

**Wacker Drive Riverwalk
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
Chicago Department of Transportation**

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) selected Collins Engineers, Inc. (Collins) and its team of subconsultants to design a continuous riverwalk along the south bank of the Chicago River Main Branch in Downtown Chicago from Michigan Avenue to Lake Street. The Riverwalk is one component of an overall strategy to develop pedestrian, recreational, and commercial activities along the Chicago River. The estimated cost of this project is \$30 million.



The initial project work consisted of a comprehensive hydraulic study to ensure the riverwalk design would comply with all Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requirements. The study included data collection; stream hydraulic survey; development of an existing hydrologic model; development of an existing hydraulic model using HEC-RAS software; and development of a proposed hydraulic model for various flow conditions. A final report provided the study results, recommendations, and suggestions.

Based upon this initial study, CDOT accepted Collins' design of a continuous floating walkway and new dockwall under the eight drawbridges over the Chicago River. The total length of the new riverwalk is approximately 5,000 feet and will provide a landscaped walk along the length of the river in the downtown area.