

Name of Project: **Ada's Village Trail Tunnel**

Owner: Ada Township
Contact Person: Mr. George Haga,
Township Supervisor, (616) 676-9191

Completion: Tunnel - November 29, 2003
Final Paving - May 1, 2004



Completed Project

Dollar Value: Estimated \$202,700
Actual \$219,955.29

Project Team: Steven C. Groenenboom, P.E., Project Manager
Alan Pennington, P.E., Project Engineer
Ralph Den Hartigh, P.E. Structural Engineer
Deborah Poeder, Railroad Agreements

Challenges: Train shipping schedule required a design that could be constructed over the four-day Thanksgiving Weekend.

Moore & Bruggink investigated several options to allow a safe crossing of Ada's Village at the RailAmerica Railroad. The options included a signalized surface crossing, reconstruction of the existing railroad bridge with a wider span, or tunneling under the railroad. It was determined the tunneling option would provide the safest crossing. Since the train traffic could not be detoured or even delayed, the railroad required all construction to be complete over the four-day Thanksgiving weekend. The contractor began work following the last train on Wednesday, and completed the tunnel and placed new railroad tracks by Saturday afternoon - two days ahead of the first train which arrived on schedule on Monday morning.



Precast Tunnel Sections



*Wednesday, 11/26/03
Start Construction*



*Wednesday Afternoon
Excavation Complete*



*Thanksgiving Morning
Place Precast Sections*



*Thanksgiving Afternoon
Install Wingwalls*



*Friday
Backfill & RR Base*



*Saturday
Replace RR Tracks*



*Monday Morning
First Train Arrives*

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Project History