County Materials Fulfills Delivery of 22 Prestressed Girders in a Single Day

**Solutions:** Expedited girder delivery executed to avoid harsh weather conditions and maintain construction schedule.

Sitting only a few minutes from downtown Madison, WI, the community of Fitchburg touts that it offers the perfect balance of a city lifestyle with country living. The city of 25,000 people has a vibrant business community and provides an eclectic mix of unique housing styles, retail shopping and entertainment, and thus draws heavy traffic between the Madison metro area and Fitchburg. With the continued growth, it became clear to city officials and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) that major updates to a key thoroughfare were needed.

According to WisDOT, the Verona Road (US 18/51) corridor posed as a hazard during periods of congestion due to its dated design, which consequently resulted in a rise of accidents. The accumulating number of reports encouraged WisDOT to look for a solution that would improve traffic conditions. The final plan called for a multiyear reconstruction which includes the expansion of several highways in the area to three lanes, including Verona Road, and adding a diamond interchange at the Williamsburg Way and Verona Road intersection.

Turning a four-way intersection controlled by stop lights into a diamond interchange with on and off ramps required the construction of a bridge over Verona Road. Due to the major alteration of this intersection, the entire intersection needed to be shut down during construction.

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WisDOT contracted with Lunda Construction to excavate down to the new roadway elevation, construct a bridge and reopen the roadway, all in under 90 calendar days. Meeting this tight deadline required that Lunda Construction and its suppliers work under demanding conditions and use innovative methods to get the job done.

In May 2019, much of the site preparation was completed. Lunda Construction excavated the previous roadway down 25 feet to allow traffic to move under the soon to be constructed bridge. In addition, decorative mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls and arched piers were in place making the site ready for the installation of bridge girders. Originally, Lunda Construction scheduled two full days for County Materials Corporation to deliver a total of 22 45W prestressed concrete bridge girders ranging in length from 95 feet to 109 feet. In review of upcoming weather conditions, Lunda Construction called County Materials the day before delivery was starting to inquire if all 22 girders could be delivered in a single day the next day.

"After discussion with our field staff, I decided to reach out to County Materials to see if all 22 girders could be delivered the next day," Laremy Sacia of Lunda Construction recounted. "Their team immediately said, ‘let me see what I can do. ‘Within the hour they called me back saying that County Materials could make it happen.”

On May 23rd, the first truck from County Materials arrived on site at 6:30 a.m. The 22nd and final girder was delivered and installed at 1:30 p.m. Heavy Haul Supervisor Jared Benson, Dispatch Supervisor Steve Rubenzer and the loading and trucking team went above and beyond to work together and directly with Lunda Construction to get the job done.

"With great cooperation between County Materials and Lunda Construction, the erection of 22 girders in this short time was completed both safely and efficiently, truly an impressive feat," said Sacia of Lunda Construction. "I want to say thank you to County Materials for their cooperation and assistance in getting us to meet this very aggressive schedule."

County Materials manufactures concrete products that serve as integral components for bridge and tunnel applications for highways, railroads, airports and special projects. The company’s prestress facilities specialize in manufacturing high performance, reliable products that meet exacting specifications for growing communities.