

# Louisiana's Longest Steel Girder Double Leaf Bascule Bridge



Presentation by  
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2008 Louisiana Structures Conference Louisa Bridge



Louisiana

# Project Location



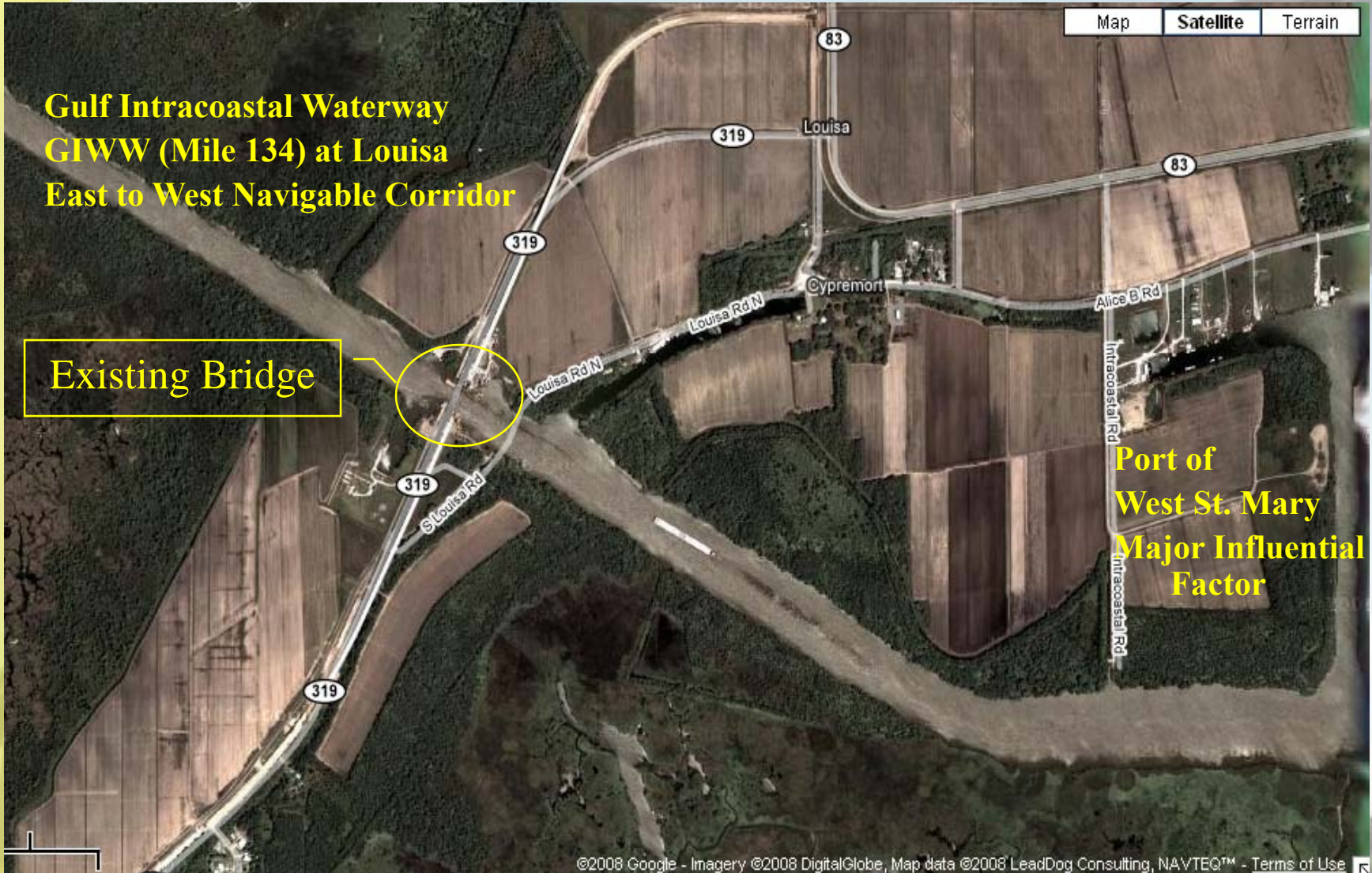
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# Existing Bridge



# Existing Bridge



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# Existing Bridge

**Average Daily Traffic → 1,200 Vehicles**

**Unequal Arm (Bobtail) Swing Span**

**Long Arm at 160 Ft and Short Arm at 80 Ft**

**125 Ft Horizontal Clearance When Opened**

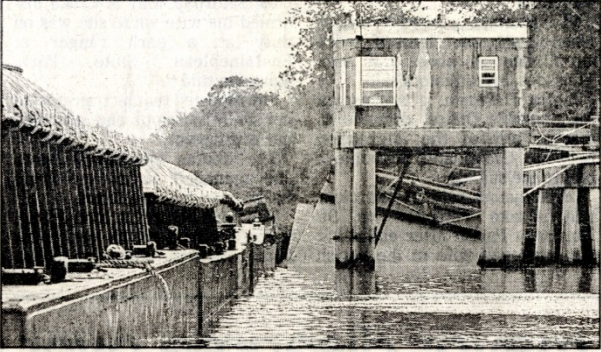
**6 Ft of Vertical Clearance When Closed**

**Number of Openings → 1,050 / Month (35 / Day)**

**Structurally Deficient 20 Ton Limit**



# Existing Bridge



Advocate staff photo by Bryan Tuck

A portion of the Louisa bridge, the only bridge to Cypremort Point, lies in the water Thursday after barges hit it.

## Closed



## Opening



## Opened



# Existing Bridge



11.17.2001



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# Existing Bridge



11.17.2001

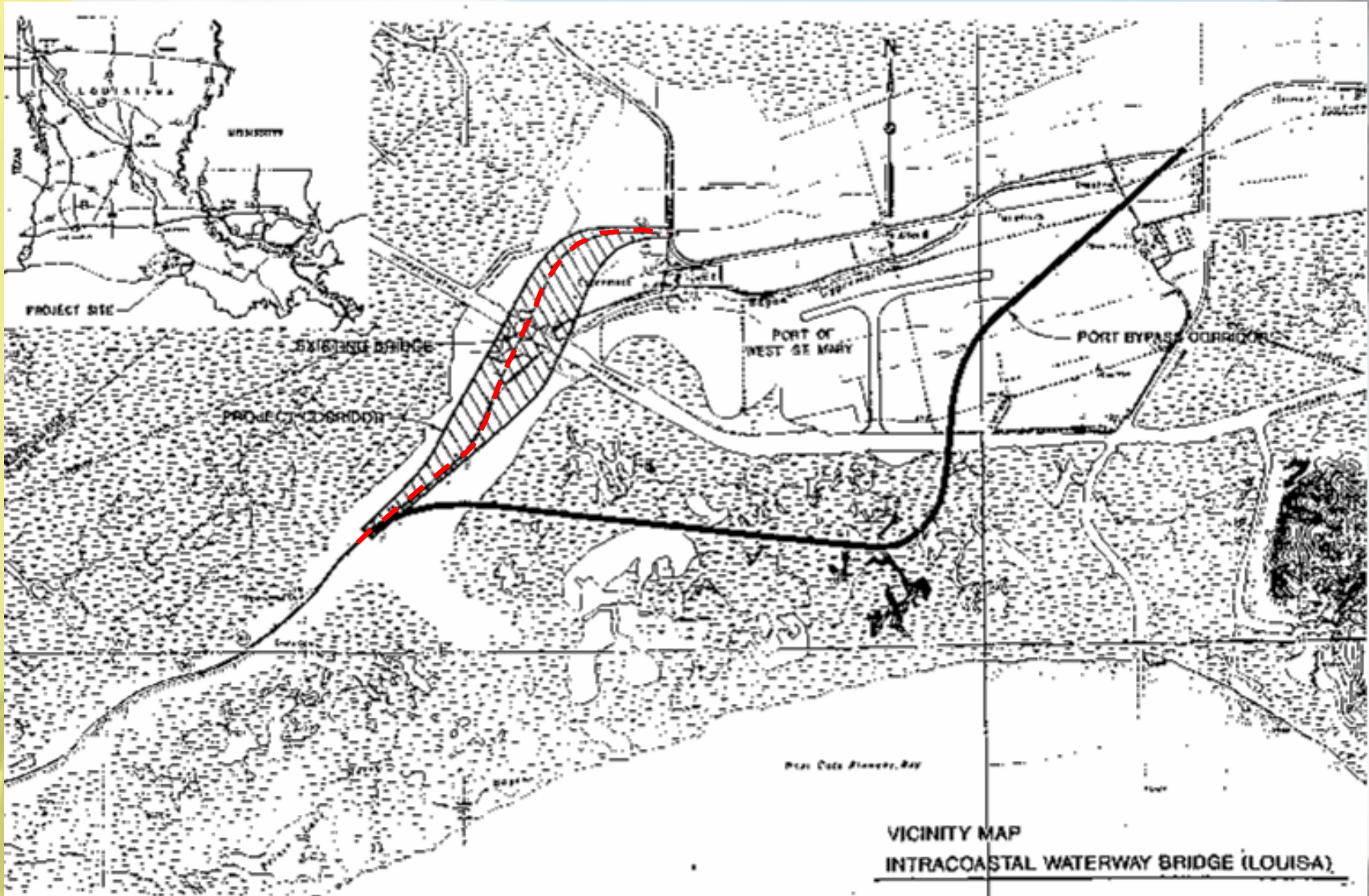


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# Project Corridors



# Alignment Study

## Alternate 1

250 m (800 Ft) East of Existing Bridge  
Additional 24 Acres of ROW

## Alternate 2

198 m (600 Ft) West of Existing Bridge  
Additional 28 Acres of ROW

## Alternate 1A

30 m (100 Ft) East and Adjacent To Existing Bridge  
Additional 24 Acres of ROW

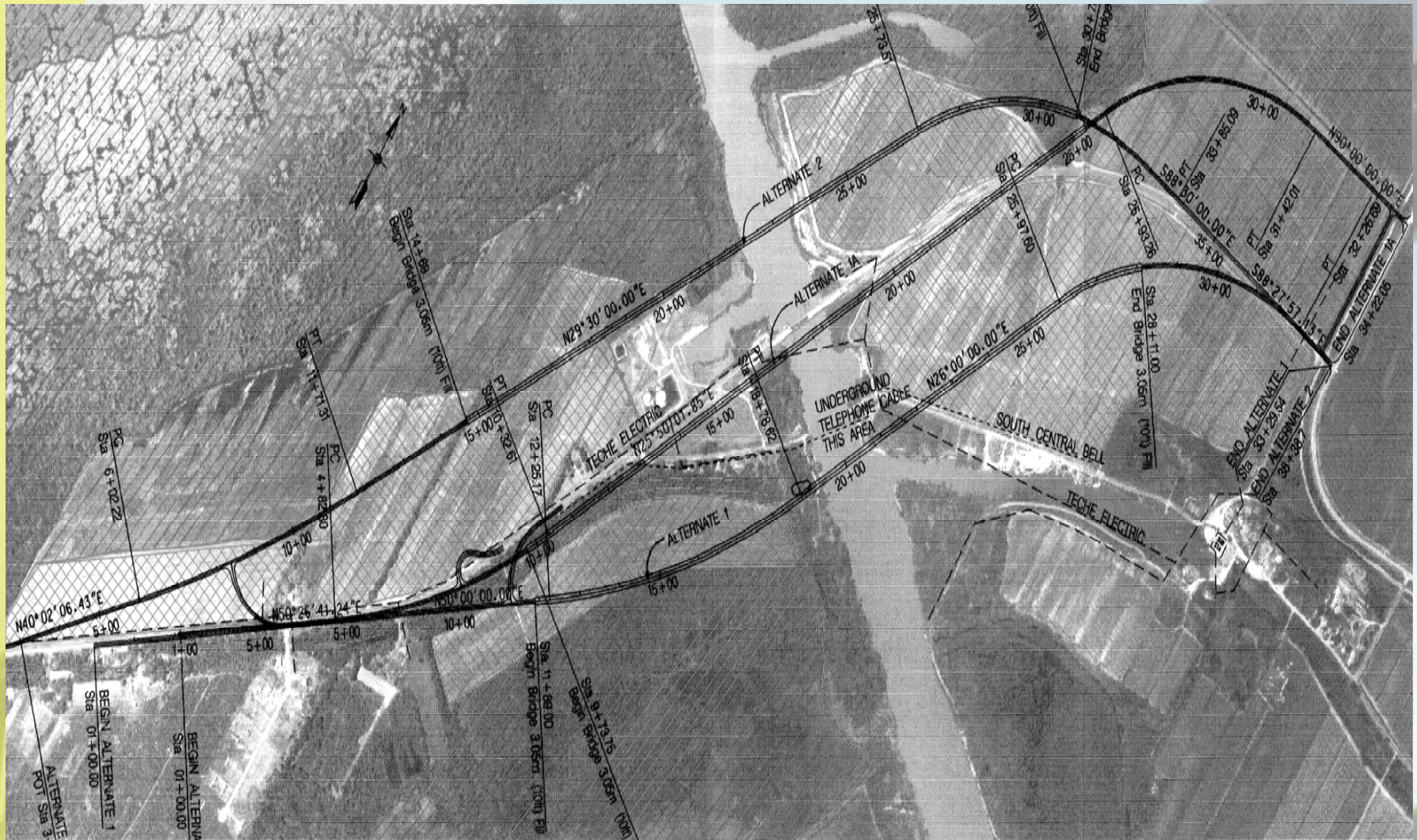
## Port Bypass

Ships Enter Port Without Passing Bridge  
Discounted Because of Environmental Impact & Roadway Cost  
Additional 70 Acres of ROW



# Alignment Study

## Alternate 1, 2, 1A



# Navigation Study

## Intracoastal Waterway - Sabine River To Houma

5 Major Bridges (3 High Level Fixed, 2 Movable)

High Levels Have 22 m (73 Ft) of Vertical Clearance

Existing Swing Span Averages 1,050 Openings/Month

## Close Proximity To Port of West St. Mary

1500 Acre Complex With Total Intermodal Operations

Import/Export Business for International Trade

Constructed and Shipped the Largest Offshore Drilling Deck



# Navigation Study

Majority Barge/Tug Vessels  
Some Shallow Draft Ships

Drilling Platforms



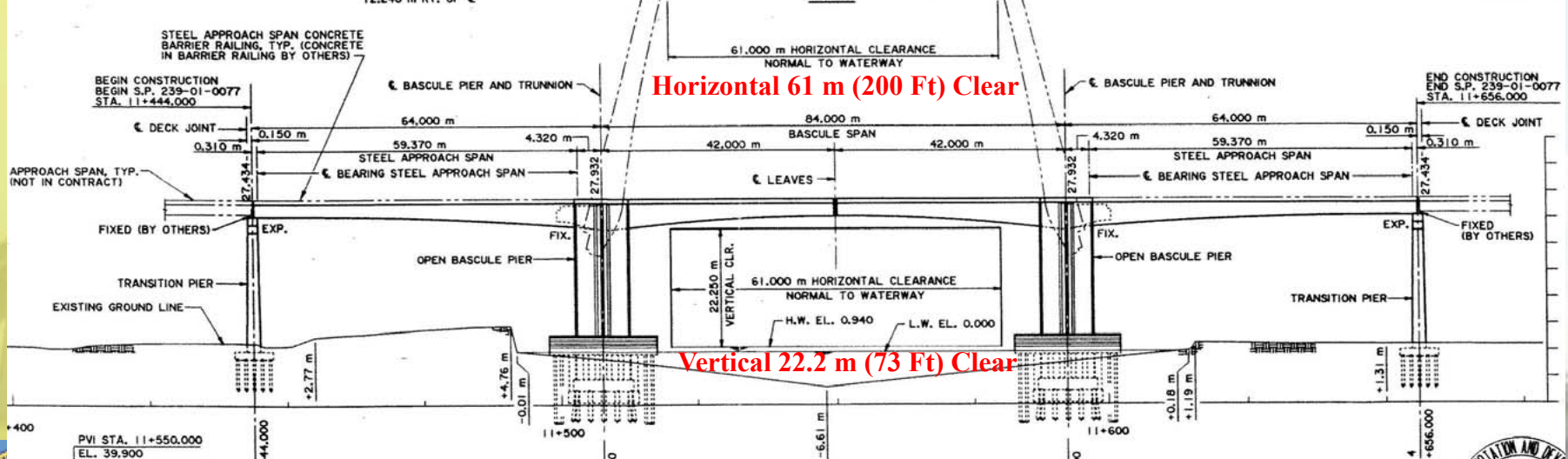
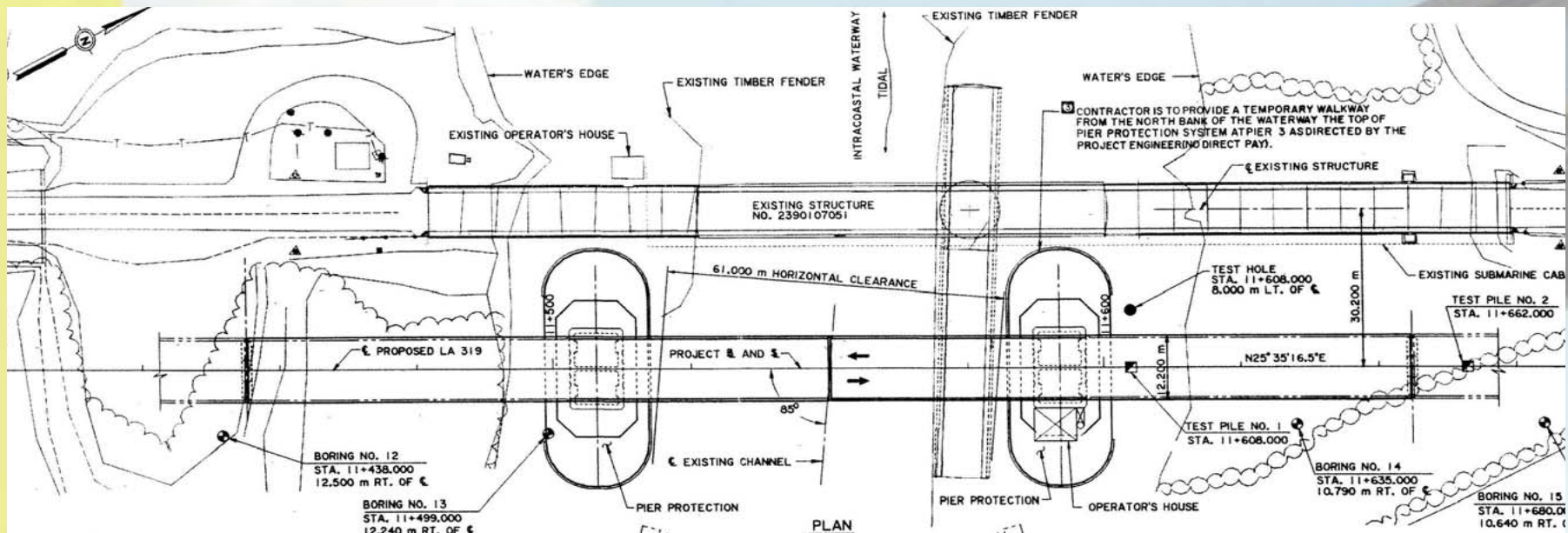
# Navigation Study

## Existing Swing Span Average Number of Openings Per Month (1993 – 1994)

| No. of Vessels | No. of Openings | 0' – 40' | 41' – 50' | 51' – 60' | 61' – 73' | Over 73' |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1,714          | 1,050           | 872      | 132       | 33        | 6         | 7        |



# Navigation Study



# Geotechnical

## Borings To 39.6 m (130 Ft)

9.1 m (30 Ft) Soft Clay Over Stiff Clay

## Bascule Pier Foundations

50 Steel Pipe Piles

762 mm (30 inch) Diameter x 42.7 m (140 Ft) Long

50 Ton Design Capacity

Reinforced Concrete Footing / Seal

## Adjacent Approach Pier Foundations

33 PPC Piles

450 mm (18 inch) Square x 25 m (82 Ft) Long

50 Ton Design Capacity

Reinforced Concrete Footing





# Pier Protection System

## AASHTO Vessel Collision Design

Design 4 Barges with 1 Towboat (LOA = 1200 Ft)

Flow Is Tidal with Water EL 0.0 To 3.0 Ft

1967-1995 Vessel Collisions to Existing Bridge  
(26 Barge Tows) 3 Barge Collisions In 2001

Classification - Critical

Vessel Impact Speed = 6 MPH (4 to 6 MPH recorded)

Method II (Method I) Force = 3,800 (4,100) Kips

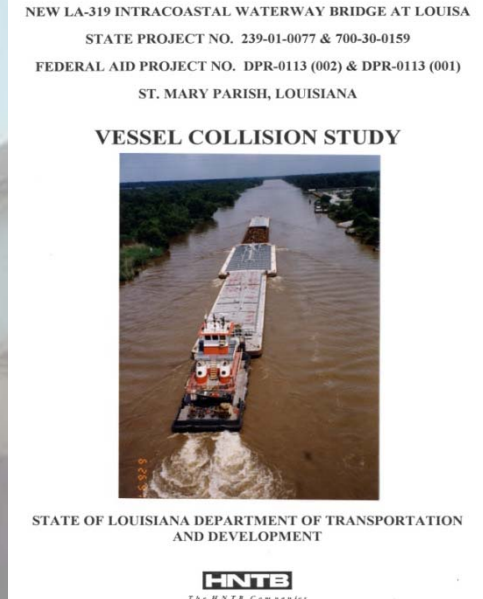
Two Bascule Piers In Navigable Waterway

Pier Protection Alternates

Drilled Shaft → Elastic/Not Destroyed

Guide Wall → Plastic/Partial Breakup

Dolphin System → Plastic/Partial or Complete Breakup



# Pier Protection System

Source: Vicksburg COE



07-21-95 FRI  
10:31:21 240

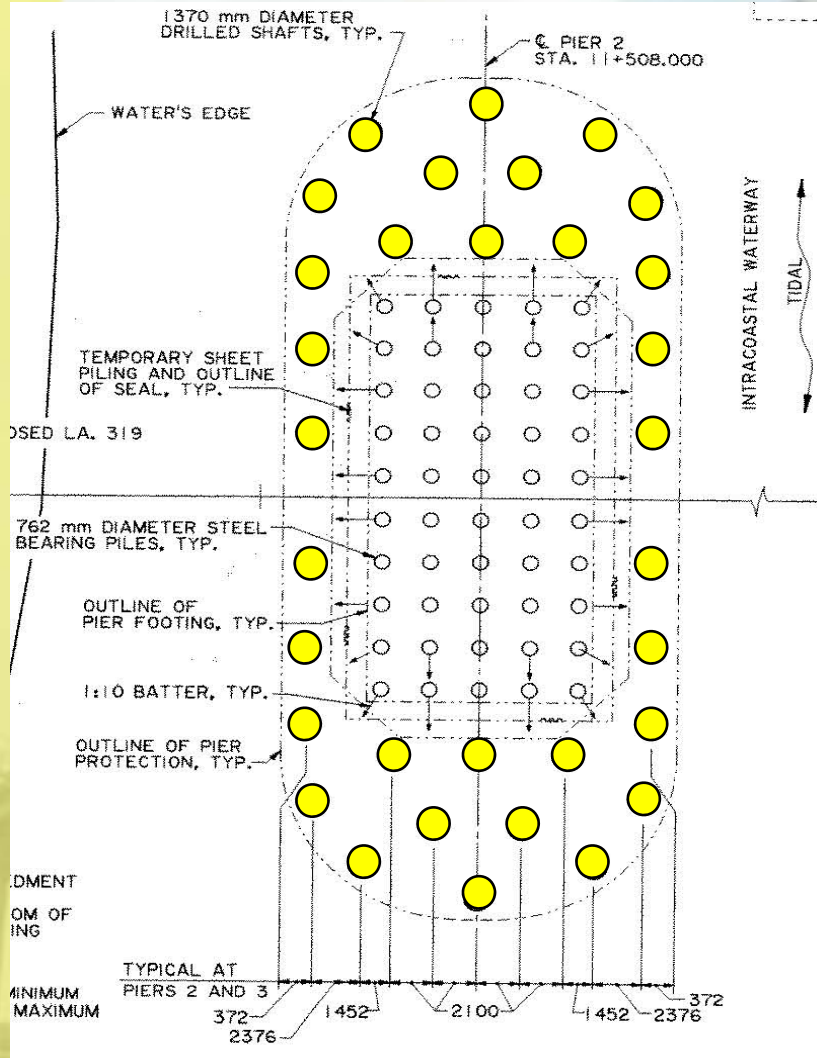


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# Pier Protection System

32-1370 mm (54") Diameter Drilled Shaft within a Concrete Cap System



# Bascule Pier Alternates

## Open Pier

Counterweight Under Approach Span

Counterweight Will Not Dip Into Water

Approach Spans Need To Be Two Girder Systems

Bascule Span Live Load Anchors Mounted On Approach Span

Approach Spans Mimic Bascule Haunch To Hide Counterweight

## Enclosed Pier

Counterweight Enclosed

Simplified Approach Spans

Higher Pier Cost



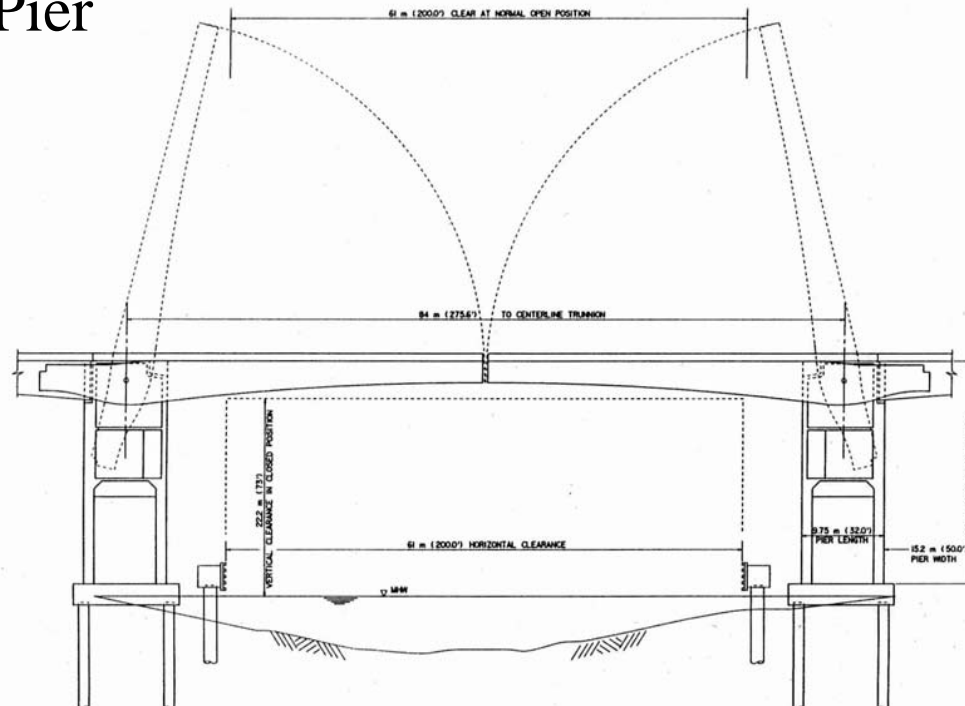
# Bascule Superstructure Alternates

## Alternate A

Double Leaf Trunnion Bascule

Two Steel Girder

Open Bascule Pier



ELEVATION

BASCULE SPAN STEEL GIRDER  
OPEN PIER ALTERNATE A

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF HIGHWAYS

ROUTE LA 319 OVER  
INTRACASTAL WATERWAY  
(LOUISIA)

H. T. B. CORPORATION

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

DESIGNED BY DATE

CHECKED BY DATE

SCALE SHEET NO.

PLATE 8

|     |          |      |
|-----|----------|------|
| NO. | REVISION | DATE |
|     |          |      |
|     |          |      |
|     |          |      |



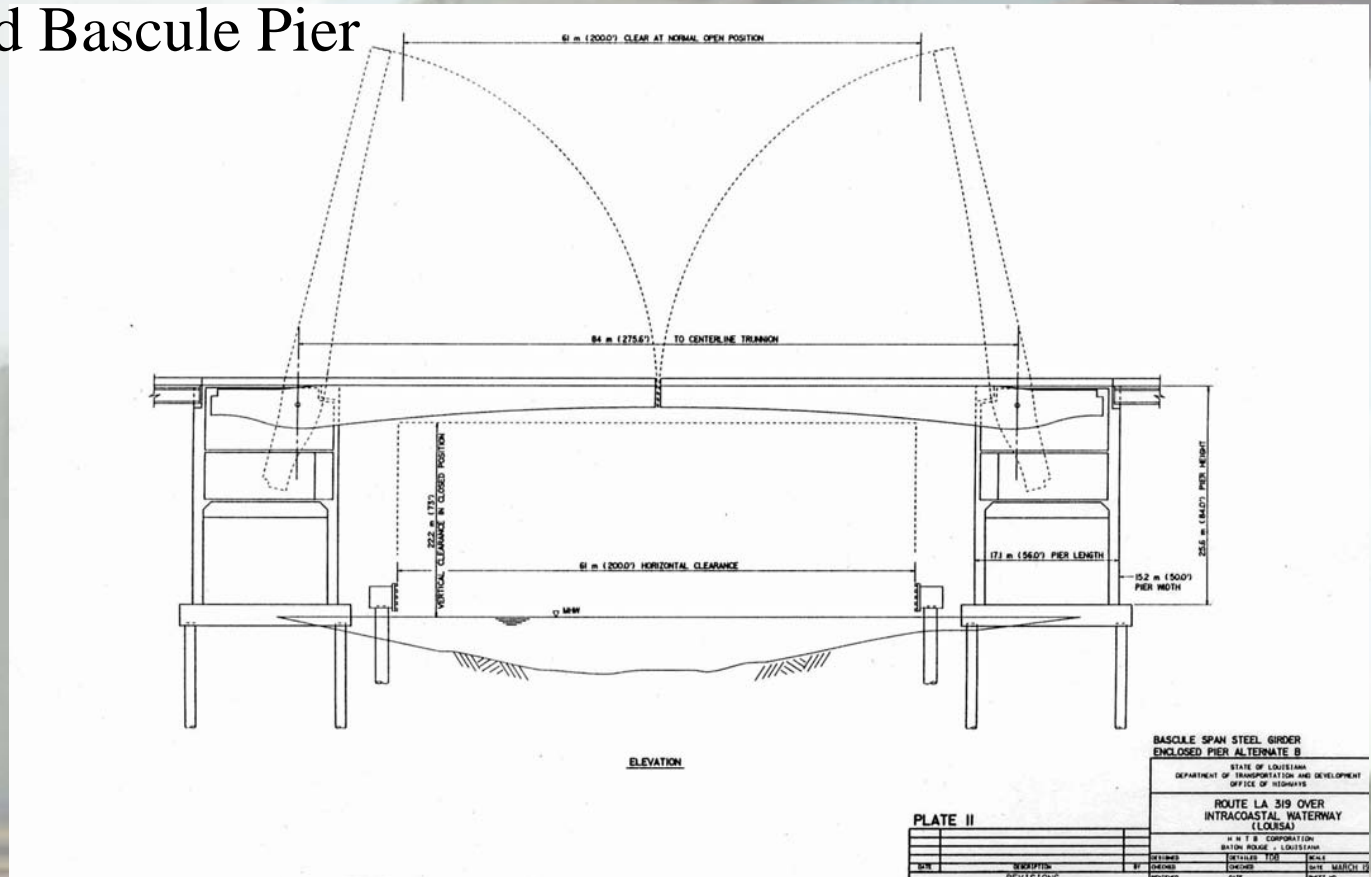
# Bascule Superstructure Alternates

## Alternate B

Double Leaf Trunnion Bascule

Three Steel Girder

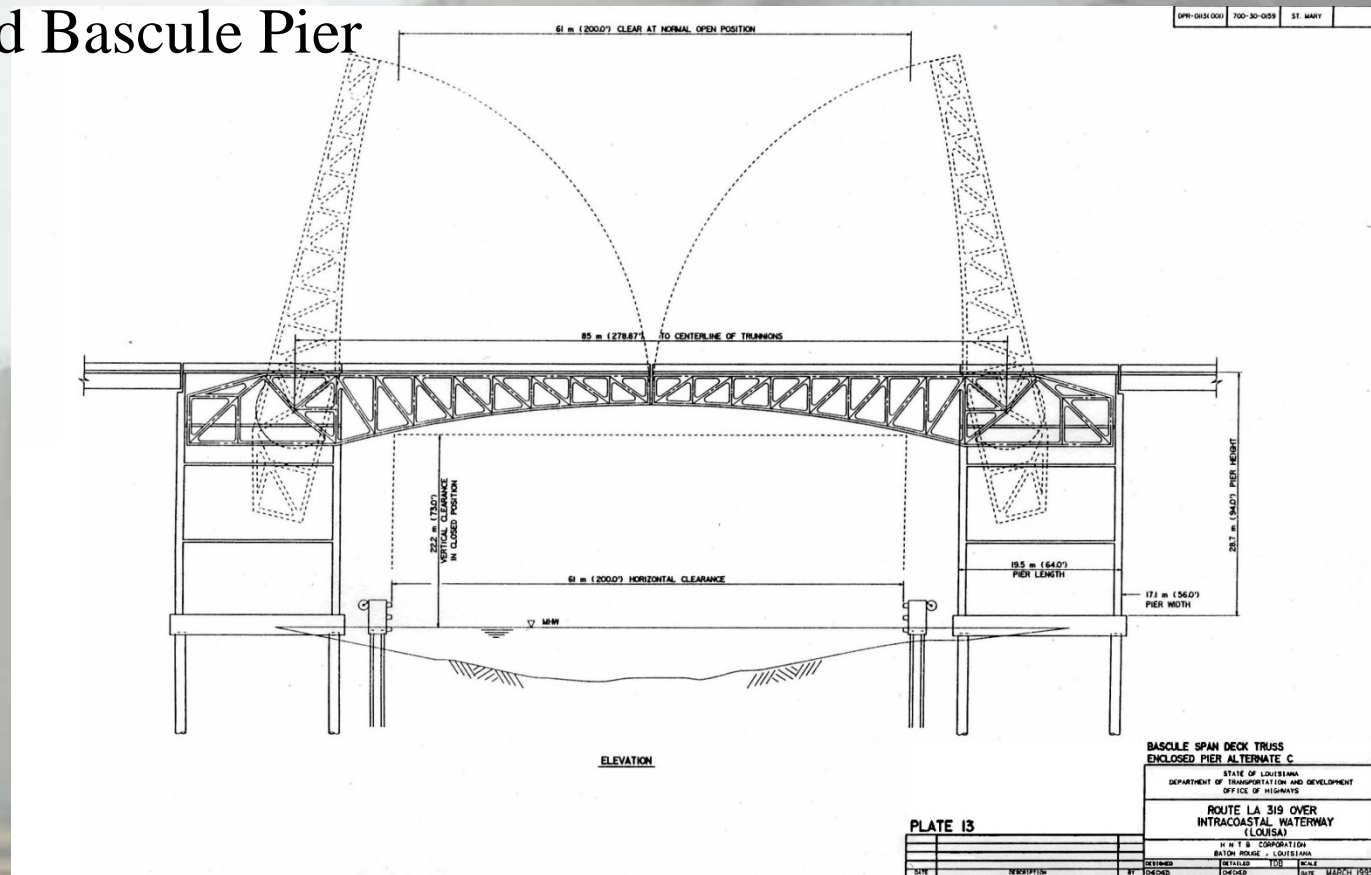
Enclosed Bascule Pier



# Bascule Superstructure Alternates

## Alternate C

Double Leaf Trunnion Bascule  
 Two Steel Deck Truss  
 Enclosed Bascule Pier



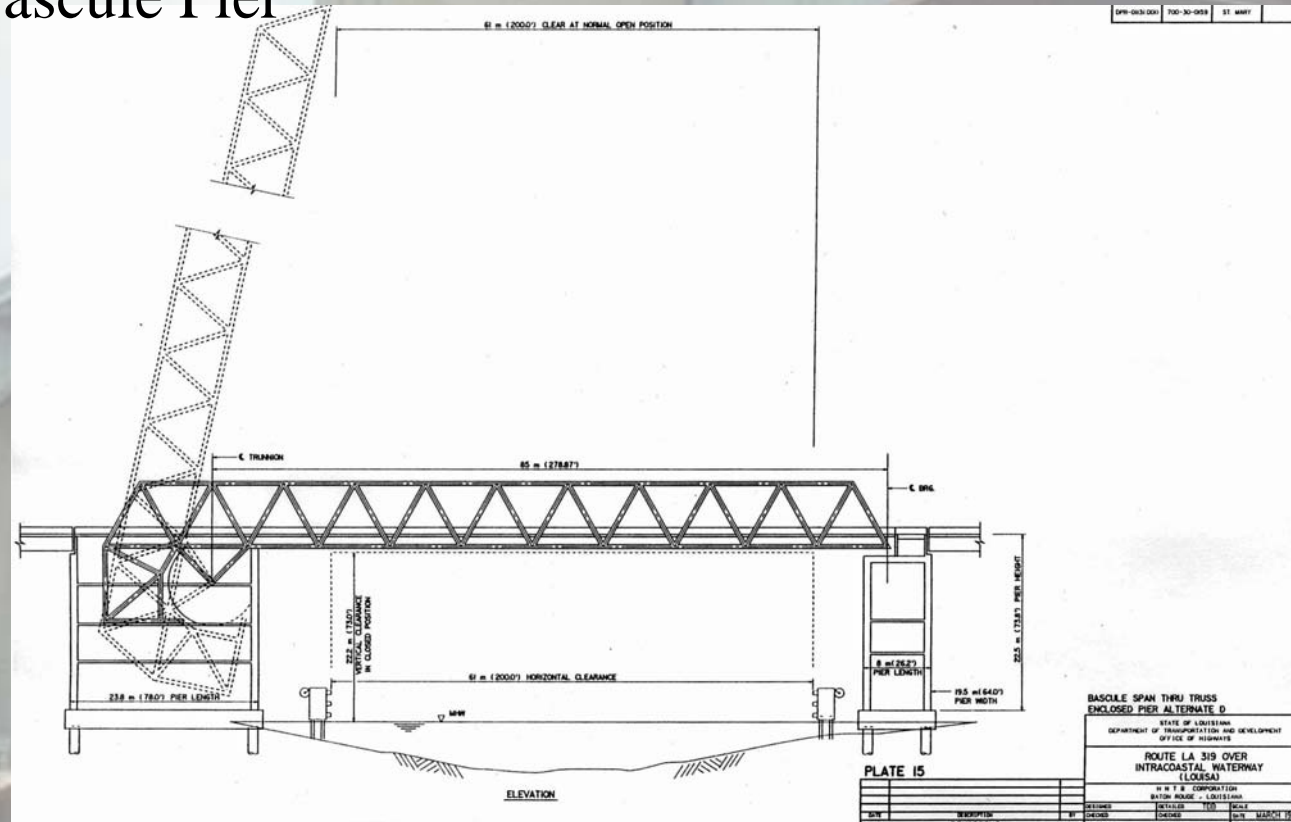
# Bascule Superstructure Alternates

## Alternate D

Single Leaf Trunnion Bascule

Two Steel Through Truss

Enclosed Bascule Pier





# Bascule Superstructure Alternates

| Preliminary Cost Estimate 1996 (\$ millions) |              |     |                 |                         |                              |                              |             |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Alternate                                    | Bascule Span |     | Pier Protection | Mechanical / Electrical | Approach Structure & Roadway | Mobilization / Contingencies | Total Cost  |
|                                              | Super        | Sub |                 |                         |                              |                              |             |
|                                              |              |     |                 |                         |                              | 18%                          |             |
| <b>A</b>                                     | 2.7          | 2.7 | 1.5             | 6.4                     | 8.5                          | 3.9                          | <b>25.7</b> |
| <b>B</b>                                     | 2.1          | 4.1 | 1.5             | 6.4                     | 8.5                          | 4.1                          | 26.7        |
| <b>C</b>                                     | 2.4          | 4.4 | 1.5             | 6.4                     | 9.8                          | 4.4                          | <b>28.9</b> |
| <b>D</b>                                     | 4.8          | 3.7 | 1.5             | 5.7                     | 7.5                          | 4.2                          | 27.4        |

**Alternate A Chosen**



# Environmental Assessment

**Land Use - Alignment 1A Smallest Impact**

**Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)**

USDA Ranked **Alternate 1A As The Lowest Impact**

**Air Quality** – No Impact      **Noise** – No Impact

**Water Quality** – Little Impact Chicot Aquifer (300 Foot Wells)

**NEPA Permits - Wetlands**

Much of It Prior Converted To Agriculture

Bypass Has The Highest Impact

Alignment 1A Is Second Highest

LADOTD Responsible For Mitigation

**Floodplains** – Project Lies In A 100 Year Floodplain

**Endangered And Threatened Species - USFWS No Effect**

**Archeological/Historical**

**Visual Impact - Public Hearing - Alignment 1A Preferred**



# Environmental Assessment

## Impacts To Wetland Habitat

| Impacts to Wetland Habitat |                  |                   |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Impact Categories          | Alternate        |                   |      |      |      |      |
|                            | 1                |                   | 2    |      | 1A   |      |
| Area (ac)                  | 2.17             |                   | 2.10 |      | 3.80 |      |
|                            | BHW <sup>1</sup> | FSWP <sup>2</sup> | BHW  | FSWP | BHW  | FSWP |
| AAHU's <sup>3</sup>        | .5               | .76               | 1.19 | —    | —    | 2.44 |

<sup>1</sup> Bottomland Hardwood; <sup>2</sup> Fresh Swamp; <sup>3</sup> Average Annual Habitat Units

## FONSI Determined



# Proposed Bridge Rendering



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# New Louisa Bridge



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# Construction Team

**Louisiana DOTD / HNTB**

**Coastal Bridge Company – General Contractor**

**CEC/Huvall Associates – Bascule Span Erection**

**Steward Machine – Bascule Span Steel and Machinery**

**IKG Industries – Bascule Span Steel Grating**

**Carolina Steel – Approach Span Steel**

**Orleans Material – Bascule Pier Trunnion Support Steel**

**J.H Menge & Co. – Pier Protection Fendering**

**E. P. Breaux – Electrical**



# New Movable Span Bridge

**2-Lanes 11.4 m (37 Ft) Wide Roadway/No Sidewalks**

**84 m (276 Ft) 2 Steel Girder Double Leaf Fixed **Trunnion Bascule** Span**

**Bascule** is **French** for “**Seesaw**”

**Trunnion** is **French** for “**Trunk**” or “**Stump**”

**Bascule Span Girders** vary in depth **2.3 m to 5.3 m (7.5 to 17.3 Ft)**



**64 m (210 Ft) 2 Steel Girder Adjacent Span**

**Adjacent Span Girders** vary in depth **2.5 m to 5.0 m (8.3 to 16.4 Ft)**



# Approach Spans

**38 – 37 m (121 Ft) Spans (Typical Units are Two Span Continuous)**

**5 Girder BT Sections 1830 mm (72")**

**2 Column Reinforced Concrete Bents**



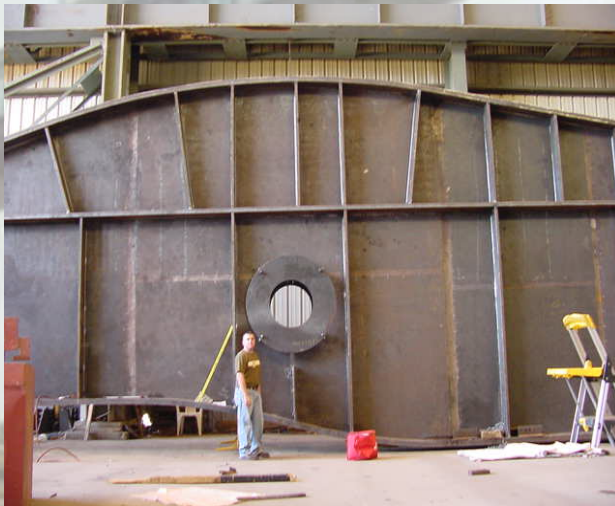


# Bascule Girders

Trunnion Inserted After LN2 Bath  
Class 7 Fit with Trunnion Medium Drive Fit



Photos courtesy of Steward Machine Company

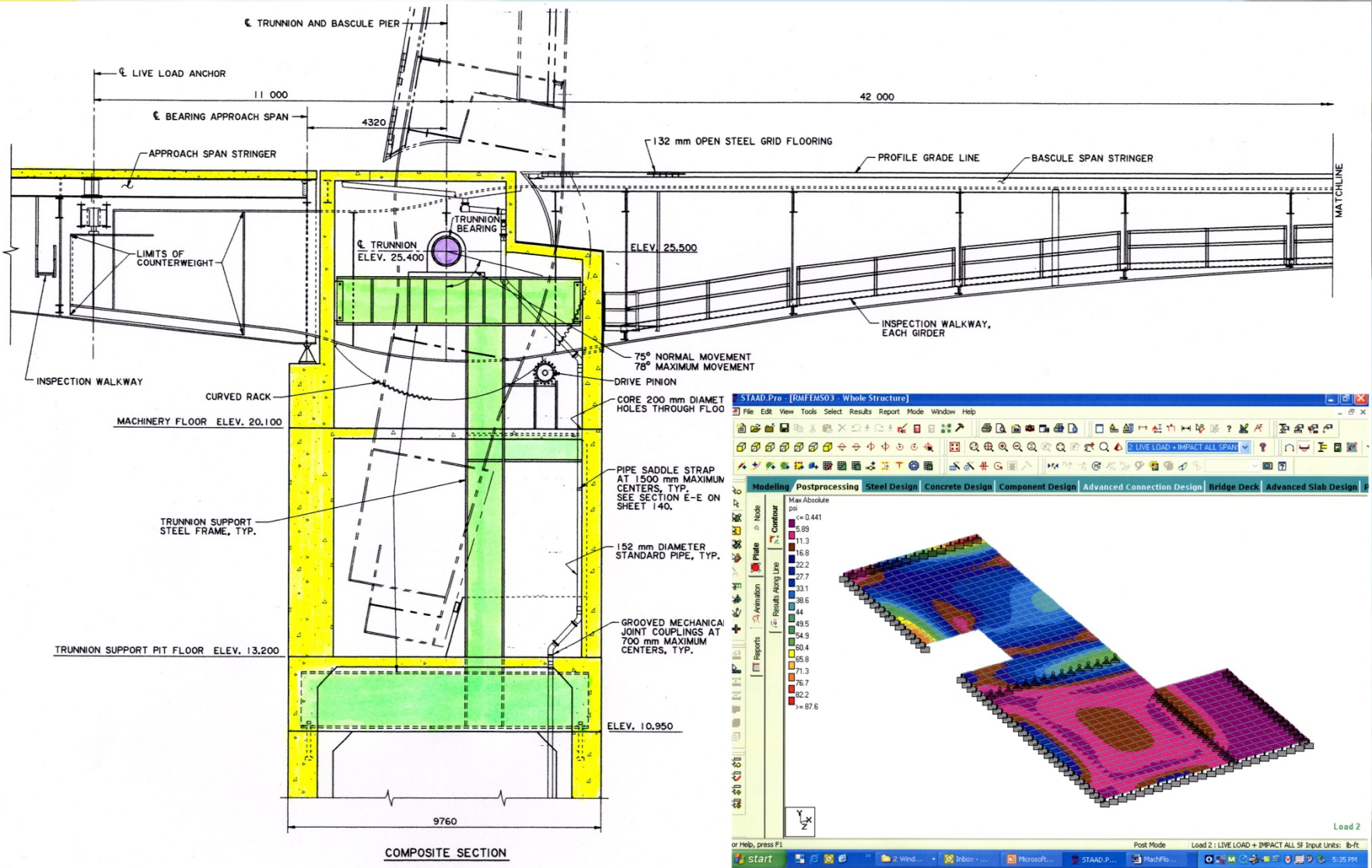


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# Bascule Piers



# Bascule Piers

Steel Pipe Pile Foundation

Reinforced Cast In Place Concrete

Bascule Span Steel Support Structure



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# Pier Protection

Concrete Filled Steel Pile

Reinforced concrete cap

UHMW-PE

Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene



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# Bascule Span Erection

Tail Erected

Toe Added

Deck Placed

Steel and Concrete Filled Steel  
Box Counterweight



3. 28. 2003



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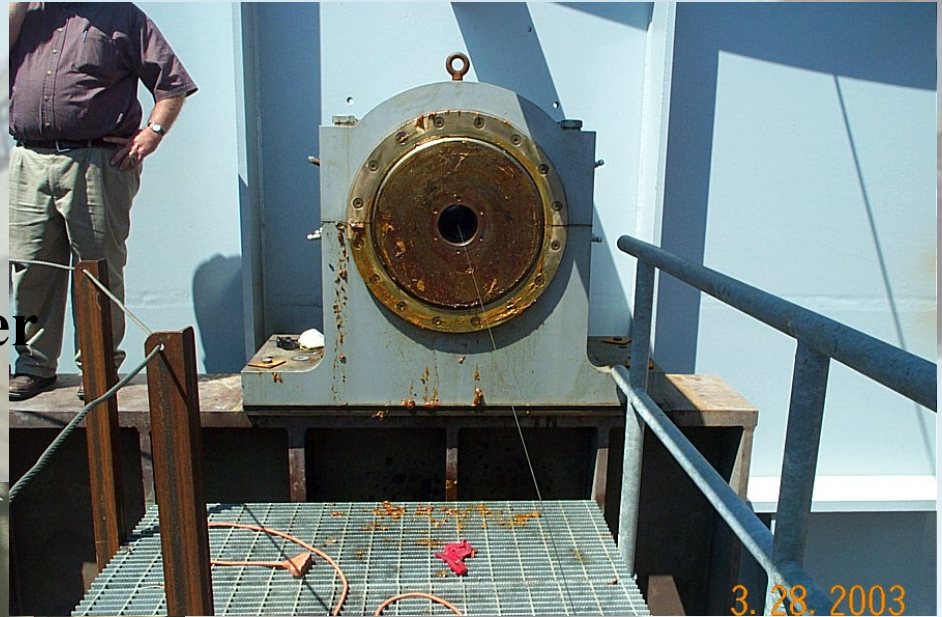
# Machinery Erection

## Trunnion Bearing

600 mm (24") To 760 mm (30")

Bronze Bushing

## Rack Bolts To Bascule Girder Flange Plates



# Drive Machinery

Simple Arrangement

2 - 25 HP Two Speed AC Motors

Single Central Reducer






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# Rack Alignment Analysis

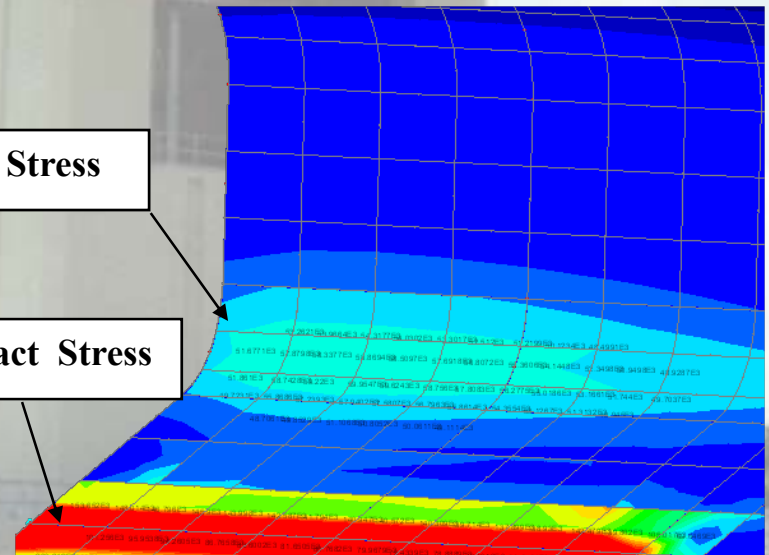
## Tooth Finite Element Analysis

| Condition                                  | Root Stress (ksi) | Loading Diagram                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 – Load Applied Full Width                | 14                |  |
| 2 – Load Applied 20% Width                 | 40                |  |
| 3 – Load Applied 20% Width at end of tooth | 60                |  |



Root Stress

Contact Stress





# Finished Span 2005



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# Finished Span 2005

**\$12.7 M Approach**

**\$22.2 M Bascule**

**\$34.9 M Total**



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# Intracoastal Waterway Bridge at Louisa



**2007 Prize Bridge Award - Movable Span Category  
Presented at the 2007 World Steel Bridge Symposium**

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