

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS SELECTS FAST CAST BRIDGE® TO RESOLVE A SAFETY HAZARD

From ordering to completion, the entire process took only four months, and installation happened in one day.



THE CHALLENGE

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation in Oakville, Washington, needed to replace a critical bridge connecting homes, farms and businesses on the reservation. The original bridge was narrow and presented a safety hazard for drivers, especially with rain and ice. It was damaged in October 2019 and reduced to a single lane in 2020. The bridge is on Howanut Road, the only road running east to west through the reservation. In recent years, housing expanded, resulting in increased traffic for people traveling for work, healthcare and to access government programs. The area experiences significant rainfall and connects to the Chehalis and Black rivers, which produce quick-flowing water. The Chehalis Tribe needed a safe and quick solution, but the time frame for a traditional bridge was a year and a half.



THE SOLUTION

Premier Steel Services fabricated and delivered an 11' x 34' x 40' Fast Cast Bridge. We also provided pedestrian lanes on both sides of the roadway shoulders.





THE PROCESS

The bridge was ordered on June 28, 2021. Fabrication began in three weeks and was completed four weeks later. Local crews began preparing the site on Oct. 4 by installing a temporary bypass road and securing the project boundaries. The following week, the bridge officially closed for demolition, the site was prepped for the new Fast Cast Bridge, and footings were poured. Installation occurred on Oct. 22, 2021.

THE RESULTS

Despite rainy conditions, a local crew began installing the bridge at 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 22, and completed it the same day. The bridge opened on Nov. 11, only one month after demolition. That night, the area experienced significant flooding when the Chehalis River spilled over its banks and flowed into the Black River. While the temporary bypass road was wiped out, the new Fast Cast Bridge safely handled the rushing waters.

The new Fast Cast Bridge resolved a critical safety concern on the reservation while avoiding the typical long-term road closures associated with conventional bridge installations, and at a fraction of the cost.

“Having a sturdy new bridge with a clear span underneath has improved water flow from area rivers, and avoided the traditional clogging that happens with standard precast box culverts. The new bridge has dramatically improved transportation and safety for tribal members and the community at large.”

— Bryan Sanders, Project Manager and Transportation Planner
CHEHALIS TRIBE | TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION

