NOTHING STANDS THE TEST OF TIME LIKE A STEEL BRIDGE

Pop quiz: What item you encounter daily is 100+ years old?

For thousands of American drivers, the answer is simple: “the steel bridge on my commute.”

That’s right: There are more than 2,400 steel bridges in service today that have carried traffic for more than a century! Talk about leaving a legacy—and making life easier for the next generation of bridge owners.

Steel bridges: The obvious choice

NO OTHER STRUCTURAL BRIDGE MATERIAL CAN MATCH DOMESTICALLY FABRICATED STRUCTURAL STEEL.

The steel industry has the pedal to the metal, with constant innovation making it faster and easier to design, fabricate, and construct a bridge with steel.

An economical choice, today and tomorrow: Steel’s unmatched resilience and durability provide outstanding value that adds up fast during a service life of a century or more.

Bridges with nothing to hide: Inspecting a steel bridge is much easier, faster, and less expensive than inspecting a concrete bridge. And if an inspector does find a potential issue, it’s also much easier, faster, and less expensive to repair.

ABC—easy (and as fast as) 1, 2, 3: When’s the last time you replaced a bridge overnight? It’s possible with accelerated bridge construction (ABC) techniques, like assembling a complete bridge offsite and moving it into place during a brief road or rail closure.

Less is, in fact, more: Steel’s unmatched strength-to-weight ratio allows longer spans with fewer intermediate piers—and a smaller environmental footprint.

Ace your geometry test: Steel is ideal for both simple designs and complex geometry, and its high span-to-depth ratios mean your bridge can go the distance with a shallower superstructure.

Go with the sure thing: Structural steel is a reliable choice because it has the most robust quality certification program out there, which is designed to prevent errors instead of correcting them.

aisc.org/bridge-design-principles

DID YOU KNOW?

Recent research proved that just one coat of inorganic zinc primer can provide great corrosion protection. Learn more at aisc.org/sioz-report.

Steel bridges:

Every day in the U.S., an average of 77 million vehicles cross more than 25,000 steel bridges built between 1838 and 1938.

These are just a few of the stories these bridges could tell: dazzling innovation, events that changed the world, and quirky people being... well, quirky.

Visit aisc.org/timeline for more.
Modern steel is nothing like the steel of the past. It's stronger. Tougher. Much more sustainably produced. And today's corrosion protection systems and detailing practices like eliminating joints supercharge its resilience and longevity.

96th Street over I-69, Indianapolis
This bridge is UWS, 53 years old in good condition over interstate traffic.

YMCA Drive, Lowell, Mass.
This bridge is UWS, 130 years old and is in good condition—despite being as old as “America the Beautiful.”

Eads Bridge, St. Louis
Older than the phonograph

Brooklyn Bridge, New York
Older than the Statue of Liberty

96th Street over I-69, Indianapolis
This bridge is UWS, 53 years old in good condition over interstate traffic.