Mackinac Bridge Authority Overview

Kim Nowack P.E., Mackinac Bridge Authority Director

Mackinac Bridge Authority
Quick Facts

- The Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) is governed by primarily Act 21 of 1950 and Act 214 of 1952, which authorized construction, operation, and financing of the bridge.
- The authority acts as an independent state agency within MDOT, and is empowered to issue revenue bonds, set tolls, and maintain the structure.
- Key statutes also cover the management of a utility tunnel and specific rules for safety
- MCL 16.456 transfers the MBA to MDOT, but mandates that it operates independently

Mackinac Bridge Authority
Quick Facts

- All MBA employees are State Employees in the Michigan Department of Transportation.
- All wages, projects, operation and maintenance is funded solely by tolls.
- MDOT provides support services for project bidding and execution, payroll admin, transportation expertise, legal advice, etc.
- MBA sets tolls to meet maintenance needs, including large projects.

MBA Board Structure

- MCL 254.302 set out the membership structure and dictates that members serve without salary
- Consists of 7 members, 6 to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, for terms of 6 years each.
- The governor shall not appoint more than 3 members of the same political party
- The seventh member is the MDOT Director, or his or her designee from within the department, who shall provide the board with input and expertise relating to the state's transportation system.

Current Board Members

Patrick "Shorty" F. Gleason, Chairman
Term ends 6/30/2028

Marianna Cheeseman
Term ends 6/30/2026

William G. Milliken, Jr.
Term ends 6/30/2026

Barbara Arens
Term ends 6/30/2028

Marty Fittante
Term ends 6/30/2030

R. Dan Musser III
Term ends 6/30/2030

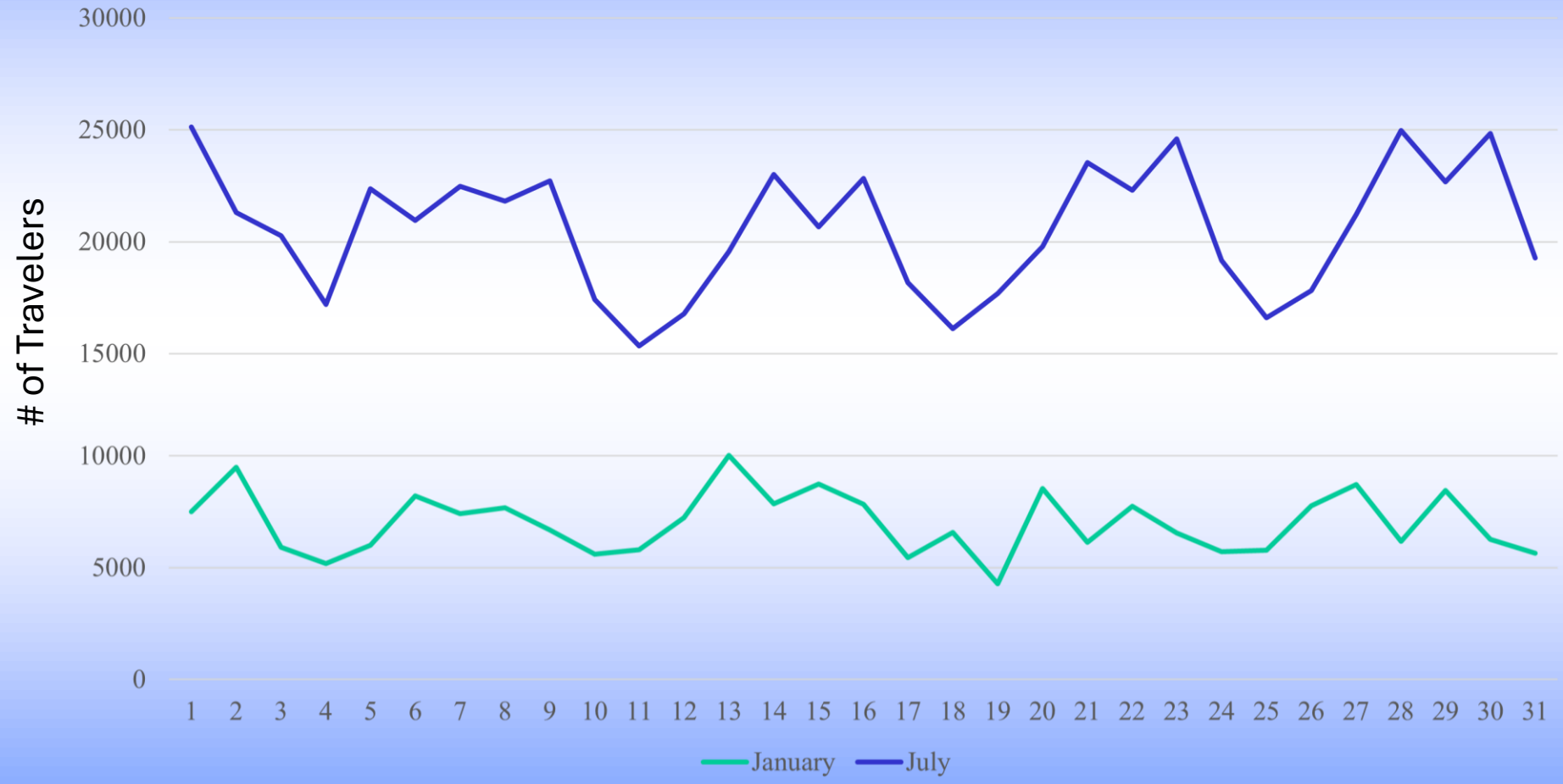
Brad Wieferich
MDOT Director

MACKINAC BRIDGE AUTHORITY

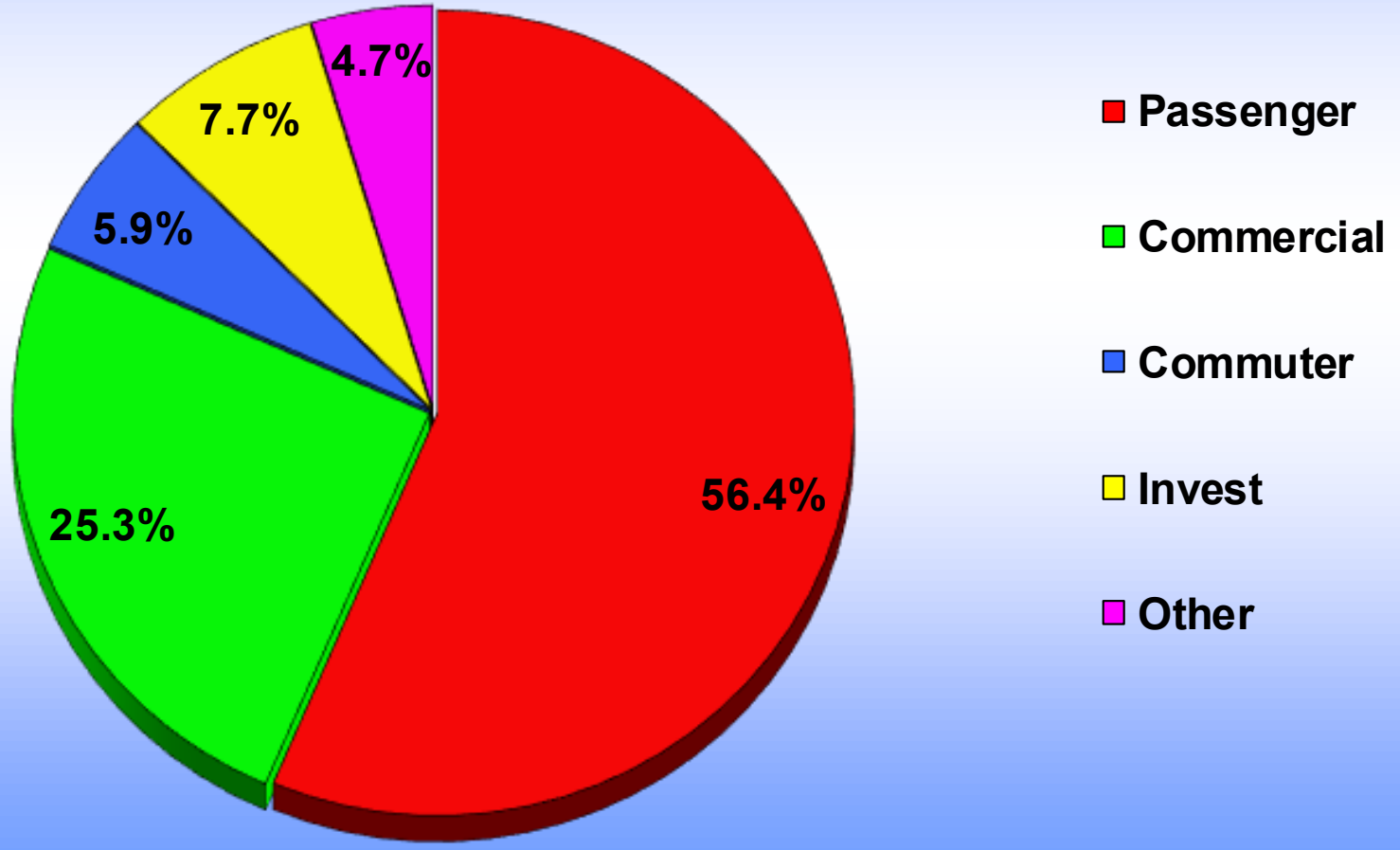
Our Customers Are…

- Tourists and infrequent travelers: 78%
- Commercial haulers: 7%
- Local residents and frequent users: 15%

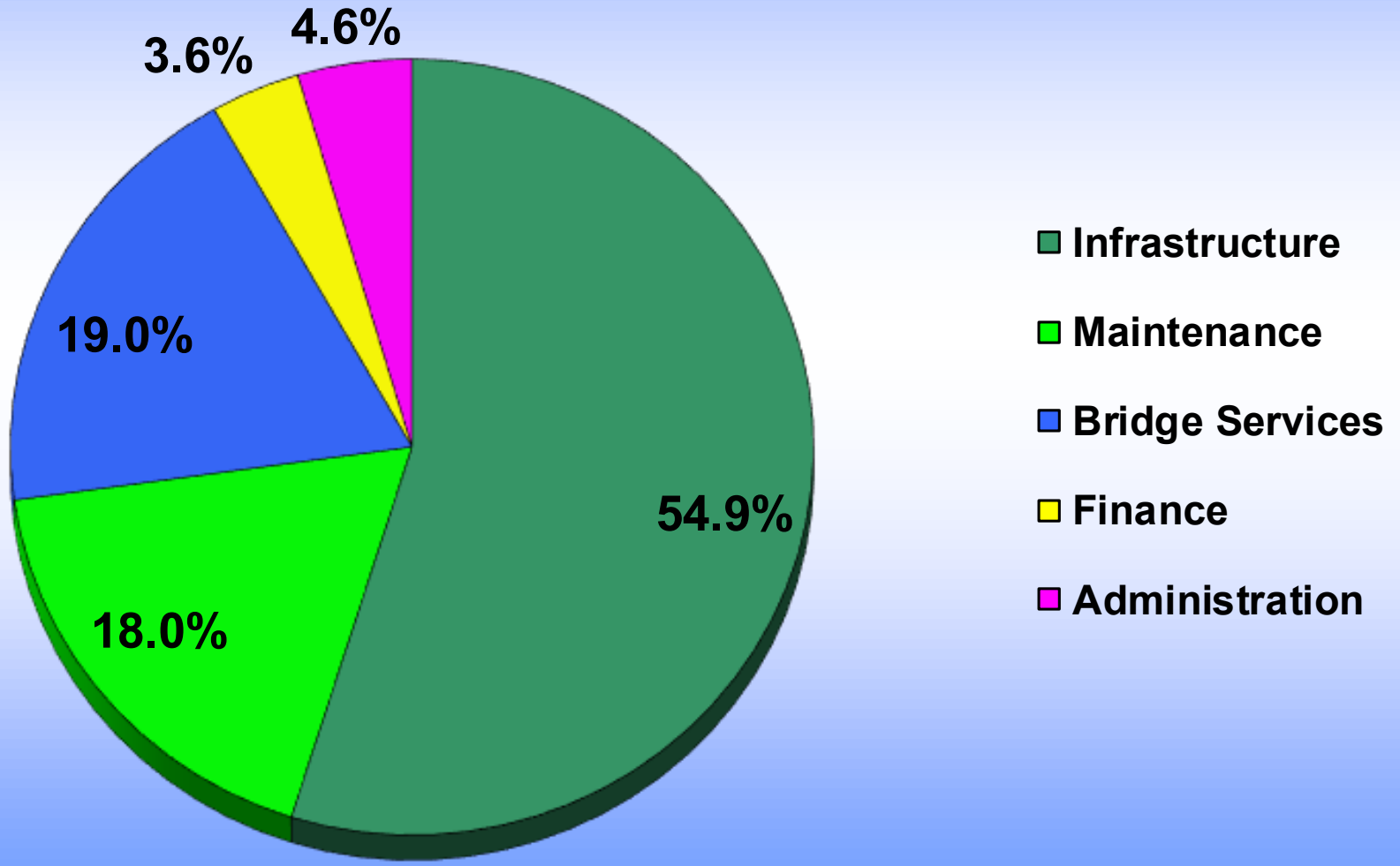
Seasonal Traffic



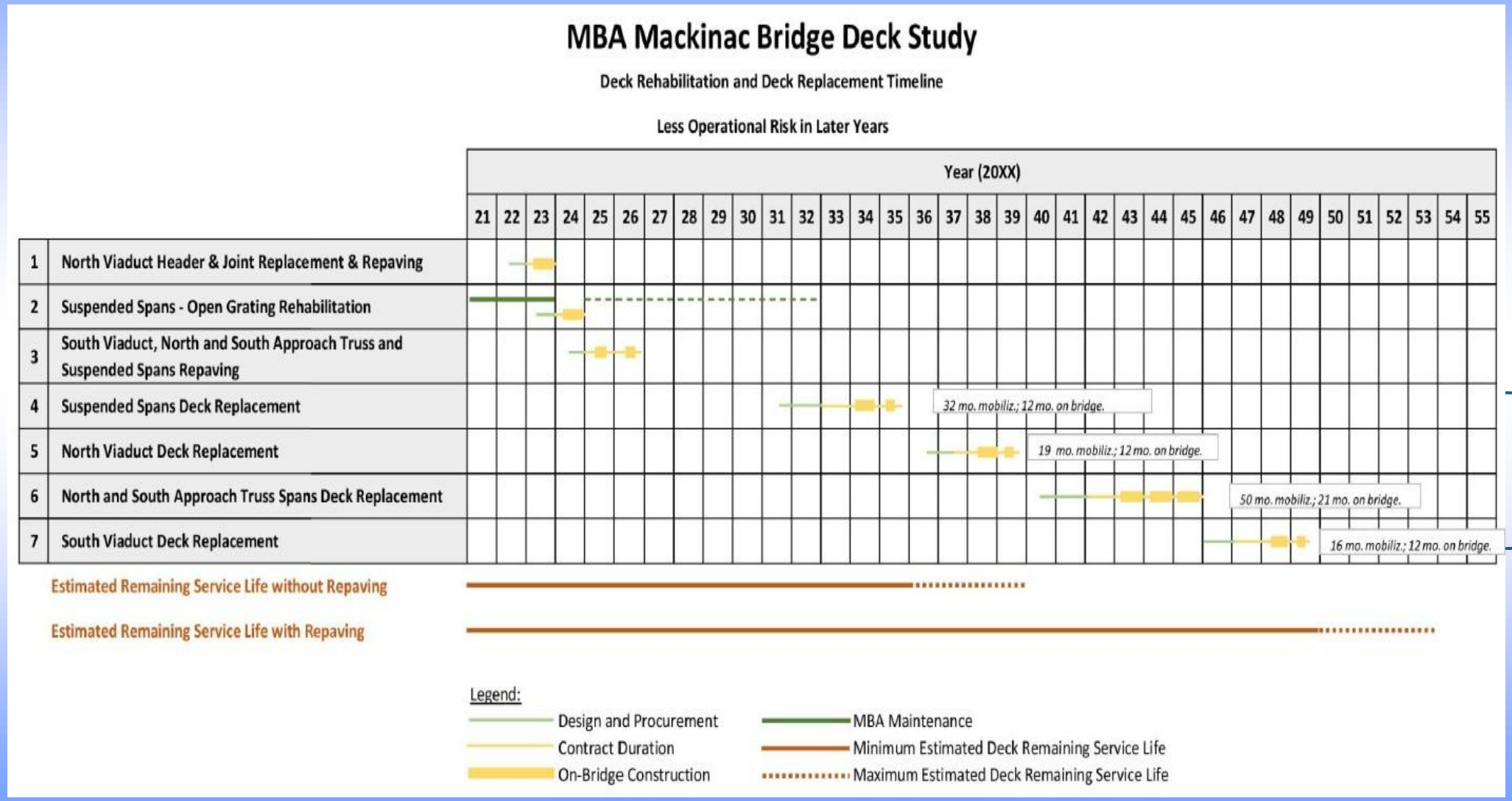
Estimated 2025 Revenue
$26.9 Million



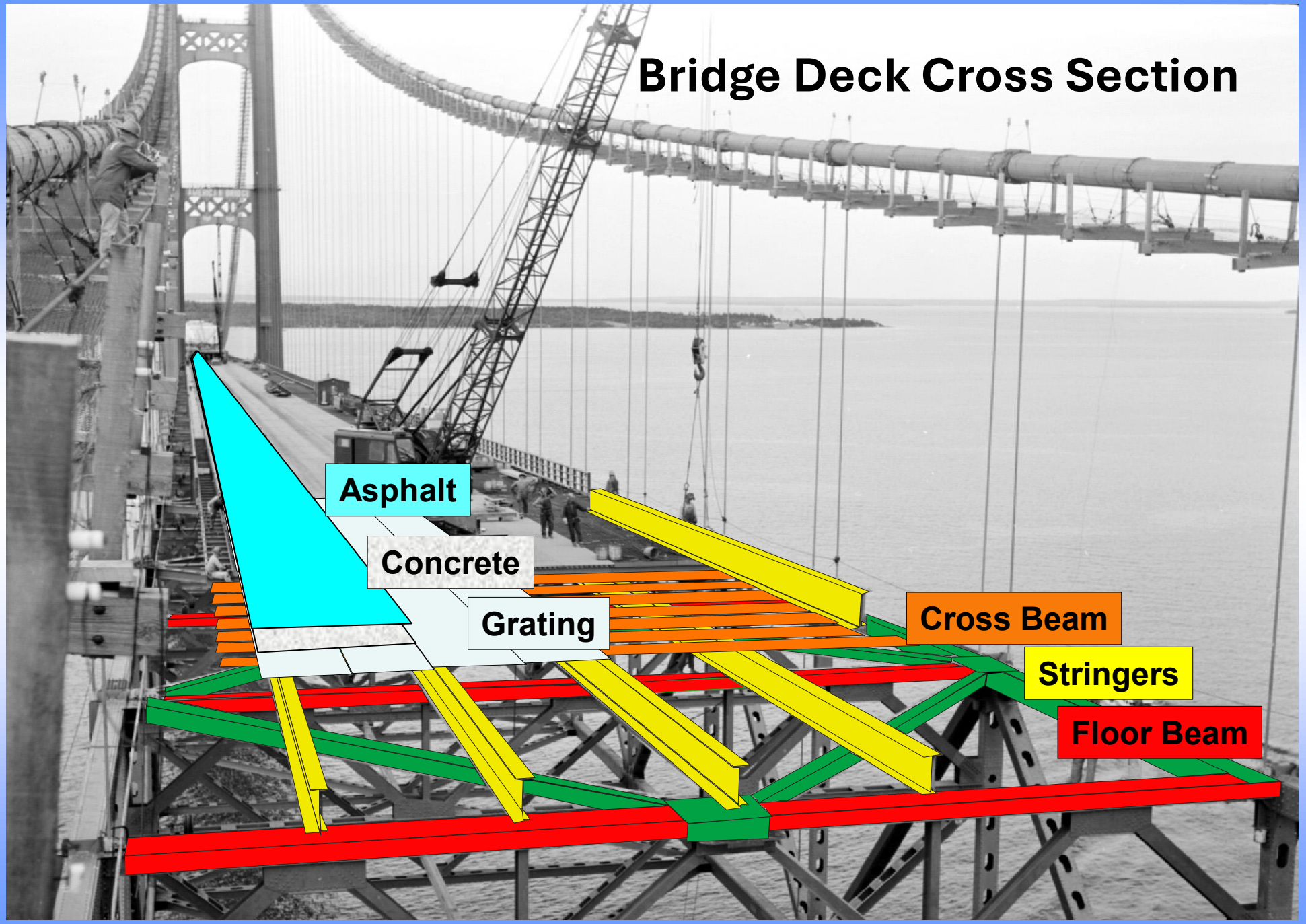
Estimated 2025 Expenses: $24.4 Million



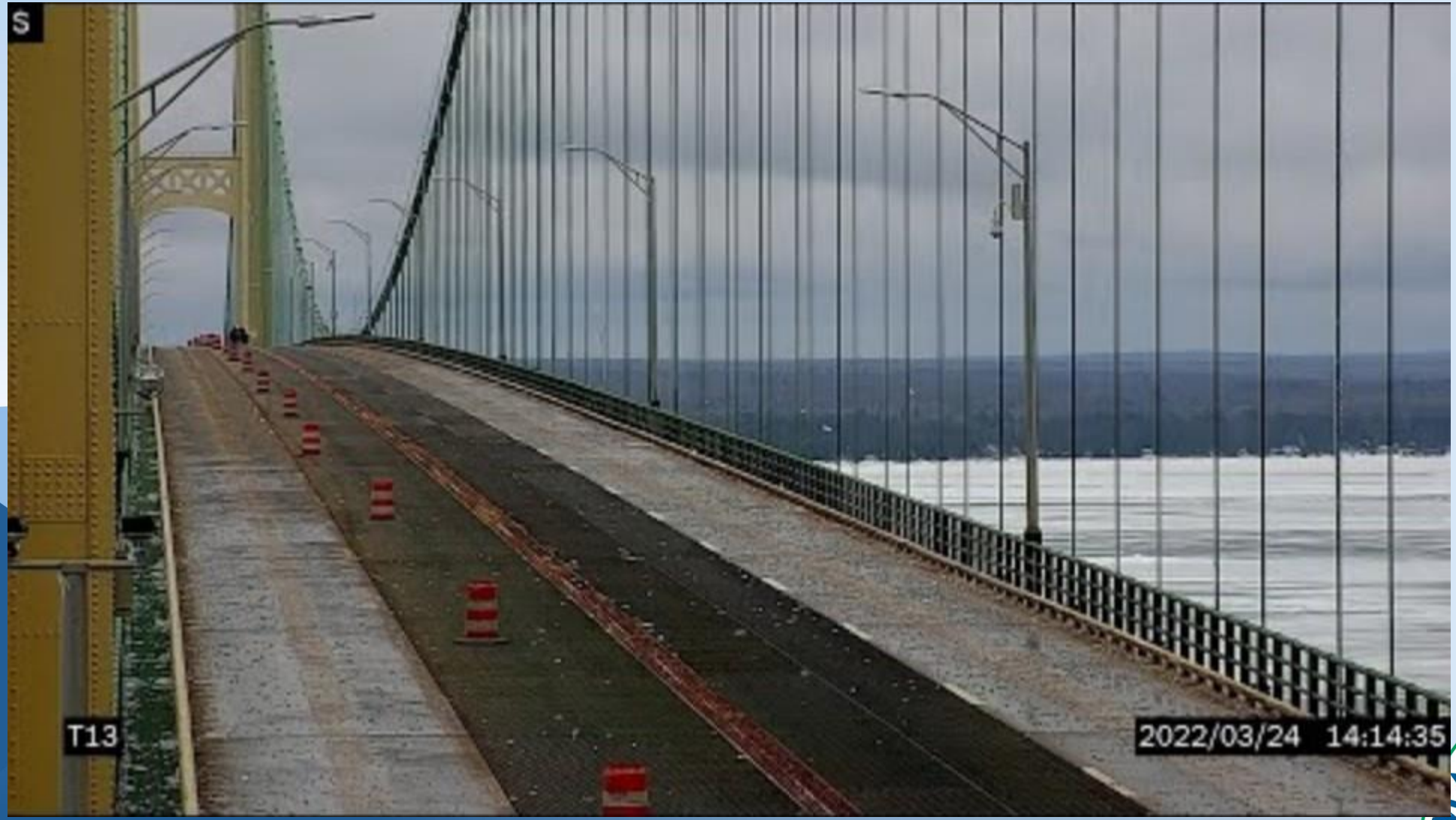
Future Challenges



$475 Million

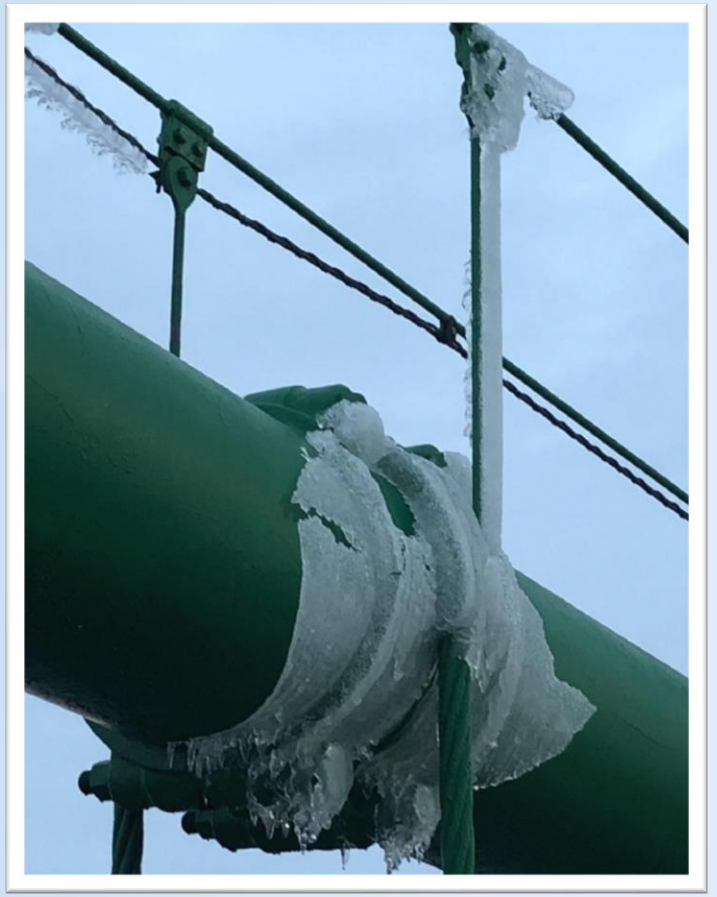

Bridge Deck Cross Section
Asphalt
Concrete
Grating
Cross Beam
Stringers
Floor Beam

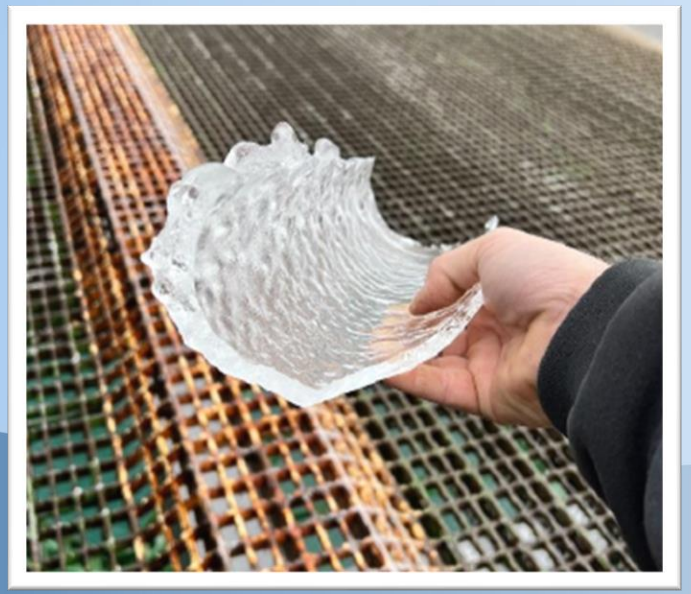
Ice Closures: Video



Ice Closures

-44 ice closures since 1995
-15 years out of 31 had zero ice closures
-Shortest closure was 37 minutes in 2001
-Longest closure was 30 hours in 2025
-2026 had 12 ice closures





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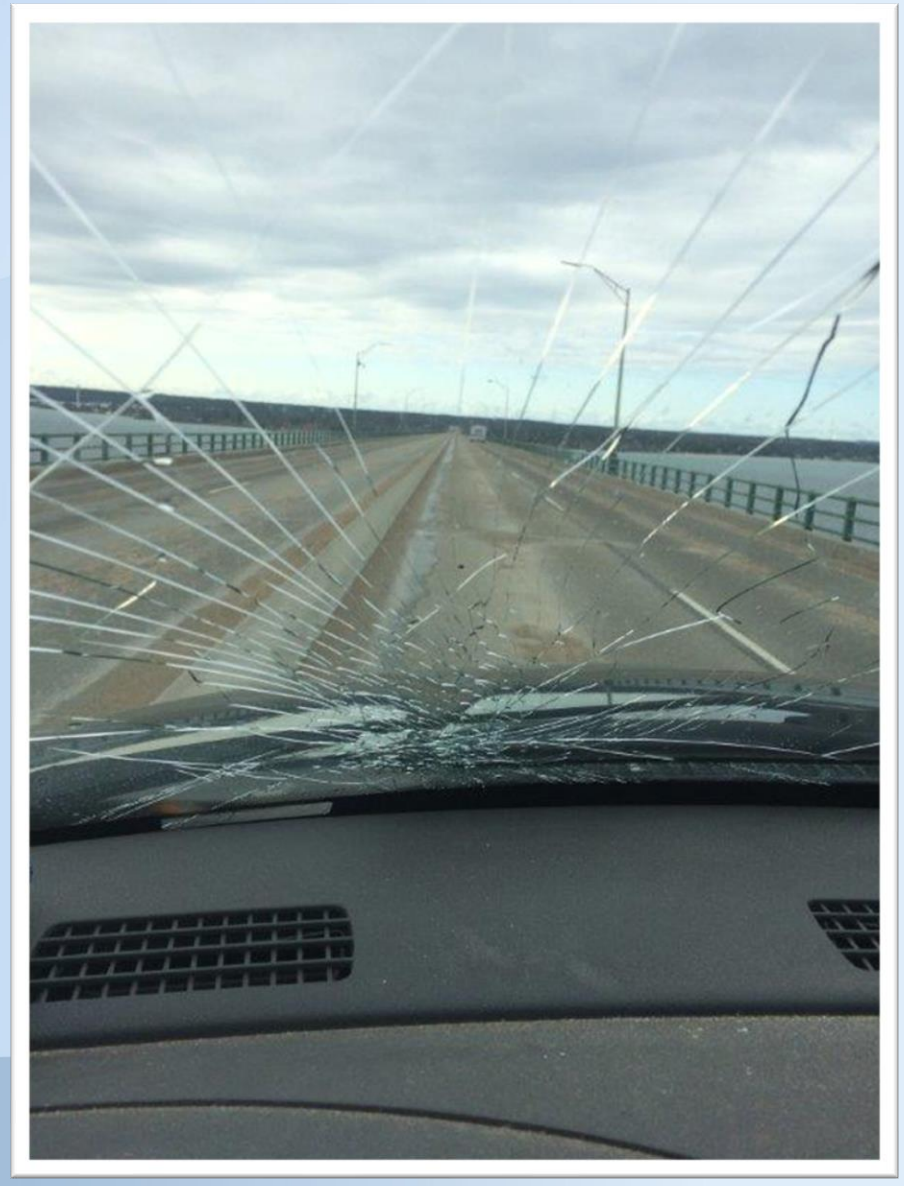

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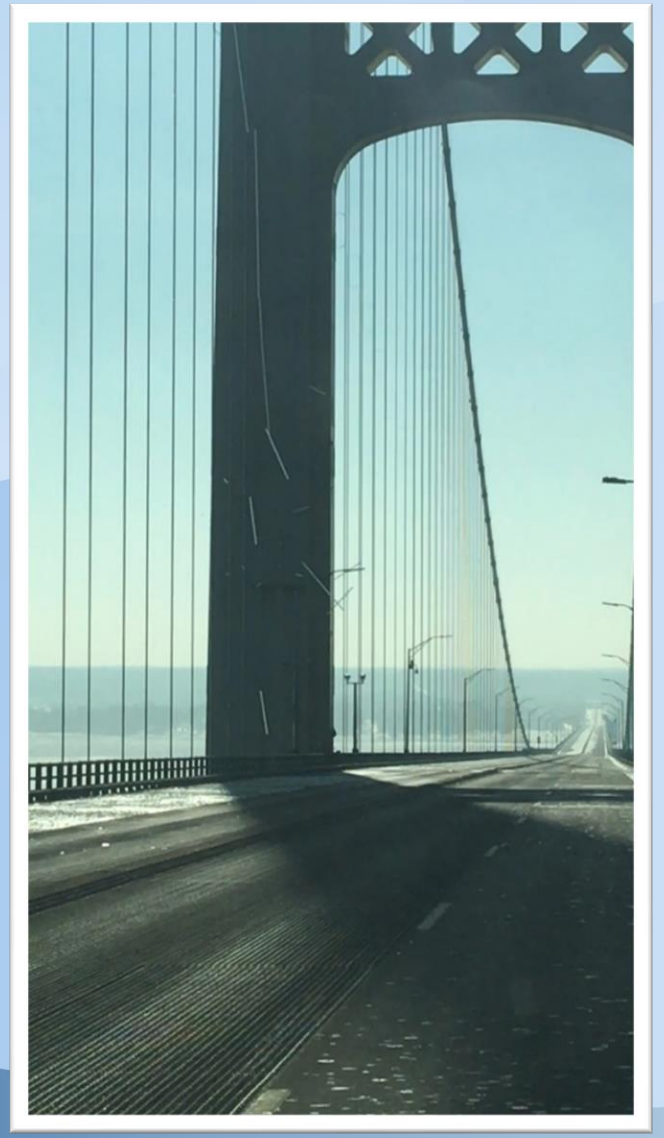

Thank you!