Executive Summary
JEMA Consulting and Associates
Allegheny Commons Pedestrian Bridge and ADA Compliant Ramp Design

Off of West Ohio Street in Allegheny Commons, a footbridge was built in 1906 that spanned four Norfolk Southern train tracks to allow pedestrian access into Allegheny Commons West Park. In the early 2000’s, the bridge span was removed, leaving behind the concrete abutments and staircase approaches on either side. The span’s deconstruction essentially left the west side of Allegheny Commons Park inaccessible to pedestrians, and also created an eye sore in a location where the historic aesthetics were to be preserved and maintained.

The motivation behind the Allegheny Commons Pedestrian Bridge and Ramp Design project is Allegheny Commons Park itself. Allegheny Commons is a well-known, historic park on the city of Pittsburgh’s North Side, whose current condition is a subject of the local public’s concern. The park is a wonderful piece of green space in an otherwise urban environment, and is also home to several area attractions. The general public feels it important to restore the park’s amenities, including this footbridge, so as to accommodate and attract more visitors.

As a team, JEMA Consulting has provided a plan for the construction management, structural and geotechnical engineering consulting work for the design of a bridge span to connect the existing abutments as well as ADA compliant ramps at both approaches to the bridge in Allegheny Commons Park. These designs were produced to be compliant with all appropriate permits and regulations as well as with stakeholder, client, and public’s wants in mind.