

6/07 Dedication of New Lyons Bridge Adds to RS&H CS's Resume

RS&H CS joined Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos; District 4 Secretary Jim Wolfe and Treasure Coast Operations Engineer Asem Alturk for the dedication of the new Ernest F. Lyons Bridge on May 19 in Stuart, Florida.

The public celebration was attended by numerous guests and dignitaries, including members of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners and William Lyons, son of Ernest F. Lyons, for whom the bridge was named due to his tireless efforts to span the Intracoastal Waterway between Sewall's Point and Hutchinson Island. Musical entertainment was provided by the Stuart Middle School Chorus, and the Jensen Beach High School Air Force JROTC Color Guard presented the colors for the pledge of allegiance. The ceremony officially opened the two restored and enhanced recreational islands under the bridge for boating, picnicking and fishing.

The new bridge and environmental enhancements are part of the Design-Build construction project that began in October of 2003. The project encompassed replacing the original moveable bridge and two relief bridges with one 4,661-foot, aesthetically pleasing precast concrete segmental bridge. The new structure was constructed using the span-by-span method, and a custom-made underslung truss from Italy was shipped overseas and assembled on site. The Lyons Bridge is the first segmental bridge to fully implement the "New Directions for Florida Post-Tensioned Bridges," which significantly enhances durability and service life while reducing the need for maintenance. The new bridge carries traffic across the water in each direction on dual 12-foot lanes, with a ten-foot safety shoulder and a six-foot pedestrian sidewalk spotted with benches at scenic overlooks. The old bridges were demolished and placed offshore to create new underwater habitats as artificial reefs.

The project was constructed with minimal impact to the public and businesses through diligent teamwork and well-planned, well-timed traffic control phasing. The Design-Build method of delivery proved very successful, as the actual bid cost and work time were significantly below original estimates. The entire project was completed nine-and-a-half months ahead of schedule with less than a one-percent overrun in cost. Key RS&H CS team members of the Lyons Bridge project were Clark Cryderman, Tim Barry and Rob Bennett.

RS&H CS is the most experienced and qualified Segmental Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) firm working in Florida and the first of only four companies prequalified by FDOT to build Complex Category 2 Concrete Post-Tensioned Segmental (CPTS) Bridges, creating signature projects for us in a highly specialized niche market. The Lyons Bridge is the latest of numerous segmental bridges RS&H CS has successfully completed. The experience gained from this project, coupled with our previous segmental bridges, directly led to RS&H CS being selected for Florida's next major Post-Tensioned Segmental Bridge, the I-95/SR-9A Interchange in Jacksonville.