

structurally
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FLYING OVER



Courtesy of Griffith Co.

APRIL SAW THE OPENING of Universal Studios Hollywood's Wizarding World of Harry Potter attraction, and muggles arriving at the park via public transportation were simultaneously provided with a safer, sleeker way to cross a busy intersection to get to the entrance: broomsticks!

OK, it's actually via a steel-supported bridge, not an enchanted sweeping implement. The Universal City Station Pedestrian Bridge fulfills a decade-long quest by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and NBC Universal to provide a grade-separated path of travel between the park and the L.A. Metro's Universal City Red Line Station.

The 400-ft, L-shaped bridge spans over both Lankershim Boulevard and Universal Hollywood Drive, with its light, transparent architecture and roofless design serving as a gateway to the park. The structure offers pedestrian access in the busy area surrounding the rail station and the Universal Studios shuttle stop, allowing people to ascend to the bridge platform from three corners of this busy intersection.

The bridge, designed by Miyamoto International, Inc., consists of an exposed V-section steel through-truss supported by four HSS columns with a span of nearly 150 ft across Lankershim Boulevard. Wind and seismic forces are resisted by steel buckling-restrained braced frames in the three elevator shafts and in the middle staircase. Extensive 3D dynamic modeling ensured that the structure performed well under seismic, wind, vehicle collision and pedestrian loading. The project uses about 300 tons of steel, which was fabricated by Thompson Metal Fab (an AISC member/certified fabricator). ■