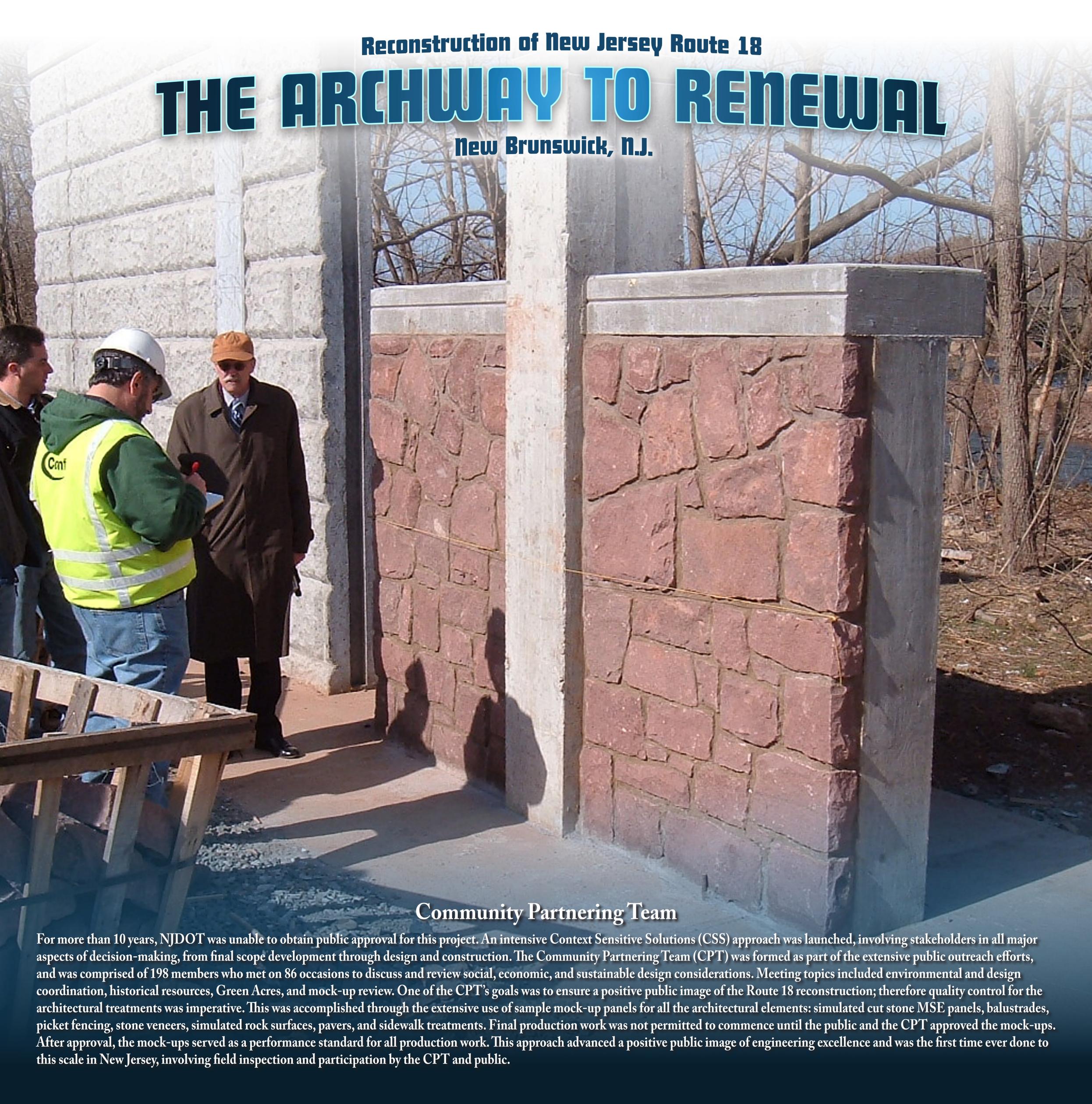


Reconstruction of New Jersey Route 18

THE ARCHWAY TO RENEWAL

New Brunswick, N.J.



Community Partnering Team

For more than 10 years, NJDOT was unable to obtain public approval for this project. An intensive Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) approach was launched, involving stakeholders in all major aspects of decision-making, from final scope development through design and construction. The Community Partnering Team (CPT) was formed as part of the extensive public outreach efforts, and was comprised of 198 members who met on 86 occasions to discuss and review social, economic, and sustainable design considerations. Meeting topics included environmental and design coordination, historical resources, Green Acres, and mock-up review. One of the CPT's goals was to ensure a positive public image of the Route 18 reconstruction; therefore quality control for the architectural treatments was imperative. This was accomplished through the extensive use of sample mock-up panels for all the architectural elements: simulated cut stone MSE panels, balustrades, picket fencing, stone veneers, simulated rock surfaces, pavers, and sidewalk treatments. Final production work was not permitted to commence until the public and the CPT approved the mock-ups. After approval, the mock-ups served as a performance standard for all production work. This approach advanced a positive public image of engineering excellence and was the first time ever done to this scale in New Jersey, involving field inspection and participation by the CPT and public.