



NORTH HERO - GRAND ISLE

DRAWBRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The \$74 million North Hero - Grand Isle Drawbridge Replacement project restores the grandeur of the historic bridge connecting Vermont's North Hero and Grand Isle. At more than 60 years old, the previous structure exceeded its useful life. Carrying 3,000 vehicles per day during the off-season and twice that during the summer and fall, the bridge is the only connection between the islands and provides a critical link south to the Vermont mainland.

The new bridge maintains the historic structure's unique design, modernizes the equipment and operations, brings it into code compliance, improves safety and reduces maintenance. Its unique hydraulic cylinder lift system offers more redundancy with fewer components. The 3-D design and BIM model helped find inferences in the design and improves future maintenance.

Developed alongside the community and the Vermont State Historic Preservation Office, the new bridge prioritizes multimodal transportation and will serve the community for at least the next century. Its improved new facilities keep operators safe and comfortable, and the enclosed structural design prevents early degradation.

The project team circumvented incredible challenges, including changing a phased construction strategy that would have utilized the existing bridge to using a temporary bridge, maintaining access to both vehicular and boat traffic, unexpected soil contamination, a global pandemic, and sub-zero temperatures.

After nearly five years of construction and a year delay, the North Hero-Grand Isle drawbridge completed on May 24, 2023, much to the delight of drivers and boaters.

Title: North Hero - Grand Isle Drawbridge Replacement | North Hero to Grand Isle, Vermont

Client: Vermont Agency of Transportation | Barre, Vermont

Entrant: HDR | Manchester, New Hampshire

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