MARCH-APRIL 2022
scaffold & access magazine

A KHL GROUP PUBLICATION

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
SAIA SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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SHORING PROJECT OF THE YEAR

How Performance Contrating bridged a gap

BRIDGING THE GAP

Performance Contracting recently played a pivotal role in the renovation of T-Mobile's Bellevue headquarters – and snagged a coveted SAIA award for its work. **Lindsey Anderson** reports.

T-Mobile was experiencing growing pains. In just five years, the mobile and telecom provider had doubled its staff, bringing its Bellevue employee count to 6,200 – up from 5,500 just a year prior. The company's headquarters was – according to T-Mobile – "bursting at the seams."

After extending its lease through 2030, T-Mobile knew the time had come for it to transform its campus, so the company put down $160 million and renovation work soon began on its 1-million-square-foot campus.

The company's main objective was to offer employees a modernized and flexible workspace. This included T-Mobile's desire to have then-separate buildings be connected so employees could easily cross from one spot to the next for better collaboration.

They were keen on bringing more natural elements into the overall design by incorporating wood and green spaces. They also were dedicated to being more environmentally friendly by powering its campus with 100 percent renewable energy. And, of course, fun "work perks" were also in the plans.

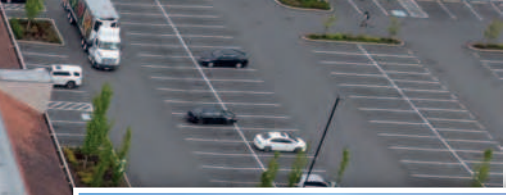
THE GAME PLAN

Designed by architectural firm Gensler, the project's contractor Andersen Construction approached Performance Contracting, Inc. to design, provide, install and remove temporary shoring towers with access scaffolding to support the construction of a new 84-ton pedestrian bridge that would span 180 feet between two buildings on

AWARD-WINNING WORK FOR PCI

- For its TMUS B2-B3 Connector solution on T-Mobile's headquarters' renovation, PCI was awarded the Scaffold & Access Industry Association's Project of the Year Award for shoring.
- For more information on the SAIA, or the Association's Awards, visit www.saiaonline.org.
- To see more of PCI's projects, visit www.performancecontracting.com.

PCI Contracting accepts the SAIA Shoring Project of the Year during the awards gala.



campus.

After being awarded the project, PCI worked with DH Charles to provide engineering for the shoring/access scaffold. Andersen provided load information and sequencing for the shoring design.

The bridge sections ranged between 14 and 30 tons. The bridge's dimensions overall were 180 feet long by 13 feet, 6 inches wide. It sloped 2 feet from end to end and ran at a 26-degree angle. The bridge spanned over an existing garage entry road and pedestrian canopy more than 60 feet below.

In addition to supporting the bridge as it was assembled, access scaffold was required at the bridge bottom and sides. A trolley system was incorporated at the top of the access scaffold on each side of the bridge to allow stocking and installation of full height windows.

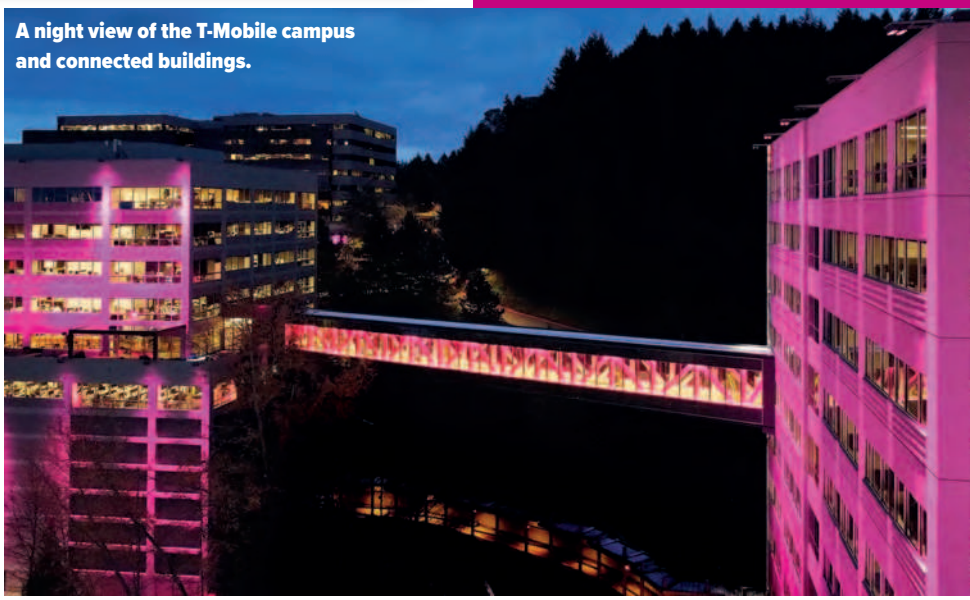
"This was a challenging design as there is only existing structure at each end of the bridge to brace against for stability," PCI said. "Much of the system needed to free-stand yet still be capable of resisting significant wind load while supporting partially constructed spans."

This was solved by using wire ropes as full height "x" braces attached to the top of the shoring towers, which were then tied to an existing concrete retaining wall, concrete filled tubs with ecology blocks cast into the hillside or soil anchors drilled through the asphalt roadway at the bottom. >

WORK PERKS AND SNAZZY SPACES AT T-MOBILE'S REVAMPED CAMPUS

T-Mobile wanted its campus to be modern, engaging, green and innovative. Here are some of the work perks employees are able to enjoy while in the office.

- Six dining kiosks
- A restored Airstream serving fro-yo
- Starbucks café
- Pub and separate stocked bar for happy hour
- Large outdoor terraces
- Multiple 'relaxed' areas for collaboration
- Natural elements including wood and plants
- 4,405 exterior deck with covered seating



A night view of the T-Mobile campus and connected buildings.

The shoring towers included additional beam stacks that allowed the steel erectors to utilized hydraulic jacks to adjust final elevation of the trusses.

The bridge truss sections were assembled on the ground then flown into place. The first truss section was placed, then clamped to the scaffold system until the opposite truss was placed and connected to the first section. This was then repeated for the remaining three spans.

The PCI team was able to execute its plan safely and without issue through its innovative TMUS B2-B3 Connector solution. In four phases, the 81-ton steel beams were raised and placed expertly between building facades. Alongside Andersen Construction and PCI, Apex Steel and Snell Crane also provided their expertise on the project.

After three years of work, T-Mobile's overhauled and modernized headquarter work was officially completed in 2021.

PCI SCAFFOLD SERVICES

- Modular Scaffold Systems
- Frame and Brace Scaffolding
- Tube and Clamp Scaffolding
- Hanging and Suspended Platforms
- Swing Stage
- Stair Towers
- Material Hoists
- Loading Platforms
- Shoring Systems

ABOUT PCI

Performance Contracting Inc. is a subcontracting company focused on the industrial, commercial and nonresidential construction markets with initial roots dating back to the 1930s. Beginning with the merging of two glass manufacturing companies in 1935, Owens Corning Fiberglas was able to bring major developments to the insulation industry.

Over the following decades, this contracting group continued to grow and become involved with more and more specialty scopes of work and areas of expertise. In 1987, the managing group worked together to perform an internal buyout of the company, thus creating the employee-owned corporation that PCI is today.

While Lenexa Kansas is home to PCI's corporate headquarters, the company currently hosts over 60 branches throughout the United States and Canada focusing on various specialty construction services. PCI has deep roots in multiple industries including interior finishes, commercial and industrial insulation, building abatement, demolition, scaffolding and a multitude of other expansive scopes.

PCI Scaffolding's main focus is on the commercial and industrial markets but has also become involved in a variety of multifamily residential and heavy construction projects. The company says its biggest goal is to "meet and exceed every access and shoring need or expectation that we are faced with. PCI Scaffolding strives to accomplish this by providing customers with the most innovative and efficient solutions possible." **sa**

PCI's work saw bridge trusses assembled on the ground and then flown into place.