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# Railroad Bridge #224.7 over Sugar Creek Fayette County, Ohio

The West Central Ohio Port Authority (WESTCO) replaced the bridge carrying the former DT&I tracks over Sugar Creek near Creamer Road in Fayette County, Ohio with a new modern steel structure. The bridge inspection in 2005 noted that the aging timber structure, a ten-span bridge supported by timber piles driven into the ground and streambed, had developed problems and it had insufficient capacity for current loads. Preliminary analysis indicated that repair costs would be comparable to cost for a new bridge.

**Completion Dates**

Design: 2006

Construction: 2007

**Project Cost**

\$605,000

WESTCO selected Jones Stuckey Ltd., Inc., partnered with Cooke Consulting Group, to provide engineering and construction management services on the project. The design process was accelerated and the environmental permitting process was streamlined so that the project could take advantage of a more competitive bidding environment. The completed bridge complies with current AREMA specifications.

The new bridge is a five span steel structure with the same overall length, but shifted three feet south to avoid conflicts between new and existing foundations. The deck is supported by four stringers so that thickness of the superstructure can be minimized for passage of floodwaters beneath the bridge. Piles are galvanized for long life and the superstructure is constructed using weathering steel that develops a protective patina and does not need to be painted.

Complete General Construction Company, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio was selected by WESTCO as the prime construction contractor. With the cooperation of the Fayette County Engineer, construction was completed within a 30-day closure of Creamer Road to minimize impacts to area residents and avoid impacts to school bus routes. The track outage for the Indiana & Ohio Railway Company (IORY), the operator on the line, was only 30 days.

Replacement of this bridge provides a benefit to current and future rail users. This bridge is adjacent to 2,500+ acres, a portion of which is designated as a job ready mega-site by the Ohio Department of Development.

The project was partly financed with a grant of \$207,000 and a loan of \$308,000 from the Ohio Rail Development Commission. The IORY contributed their detour costs during the track outage to the project.

