

Bridge Report: Tacoma Narrows Bridge, Tacoma Washington

By Mr. Neat

Bridge History/Purpose

- Connected Gig Harbor to Tacoma
- Actually there were/are 3 bridges:
 - First completed 1940
 - Second completed in 1950
 - Third completed in 2007

History/Purpose



History/Purpose: 1st Bridge

- Started building in November 1938
- Finished July 1st 1940
- And then,....



History/Purpose: 1st Bridge

- It fell down 4 months later...



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xox9BVSu7Ok>

History/Purpose: 1st Bridge

- Why did it fail?
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ai2QFxStxo>



History/Purpose: 2nd Bridge



- Completed in 1950
- Took 2.5 years to build
- I ran across it in June of 1980

History/Purpose: 3rd Bridge



- Added to meet the growing traffic demands
- 3rd has west bound cars, 2nd carries east bound
- Cost ~850 million dollars
- Completed in 2007, took 5 years to build.

Bridge Design

- Suspension Bridge
- This approach allows for longer spans than beam bridges



Bridge Dimensions/Stats

- 5979' long (2nd bridge) Note that is more than a mile!
- The bridge span is 2800'
- 5th longest suspension bridge span in the country
- 90,000 cars per day

What is Special About the Bridge?

- I used it a lot
- Its evolution significantly influenced future bridge designs