

## CPL-designed bridge gives fans a safe path to the Super Bowl



Photo by J&DImages

Engineers in CPL's Atlanta & Rochester office designed the new pedestrian bridge at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium, site of Super Bowl LIII.



Photo courtesy of CPL

The CPL designed pedestrian bridge safely carries event goers from the MARTA train station and parking ramp to Mercedes-Benz stadium and Home Depot Backyard.

**By KEVIN OKLOBZIJA**

Most of the more than 100 million people watching Sunday's Super Bowl on CBS will be keenly interested in whether the Los Angeles Rams can defeat quarterback Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

The design team at CPL, however, will be looking for something else during the NFL's championship game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

A bridge.

CPL, the architecture, engineering and planning firm based in Rochester, provided the design for the \$23 million pedestrian bridge that will carry the majority of fans across Northside Drive, a busy, six-lane thoroughfare that separates the stadium from the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) station and a parking ramp.



**Dan Duprey,**  
President and Chief  
Operating Officer

Two of CPL's 15 offices across the eastern U.S. are located near Atlanta, which

is how the firm landed the project. Bridge engineers in Rochester created the structure.

This wasn't simply drawing a straight platform that spanned one side of the roadway to the other, though. The bridge needed to fit into a fairly compact space, so spiral ramps for ingress and egress were built. And because the underground MARTA tracks would be beneath the bridge, care was taken to reduce the lateral earth pressures from the new structure on the subway tunnel.

"This was kind of a tricky design," said Dan Duprey, president and chief operating officer at CPL. "Besides the soil pressures, the bridge has curved girders, which are always more complicated than straight ones because you can get uplift forces at the piers (the vertical columns that support the bridge)."

Construction began in March 2017 and the bridge opened to pedestrians on Dec. 1. As a design-build project, CPL's team worked directly with the builder, so worked progressed smoothly as design plans were finalized and approved.

There is a distinct flair to the design, including a fabricated aluminum skin enclosure across the roadway and multi-colored ribbon lighting that can correspond to events at the stadium or

in downtown Atlanta.

Duprey has already been unable to contain his pride. While aboard a recent Delta flight, he perused Sky, the airline's inflight magazine. Atlanta was the featured destination city and the accompanying photos included an aerial shot of Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

"I'm looking through the magazine and said, 'That's our bridge!'" Duprey said.

Others at CPL will quite likely say the same thing during Sunday's Super Bowl telecast.

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Photo by Cole Carter