

2019 ACEC of Maine Engineering Excellence Awards

For the second year in a row, South Portland based firm **VHB** received ACEC of Maine's highest accolade, the **Grand Conceptor Award**, at its annual Fall Forum on October 25, 2019. The award means the project ranked as the top project in the state based on its engineering quality, innovation, value, and client satisfaction. This honor was awarded to VHB for its work on the Route 1 - Main Street Bridge project that carries US Route 1 traffic over Main Street in Yarmouth, Maine.



L-R: Tony Grande, Mackenzie Bowe, Travis Cook, and Tim Bryant, all of VHB; Carolyn Bird, ACEC-ME President; Patrick Adams and Leanne Timberlake, Maine DOT

"The new Route 1 - Main Street Bridge exemplifies how a collaborative process with a capable and creative engineering team such as VHB, a State transportation agency willing to listen to community concerns and aspirations and take them seriously, as did MaineDOT, and an engaged community can work together to create an exemplary context-sensitive project of which all parties can be proud. Yarmouth is the beneficiary of this new bridge that will serve us well into the next century" said Alexander Jaegerman, Director of Planning & Development for the Town of Yarmouth.

Built in 1948, Yarmouth's Main Street Bridge was a prominent, beautiful, and signature structure in the heart of the Town of Yarmouth's historic village, but after several decades of service, the 64-year-old bridge began showing its age. The structure was in poor condition and required replacement. MaineDOT engaged VHB to design a cost-effective, durable, and low maintenance replacement bridge that also addressed the Town of Yarmouth's vision for the project to the extent possible. The Town, through its Bridge Advisory Committee, identified two major goals for the project: creating a bridge that reinforced the traditional look and feel of the historic village; and connecting the existing vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian linkages to reflect the Complete Street policy of the Town, while also improving the continuity of the Beth Condon Memorial Pathway across Main Street.

Working closely with MaineDOT and the Town's Bridge Advisory Committee, VHB was able to provide a design that met both MaineDOT and the Town's goals for the project. The new 3-span concrete arch bridge is a low-maintenance, durable structure that echoes the historic appearance of the original bridge. A new sidewalk and multi-use path improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity, and landscaping and lighting improvements enhance usability and appearance in this important area in the center of Yarmouth.

Yarmouth Main Street Bridge Replacement
Yarmouth, ME

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Construction of landscaping improvements | Staged construction of the bridge | New pedestrian connection to Main Street | Landscaping and lighting enhancements

MaineDOT
CLIENT/OWNER
MaineDOT | Augusta, Maine

vhb
ENTERING FIRM
VHB | South Portland, Maine

ACEC
Association of Professional Engineers and Surveyors