

## 6TH STREET BICYCLE RAMP ON THE HANK AARON STATE TRAIL

**ALFRED BENESCH & COMPANY** | **Client:** Wisconsin Department of Transportation | **Owner:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources | **Category:** Structural Systems



The Hank Aaron State Trail in downtown Milwaukee is a significant achievement for the city. The trail runs through many areas that were previously run-down or abandoned. Now, the trail provides access to Lake Michigan and provides a quick route for cyclists and pedestrians. However, there are still many places where the trail has to navigate city streets, with all of the various dangers that come from motorized traffic crossing a major bike-ped route.

Alfred Benesch addressed this issue at the 6th Street Viaduct in an innovative way. There were major space constraints due to the viaduct and the need to create a transition area that would facilitate both bicycles and pedestrians. Design features were also important to achieve the aesthetics that local stakeholders desired.

The project achieved the goal of providing a safe transition between the viaduct and the state trail by incorporating both an ADA-compliant bike ramp on one portion and a stairway on another portion. The stairway features a bannister-like feature next to the steps that can be utilized to roll a bicycle up, improving the dual use nature of the connection.

Alfred Benesch used innovative methods to overcome significant constrictions to the design. The design team's methods also prove the importance of working with all stakeholders to adequately coordinate different priorities and provide a design that exceeds expectations.

The 6th Street transition allows users of the state trail to easily get to the road level and further integrates the state trail into Milwaukee transportation systems.

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