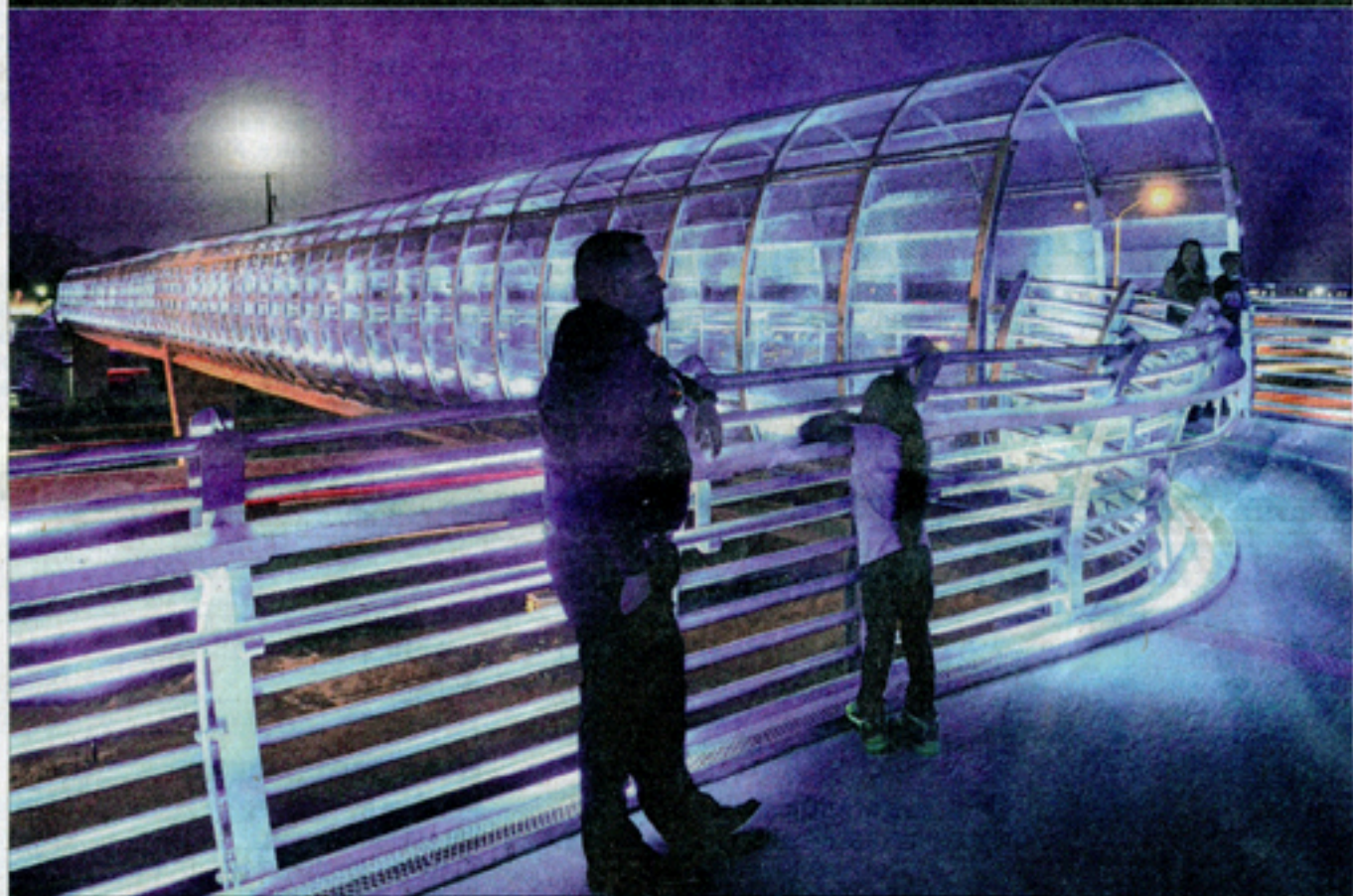


# Bridge over I-25 has SCI-FI FEEL



## Blue lights celebrate water

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By DAN MCKAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Sherri Brueggemann describes it as something you might see in a science-fiction movie.

The city of Albuquerque flipped a switch Friday evening, transforming — through colorful lighting — the new pedestrian bridge over Interstate 25 near San Mateo into a piece of art.

The blue lights are intended to be a celebration of water running through the

Bear Canyon Arroyo in the Northeast Heights. But pedestrians and cyclists inside the bridge may get a more futuristic feel.

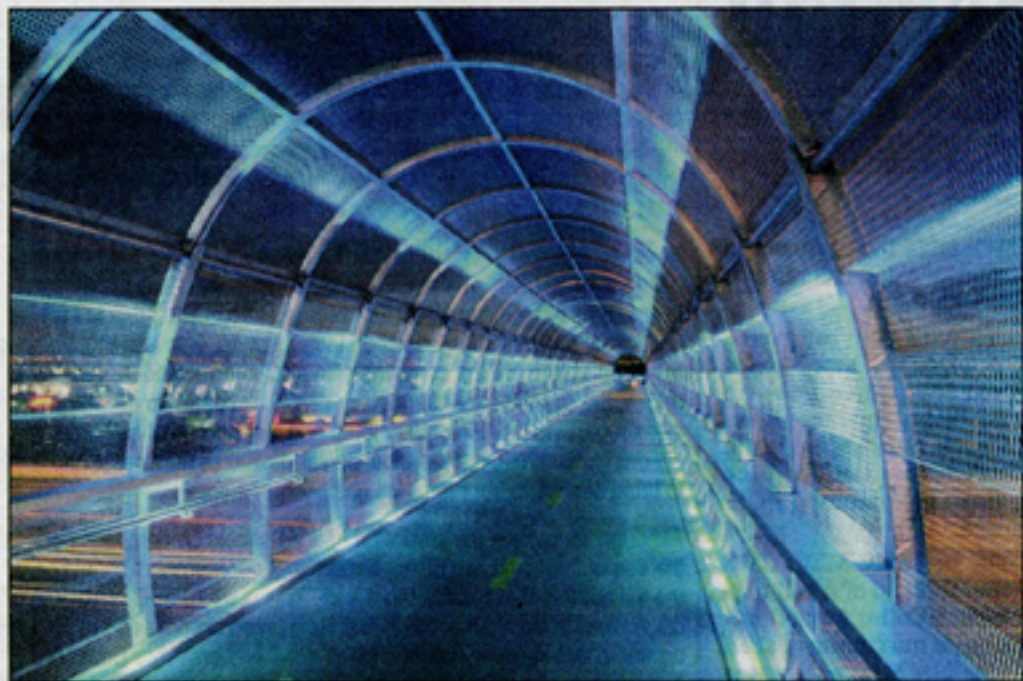
"There's definitely a fun, science-fiction sort of experience that comes with walking in this very long tube with rows of this watery blue light," said Brueggemann of the city Public Art Program.

The pedestrian bridge opened in December and connects the Osuna bike lanes on the east side of I-25 to the Bear Arroyo Trail on the west.

Joshua Hobson, left, was among strollers on the new pedestrian bridge over Interstate 25 near San Mateo on Friday night. More than 450 handmade lighting fixtures are part of the project titled "Dream of Water and Memory of Sky."

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Watery blue lights greet pedestrians and cyclists inside the bridge over Interstate 25. The bridge connects the Osuna bike lanes on the east side of I-25 to the Bear Arroyo Trail on the west.

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Friday was the first night the lights went on, other than for a few tests, and will be on from dusk to dawn. They are low-wattage LEDs, Brueggemann said, and will turn on automatically based on how dark it is outside, thanks to a photo cell.

Artist Linnaea Tillet

was commissioned to provide the lighting, and about \$327,000 from the city's "1 percent for Art" program paid for the lights. Tillet has worked on national projects, including the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park in New York.

The I-25 bridge project is called "Dream of Water and Memory of Sky."

"We are so thrilled with it," Brueggemann said. "The ultimate effect looks just like the artist's proposal."

More than 450 handmade lighting fixtures are part of the project.

Local architect and University of New Mexico professor Geoffrey Adams, who designed the bridge, worked with Tillet on the project.