

Super Cor[®] Culvert Provides a Strategic Solution

When the Calhoun County Road Commission decided to replace twin concrete culverts in Battlecreek, Michigan, there were a number of hurdles they had to cross, not the least of which was a 15-foot stream.

David Fuller, foreman for the Commission, had to find a replacement for the aging concrete culverts that would be quick and easy to install, as traffic could not be disrupted for more than 15 hours. He also had to ensure that the stream bed was left intact as Harbor Creek, which flows through Battlecreek,



Michigan, is a trout stream that is strictly protected by the Department of Environmental Quality. But, perhaps the biggest obstacles were fibre-optic cable and an old yet very important 10-inch natural gas main, both of which were above the existing culverts but below the road surface. The old culverts had to be removed and a new single steel box culvert installed, without doing harm to either the fibre-optic cable or the gas pipeline.



Clearly, the situation called for careful planning and a strategic solution. That solution came in the form of a Super•Cor® box culvert with steel footers. This configuration allowed the box culvert to be placed under the cable and gas line without damage and with minimum inconvenience. The Super•Cor® structure was made by Atlantic Industries Limited, an international manufacturer of metal products, with a branch office in Buckholts, Texas.

In describing the project, David Fuller says, "In deciding what kind of a structure to use, we decided to look ahead a bit. We knew that in three to four years time, the road would probably become a three-lane road instead of two lanes and would require a 5' diameter pipe. But this would not be acceptable to the Department of Natural Resources. They required, instead, an open structure that was as wide as the main channel of the creek—13 to 15 feet. To accommodate these requirements, concrete would have been very costly. The minute I got information about Super*Cor® from Chris Mooney at St. Regis Culvert, I knew it was a go. The whole project was a success and a real team effort."



Dave Krahulec and Chris Mooney of St. Regis Culvert both helped with assembly of the box culvert, which took place in a local high school parking lot. And Tom Elliott, U.S. sales manager working

out of the AIL Texas office, was on hand for a few days too. Tom was really pleased with the whole process. "It took four crew members about two-and-a-half days to assemble the barrel of the 60' box culvert which has a span of 15' 4"

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and a rise of 6' 7". It took only one night to install, again using a crew of four. They did a great job and I know the process will speed up with successive projects that they hope to do with us."

Says Fuller, "We gathered quite an audience on August 28 as we worked through the night by the light of a diesel-powered light plant. We had the road opened and ready for business by 9:00 the next morning, as planned. In fact, the whole project came together just as we hoped it might. And, if the testament of a nearby neighbour is of value, and we think it is, then the finished project was a success



from an aesthetic point of view too. A retired gentleman, interested in land-scaping and in how things look, lives just 75' away from the

Harbor Creek Super *Cor® structure and he's really happy with the appearance of the new steel box culvert. That makes us happy. So does the attention to detail we got from AIL and from St. Regis. Chris Mooney even gave us a portfolio of the job, to help us remember how it all went—for next time."

