Babcock Boulevard over Girty’s Run
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

When PennDOT determined that the structure carrying Babcock Boulevard over Girty’s Run needed to be replaced, a full bridge replacement was anticipated. A design team led by Erdman Anthony determined that the condition of the existing abutments would allow them to be rehabilitated and re-used on the bridge, saving significant cost. With an average daily traffic count of more than 14,000 vehicles on Babcock Boulevard, an accelerated bridge construction (ABC) approach was used to limit the time that traffic would be disrupted for the superstructure replacement. Erdman Anthony’s design called for constructing the bridge superstructure off site as four prefabricated modules that were then placed using a five-day detour. This avoided the weeks of disruption that conventional staged half-width construction would have caused. Accomplishing the accelerated construction required close coordination with five utility owners regarding crane and equipment placement impacting aerial facilities on both sides of the bridge, as well as a gas line that was built into one of the bridge modules. Coordination with several adjacent businesses was also a key project focus. The project succeeded in providing a cost effective replacement structure with minimal impacts to the community.