

BY WAY OF COMPARISON

How the new bridge in Toledo stacks up

Toledo's Veterans' Glass City Skyway has become a landmark in the city even before opening to traffic.

The cable-stayed bridge's 400-foot tall concrete pylon is the central structure of the bridge and is the second-tallest structure in Toledo. One SeaGate is the city's tallest at 440 feet.

In cable-stayed bridges, the cables are attached to the towers, which alone bear the road as opposed to a suspension bridge in which the cables ride freely across the towers transmitting the load to the anchorages at either end.

The \$220 million undertaking is the largest single construction project in ODOT history. The Veterans' Glass City Skyway also holds the world record for the highest number of strands in each of the bridge's steel-sheathed stay cables at 156.

Andrea Voogd, Ohio Department of Transportation District 2 spokesman, said the strands help make the bridge stronger and able to hold more weight.

Other well-known cable-stayed bridges around the country and world:

■ Possibly one of the best known cable-stayed bridges in the nation is Florida's Sunshine Skyway, which spans 5.5 miles across Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, and rises 190 feet above the water.

■ Japan's Tatara Bridge opened in 1999 and spans nearly 5,000 feet across the Seto Inland Sea, which separates the country's three main islands.

■ The Le Pont De Normandie cable-stayed bridge in France is about a half-mile long and rises 165 feet above the water.

■ The Rion-Antirion Bridge links mainland Greece and the peninsula of Peloponnese. It was completed a week before the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens. The Olympic torch bearers were the first to officially cross the 1.3 mile structure.

■ Canada's Alex Fraser Bridge is more than 3,000 feet long and carries six lanes of traffic over the Fraser River in Vancouver.

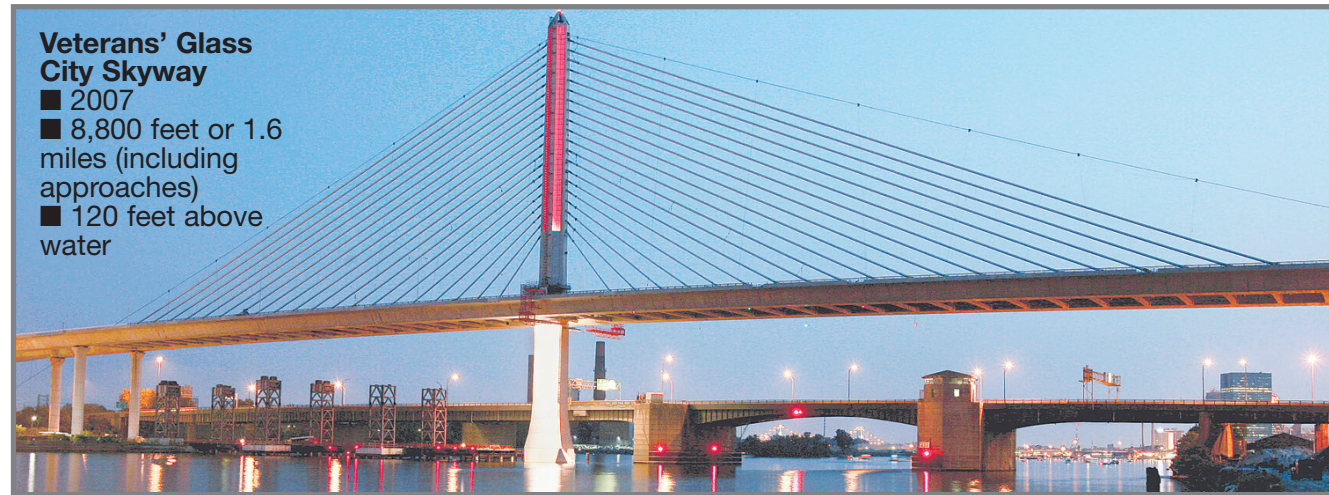
Some of the world's best-known suspension bridges:

■ At 1.6 miles long, the Mackinac Bridge connects Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas. The bridge was opened to traffic in 1957, and the 100 millionth vehicle crossed the bridge 41 years later.

■ The Akashi Kaikyo Bridge in Japan was constructed in 1988 and cost an estimated 500 billion Japanese yen or \$3.6 billion in U.S. dollars.

■ San Francisco's Golden Gate bridge is just over a mile long. It was the world's longest suspension bridge after its completion in 1937.

■ The two-level George Washington Bridge, which crosses the Hudson River between upper Manhattan and Fort Lee, N.J., is the world's only 14-lane suspension bridge.



Veterans' Glass City Skyway

- 2007
- 8,800 feet or 1.6 miles (including approaches)
- 120 feet above water

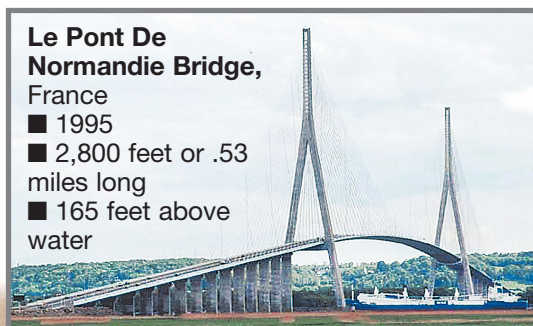
Mackinac Bridge, Michigan

- 1957
- 8,614 feet or 1.6 miles
- 155 feet above water



Le Pont De Normandie Bridge, France

- 1995
- 2,800 feet or .53 miles long
- 165 feet above water



Tatara Bridge, Japan

- 1999
- 4,855 feet or .91 miles
- 180 feet above water



Golden Gate Bridge, California

- 1937
- 6,450 feet or 1.2 miles
- 220 feet above water



Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Florida

- 1987
- 29,040 feet or 5.5 miles long
- 190 feet above water



Rion-Antirion Bridge, Greece

- 2004
- 7,200 feet or 1.3 miles
- 176 feet above water