

2019 ACEC of Maine Engineering Excellence Awards

South Portland based firm **VHB** received the **Grand Conceptor Award**, ACEC of Maine's highest award, for its work on the I-95 overpass reconstruction project in Augusta. The Ramp F overpass is located about 1.5 miles from the Maine Statehouse and handles a large amount of traffic into and out of the capitol. The award means the project ranked first among the project in the state based on its engineering quality, innovation, value, and client satisfaction.



When an unknown over-height vehicle struck Ramp F at Exit 109A along I-95, the north and south exterior beams were damaged. VHB responded quickly to MaineDOT, developing a scope of work within two days and starting work immediately upon receiving notice to proceed. Working under an accelerated schedule, VHB rapidly designed the structure's rehabilitation, presenting alternatives to MaineDOT in days. The selected design was intended not just to repair the damage to the bridge, but to also reduce the number of strikes that may occur in the future by raising the clearance height. The bridge's importance required a prompt repair. It was constructed during the harsh Maine winter months and was completed ahead of schedule in February of 2018, using Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) techniques.

"This project was a great collaborative effort from the transportation community here in Maine. The project energized my team at VHB, and not once did we have to ask them to work extra hours to meet the task. All involved simply committed to the goal and worked until the job was done," said VHB Project Manager Bob Blunt. "It felt as though the transportation community, especially the committed folks at MaineDOT, simply knew this bridge had to be replaced as quickly and safely as possible. It's one of those times in your career when it hammers home the origins of naming our profession."

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