

**Edward T. Davis**  
Assistant Professor  
Queensborough Community College  
The City University of New York  
Department of Engineering Technology, Rm. T-20  
222-05 56th Ave  
Bayside, New York 11364  
Phone: 718-631-6207  
Email: edavis@qcc.cuny.edu

Title of Presentation:

**A SURVEY OF SUSPENSION BRIDGES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES  
AND CANADA**

Category to be considered: **CIVIL/ARCHITECTURE**

**Abstract:**

Suspension Bridges have always caught our attention and imagination in awe related to landscape, aesthetics, engineering to plain outright fear: gephyrophobia, the fear of bridges. Their mark in society is felt and appreciated notably with time saved between getting from Point “A” to Point “B”. The Golden Gate Bridge eliminated a tedious circuit around San Francisco Bay to get from Marin County to San Francisco. Another example is where the Mackinac Bridge eliminated a two day drive around Lake Michigan through four states to go from Michigan’s Lower Peninsula to the Upper Peninsula if one opted out the 45 minute ferry ride across the Straits of Mackinac with waiting times sometimes exceeding 17 hours and more. Additionally seen is the economic boom they bring to their locations.

This Survey takes you on a “tour” of suspension bridges within the United States and Canada. There are the well-known familiar spans along with those in a “not-so-suspension-bridge” location. However, each one has their own story as to why they were built either from an aesthetic, economic or social point of view. As a vital part of our infrastructure, a “love-hate” relation is seen between practical ease traveling from Point “A” to Point “B” to toll fares paid which in some cases seem to always increase.

Has anyone complained about the Golden Gate Bridge marring the westward view of this inlet towards the Pacific Ocean? Instead, the bridge enhanced the view resulting in hundreds of post cards published with millions sold. As suspension bridges do catch our attention, may this survey give anyone with interest some background beyond crossing them as to why they were built.

