likely be developed in the near future based on the area’s rapid growing rate. The Padden Parkway Bridge was a proactive step to associated problems that may arise in the future.

Results

Three months after the bridge was completed a pedestrian and bicycle count was conducted on the Padden Parkway Bridge. The study was conducted for two hours on three different days, both on weekends and week days, and at different times during the day. The following results were found:

Pedestrian and Bicycle Count

DATE/TIME/WEATHER	EASTBOUND PEDS	WESTBOUND PEDS	EASTBOUND BIKES	WESTBOUND BIKES
Fri. 3/5/04 4-6 PM Sunny, fleeting cloud cover, no rain	16	13	3	4
Sat. 3/6/04 1-3 PM No rain, haze w/ sun breaks	1	8	4	6
Wed. 2/10/04 7-9 AM Clear, sunny	0	8	0	5

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Images Source

ITE Pedestrian Project Award Submittal. Clark County, Washington.

<http://www.ite.org/pedproject/ClarkCounty.pdf>



The ramp leading up to the bridge.



Aerial view of the bridge during construction.

