

# UNIQUE STAMPED STONE LOOK: LITTLE RIVER CANYON BRIDGE

On the day the new Little River Canyon Bridge on Alabama Highway 35 opened, the beautiful structure was already drawing favorable comments from visitors and observers. The bridge features “rock” that looks much like the actual stones native to its surroundings.

Connecting Cherokee and DeKalb counties, the “rock” decorating the bridge is actually made from concrete provided by Kirkpatrick Concrete.

Featuring decorative concrete designs and painted to blend with its natural surroundings, the bridge spans Little River and in 2012 was named to the Sierra Club’s Best U.S. Transportation Projects for 2012.

“We worked really hard for the installation of a special bridge,” said Pete Conroy, Director, Little River Canyon Center, in a press article, “not just because we

wanted a special bridge but because we wanted it to serve as a model.”

The project incorporated about 2,500 cubic yards of decorative concrete for its sub-structure and recycled materials (i.e., from the old, existing bridge) in other areas, said Spencer Glassco, Sales Manager for Kirkpatrick’s Northern Division.

Completed two months ahead of schedule, the bridge made the Sierra Club’s list for its performance in a review on five criteria, including its impact on oil use, environment, health, economy, and land use, according to the Smart Choices,

Less Traffic: 50 Best and Worst Transportation Projects in the United States report.

“I am very pleased that we could build this new bridge and complete it ahead of schedule,” Joe McInness, director of the Alabama Department of Transportation told the *Gadsden Times*.

“This new structure will be a good example for many forthcoming construction projects. It is good for the area and the department that environmentally friendly methods were used in the construction.”



Little River Canyon Bridge features stamped stone look.