

## Soo Line S-Bridge (2002)

**Client:**

City of Eau Claire

**Project Number:**

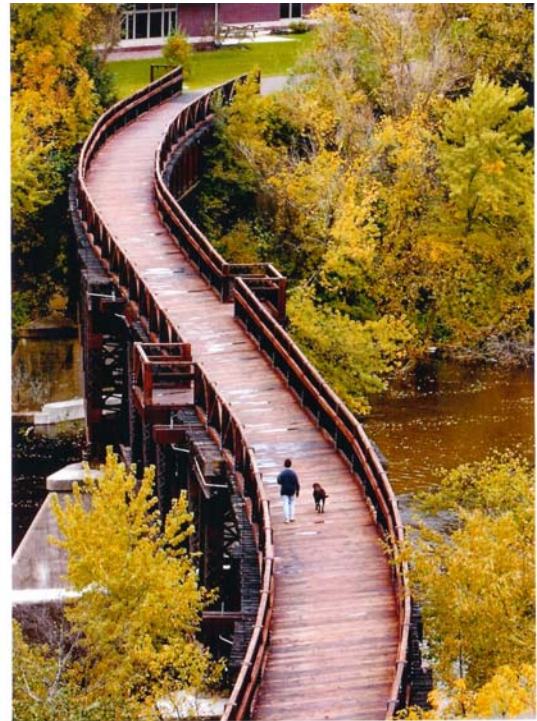
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**Location:**

Over the Eau Claire River in Downtown  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

**Client Contact:**

David Solberg  
City Engineer  
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**Staff Assignments:**

Matt Gundry, P.E. – Structural/Project engineer  
Donald Bertrand – Plan preparation

**Project Scope:**

The rehabilitation and conversion of the signature S-Bridge in downtown Eau Claire resulted in a visually striking and well utilized recreational path and structure. This unique steel truss railroad structure has two back-to-back curves, hence the moniker “S-Bridge.” Fleming, Andre and Associates, Inc. was hired by the City of Eau Claire to complete the inspection of the existing structure, prepare a rehabilitation plan for deteriorating elements of the bridge, prepare a plan for a new timber deck and railing system on the structure to fulfill the new role of recreational trail, design approach segments of trail, and oversee the construction of the project.

Rehabilitation of the existing structure primarily involved repair to the concrete piers by removing deteriorated concrete and placing a reinforced concrete encasement over the pier. Value engineering came into play as existing timber ties were repositioned to optimize the available width of the path and to allow lookouts on the upstream and downstream sides of the structure. A new timber deck was placed over the ties, and a decorative railing was installed along each side.

Construction was completed, under-budget, in 2003 and the structure was well received by the public. The American Public Works Association awarded “Project of the Year” to this recreational trail facility.