

Bicycle highway between Antwerp-Lier - Deurne

Activities

Civil Engineering
Bridges
Road construction
Asphalt works

Contractors

Franki Construct
Willemen Infra

Location

Gasthuishoeven, Mortsel, Antwerpen,
Belgium

Client

Provincie Antwerpen

Engineering Office

Arcadis

Span

30m

Construction period

1 year 2 months

Start work

09-2018

End of work

11-2019



The longest composite bridge in the country was installed on the border between Boechout and Mortsel. It is the first bicycle bridge made from fibre-glass-reinforced plastic, and it has the largest free span of its kind in Belgium. This is a first on the F11 Antwerp-Lier bicycle highway. The bridge was put in place in one piece (5 m wide and 30 m long), and it only weighs 33 tonnes. Hoisting was carried out using a 400-tonne mobile crane with a span lift.

Composite material has many advantages: it is light, sturdy and not susceptible to corrosion. The bridges have a lifespan of more than a hundred years while also being flexible and quick to install. The bridge was made at Composite Structures in the Netherlands, commissioned by Janson Bridging. The entire process to make the bicycle bridge took only two months to complete. The bridge was transported to its location in one piece during the night of 1 to 2 May. The bridge, weighing approximately 30 tonnes, was hoisted over the railway line using a crane.

The bridge is part of the F11 Antwerp-Lier bicycle highway, and it creates an easier, but more importantly, safer, route for cyclists. Working for the province of Antwerp, Willemen Infra and Franki Construct joined forces on the future bicycle highway from the airport in Deurne to Boechout, a stretch of 3.7 km.



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Since 1998 Franki Construct has been part of Willemen Groep, the largest family construction group in Belgium.

Willemen Infra



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Willemen Infra came into being on 1 July 2018 as a result of the merger between Aswebo, Aannemingen Van Wellen and the infrastructure department of Kumpen and is a leading road builder and asphalt and concrete manufacturer.