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EASTSIDE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TO OPEN JANUARY 31

(PITTSBURGH) Jan. 30 The long-awaited Eastside Pedestrian Bridge will open tomorrow morning, January 31. The pedestrian walkway, a project of the Urban Redevelopment Authority, connects the intersection of Ellsworth Ave. at Spahr St. with the southwest corner of the Eastside development parking deck in East Liberty. The bridge was proposed by East Liberty Development Inc. as a way to link East Liberty and Shadyside when Eastside was constructed.

The original completion date, Dec. 27, 2011, was delayed due to weather and safety issues, which have now been resolved. The main hold up was due to the fabrication of the galvanized hand rail and installation of the safety fence.

An asphalt based seal will be applied when the weather breaks, which will then be painted by the artist.

The bridge was designed by Pittsburgh native and artist Sheila Klein and features thousands of glass sequins made at the Pittsburgh Glass Center in Friendship. The railings were salvaged from the 31st Street Bridge and restored by Keystone Metals in Larimer. SAI Consulting Engineers, out of the Strip District, did the structural bridge design and Frank A. Zottola of Valencia was the contractor.

Total project cost is \$1.5 million, which included street lighting and sidewalk improvements.

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The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.