

Bridge Facts

- The Erie Avenue Bridge was built in the raised position in the late 1930's and was opened for use in 1940
- It was the largest "Bascule Bridge" in the world at the time of its construction
- Bascule means counter balanced
- Two operators were needed to raise the spans, until the bridge was rebuilt in 1988, now only one operator is needed.
- The bridge is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Shipping season runs from March 15 until January 15
- River traffic has the right of way over the highway traffic
- Bridge hours have been established for recreational vessels, with commercial vessels having the right of way.
- Approximately 1,500 lifts are made per year
- The average lift for a sailboat is 4-5 minutes
- The average lift for a ship is 12-15 minutes
- Contact is made with the river traffic by using a marine radio and horn signals
- A signal is activated at the fire station when the traffic lights turn red

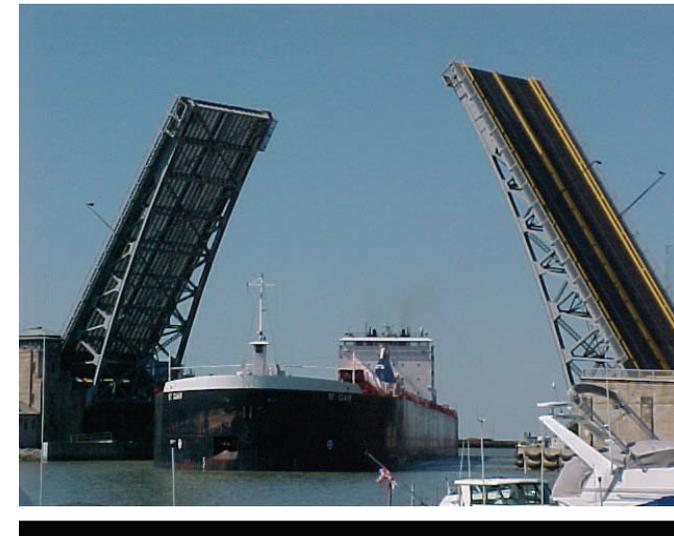
Misc. Bridge Pictures



Lorain County
Board of Commissioners
Betty Blair
Lori Kokoski
Ted Kalo

Administrator
James R. Cordes

Charles Berry Bascule Bridge



Location Address:
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Lorain Ohio 44052-2048

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A Word about the Bridge

The Erie Avenue Bridge was built in the late 1930's and opened for traffic in the fall of 1940. At the time of its construction it was the largest Bascule Bridge in the world. It remained unchanged until major bridge rehabilitation was completed in 1988. During the construction period the bridge's deck, lift motors, drive system, consoles, boilers, and lighting systems were all replaced. In addition a fire and security system, including T V cameras and monitors, and an auxiliary generator were added. The bridge was also repainted at this time.

On Veteran's Day in 1988 the bridge was renamed The Charles Berry Bridge In Honor of Charles Berry a Marine from Lorain who lost his life in the battle of Iwo Jima, and was awarded The Congressional Medal of Honor.

On July 1, 1989 O.D.O.T. took over the funding of the bridge. This saves the county approximately \$550,000.00 per year from the general fund. The Charles Berry Bridge is one of the three bridges in the state that O.D.O.T. funds.

In 1998 the submarine cables which carry power and control to the East tower of the bridge were replaced with fiber optic cables. A PLC (programmable logic control) was installed to replace the mechanical relays in both towers. An auxiliary generator was also added to the East side. Also at this time there was a new maintenance building built for the bridge. In 1999 the bridge was completely repainted. Repainting is done approximately every 10 years. All of this work was done at no cost to the County.

With the additions that have been made, and proper maintenance to the bridge there is no reason why the bridge would not last well into the 21st Century



FYI - Contact with the bridge can be made on Channel 16 on the Marine Radio.

Mission Statement

It is our responsibility at the Charles Berry Bridge to provide safe passage to all commercial and recreational vessels, to monitor vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the bridge, and to report accidents or problems to the proper authorities.

It is also necessary to work closely with the Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, O.D.O.T., the City and other agencies to maintain and operate the Charles Berry Bridge in a safe and efficient manner.

For more information please call:
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