Duluth Lakewalk East Extension

• The Phase 4 Lester River bridge involved placing a 180 foot single span bridge with limited access between three other existing bridges. An active rail line was used to deliver the span to the project site with cranes moving the span directly from rail cars to the bridge abutments.

• The centerline of the trail in the Phase 5 TH 61 tunnel crossing was just 50 feet from the edge of Lake Superior, and the trail grade within the tunnel was only two feet above lake level.
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• The centerline profile of TH 61 had to be maintained due to the proximity of the bridge approaches to the Lester River Bridge.
• Phase 5 required a significant detour of Highway 61 traffic, with 11,000 cars per day rerouted onto local streets.
• The project faced a tight completion schedule in the spring with the trail needing to be open in time for the running of Grandma’s Marathon along Highway 61. The project was successfully completed and the trail was opened two days before the marathon.
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