PROJECT CASE STUDY / HIGHER EDUCATION · ALUMINUM FABRICATION

Cabrillo College Pedestrian Bridge

Aptos, California · Cabrillo Community College District
Contract B22-01 · Prime Contractor: Tombleson Incorporated



The rebuilt bridge — aluminum guardrail with grating infill above a solid fascia, running the full length of the span across the campus road.

OWNER
Cabrillo Community College District

PRIME CONTRACTOR
Tombleson Incorporated, Salinas

ENGINEER
Donald C. Urfer and Associates

IN-LINE ROLE
Demolition, fabrication & installation

NOTICE OF AWARD
5 October 2021 · $890,467

WARRANTED
September 2022

THE PROJECT

Cabrillo College's pedestrian bridge carries students across a public road between halves of the Aptos campus. After decades in the coastal air, the railing on it had reached the end of its life.

The district let it as Pedestrian Bridge Repairs 2019, contract B22-01. The scope was not a patch: strip the existing railing system off the entire bridge and build a new one.

In-Line was awarded the work in October 2021 — **$890,467 for the new aluminum guardrail**, on top of the demolition package. It is the largest single fabrication scope in this portfolio.

WHY IT WAS HARD

Aluminum, not steel

The replacement system is **aluminum** — chosen for a coastal campus where galvanized steel eventually loses. Aluminum welds differently, moves differently with temperature, and cannot simply be detailed like steel and sent to the shop. In-Line fabricated the guardrail, the stair rail and the structural steel supports behind it, and set it all on cast-in-place concrete footings with non-shrink grout.

Demolishing a railing while the bridge stays a bridge

The old system came off the entire structure. For the period between removal and replacement, the bridge is an elevated walkway with nothing at its edge — over a live road, on an operating campus. Sequencing that safely was as much of the job as the fabrication.

Working from lifts and scaffold over a public road

In-Line's bid confirmed in writing that it carried the lift equipment and the scaffolding to access the work. On an elevated span over a roadway that is not a line item — it is the difference between a buildable bid and a bid that falls apart in week two.

Four hundred and fifty miles from the shop

Aptos is in Santa Cruz County. In-Line fabricated in Ramona and delivered, installed and warranted the work the length of the state — with the same crew, the same shop and the same standard.

WHAT IN-LINE DELIVERED

- **Complete demolition** of the existing railing system across the entire bridge, removed and disposed off site.
- **New aluminum guardrail system** — fabricated, supplied and installed to the engineer's plans across the full span.
- **Aluminum stair rail and handrail** at the bridge approaches.
- **Structural steel supports** for the aluminum guardrail, fabricated and set.
- **Cast-in-place concrete footings**, neoprene spacers and non-shrink grout per the drawings.
- **All access provision** — lift equipment and scaffolding for work over a live campus roadway.

SCOPE AT A GLANCE

Aluminum guardrail | **Aluminum stair rail** | **Structural steel supports**

Railing demolition | **Cast-in-place footings** | **Lift & scaffold access**

Pipe & tube railings, 05 52 13

THE RESULT

The bridge carries students again behind a new aluminum system built for coastal service, warranted in September 2022. The old railing is gone; what replaced it should outlast the people who specified it.

Nearly a million dollars of aluminum railing, fabricated in Ramona and installed four hundred and fifty miles up the coast. Distance is a logistics problem. It is not a capability problem.

WHY COLLEGES AND DISTRICTS CALL IN-LINE

Campus infrastructure gets replaced in place, around people, on a calendar that will not move. That is a different job from building new.

- **We fabricate in aluminum as well as steel.** Aluminum guardrail and stair rail, galvanized steel, stainless, powder coat, architectural finishes — one shop, whichever the coast demands.
- **We demolish what we replace.** Removal, disposal and the safe interval in between, planned rather than improvised.
- **We carry our own access.** Lifts and scaffold over live roadways, confirmed in the bid rather than claimed as an extra later.
- **We travel.** Ramona to Santa Cruz County, with the shop, the crew and the warranty going with us.
- **We are certified, bonded, signatory, and safe.** DBE · SBE · SLBE · SB · HUBZone · SBA 8(a). Union affiliated, Local 89 & Local 12. CSLB C-13, C-51, C-32. Bonded through Old Republic Surety, rated A+ XV. **EMR 0.68.**

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