

Helix-on-Main Parking Structure

Lexington, KY

Submitted by Walter P Moore & Associates



Located between two government buildings in Lexington, KY, the Helix-on-Main parking structure, formerly known as the Annex parking structure, is a 1970s conventionally reinforced cast-in-place concrete parking garage with a helix ramp that was renovated and re-imaged to better serve its community.

The engineering condition assessment revealed extensive concrete deterioration, water infiltration damage, and unsafe conditions due to insufficient and lack of operational components. The dilapidated garage was an eyesore to the community.

Typical questions raised at City Council meetings for many years were: Should this structure be demolished or repaired? If demolished, what would be the impact of loss of parking on the adjoining public buildings? If repaired, what would be the useful service life of the repaired structure?

Answers to the above questions and many more queries were answered in the analytical engineering study. Since demolishing the garage would create a parking shortage, and the City was unsure of the long-term fate of the adjoining buildings, it was advised by the design team to extend the life of the structure with repairs. The Lexington Parking Authority saw this as an opportunity to rebrand the facility and make it an asset not just for the patrons, but for the City.

The rehabilitation project included structural and waterproofing repairs, as well as operational and aesthetic enhancements. Due to occupancy demands,

the garage remained operational during the initial project phases.

In essence, this project is the story of a garage in a historic neighborhood that rose from the ruins to serve its community once again. This exemplary project has inspired other public entities to view parking garages as artistic community assets that can potentially revitalize their business districts to benefit future generations.

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OWNER

Lexington Parking Authority
Lexington, KY

PROJECT ENGINEER/DESIGNER

Walter P Moore & Associates
Atlanta, GA

REPAIR CONTRACTOR

Ram Construction Services
Livonia, MI

MATERIAL SUPPLIERS/ MANUFACTURERS

Sika Corporation
Lyndhurst, NJ

Jones-Blair Company
Dallas, TX

2015 Award of Merit