

Aliso Creek Pedestrian Bridge

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This project was also completed with the help and Guidance of Danielle Bram and Michelle Zimora, and Robin Park from the Trust for Public Land.

In the duration of my project I worked alongside the Trust for Public Land (TPL) collecting data and information associated with the operations and maintenance of pedestrian bridges. Located in Aliso Creek along the Los Angeles River a new pedestrian bridge is set to be built by TPL. However, they did not have any concrete numbers that indicated how much it cost to operate a pedestrian bridge and who would be responsible for the operations. It was my responsibility to try and establish some numbers along with responsible agencies for operations of pedestrian bridges.

TPL provided me with a list of pedestrian bridges that were in close proximity to the location of the bridge being built at Aliso Creek. I was directed to contact each of the local agencies and see if they had any information on pedestrian bridges. My role in this project was mostly communication oriented. I contacted a total of 20 cities and departments that had pedestrian bridges that were similar to Aliso creek and met the specification listed below.

- Contech 'Connector' Pedestrian bridge
- Span – 65', Width – 6'
- Deck type – IPE (Hardwood)
- Bridge Finish – Weathering Steel

A total of 20 cities and local agencies may not seem like a lot. However, it was very challenging being able to contact representatives and receiving valuable information. Out of everyone I contact about 12 departments responded. My goal for the project was to receive concrete data or invoices that indicated how much a pedestrian bridge would cost to operate. Unfortunately, most agencies did not have such information. Many of them said that the cities have annual budgets but there are no specific dollar amounts allocated to maintenance of bridges. A few even said they have volunteers that assist with some maintenance such as graffiti removal or bird droppings. Finding out who was responsible for pedestrian bridge operations after construction was also a challenge. There were many fingers being pointed back and forth on indicating who was the true supervisor on the operations of pedestrian bridges in their city.

When I first began the project I would make phone calls to the different departments. There would be times when people would answer and other times when they wouldn't. When I would get in touch with a representative majority of the time they were not the exact person to speak with in regards to what I was researching. As a result, I would be transferred multiple times or provided with the number of the responsible individual. When I had the opportunity to speak with someone I would take detailed notes and provide them to my advisor at TPL. After a while I noticed I would get better responses if I emailed people rather than called so I switched my tactic to sending more emails and making less calls. Although, I was able to communicate with connections easier I still was not getting the information I was assigned to look for.

Therefore, because there was no concrete information on operations and maintenance of pedestrian bridges. After a variety of phone calls, emails, and voicemails TPL decided to end the research because of the lack of data held by other agencies. Working on this project I developed a better understanding of how some local agencies work. I came across some very nice and helpful people and others that weren't exactly the same. I did not realize the lack of communication that occurs between city agencies until I began working on this project.

Ultimately, it was an interesting and enlightening experience working on the project for TPL. The Aliso Creek bridge was built but TPL but they were not able to get the information they were looking for. All and any information or figures I was able to get to them they presented to the Los Angeles Riverworks office.

I am extremely interested on working as a NEPA Planner for the Department of Agriculture. Assisting in the research of this project gave me the experiences necessary to do well in that field. As a NEPA Planner I would be responsible for coordinating and reviewing annual operating plans and budgets. I would also have to prepare a variety of documents and communicate with many federal, state and local officials. All of these tasks I completed a small version through this project. I know have a better understating and outlook of what the position entails.

## Aliso Creek Pedestrian Bridge Plans

